Member Value 2017
A Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Luncheon was held on February 13, 2017 focused on Neuroscience Research in Canada. The Guest Speakers were Dr. Beverley Orser from Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and Dr. Charles Bourque from McGill University.

“Research Canada helps institutions like the CHEO Research Institute demonstrate to Parliamentarians the value of investing in health research. The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus gives us the opportunity to share new discoveries that will lead to healthier children tomorrow.”

— Martin Osmond, CEO and Scientific Director of CHEO Research Institute

The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus
A reception on Indigenous Health Research in Canada on June 5, 2017, brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous health researchers. The event was presided over by Minister Carolyn Bennett and attended by Minister Jane Philpott and close to 100 Members of Parliament.

The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus

Dr. Carrie Bourassa
Chair of Northern & Indigenous Health at Health Sciences North Research Institute
Scientific Director of the Institute of Aboriginal Peoples' Health, CIHR

The Hon. Dr. Carolyn Bennett PC MP
Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs
A Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Luncheon on the occasion of Research Canada’s AGM featured Research Canada’s 2016 Leadership Award recipients, Drs. Julio Montaner and Grant Pierce. The luncheon was presided over by Minister Jane Philpott.
On October 16, 2017, a reception on Biotechnology in Health Research was held featuring both researchers and CEOs of biotech companies. We were pleased to have our highly-valued Member, BIOTECanada as co-host for this event.

The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus

"Research Canada’s Parliamentary Health Research Caucus provides a wonderful opportunity for researchers and parliamentarians to connect. These connections can lead to important opportunities to enhance support for research and improve the health and prosperity of Canadians."

— Jennifer Ganton
Director, Communications and Public Relations, Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
On October 24, 2017, Research Canada co-hosted a Luncheon with the Gairdner Foundation in the Parliamentary Restaurant with Members of Parliament to celebrate this year’s Gairdner awardees. Dr. Antoine Hakim, winner of the 2017 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award and Dr. Cesar Victora, the 2017 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award winner joined us for this celebration of Canadian and international talent in biomedical research.
On December 5, 2017, we held a Stem Cell Luncheon with special guest Speakers Dr. Lauralyn McIntyre of the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and Professor Timothy Caulfield of the University of Alberta. Parliamentarians were treated to two special presentations focused on a multi-site clinical trial on treating sepsis and stem cell tourism and the marketing of unproven treatments.

The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus

“The events organized by the Caucus provide unique, informal forums to discuss how Canadian health innovation is improving our health system, improving care, and making a difference in the lives of Canadians.”

— Katie Lafferty, Executive Director of the Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery
In mid October, 2017, we initiated a social media campaign, #Support4Research. The focus was the Naylor Panel funding recommendations for research. Patients speaking about the importance of health research to their health care provided context and personalized the message.

57 users sent 123 posts, with a potential 239,264 impressions mentioning the #Support4Research hashtag in the first week.
Research Canada submitted to the *House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (FINA)* calling for:

- $485 million over four years to fund independent investigator-led research
- Stable funding of $300 million/year for the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)
- Enhanced support for doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, and research chairs
- New support for small capital grants, as well as for the costs associated with federally-funded research
- Support for science-based graduate students to pursue non-academic careers

Without significant reinvestment in fundamental, investigator-led science, other related investments will be ineffectual.

“Any one can make a laundry list of asks from various sectors. But it takes an organization like Research Canada that is dedicated to finding integrated approaches to these issues that can rally the troops, consolidate views and move us forward as a sector.”

— Russell Williams, Chair of the Canadian Frailty Network
The 2017 Leadership in Advocacy Award was announced at the Prix Galien and the Health Research Foundation’s Medal of Honour Award Ceremony on November 22, 2017 in Montreal. Dr. Christopher Paige and Dr. Eleanor Fish, both of whom are at the University Health Network and University of Toronto are this year’s Leadership in Advocacy Award winners.
In response to the Fundamental Science Review’s Report, which was released earlier this year, Research Canada hosted, in collaboration with the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, Innovative Medicines Canada and the Health Charities Coalition of Canada, a series of national partners’ meetings of eight organizations dedicated to advancing health research and health innovation in Canada.

The purpose of these meetings was to share our organizations’ respective responses to the report and to develop a unified fall 2017 lobbying campaign to ensure that Budget 2018 reflected the funding recommendations contained in the Naylor Panel Report.
The Media Portal is a Research Canada service to its Members that was created in 2016. It provides a platform that allows Members to get the word out about their groundbreaking research and innovations. Research Canada Members are using the service to distribute their media releases to science and health journalists at a fraction of the cost of using a standard newswire service. In 2017, Research Canada’s Members expressed strong satisfaction with the service which now has repeat customers and is growing as a valuable membership benefit!

“This communication tool was very useful to publicize an international summit and to enhance the visibility of our institute. As a Member of Research Canada, it is definitely a huge advantage.”

— Dr. Tarik Möröy, President and Scientific Director of the Montreal Clinical Research Institute
Advocating for the investments in health research and policies that build a strong health innovation system require a consistent presence on Parliament Hill — a presence Research Canada has because of your ongoing support.

Six Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events in 2018.

Into the Future

Research Solutions to the Opioid Crisis

Northern and Rural Health Research

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in Health Research

Healthy Aging Research and Innovation

Paediatric Medicines and Clinical Trials

Celebrating our Gairdners