

# Cover Memo: Volume 15, Issue 1.

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It is my pleasure and honor to write the cover memo for this 15<sup>th</sup> volume of the Journal of Science Policy and Governance (JSPG), sponsored by the Canadian Science Policy Centre (CSPC). The opportunity to partner with JSPG on this issue comes at an exciting and eventful time for CSPC. This month, we host the 11th Annual Canadian Science Policy Conference, from the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> of November in Ottawa, Canada. The conference promises to be the biggest yet, with 900 participants, 56 sessions, and over 260 speakers from across Canada and the globe, offering an excellent venue to set the science and innovation policy agenda for Canada in a global context.

CSPC, a non-profit, non-partisan and non-advocacy organization, was founded as a grassroots organization by early career professionals in 2009. CSPC's vision is to foster a strong, inclusive, and effective science policy community that contributes to the well-being of Canadians. In this new decade of CSPC's tenure, I am proud to say that we have and continue to serve as an inclusive hub for connectivity, convening, capacity building, and catalyzing research in support of an effective science policy community.

While countries across the globe continue to have their own political, economic, and social agendas, rightfully representing the interests of their people, some of the most pressing issues of our times, the "wicked problems", are borderless. Issues such as climate change, natural disasters, global food and water shortages, and many more impact the global community collectively, and therefore, they can only be addressed together. In fact, our best hope of addressing these issues relies on massive contributions from scientific discoveries and technological innovations. These contributions from science and technology, in turn, are supported by the policies for science that individual nations enact, as well as through the facilitation of scientific collaboration and dialogue across borders.

Policies for science are crucial and drive the other side of this equation—the application of science to inform policy. There is a much-needed capacity for

the translation of science for policy and to have the ability at the political level to ensure that policies incorporate scientific evidence and knowledge. We need to recognize that it can be a significant challenge for policymakers to keep pace with rapidly evolving technological issues around artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, data security, and responsible agricultural practices and to continue to adapt to the new realities of our times.

Building new institutions and capacities are absolutely necessary for better and more efficient incorporation of science into policy. The horizontal connectivity of scientific and policymaking communities at all levels is essential. It is also crucial to invest in accessible public infrastructures for science and to examine the role of traditional and social media in communicating the importance of using reliable evidence for decision making. Therefore, training and building capacity for the new generation of scientists and policymakers who are knowledgeable and can bridge the worlds of science, policy, and public engagement should be among the highest priorities for our community.

In this area, CSPC and JSPG share a common goal—to educate, enable, and act as a platform for the next generation so that they can make their voices heard and shape the science policy space. CSPC has been doing this through actively engaging 1,000+ volunteers since its inception, a majority of whom have been graduate students and early career professionals. Developing leadership, management, and communication skills in science policy and creating workshops and educational tools to train the next generation of science policy experts are some of CSPC's notable efforts in building capacity for the future generation. At the same time, JSPG has become an outstanding medium for amplifying the voices of early career scientists and science policy experts by serving as a platform to generate high-quality content on topical issues related to science policy and governance from across the globe. CSPC and JSPG are among those grassroots organizations that are

contributing to the space of connecting science into policy through various means. We stand together in partnership, committed to fostering a global science policy community, and invite you, the readers and contributors of JSPG, to enrich this community with your ideas, opinions, and actions.