Federal Budget’s Investment in Science “A Giant Step Forward”: CAUT

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) welcomed the Federal government’s investments in science and research in the 2018 budget, which allocates $925 million over five years for basic science and research. While the investment falls short of the $1.3 billion investment recommended by the government’s Science Review Panel, the investment will help restore funding that had been lost in recent years.

“CAUT urged the government to act on the recommendations of its science review panel that called for significant re-investment in basic science and research,” says CAUT Executive Director David Robinson. “While the budget does fall short of the $1.3 billion over four years called for in the panel’s report, the budget’s allocation of $925 million over five years is a significant step in the right direction toward restoring the ground lost over the past decade.”

CAUT’s pre-budget submission also recommended sustaining Canada’s climate research networks, further investment in Indigenous education; stronger employment equity programs, and increased federal transfers for post-secondary education.

Additional budget promises of interest for academic staff include the creation of a new Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics at Statistics Canada, $10 million to support Métis post-secondary education, new competitive processes for research institutes and organizations, and reinvestment in government science.

“We are pleased the government has heard the call of Canada’s scientific and research community that investing in basic research will support fundamental advances in knowledge that will benefit all Canadians,” Robinson adds. “This budget’s investment is a giant step forward and puts us well on the road to strengthening Canada’s research system.”

For more information: https://www.caut.ca/latest/2018/02/federal-budget-moves-right-direction-science