

Science Advisory Committee (SAC) 2024 Report.

Year in Review: Annual Report

Submitted by

Norma Domey, National Vice President PIPSC

(Original submitted in English)

Mandate

The Science Advisory Committee shall 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 achieve its mandate, it will:

- 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;
- 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.

PIPSC's Science Advisory Committee (SAC) met 5 times in 2024 via hybrid meetings with 2 virtual only. During this time, the committee has been involved in the following:

Update on Science Activities

Science Member Survey

Analysis of the science membership survey conducted in summer 2024 is complete and we are looking to provide a presentation on results soon. The policy and communications teams will be looking at the results to determine strategy going forward and will coordinate with any recommendations coming out of SAC.

Women in Science

The Women in Science Cafe is an initiative of PIPSC Women in Science (WiS) that works towards addressing the challenges faced by women (cis and trans) scientists in the Canadian federal public sector

Throughout the year, PIPSC WiS has invited women and non-binary leaders in science to talk about their work and discuss some pressing EDI issues in science today.

In addition to the Women in Science Cafes, as WiS Champion VP Domey has also proposed to the Board an update to WiS Toolkit and a 3rd WiS National Workshop.

Scientific Integrity

The Scientific Integrity file has been progressing well, we expect clarification from the Governance Committee related to the revision of Model Scientific Integrity Policy (mSIP) to include new provisions relating to Indigenous Knowledge.

The Canada School of Public Service has launched its new "Strengthening Evidence-Informed Government Decision-Making" courses. This series is aimed at civil servants involved in curating and interpreting scientific evidence for decision-makers.

1. Evidence-Informed Decision-Making: Facts, Values, and the Scientific Method ([TRN502](#))
2. Evidence-Informed Decision-Making: Evaluating Scientific Evidence ([TRN503](#))
3. Evidence-Informed Decision-Making: Exploring Bias and Uncertainty ([TRN504](#))
4. Evidence-Informed Decision-Making: Weighing Evidence for Policy Decisions ([TRN505](#))

The informal network of SI Focal Points continues to meet virtually approximately every 2 months to share experiences, solve problems and recommend action.

As SAC Chair, VP Domey and staff have also attended the quarterly *Interdepartmental working group on scientific integrity* (IDWG-SI) meeting. IDWG-SI is a group open to representatives from any science-based department or agency to meet and discuss issues of scientific integrity and the implementation of SI policy.

Scientific Integrity Training

This fall, the SAC, together with the Education Team, is organising the 2nd edition of the Scientific Integrity Training with a virtual workshop entitled "Speaking Truth to Science: Advancing Scientific Integrity in Our Workplaces". The workshop focused on enhancing participants' understanding of scientific integrity through interactive

discussions and activities.

Science Advisory Committee

The Science Advisory Committee and PIPSC members brought a series of issues for discussion over the past year. These included the following:

- The Impact of the Federal Budget on Science
- A proposed AGM resolution on Public Service Pension Plan (PSPP) Phase Out from Fossil Fuel Investments

PIPSC Flight Emissions Summary

2023	2022	2019	2018
702.552 GHG (kg CO2)	493.946 GHG (kg CO2)	758,016.547 GHG (kg CO2)	716,388.367 GHG (kg CO2)

AGM Science Advisory Committee & scientific integrity Kiosks

The SAC also plans to have 2 kiosks at the AGM to promote scientific integrity and the work of the Science Advisory Committee (SAC). Members will receive mobile phone holders branded with SAC, green felt pin and a small quiz featuring multiple-choice questions on scientific integrity policy encouraged learning and sparked discussions among attendees. Additionally, a carbon footprint calculator, accessible via a QR code, provided a hands-on way for participants to assess their environmental impact.

I would like to sincerely thank our Science Advisory Members (Lawrence Mak, Terri D'Souza, Matthew R. MacLeod, Ira Hill, Julie Bourque and Tina MacDonald), Friends of the Committee (Najat Benbouda, Daryoush Emadi, Dongfang Yang, Ho Yin (Stanley) Poon, Lingbo Li, Violina Lozeva-Thomas and Alebachew Demoz), as well as, our staff resources Lionel Siniyunguruza, Coralie Leduc and Pawan Kashyap for their dedication, participation and hard-work.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of SAC,

Norma Domey, B.Sc., M.Sc., DTM

Chair, Science Advisory Committee (SAC)

National Vice President, PIPSC

SAC website: <https://pipsc.ca/about/governance/committees/sac>