



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

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March 19, 2008

The Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC MP  
Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister:

We are writing on behalf of the 57,000 members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers to express our deep concern over your government's decision to abolish the position and Office of the National Science Advisor (ONSA).

Created just four years ago, ONSA provided objective advice directly to your office on global science and technology issues. In addition, the office offered clear information on how the Canadian government can both better support, and benefit from, science which is conducted in-house.

Your government's decision to eliminate ONSA has raised serious concerns within the scientific community. The respected British science journal *Nature* recently published an editorial strongly criticizing the decision. It is regrettable that Canada's scientific reputation should be blackened by this, and we urge you to immediately reverse your abolition of ONSA.

The newer Science, Technology and Innovation Council, which your government claims will serve to replace ONSA, will not provide the same objectivity and impartiality of the National Science Advisor.

We are disturbed that you have seemingly failed to recognize the value of maintaining a direct, intimate connection via ONSA, to Canada's scientific community, and urge you to take heed of the effect of ONSA's closure, both for science and for Canada's reputation on the world stage.

Sincerely,

Greg Allain  
President

James Turk  
Executive Director

cc: Hon. Stéphane Dion, Leader of the Opposition  
Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Mr. Gilles Duceppe, Leader of the Bloc Québécois