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## The Canadian Black Scientists Network applauds the Federal Government's commitment to Black Researchers

***Sustained support across the arc of learners to professionals will ensure Canada capitalizes on Black talent***

The Canadian Black Scientists Network (CBSN) welcomes the Federal Government's commitment to support Black researchers and Black-led organizations that promote inclusive excellence in Canada, particularly those measures that will increase the intake, retention, and success of Black Canadians in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and health (STEMM). CBSN seeks to Elevate, Make Visible, Celebrate and Connect Black Canadians in STEMM (<https://blackscientists.ca/>).

Diverse STEMM researchers and practitioners provide more robust solutions to the pressing global problems of our times and enhance Canada's innovation outcomes on the national and international stage. The priorities in the Federal Budget 2022 recognize that the absence of Black Canadians in our research and innovation sectors is both a problem and a lost opportunity for Canada.

The [2022 Federal Budget](#) presented to the House of Commons by the Honourable Chrystia Freeland on April 7, 2022, included a sustained increase in funding to federal granting councils for promising Black student researchers, in addition to a 5-year commitment to fund such [targeted programs](#). The additional ongoing funding to support Black-led and Black-serving [organizations working for inclusion](#), such as the CBSN, is a critical part of solving the complex barriers to Black inclusion and success throughout STEMM career paths. These measures will be most effective when woven into a robust Canadian science ecosystem. While the support for innovation announced in Budget 2022 is important, we are deeply concerned that there was not a comparable investment in fundamental research that lays the foundation for innovation.

The CBSN looks forward to continuing conversations with the Office of the Honorable François-Philippe Champagne (Minister of Innovation, Science & Industry), and leadership of the federal granting councils, to ensure that Black STEMM Canadians have a strong voice in the development of community-responsive mechanisms for ensuring that these funds are employed effectively, and with accountability. Consistent with the [December 2021 mandate letter](#) to the Office of Minister Champagne, the CBSN emphasizes the importance of data-driven equity targets and strong mentorship structures as key tools for success, along the entire lifelong learning pathway from Kindergarten to STEMM professions. Exclusion and stereotypes affect Black Canadians throughout that pathway, and effective interventions must similarly support the full arc of learning and career success. Members of our multidisciplinary STEMM Network together with our named Allies are playing a central role in building Canada's inclusive, innovative future.

The CBSN sees the [2021](#) and [2022](#) Federal Budgets as promising starts to the sustained, system-wide commitments that are necessary to reverse the under-representation of Black researchers in STEMM fields ranging from technology to health. We look forward to engaging with the federal government in anticipation of future budgets that advance science by, and with, Black STEMM researchers to enhance the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of all Canadians.

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