

October 9, 2008

RE: Questionnaire

Attached please find the response of Canada's New Democrats to your 2008 Election questionnaire. It is the policy of our party to respond on behalf of all New Democrat candidates.

Our full platform will be released shortly and our web site is updated with all of our latest information. To find out more, we encourage you to consult: www.ndp.ca

Thank you for your interest in the views of Canada's New Democrats on the critical issues facing Canadians.

We appreciate your efforts to help voters make an informed decision on voting day.

Sincerely,



Jack Layton
Leader of Canada's New Democrats

1) If your party forms the next government, what is your strategy for ensuring that the federal granting council are funded to the extent that Canadian's full university-based research potential, both applied and basic, can be met?

As a former professor, Jack Layton understands the great importance of university and college-based research and innovation. That's why a New Democrat government would increase funding for university and college-based research, ensuring that the range of disciplines receive adequate funding levels to ensure that we remain globally competitive and to encourage the best young minds to stay here in Canada.

We have been consistent in our support of research in Canada. Recently, Jack Layton wrote to the Prime Minister requesting a review of the existing funding level for the Canadian Institute of Health Research, (CIHR). We want the Harper government to heed the concerns of the research community about CIHR's reduced capacity to fund their programs and called for an immediate commitment to sufficient funds to CIHR's budget.

2) If your party forms the next government, what sort of national policy will be put in place for the establishment, long term funding, and management of large-scale scientific facilities?

New Democrats believe government support for scientific facilities in Canada not only benefits research directly but ultimately it has a positive impact on Canadian society and promotes Canada's well-earned reputation as a country with a strong commitment to the development of science and technology.

In our 2008 platform, Jack Layton and Canada's New Democrats are committing an additional \$400 million in research grants for colleges and universities. This investment will enable our academic institutions to enhance their research and development capabilities and strengthen our position in the global economy.

Furthermore, as Prime Minister, Jack Layton will work with the provinces and territories to guarantee stable, long term federal transfers for post-secondary education, building the capacity of Canadian Universities and Colleges to make long-term investments in all areas, including infrastructure.

3) If your party forms the next government, will you commit to formulating funding policies for post-secondary research that encompasses the broad spectrum of science, including the humanities and social sciences?

We recognize the tremendous value of research across the broad range of disciplines and believe that all Canadian research grants boards should receive adequate public funding. Our commitment to investing in the innovation that will take us forward forms the very heart of our 2008 election platform.

4) If your party forms the next government, what role will non-regulatory federal laboratories play in Canada's science and technology effort?

Jack Layton believes that the federal government has a role to play in providing support to keep Canadians on the leading edge of innovation in science and

technology. In consultation with the stakeholders, a New Democrat Government will support innovation across many priority areas, in order to develop both social and economic benefits for Canadians from coast to coast to coast.

5) If your party forms the next government, will you commit to expanding the mandate and independence of the Science, Technology and Innovation Council to consult the research community, report publicly, and provide independent advice directly to the highest levels of government on major science and technology issues?

Jack Layton and his team of New Democrats understand that independent input from the research community must be a central tool in the Canadian Government's decision making process. That's why Canada's New Democrats condemn any attempt to politicize the Canadian science body and remain committed to enabling independent scientific exploration and discussion in Canada.