

# Collective Bargaining



## Bargaining Newsletter #4

April 18, 2016

### Restoring Canada's public science infrastructure: a key bargaining issue in 2016

After years of dangerous deregulation and dramatic cuts to Canada's public science funding and staff under the previous government, the 2016 federal Budget, unveiled last month, sent a clear signal that we again have one that's serious about science. While many elements remain to be fleshed out, it was very gratifying to see that the efforts of thousands of our members, joined by Canadians coast-to-coast, led to increased investments in government science – e.g., an additional \$345.3 million over 5 years to Environment and Climate Change, Health Canada and the National Research Council to address air pollution, another \$197.1 million over the same period to Fisheries and Oceans to boost ocean and freshwater science, and millions more to other departments to inform decision-making, protect health, enhance competitiveness, and support innovation.

While these are certainly positive developments in light of what our members experienced during the past decade, we must continue to press government negotiators during this round of bargaining to achieve real progress on this front. Restoring Canada's public science capacity requires not only new investments in vital program areas, but the introduction of formal safeguards to ensure our nation's scientists are free to speak and to enlighten public policy.

The Institute has been pushing for the inclusion of clauses on scientific integrity in federal collective agreements since December 2014.

We are determined that scientific integrity and right-to-speak clauses for scientists be included in their collective agreements. Our members, and Canadians, need clarity about the right of scientists to speak freely to the media and the public about their work. New communications policies should reflect this freedom, and collective agreements should enshrine the right to speak so that a clear complaint process is established. No government should be allowed to silence science again.

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I encourage all Institute members, no matter which Group they are affiliated with, to actively support their scientific colleagues' bargaining position in the weeks ahead by signing the petition on scientific integrity jointly developed by PIPSC and Evidence for Democracy (E4D) and sharing it through their social and professional networks. It can be found at <https://evidencefordemocracy.ca/en/science-integrity>.

PIPSC members and Canadians rallied behind this issue by the thousands during the election. Let's make sure our collective voices are heard once again!

#### **Better Together!**

Debi Daviau, President



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of the Public Service  
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