Does the Cabinet that looks like Canada look like Research Innovation?

Justin Trudeau, our new Prime Minister, described his new Cabinet as one that looks and it does, in terms of gender, visible minorities and geographic representation. But look like a Cabinet dedicated to research and innovation? At first blush, it appears so.

The Liberals are rebranding Industry Canada, making Mr. Navdeep Bains the first Innovation, Science and Economic Development Minister. As the Globe and Mail (November 4th, 2015) reports successive Liberal and Conservative governments have struggled to get companies to do more research and development despite tax breaks that are among the most generous in the world. Seven out of 10 of Canada's top R&D spenders, including BlackBerry and Bombardier, invested less in 2014 than they did a year earlier, according to a list published recently by Research Infosource Inc.

Congratulations to Dr. Kirsty Duncan

The Cabinet will also have a dedicated Science Minister, Kirsty Duncan, 49, a medic and former university professor. She was the Vice-Chair of Research Canada's Health Research Caucus in the previous Parliament. Dr. Duncan has demonstrated a strong commitment to basic research in this role, and we congratulate her and look forward to working with her in the new Parliament.