

TO: (INSERT MP NAME)  
RE: Budget 2010 and Post Doctoral Fellows

Dear, (INSERT MP NAME)

Recently in Budget 2010, the Government made two announcements that will have a substantial impact on Canadian post-doctoral fellows (PDFs). The first provided clarity on the scholarship tax exemption, emphasizing that PDFs shall not benefit from this exemption and the second was the decision to invest new research dollars into the creation of post-doctoral fellowships. I commend the Government for recognizing that PDFs are a substantial and rapidly growing community of scholars that contribute an enormous amount to Canada's knowledge and research economies, but I do not agree with the proposals put forth in Budget 2010

I would like to express my strong belief that these policies will fall dramatically short of, and indeed may ultimately work against, the goals of the Government's Science and Technology Strategy, which states the need to make Canada a magnet for highly qualified personnel (HQP) in attaining both a People and a Knowledge Advantage. The research training period between graduation and entry into the workforce remains severely under-supported by current policies, which not only present a strong deterrent for graduates to enter a PDF, but also create substantial labour inequality and, so, run counter to Canada's goals of recruiting and retaining HQP.

Three main reasons for this belief are as follows:

**1. A deterrence to Undertake a PDF**

- Static or decreasing take-home pay over 10 years
- Strong possibility of no benefits (CPP, EI, extended health)
- PDFs can no longer be recruited with the tax free status of a fellowship as an incentive

**2. Inequality**

- Masters and Doctoral students can earn equal to or more than PDFs
- Comparable professions (e.g.: teaching, biotechnology) earn substantially more

**3. Inconsistent with Current Policy Imperatives**

- Delay in graduation
- Poor international reputation for PDF work

I urge you and your party to stop these short sighted proposals and to work with the universities and funding councils as well as the Canadian Association of Post Doctoral Scholars to develop a plan that will support the growing PDF community whose members are essential to the maintenance and progression of a successful scientific enterprise in this country. The international reputation of Canada as a place to do research is under attack for its poor support of the PDF community. This is actively discouraging international scholars from applying to work as PDFs in Canada, just as it simultaneously encourages Canadians to explore more lucrative research opportunities in other countries.

Sincerely,

**YOUR NAME**