Basic Science, eh?
Funding fundamental research in Canada

**Fundamental Research:**
is the endeavor to understand humanity and the natural world, and it is conducted without specific consideration of an end product.

**Applied Research:**
seeks to develop practical solutions to specific challenges.

**Loss of Fundamental Research Support**
Decline in expenditures on fundamental research between 2005 and 2015, taking into account growth in number of researchers

-36% LOSS IN NATURAL SCIENCES & ENGINEERING
-31% LOSS IN SOCIAL SCIENCES & HUMANITIES

**Increasing Numbers of Canadian Researchers Now Receive No Federal Research Funding**

**The Funding Gap**
Restoring fundamental research funding availability for Canadian researchers to 2005 levels would require investments to NSERC, SSHRC and CIHR totalling:

$459 MILLION IN UNREALIZED RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

**Solutions**
1. Link fundamental research funding to number of active Canadian researchers
2. Reinvest in fundamental research to close the accumulated funding gap

**Canada is Losing the R&D Race**
GERD (gross domestic expenditure on R&D) as a percent of GDP

**Impacts on the Canadian Research Community**
The proportion of researchers who reported that they only conducted fundamental research plummeted from 24% to 1.6% for 2006-2010 to 2011-2015

We asked researchers who previously performed ONLY fundamental research (>10 years ago) why their research is now partly applied:

**$80% INDICATED THE CHANGE WAS FUNDING RELATED**

**Fewer Canadians Will Pursue Careers in Research**
56% of surveyed Canadian researchers believe that changes to research funding reduce the likelihood that young Canadians will pursue research careers.

**Restoring Canada’s Competitiveness in Fundamental Research:**
The View from the Bench
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