

October 8, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Stéphane Dion, PC, MP  
Leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition

Mr. Gilles Duceppe, MP  
Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Mr. Jack Layton, MP  
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Ms. Elizabeth May  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

**Re: The Politicization of Science in Canada**

Dear Sirs and Madam:

We are a group of concerned scientists writing to call for the end to the politicization of science and related due processes in Canada. Below we highlight some recent examples of the mistreatment of science in Canada:

- The closing of the Office of the National Science Advisor <sup>1</sup>
- The misrepresentation of climate change science <sup>1, 2</sup>
- The muzzling of Environment Canada scientists <sup>3 4</sup>
- The cuts to and reorganizing of the Canadian Wildlife Service <sup>5</sup>
- The political appointments to the board of Assisted Human Reproduction Canada <sup>6</sup>
- The halting of the Prison Tattoo Pilot Study and the suppression of the results of this study <sup>7</sup>
- The firing of the Head of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission <sup>8</sup>
- The suppression and misrepresentation of research related to Vancouver's Supervised Injection Site <sup>9-11</sup>

The above represent blatant examples of instances when:

- Systems developed to provide non-partisan scientific advice were undermined, interfered with, or dismantled for political reasons;
- Science was interrupted, suppressed and distorted for political reasons;
- Scientific uncertainty was manufactured in instances where none existed;
- Reputable scientists were attacked because the results of their work were unpopular or inconsistent with the views of political parties;

While science is not the only factor to be considered in political decision-making, ignoring and subverting science and scientific processes is unacceptable. In light of these concerns, we are calling on all political leaders to articulate how they will work to improve Canada's track record with respect to the treatment of science and related due processes.

Yours truly,

Canadian Scientists Against the Politicization of Science

Encl.: Name List of Signatories

## References:

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5. Reuters. Canada slashes spending on wildlife protection: CBC. 2007 September 19th, 2007.
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