

Science Advisory Committee Annual Report 2025

The Science Advisory Committee (SAC) is halfway through its two year mandate (the extended mandate approved by PIPSC AGM 2024). This has enabled us to take a somewhat longer term view of our activities. That said, it has been a productive year.

The SAC has the mandate to “*advise and make recommendations to the Board on how to address concerns or issues identified in the Workplace which related to science and public science issues, and the Institute’s efforts to present itself as an advocate for public science in Canada and for restoration of a science-based departmental funding (A-base budgets).*” To do that, we are tasked to:

- a. *monitor issues in the field of science and technology related to the work of members and the Institute in this field, including issues of science workplace ethics, and*
- b. *coordinate and distribute information on public science within the Institute and help coordinate the Institute’s outreach through its communications to Canadians on these issues, under the goal of focusing the public discussion of science issues in the language of science, by scientists, and*
- c. *provide an ongoing forum where Public Science-related issues and the Institute’s interests in this issue can be discussed and studied.*

Science Roadmap for Canada’s future

As part of our monitoring mandate, PIPSC has conducted a survey of its science and research members every 3-4 years since 2013, resulting in reports like the pivotal [The Big Chill](#) - which thrust the idea of muzzled scientists into the mainstream. However, the results of the 2021 survey were never presented publicly. As of the end of the last year, the results of the 2024 survey were due to be released to members without a formal communications plan or strategy.

In order to fulfill our mandate both to distribute information internally and to coordinate public outreach, from the beginning of the year the SAC worked with PIPSC research staff to gather input from the impacted Group Executives and the SAC members to identify the highest impact results and how they could be best framed for both members, the media, and the use of bargaining teams. This created the momentum for research staff and the communications team to turn the results into a full public research report ([A science roadmap for Canada’s future](#)), which when combined with other facts on the state of internal government research funding and the state of government laboratories, paints a picture of the continuing dire working conditions experienced by our members. It is intended to bring these issues back into the public limelight and influence the government’s budgetary priorities.

Consultation on the Model Scientific Integrity Policy

As PIPSC leadership pushes to resume meetings of the tri-party committee of the President of PIPSC, the Secretary of Treasury Board, and the Chief Science Advisor (CSA), the SAC has played a key role in providing advice and input on what position PIPSC should take on proposed changes from the Office of the CSA to the model Scientific Integrity Policy - fulfilling our mandate to discuss and study the Institute's interests in this area. In parallel, the SAC Chair and Research staff have met with working level staff from the Office of the CSA to try to reach common ground on several sticking points.

Development of member training on Scientific Integrity

The Chair of the SAC, supported by the full committee, has been working with education staff on converting the opening sections of the steward training on Scientific Integrity into a self-paced online course that will be able to be accessed by all members. As even stewards from science Groups who have attended the steward-focused training have reported low levels of familiarity with the Scientific Integrity Policies, this will provide a more accessible way for many more people to gain basic knowledge about them, furthering our mandate to distribute information on public science within the Institute.

Coordination with Scientific Strategic Bargaining Committee (SciSBC)

The multiple science and research Groups (of which there are many, large and small) identified a need to coordinate strategy and reach out to members with a common approach. The SAC has supported this by working with the 'SciSBC' to develop slogans and distribute visibility items at the 2025 PIPSC AGM. We aim to continue this work as the bargaining round ramps up, as part of our mandate to coordinate and communicate the interests of science members within the Institute.

Support to Women in Science initiatives

While it was developed independently of the SAC, the SAC has played a coordinating role in promoting the [Gender Equity in Fieldwork guide](#) within the committee, at union-management consultation, and directly to members. We also remain a channel through which members can communicate issues to and from bargaining teams and consultation, such as the impact of American border policies on women, non-binary, and racialized members and their career development options.

I respectfully submit this report on behalf of the regional members of the SAC - Terri D'Souza, Rokib Hassan, Ira Hill, Robert Lambert, Caroline Levasseur, Foster Scott - as well as Friend of the Committee Anna-Belle Filion, and our board liaison Tim MacKay. None of the work of the committee could get done without our staff resources Lionel Siniyunguruza and Marielle Nadon.

Lionel did the bulk of the analysis in the Science Roadmap, with Audra Williams, Emily Whalen and Ryan Campbell making important contributions to the write up for the final release. The Gender Equity in Fieldwork guide was led by Sadichchha Pokharel.

Matthew R. MacLeod
Chair, 2025-2026 Science Advisory Committee