



Tuesday, July 18, 2017

To: The Government of Canada, Prime Minister, Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

Cc: Minister of Science, Hon. Kirsty Duncan,
Minister ISED, Hon. Navdeep Bains,
Minister of Finance, Hon. Bill Morneau

Re: Endorsement of "Canada's Fundamental Science Review" by the Canadian Society of Zoologists / Société canadienne de zoologie (CSZ-SCZ)

From May 15-19, 2017, the University of Winnipeg hosted the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society of Zoologists / Société canadienne de zoologie (CSZ-SCZ). Throughout this meeting, and in the weeks following its release, the "Canada's Fundamental Science Review", also known as the "Naylor Report", was a topic of intense interest and discussion.

Upon consultation, the Executive Committee of CSZ-SCZ decided unanimously to vigorously endorse the Naylor Report, and fully support the implementation of its suggested reforms. The report is extensively researched, expertly written, and complete with definitive and actionable steps to improve the climate of 'fundamental' and 'discovery-driven' research in Canada.

The CSZ-SCZ has almost 650 members (currently or recently active). Most of our members identify their primary research programs as 'fundamental' or 'discovery-driven'. Our members have contributed to fundamental advances in understanding at almost every level of biological organization, and have produced thousands of peer-reviewed studies. Our members are truly among the best, most productive and well respected researchers in Zoology, worldwide. The stagnation in the funding of investigator-led 'fundamental' or 'discovery-driven' research in Canada severely limits the contributions our members can make.

Over 500 of our members joined as, or are currently classified as, student or postdoctoral-level researchers. Our society strongly emphasizes the training and support of these students and postdocs, referred to as Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) within the tri-agency funding system. Basic research funding, like that discussed in the Naylor Report, is crucial to the support and training of students and postdocs and the research they conduct.

Researchers trained within basic research programs, like those of many of our members, become some of the most flexible and productive professionals in Canada. Trained in a basic research environment, HQP learn the skills necessary to immediately contribute to academia and industry, carrying out basic and applied research, in addition to developing the flexibility to rapidly adapt to emerging research directions, technologies, and fields.

We, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Society of Zoologists / Société canadienne de zoologie, respectfully ask that the recommendations outlined in the Naylor Report be pursued expeditiously. Such steps will dramatically improve the ability of our membership, and of the research community in Canada generally, to remain leaders among their peers worldwide, and will ensure the continued training of the highest quality professionals so that Canada will continue to lead into the future.

Sincerely,



Colin J. Brauner, PhD
President, Canadian Society of Zoologists/Société canadienne de zoologie
Professor, Department of Zoology, University of British Columbia

On behalf of the CSZ-SCZ Executive Committee:

Dr. Lucy Lee, Past President

Dr. Brent Sinclair, First Vice President

Dr. Grant McClelland, Second Vice President

Dr. Helga Guderley, Secretary

Dr. Keith Tierney, Treasurer

Dr. Kenneth Welch, Communications Officer and Webmaster