



# NDP Responds

Note: We have yet to release our full platform but here are the answers to date outlining our commitments.

October 1, 2015

Donald MacPherson  
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition

Richard Elliott  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network

Donna May  
Moms United and Mandated to Saving the Lives of Drug Users

c/o Shea Dewar  
Communications and Engagement Coordinator  
Canadian Drug Policy Coalition  
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Dear Donald MacPherson, Richard Elliott and Donna May,

The New Democratic Party is pleased to provide more detail in relation to issues raised in your letter of August 28, 2015.

*Tom Mulcair and the NDP will:*

*Restore the voice of scientists in Canada*

- *We will create a Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister headed by a Chief Science Advisor to ensure that our government always has access to the best possible scientific advice from experts in all fields.*
- *We will immediately move to restore the mandatory long-form census and provide the necessary funding to ensure it can be included in the 2016 census.*
- *We will put an end to the Conservatives' policy of muzzling scientists and ensure that Canada's leading experts are freely available to speak to the media and to publish their findings. We will implement the NDP's comprehensive plan to promote the voice of scientist's in Ottawa as laid out in M-453 to promote scientific integrity.*
- *We will work to re-establish scientific capacity in government departments, including Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.*
- *We will establish the Office of the Parliamentary Science Officer as per Bill C-558 to ensure that parliamentarians have the best possible access to science-based analysis;*

*Support Canada's world-class researchers*

- *We will restore the independence of Canada's granting agencies and respect their status as arm's length government agencies to ensure the best research gets funded.*
- *We will maintain the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to help Canadian universities compete globally.*
- *We will support researchers in post-secondary education institutions, including universities, colleges and polytechnics with a total investment of \$105 million in new funds over five years. We will make sure that government policy supports both our leading research institutions and values the role that smaller colleges and universities play in communities across Canada.*
- *Ensure a balanced approach to science and technology policy. We will undertake a transparent and inclusive review of Canada's science and technology strategy to ensure that all voices are heard.*
- *We will make government data open and available by default, in a useable format to assist researchers and businesses across Canada.*

Please share the information that follows with those in your organization who may be aware of our initial response.

Thank you.

**Canada's New Democrats**