

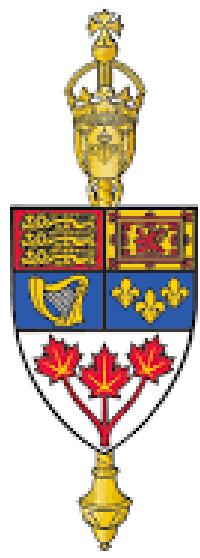
The Postdocs

e-Magazine

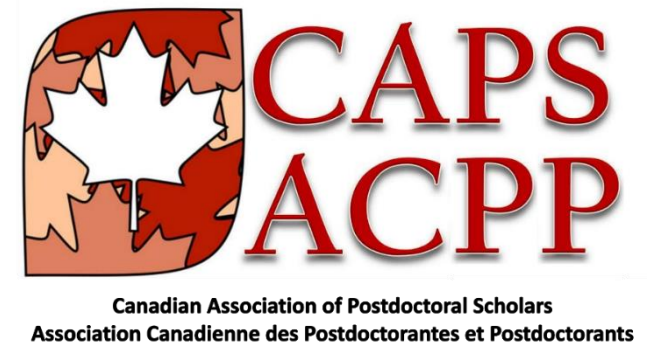


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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA



CAPS/ACPP Presents at the House of Commons

On April 28, 2022, CAPS/ACPP was invited by the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Science and Research to appear as part of a panel of witnesses in view of its study of top talent, research and innovation. It was the second study of this inaugural committee addressing top talent, research and innovation in Canada.

During this appearance, which was presented by the Chair of CAPS/ACPP, a clear definition of postdoctoral scholars and their role in the Canadian research institutions was presented to the committee members. Legislative ambiguity around postdoctoral positions and lack of clarity in defining postdocs and their duties in provincial and federal legislation was addressed as one reason why some individuals find themselves in unfavourable positions, being denied some employment benefits and protections.

2 CAPS/ACPP's survey has shown that the position of postdocs across Canadian universities is highly variable and precarious.

The high degree of uncertainty and precarity for a postdoc is due to various reasons such as administrative ambiguity, low compensation, a mismatch between the number of PhDs and open positions, and lack of professional development programs in universities, which may be a deterrent for attracting and retaining talent.

Another important issue addressed in this session was immigration challenges for international postdocs. The procedures for international postdocs need to be more transparent, and Canadian employers outside academia need to recognize the value of postdoctoral experience.

During the question-and-discussion period, each party raised essential questions on a variety of topics such as salary and benefits for the postdoctoral positions, barriers to keeping Canada from attracting top talents like postdocs and possible ways for improvement, the role of universities in defining clear policies for postdocs, taking over student debts to postdoctoral period, and the expectations from the federal government.

While CAPS/ACPP currently works with postdoctoral associations across Canada to understand the scope of their problems, its overarching goal is to bring about changes that would benefit Canadian postdocs and other parties interested in seeing the Canadian research and innovation enterprise flourish.

Detailed information on the committee meeting could be found on the [website of the House of Commons](#).

Professional Development Series

June 8, 2022

3:30 to 4:30 PM (ET)

Register for FREE [here](#)



Transitioning to a Data Science Position Webinar for Postdocs

CAPS/ACPP in collaboration with the Association of Postdoctoral Fellows (McGill University) invites you to a Panel discussion on Transitioning from a Postdoc Position to Industry as Data Scientists

Panelists:

- Dr. Bruno Afonso
- Dr. Guillaume Castex
- Dr. Payam Pakarha
- Dr. Tony Wu
- Dr. Vino Shankar

World Day for Cultural Diversity

Held every year on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development celebrates not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

CAPS/ACPP joins over 10,000 postdoctoral scholars in Canada to celebrate cultural diversity, through which we will be able to build intellectual and moral solidarity of humankind."



CAPS/ACPP Affiliates



Dalhousie Postdoctoral Association

Since 2013, Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society (DPS) has been a society run by a board of postdoctoral scholars that volunteer their time to organise professional development workshops, a yearly postdoctoral research day, social events, newsletters, and other opportunities for postdocs at Dalhousie University.

In 2014, postdocs at Dalhousie unionized under the Public Service Alliance of Canada, and currently our local represents close to 200 postdocs, providing benefits and securities.

In 2021, DPS officially began welcoming postdocs from all universities within Nova Scotia, including Mount Saint Vincent University, Saint Mary's University, St. F.X. University, Cape Breton University, and Université Sainte Anne.



DPS Executive Team Members: Matthew Stoyek (top), Michael Salsaa (middle left), Alexa Dodge (middle right), and Robyn Wright (bottom)

DPS encourages open communication and can be reached via:

- Email (dps@dal.ca)
- Facebook (Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society)
- Twitter (<https://twitter.com/dalpostdoc>)
- Slack (Dalhousie Postdoctoral Society)
- DPS Webpage (<https://www.dal.ca/sites/dps/dal-pdfs.html>)

Survey: International Postdocs & Work Permit Challenges

Did you know that approximately 10,000 postdoctoral scholars are currently living and working in Canada and that about 6,000 of them are international postdocs? Navigating work permit and immigration procedures can be complicated. Therefore, we are currently preparing a negotiation with Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) to improve the international postdocs' work permit application process.

We have prepared a short survey for you to determine how many international postdocs are experiencing or have experienced problems with work permit procedures in Canada and what those problems were. By participating in this survey (which only takes approximately 5 minutes), you will be able to share invaluable information that will help CAPS/ACPP reach out to IRCC to try and solve work permit issues for future generations of international postdocs coming to Canada.

To participate in this survey, please click on the following link:
[Postdoctoral scholars' work permit negotiations with IRCC](#)

Open Letter

Graduate Students & Postdoctoral Scholars



Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and
Minister Champagne ...

On May 12, 2022, CAPS/ACPP joined 19 of Canada's scientific societies and over 260 leading scientists in Canada, including Nobel Laureates, Order of Canada recipients, and elected Fellows of Canada's most prestigious science, health and engineering societies, to support an Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Minister Champagne, asking the Government of Canada to increase funding to NSERC-funded graduate students and postdoctoral scientists.

The letter is now publicized, and CAPS/ACPP encourages all its members and postdocs in Canada to take a minute and participate in this letter by signing it electronically and sharing it with your networks.

To read the letter, visit [here](#), and to participate, visit [here](#).



Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars
Association Canadienne des Postdoctorantes et Postdoctorants

The Postdocs e-Magazine

Managing Editors: Edris Madadian & Dhruv Lavania

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