



SCIENCE & POLICY EXCHANGE
DIALOGUE SCIENCES & POLITIQUES

IN REVIEW

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Acronyms

CCA	Council of Canadian Academies'
CCUNESCO	Canadian Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
CIÉ	Comité Intersectoriel Étudiant (Intersectoral Student Committee)
CIHR	Canadian Institutes of Health Research
EDI	Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion
E4D	Evidence for Democracy
FRQ	Fonds de Recherche du Québec
GYA	Global Young Academy
H-POD	Hub Santé - Politique, Organisation et Droit (Health Hub - Politics, Organizations and Law)
IIASA	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
ISSP	Institute for Science, Society, and Policy
JSPG	Journal of Science Policy and Governance
NRC	National Research Council
NSERC	Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council
NSPN	National Science Policy Network
OCSA-YC	Office of the Chief Science Advisor's Youth Council
OSPN	Ottawa Science Policy Network
SPE	Science & Policy Exchange
SP.HERE	Science Policy in Health Environment Research and Ethics
TSPN	Toronto Science Policy Network
UEQ	Union Étudiante du Québec (Quebec Student Union)



About Science & Policy Exchange

Who we are

Science & Policy Exchange (SPE) is a Montreal-based non-profit organization led by graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early career researchers. We aim to be the leading organization in Québec and Canada in amplifying the voices and promoting the inclusion of next generation scientists and researchers as stakeholders in science policy. Furthermore, SPE provides an open and accessible platform for them to exchange ideas and perspectives, to develop their network and skills, and to explore new solutions to emerging and persisting issues at the interface of science, policy, and society. Through this platform, we:

- ⇒ **S**upport and build capacity for tomorrow's leaders in science policy.
- ⇒ **P**roduce and disseminate resources for and from the next generation of scientists and researchers
- ⇒ **E**ngage stakeholders and rights holders in science, policy, and society to amplify and promote the inclusion of next generation voices.

What we do

Since 2010, SPE has provided a platform to foster discussions between stakeholders and to inform the public about issues in science policy. SPE conferences, held yearly from 2010-2014, established our reputation for meaningful discourse on the development of science policies in Canada. In doing so, we have extended our reach to Quebec policy researchers, students, and stakeholders from all fields by covering a broad spectrum of topics through invited keynotes and panel discussions.

SPE has since matured from a student group into a registered non-profit organization with a broader sphere of influence. Further, the creation of a governing board of directors has enabled SPE to pursue policy issues directly. We continue our student outreach through networking events, empowering interested individuals towards action and change. We engage the public through forums, sparking discussions on hot topic issues between experts and lay audiences. We strive to enact positive policy changes and promote the student voice through expert-led working groups. We also produce recommendations and reports to help inform decision-makers and policymakers.

Since its inception, SPE has focused on various emerging policy and public issues including climate change, EDI in STEMM and research, advances in genomics and personal genetic testing, the opioid crisis, the legalization, and medical use of cannabis in Canada, artificial intelligence in public health, and policy options to support research trainees, and to strengthen the development of highly qualified personnel. Additionally, we have implemented student-centered consultations on strategies to improve science literacy and facilitated discussions on the role of students in science diplomacy under the umbrella of Canada's G7 presidency.



SCIENCE & POLICY EXCHANGE
RETHINKING FEDERAL RESEARCH FUNDING:
Towards More Equitable Funding for Canada's *Next Generation*



DIALOGUE SCIENCES & POLITIQUES
**REPENSER LE FINANCEMENT FÉDÉRAL
DE LA RECHERCHE:**
Vers un financement plus équitable pour *la relève* du Canada



A SERIES OF REPORTS DETAILING OUR PAN-CANADIAN SURVEY ON SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS FROM 1100+ STUDENTS & FELLOWS

Figure 1: *Rethinking Federal Research Funding Report (2020).*

Most notably, we led the nationwide #Students4theReport campaign to support the recommendations of the Fundamental Science Review, focusing on its implications for students and trainees. This included an open letter signed by over 1200 students and was endorsed by associations representing over 300,000 students and trainees across Canada. In addition to breaching new topics in 2018. We will continue to engage the next generation of scientists and policymakers across Canada on policy developments that will shape our collective future.

Our Impact

As an entirely student-run organization, SPE is unique in its capacity to bring a student voice to science policy matters at provincial, federal, and international levels. In doing so, we also provide students with the unique opportunity to participate in science policy. This is supported by our strong social media presence, as well as a regular feed of science policy news on our website. Our audience and membership are primarily students and professionals of 20-35 years of age. As a testament to the success of this model, New Zealand launched its own “Science and Policy Exchange” led by the country’s Chief Science Advisor, Sir Peter Gluckman. Science & Policy Exchange helps Québec and Canada thrive by facilitating discussions to drive evidence-informed decisions.



Figure 2: *Student Perspectives on STEM Education in Canada 2015 with Dr. Rémi Quirion and Sir Peter Gluckman,*

Summary of Activities

Over the past year, SPE focused on advancing persisting issues at the science and policy interface, building capacity for science policy, and advancing EDI support in research and academic environments.

Our events covered topics like artificial intelligence and misinformation in public health, research excellence in academia, career development support for postgraduate degree holders, science policy career path opportunities, climate change related science diplomacy, EDI policy workshop, and the role of the next generation in science policy and science advice.

In addition, we collaborated with several other science policy groups, and co-led panels at conferences hosted by the Canadian Science Policy Centre, the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies, Acfas, and the International Network of Governmental Science Advice. Recommendations and reports from these events will be released in early 2022 on our website.

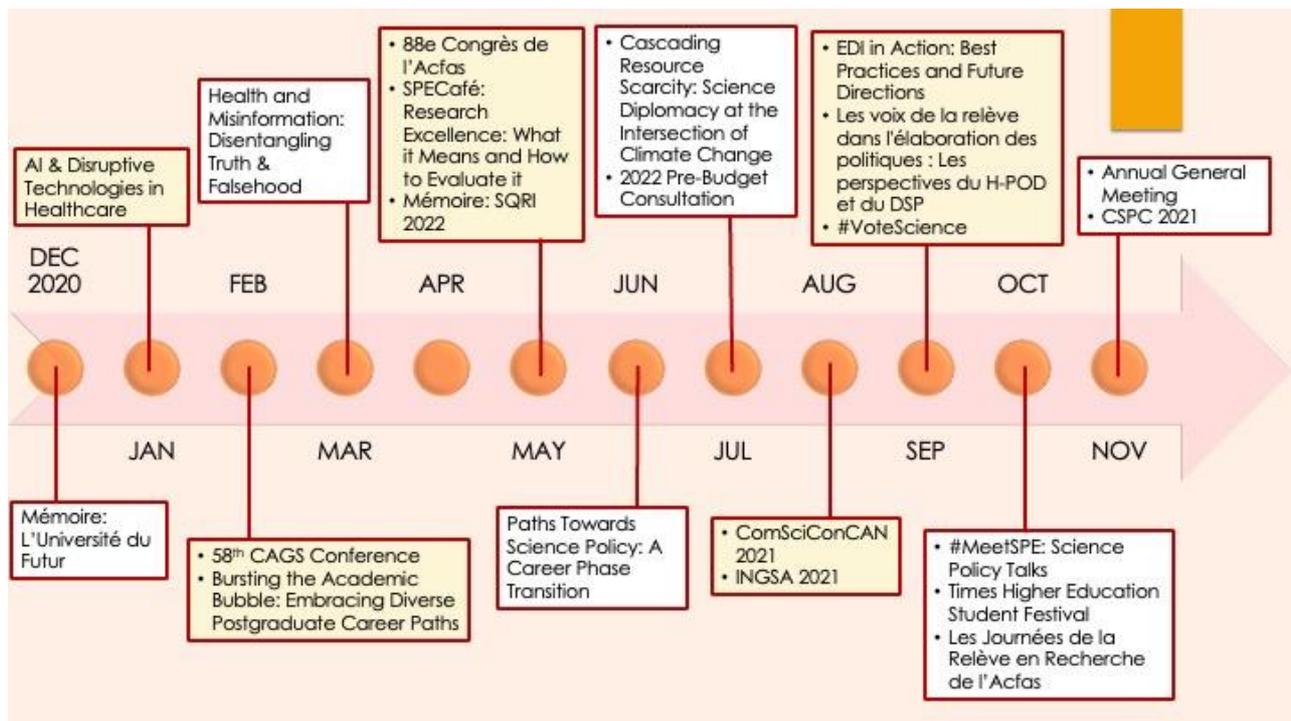


Figure 3: Timeline of activities in 2021.



Partners and Sponsors

We are grateful for the opportunity to work with outstanding stakeholders in the science policy space including the Canadian commission for UNESCO (CCUNESCO), Mitacs, the Toronto Science Policy Network (TSPN), the Office of Canada’s Chief Science Advisor’s Youth Council (OCSA-YC), Quebec’s Chief Scientist’s Intersectorial Student Committee (Comité intersectoriel étudiant, CIÉ), Acfas, the Canadian Science Policy Centre (CSPC), the Canadian Association of Physicists, the McGill Graduate Association of Physics Students, HirePhD, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Centre for Systems’ Solutions, the Institute for Science, Society and Policy (ISSP), the Global Young Academy (GYA), the Quebec Student Union, the Health Hub - Politics, Organizations and Law (H-POD), Evidence For Democracy (E4D), Elect Stem, the Ottawa Science Policy Network (OSPN), Science Policy in Health Environment Research and Ethics (SP.HERE), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council’s (NSERC) Dimensions team, the Journal of Science Policy and Governance (JSPG), and the U.S. National Science Policy Network (NSPN). Moreover, we are proud to announce that we have entered an official partnership with Acfas to advance our mutual goals.

Our activities are supported by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Fonds de Recherche du Québec (FRQ), CCUNESCO, the ISSP, Mitacs, the National Research Council (NRC), IIASA, the Centre for Systems’ Solutions, NSERC, Simon Fraser University, l’Université Laval, McGill University, Wilfrid Laurier University, and the University of Ottawa.





Our 2020-21 Team

Executive Committee

Co-Presidents	Saishree Badrinarayanan and Anh-Khoi Trinh
Treasurer	Sumedha Sachar
VP Administration	Adrián Noriega de la Colina
VP Communications	Pablo Martinez
VP Editor	Maïa Dakessian
VP External Relations	Shafqat Rasool
VP Marketing	Arnaud Cheuk
VP Member Relations	Jessica Bou Nassar
VP News	Saina Beitari
VP Technology	Vivienne Tam
SPE Café Coordinator	Paalini Sathiyaseelan
Public Forum Coordinator	Jonathan Caballeromenses

Volunteers

Social Media Managers	Jack Bauer, Timothy Law, My An Nguyen
News Researchers	Emma Anderson, Timothy Law, Vanessa Wong
General volunteers	Sai Priya Anand, Michael Belluci, Clara Bolster, Gabrielle Brewers, Jordi Chaffer, Meghomita Das, Kaitlyn Easson, Ghadir Elsayed, Eliza Eskafi, Alizée Gouronnec, Zissis Alexander Hadjis, Irene Kaloyannis, Nathalie Jreidine, Ed Jordan, Teresa Joseph, Bipin Kumar, Catherine Landry, Chloe Lange, Paul Mackeigan, Atinuke Molajide, Melina Papalampropoulou-Tsiridou, Amelia Stephenson, Sonja Soo, Karl Thibault, Momoko Ueda, Nadine Wellington

Board of Directors

External Directors	Nicole Arbour, Paul Dufour, Rachael Maxwell, Madison Rilling
Internal Directors	Marie Franquin, Tina Grusso, Shawn McGuirk

Alumni Advisory Committee

Samantha Bovaird, Mary-Rose Bradley Gill, Chelsea Cavanagh, Liam Crapper, Sam Garnett, Jacqueline Ha, Patrick Julien, An Thien Ngo, Janet Prince, Arthi Ramachandran, Vanessa Sung



Supporting and Building Capacity

Research trainees and early career researchers play a key role in shaping the present and future science policy landscape. Therefore, one of our primary goals is to support and build capacity for tomorrow's leaders in science policy. Over the past year, we have led and participated in numerous career events, policy simulations, and educational outreach settings aimed at raising awareness of science policy career pathways and training the next generation of science policy practitioners.

58th CAGS Conference

In February 2021, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies (CAGS) hosted their 58th Annual conference titled: Learning from the Present: Transforming Graduate Education Post-Pandemic. SPE volunteers Paalini Sathiyaseelan, Alizée Gouronnec, and Jack Bauer, Internal Director Shawn McGuirk and External Director Madison Rilling addressed the impacts of COVID-19 on research, health and well-being, finance and funding, professional development, and graduate student career development.

The screenshot shows a conference panel interface. At the top left, it says '2:30 PM EST'. Below that is a green header 'CONCURRENT SESSIONS'. The main panel title is 'Addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on graduate students in Canada: Challenges and solutions'. It features a green '+' icon. The panel lists three speakers: Sivani Baskaran, MSc (Toronto Science Policy Network), Alizée Gouronnec (Science and Policy Exchange), and Frank Telfer (Toronto Science Policy Network). It also lists two other speakers: Jack Bauer (Science and Policy Exchange) and Sophie McGibbon (Toronto Science Policy Network). The time is '2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST'. There are four tags: 'GRADUATE STUDENTS', 'RACE', 'BIPOC', and 'BLACK'. To the right, another panel is visible with the title 'Graduate Student Career Development LIGHTNING TALKS'. It lists Shawn McGuirk (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)) and Monica Munaretto. The time is '2:30 PM - 3:30 PM EST'. There are two tags: 'LIGHTNING TALKS' and 'GRADUATE EDUCATION'.

Figure 4: Panel titles at the 58th CAGS Conference featuring SPE volunteers Jack Bauer, Alizée Gouronnec, SPE Café Coordinator Paalini Sathiyaseelan, and Internal Director Shawn McGuirk.

NSPN Memo Competition

ARTICLE

SPE believes that diversity is fundamental for equitable science and education. Thus, to highlight the importance of the inclusion of Indigenous perspectives in STEM education in Canada, seven SPE volunteers published a policy memo entitled “Decolonization of STEM in the Public Education System in Québec, Canada” in the Journal of Science Policy and Governance (JSPG) in September 2021. This was published as part of a Special Topics Issue on intersectional science policy, consisting of submissions to the journal’s 3rd annual International Policy Memo Competition, run in collaboration with the National Science Policy Network (NSPN), where it received an honourable mention in the competition. As a guide for other Canadian provinces, SPE’s policy memo proposes a path for Indigenous-led integration of Indigenous perspectives and ways of knowing into Québec’s elementary and secondary STEM curricula. The memo was further amplified through participation in a panel called Centering justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in science policy at the Inclusive SciComm Symposium 2021 in Oct 2021.



Figure 5: Inclusive SciComm Symposium webinar banner featuring SPE volunteer Emma Anderson.

SPE Café: Research Excellence

REPORT (to be published)



Figure 6: SPE Café webinar banner featuring Annie Montpetit from the CIÉ and SPE Internal Director Shawn McGuirk,

On May 10th, 2021, SPE volunteers, in collaboration with the CIE, hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on defining research excellence in Canada with equity and diversity in mind. Annie Montpetit from Quebec’s Chief Scientist’s Intersectoral Student Committee along with Shawn McGuirk, SPE’s Internal Director and NSERC Senior Policy Advisor, opened the event with a summary of the current definitions of research

excellence and perspectives adopted by the Quebec and Canadian funding agencies. The discussion, which included Next Generation Researchers (NGRs), brought about

recommendations such as introducing a funding framework that supports under-represented groups such as Indigenous people. A summary of the discussion from the event is currently being compiled into a report.

Science Diplomacy Simulation

REPORT (to be published)

[RECORDING](#)

In July 2021, in collaboration with the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Center for Systems Solutions (CRS), SPE hosted Cascading Resource Scarcity: Science Diplomacy at the Intersection of Climate Change. This virtual event brought together early career researchers and scientists from all over Canada to participate in a policy simulation. We examined a fictionalized scenario detailing a future where increased energy production is causing increased demand for mineral extraction; at the same time an increased number of climate disasters – such as floods, wildfires, and droughts – are causing massive disruptions to supply chains and access. Through this gamified simulation, participants played the role of policy makers from different countries around the world, discussed the implications of climate change impacts on mineral extraction, and participated in the negotiation and decision-making process.



Figure 7: Cascading Resource Scarcity science diplomacy simulation banner featuring Dr. Monica Gattinger from ISSP.

INGSA 2021

[RECORDING](#)

The International Conference on Science Advice to Government (INGSA) is the largest event on science advice to governments worldwide. The 4th edition, which took place in Montreal between August 30 and September 2, 2021, included over 2,600 participants, with 150 speakers from 50 countries. SPE took a leading role in promoting the voices of the Next



Figure 8: Science advice experiences from Next Generation Researcher Groups panel at INGSA 2021 featuring panelists from Canadian science policy groups including External Director Madison Rilling, and SPE alumnae Arthi Ramachandran and Vanessa Sung

Generation in Research conference in the form of a panel that included multiple Canadian science policy groups: SPE, the CCUNESCO Youth Advisory Group, Quebec’s Chief Scientist’s Intersectoral Student Committee, the Toronto Scient Policy Network, the Office

of the Chief Science Advisor’s Youth Council, and the Global Young Academy. The panel emphasized how these Next Generation Research groups organize their advisory structures and how they provide recommendations to institutions and governments.

CSPC 2021

SPE once again had a significant presence at the annual Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC), held in November 2021 where over a dozen SPE members participated in the virtual conference as attendees and/or volunteers; seven SPE notetakers drafted the official proceedings for 17 sessions through a partnership offered by CSPC; and SPE board members Shawn McGuirk, Madison Rilling, Marie Franquin, Rachael Maxwell, and Nicole Arbour, as well as past President Mary-Rose Bradley-Gill participated in various panels.

SPE also partnered with the Office of the Chief Science Advisor’s Youth Council (OSCA-YC), the Toronto Science Policy Network (TSPN), and Quebec’s Chief Scientist’s Intersectoral Student Committee to organize the closing plenary of CSPC 2021, entitled “Lessons Learned from Student-Run Science Policy Groups and Youth Advisory Bodies in Canada”. Moderated by Rachael Maxwell, the panel included presentations from Shawn McGuirk (SPE), Sarah Bitter (Fonds de Recherche en Santé Québec), Taylor Morriveau (OSCA-YC), Sivani Baskaran (TSPN), and Uzma Urooj (CSPC).



Figure 9: Slide detailing how to foster science policy capacity during Internal Director Shawn McGuirk’s presentation at the closing CSPC 2021 plenary.



Intersections Between NEXT GENERATION RESEARCHERS and SCIENCE POLICY in Canada – Past, Present and Future



Figure 10: Banner featuring authors from the Science Policy Magazine article including SPE Café Coordinator Paalini Sathiyaseelan, Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh, and Internal Director Shawn McGuirk.

Aligned with this plenary, SPE board members Anh-Khoi Trinh, Madison Rilling, and Shawn McGuirk published an article on the [Intersections Between Next Generation Researchers and Science Policy in Canada – Past, Present and Future](#) in CSPC's third annual [Canadian Science Policy Magazine](#), alongside collaborators representing TSPN, the Ottawa Science Policy Network (OSPN), Science Policy in Health Environment Research and Ethics (SP.HERE), OCSA-YC, Evidence for Democracy, and CSPC. The article describes the important roles played by each organization, individually and collectively, to build capacity and momentum for science policy in Canada, and announced an upcoming coalition project, Science Policy Canada.

Science Policy Canada

The Canadian science policy community has flourished in recent years due in large part to the growing network of research trainees and early career researchers interested in science policy. To further support this growing community, SPE joined other student-led science policy groups including TSPN, the CIÉ, the OCSA-YC, OSPN, and SP.HERE to form Science Policy Canada. The coalition's goal is to facilitate learning and networking within the community. This platform is expected to launch in 2022.

Career Panels

In addition to event invitations and major projects above, SPE hosted and participated in several career events aimed at raising awareness of science policy as a viable career path.



In June 2021, SPE hosted its inaugural virtual career event entitled **Paths Towards Science Policy: A Career Phase Transition** in collaboration with the Canadian Association of Physicists, HirePhD, and the McGill Graduate Association of Physics Students. Aimed towards an audience of physicists, the panelists (Aimee Gunther from DRDC, Amita Kuttner from the Moonlight Institute, Sophie McGibbon from the Toronto Science Policy Network and Madison Rilling from Optonique and SPE External Director) shared their experience transitioning into science policy and science managing careers. With the help of our collaborators, we reached a national audience, and received over 80 participants during the live session. A recording is available on our [YouTube channel](#); there are over 150 views less than 6 months after the event date.



Figure 11: Banner featuring panelists from our Paths Towards Science Policy panel featuring External Director Madison Rilling.

Our Internal Director Shawn McGuirk represented SPE at the Canadian Science Policy Centre's new Career Campus webinar series for a panel discussion entitled "**Working for a Not-for-Profit Organization**". Presenting alongside other key scientific stakeholders such as Evidence for Democracy, Let's Talk Science and CGen, such an invitation solidifies SPE's role in the Canadian science policy landscape.



Figure 12: CSPC's Career Campus "Working for a Not-For Profit Organization" featuring External Director Rachael Maxwell and Internal Director Shawn McGuirk.



Figure 13: Bio profiles of Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh and External Director Rachael Maxwell for ComSciConCAN 2021.

Alongside Rachael Maxwell (SPE, Evidence for Democracy) and Monika Stolar from [Elect STEM](#), our Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh discussed relevant skills and opportunities for potential graduate students interested in science policy career paths at **ComSciConCAN 2021** which reached an audience of over 100 STEM graduate students across Canada; a recording is

available at the following [link](#).



Figure 14: Banners from collaborative events with HirePhD promoting non-academic career paths.

SPE partnered with [HirePhD](#), a Vancouver-based not-for-profit organization that aims to raise awareness of non-academic career paths. Between July and October, SPE helped HirePhD organize and promote two career events which reached over 150 participants in total. These events featured Dr. Kate Sedivy-Haley from the Council of Canadian Academies and Dr. Julienne Jagdeo, a Sector Manager at Genome BC and Executive Director of the Cofactor Conversation Lab.



Figure 15: Banner for an science policy introductory event with H-POD in French.

In September 2021, SPE volunteers Maïa Dakessian and Anh-Khoi Thrinh met with researchers from **Hub santé - politique, organisations et droit (H-POD)**, a law student association at the University of Montreal. Through a bilingual [online webinar](#), students highlighted the barriers young researchers face in their respective careers such as competition for funding and how to bridge the gap between knowledge,

In October 2021, SPE volunteers Saina Beitari and Maïa Dakessian hosted a bilingual online webinar: **Science Policy Talks - Get Your Science On, Let's Talk Policy!** Participants got to meet members of the SPE team to learn more about who we are, what we've done, and what we plan to do in the upcoming year. This event also allowed participants to learn more about science policy as well as volunteer opportunities and SPE's upcoming elections.



Figure 16: #MeetSPE event banner.



Science Advising: Including the Next Generation of Scientists in Decision-Making

Find out how Canada is leading the world in engaging students into the academic planning and decision making process influencing government policy.

Oct 27, 2021 12:00 PM to 12:20 PM

Academic Experience

Keynote



Anh-Khoi Trinh
Science and Policy...

Research

PhD Students transitioning to the labour market, the Canadian perspective

In 2019, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) commissioned the Council of Canadian Academies to examine the challenges that PhD graduates in Canada...

Oct 27, 2021 4:30 PM to 4:50 PM

Academic Experience



Tina Gruosso
Science and Policy Exchange

Research

Figure 17: Title and abstract of Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh and Internal Director Tina Gruosso for the Times Higher Education Student Festival.

In October 2021, our Internal Director Tina Gruosso and Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh were invited to represent SPE at the **Times Higher Education Student Festival**. This event aims to highlight opportunities for international students when studying in Canada. Tina presented findings from the Council of Canadian Academies' report, while Anh-Khoi highlighted findings from the SPE survey on postgraduate scholarships and fellowships opportunities in Canadian science policy.

Finally, SPE hosted a roundtable discussion at **Acfas' Journées de la Relève en Recherche 2021** to raise awareness of activities and career opportunities for research trainees interested in science policy. Hosted by our social media manager My An Nguyen, the roundtable discussion included Mathilde Jutras from the CIÉ, Alexandre Bourque-Viens from the Office of the Chief Science Advisor of Canada, and our Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh.

Causerie matinale : La politique scientifique : et pourquoi pas vous?

Qu'est-ce qui se trouve à l'intersection de la science et de la société? Comment les données probantes issues de la recherche se traduisent-elles en impact sociétal? Comment les stratégies de recherche, d'innovation et de financement sont-elles développées? Dialogue Sciences et Politiques vous invite à une causerie avec des étudiant-e-s et des conseiller-ère-s en politique qui vous permettra de démystifier la politique scientifique. Venez découvrir le rôle que peut jouer la relève en recherche ainsi que les débouchés et carrières possibles dans le domaine du conseil scientifique au gouvernement!

Animation : **My An Nguyen, Dialogue Sciences et Politiques**

Figure 18: Title and abstract of a virtual roundtable meetup during Acfas' Journées de la Relève en Recherche moderated by SPE volunteer My An Nguyen.

Producing and Disseminating Resources

SPE provides a platform for members to actively participate in science policy conversations by producing and sharing resources. Over the past few years, SPE has published blog posts, op-eds, and publicly available reports summarizing our events and expounding upon the discussed topics. After transitioning to virtual events in 2021, we ensured that our panel discussions and webinars would be recorded and made available on our YouTube channel as a resource for posterity. This section summarizes key activities in alignment with this strategic objective.

Public Forums

AI, Disruptive Technologies, and their role in Healthcare – January 2021 (130 attendees)

REPORT (to be published)

[RECORDING](#)



Figure 19: Event banner for SPE's "Ai, Disruptive Technologies and their role in Healthcare" Public Forum.

From cancer identification to improved medical development methods and healthcare administration optimization, artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies have the potential to disrupt many sectors, especially biomedical sciences, and healthcare. When left unchecked, AI can exacerbate existing inequities. In January 2021, SPE hosted a webinar to explore the current state of

these technologies, their future impact on healthcare, and possible policy solutions to mediate inequities while strengthening innovation.

Health and Misinformation - March 2021 (130 attendees)

REPORT ([EN](#), FR to be published)

[RECORDING](#)

The Internet and social media have increased accessibility to health information but they can also spread potentially damaging health misinformation. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has brought this topic to the forefront and has made more apparent than ever the importance of communicating accurate scientific information and the tangible risks of misinformation including undermining public health initiatives, polarizing public opinion, and reducing social cohesion. SPE held a bilingual public forum bringing together experts in science communication and information literacy to discuss how and why misinformation spreads, and what society can do to promote access to accurate information.



Figure 20: Event banner for SPE's "Health and Misinformation: Disentangling truth and falsehood" Public Forum.

SPE held a bilingual public forum bringing together experts in science communication and information literacy to discuss how and why misinformation spreads, and what society can do to promote access to accurate information.

Council of Canadian Academies' Degrees of Success

10 h 30 à 11 h 50

Les titulaires de doctorat face aux défis du marché du travail

Panel / Atelier

Présidence/Animation : Tina Grusso (*Université McGill*)
Discutant-e- : Sylvie Buteau (*RDDC - Recherche et développement pour la défense Canada*), Jérôme Cabana (*Mitacs*), Denis Godin (*Conseil de recherches en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada*), Annie Laliberté (*Travailleuse autonome - ANEGO - www.anego.ca*), Shawn Mcguirk (*Conseil de recherche en sciences naturelles et en génie du Canada*), Madison Rilling (*Université Laval*), Gad Sabbatier (*Axelys*)

Batiment : En ligne **Local :** En ligne

Figure 21: Title and abstract of a panel discussion held at Acfas' annual conference.

In January 2021, the Council of Canadian Academies' published [Degrees of Success](#), the expert panel on the labour market transition of PhD graduates. Internal Director Tina Grusso was prominently featured as an expert panelist and played a key role in

the report's development informed by SPE's [Rethinking Federal Research Funding](#) report. In the months that followed, SPE and Tina Grusso were involved in many instances to share the findings of the report.

Invited Conference Sessions

- [88e Congrès Acfas](#) (May 2021) featuring Internal Directors Tina Grusso, Shawn McGuirk, and External Director Madison Rilling
- Times Higher Education Student Festival (Oct 2021) featuring Internal Director Tina Grusso
- [Acfas' Journées de la Relève en Recherche](#) (Oct 2021) featuring Internal Director Tina Grusso

Bursting the Academic Bubble – February 2021 (100 attendees)

REPORT ([EN](#), FR to be published)

[RECORDING](#)

Bursting the academic bubble:
Embracing diverse post-graduate career paths

Meet our panelists

ZOOM WEBINAR
3:00pm - 4:30pm (ET)
FEBRUARY 18th, 2021

Panelists: Karl Thibault (Université de Sherbrooke), Jane Ngobia (Sheridan College), Gail Bowkett (Mitacs), Liette Vasseur (Brock University), Tina Grusso (Forbus)

Figure 22: Event banner for "Bursting the Academic Bubble" panel discussion featuring SPE volunteer Karl Thibault and Internal Director Tina Grusso.

Informed by the Council of Canadian Academies' report, SPE hosted a virtual panel discussion to build upon the reports' findings. With the support of CCUNESCO, we sought out to answer the following questions: what challenges do PhD holders face? What opportunities and resources are available to them? How can we develop better policies to ensure their professional success beyond the academic bubble? This bilingual discussion aimed to

identify better policies and programs to help transition postgraduate students towards a broader range of fulfilling non-academic careers.



EDI Workshop

REPORT (EN & FR versions to be published) RECORDING ([EN](#), [FR](#))

From EDI committees to EDI action plans, academic and research institutions have been increasing efforts to address inequities and systemic barriers that have marginalized historically excluded groups from pursuing higher education and research-based careers. What types of EDI initiatives are being implemented by EDI



Figure 23: Event banner for SPE's "EDI in Action" workshop.

practitioners and how effective are they? How can the next generation of researchers, scientists, and students contribute to making their environments more equitable and inclusive? In collaboration with NSERC's Dimensions, SPE hosted two EDI workshops (in English and in French) with over 150 participants in total which showcased the efforts undertaken to advance EDI by governmental funding agencies, EDI practitioners, and student advocates in STEMM and research fields. The event also included an EDI strategic development workshop session.

Medium Blog

Beyond the internal discussions on our Slack workspace and the external public speaking events that we participate in, SPE also provides an open and accessible space for science policy enthusiasts to voice their views via our Medium blog account. Between the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings, SPE published 13 blog posts with a broad scope of science policy topics featuring 18 authors; all but one blog post are available in both English and French.

- *The Cricket Diet - Minimal Waste Lifestyle Series* (Nov 2020), by Jessica Bou Nassar, Maïa Dakessian and Zissis Hadjis, Irene Kaloyannis ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Riding it Out: Investing in Reliable and Resilient Public Transit* (Nov 2020), by Zissis Hadjis and Jessica Bou Nassar ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Gluten-Free* (Dec 2020), by Chloe Lange and Adrián Noriega de la Colina ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *How I learned the Importance of Voicing My Needs* (Jan 2021), by Jessica Bou Nassar, Paalini Sathiyaseelan and Vivienne Tam ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Amidst Pandemic, Punk Project Provides Food For Anyone, Anonymously* (Feb 2021), by Emma Anderson ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Inspirations & Aspirations* (Mar 2021), by Irene Kaloyannis ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Giving the Opportunity to Give* (Mar 2021), by Melina Papalampropoulou-Tsiridou ([EN](#) / [FR](#))



- *SPE Statement on the Kamloops Residential School* (Jun 2021), by Saina Beitari, Jessica Bou Nassar, Momoko Ueda and Shawn McGuirk ([EN](#))
- *Gender inequality in academia: the current situation and three women who are breaking barriers* (Jul 2021), by Amelia Stephenson and Emma Anderson ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *One Year Later: The New Reality of Graduate Research in the COVID-19 World* (Aug 2021), by Kaitlyn Easson and Sai Priya Anand ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Open science x academia: what's working and what's not* (Sep 2021), by Jessica Bou Nassar and Melina Papalampropoulou-Tsiridou ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Fighting fire with fire: How fire management policies affect wildfires in Canada* (Sep 2021), by Sonja Soo ([EN](#) / [FR](#))
- *Pesticides and Precaution: A Look into Health Canada's Proposed Increase of Glyphosate Residue Limits* (Oct 2021), by Nadine L Wellington and Emma C. Anderson ([EN](#) / [FR](#))

Engaging Stakeholders

SPE members strive to deliver positive societal impact to their local communities by leveraging their scientific and analytical expertise. Together, the SPE community has ensured that the voices of the next generation are considered in science policy decision-making.

Consultation Briefs

SPE submitted three memoirs and consultation briefs to various governmental institutions over the past year. In addition to our annual pre-budget consultation brief to the Standing Committee on Finance where we advocate for additional support for research trainees and early career researchers, SPE members also submitted two memoirs to provincial consultations pertaining to the future of postgraduate education, and the provincial's 2022 research and innovation strategic plan; all submissions are available on our [website](#). As one of the few student-led nonprofits advocating for support of research trainees and early career researchers, SPE plays a key role in shaping the future of science and research both at the federal and provincial levels.

- L'Université du Futur (Dec 2020)
- Stratégie Québécoise de la Recherche et de l'Innovation 2022 (May 2021)
- Standing Committee on Finance Pre-budget 2022 (Aug 2021)



Vote Science 2021

After the success of the first incarnation of the #VoteScience

campaign during the 2019 federal elections, the coalition returned in 2021 to advocate for the inclusion of science and evidence-informed decision-making in federal politics. For the 2021 federal election, SPE worked with local stakeholders like the Quebec Student Union to advocate for

additional support for research and science. Our Co-President Anh-Khoi Trinh appeared alongside Rachael Maxwell, External Director at SPE and Executive Director of Evidence for Democracy, on Science Presse's [podcast](#) "Je Vote Pour la Science" to discuss the goals of the #VoteScience campaign. Moreover, our Internal Director Shawn McGuirk collaborated with Acfas to co-host a debate session with local candidates.



Figure 24: Banner promoting a political debate hosted by Acfas and ACUFC in collaboration with SPE and other organizations.

Publications and Interviews

- [Who wants to play?: Social simulation exercises can raise awareness for the use of science in diplomacy](#), ISSP blog post by Marie Franquin, Sumedha Sachar, Paalini Sathiyaseelan.
- [L'intégration des doctorants au marché du travail : Entrevue avec Tina Gruosso](#), interview with Tina Gruosso on Radio-Canada's Les Années Lumières.
- [A PhD leads to meaningful employment but seldom in jobs for which they were meant, reports find](#), quote from Anh-Khoi Trinh for University Affairs
- [#VoteScience is back: science coalition \(re\)-launches national campaign this federal election](#), quote from Saishree Badrinarayanan and Anh-Khoi Trinh for Evidence for Democracy
- [Élections fédérales : voter pour la science!](#) Interview with Anh-Khoi Trinh and Rachael Maxwell for Science Presse's radio show Je Vote Pour La Science.
- [Budget 2021 and the outlook for Canadian Science: Where do we go from here?](#) CSPC article by Emma Anderson and Saishree Badrinarayanan.
- [A day in the life of a science policy adviser](#), interview with Vanessa Sung for Science Magazine.
- [The need for sustainable federal support for equity, diversity, and inclusion in research](#), CSPC article by Maia Dakessian, Paalini Sathiyaseelan, and Anh-Khoi Trinh
- [Intersections Between Next Generation Researchers and Science Policy in Canada – Past, Present and Future](#), CSPC Magazine article by Paalini Sathiyaseelan, Madison Rilling, Shawn McGuirk, Anh-Khoi Trinh



Towards a Sustainable Science & Policy Exchange

Over the past 10 years, SPE has evolved from a McGill University student club to a non-profit thanks to the guidance of our expert board of directors, and the ambition and enthusiasm of the next generation of science policy leaders. Beyond our science policy expertise, SPE continues to foster strategic and non-profit management skill sets as we strive to deliver greater impact within the Canadian science policy landscape. Our organizational experience has allowed us to develop for the first time a set of internal EDI policies and a five-year strategic plan.

Internal EDI Policies

As advocates for stronger EDI standards across academic and research institutions, we have taken crucial steps over the past year to foster a more inclusive workspace environment within our own organization. These policies include guidelines for: events, interactions on our Slack workspace (use of pronouns and language), the sharing of EDI resources, and the creation of our own organizational [Land Acknowledgement](#). We ensured that our events were as accessible as possible by exploring different accessibility features (live interpretation, closed-captioning, sign language, dual events, recordings). We have further committed to publishing all Medium blog posts and reports in both English and French.

2021-2026 Strategic Plan

SPE has been continuously evolving over the past ten years to adapt to the needs of the next generation of science policy enthusiasts. Throughout 2020-21, SPE consulted with its members, its partners, and key science policy experts to develop a strategic plan that will guide its actions over the next five years. The plan will be published in 2022, and implementation of its five central objectives has already started in 2021:

1. Foster capacity building for science policy in Canada by empowering the next generation of leaders;
2. Provide a platform and resources for engagement in science policy discussions;
3. Represent the voice of the next generation to policymakers and decisionmakers;
4. Ensure SPE's long-term sustainability and develop national capacity for science policy; and
5. Promote and uphold equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDI&A) within SPE, for SPE's events and deliverables, and in the science policy landscape.

As SPE celebrates a decade of impact, this is in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which has presented many challenges to its volunteers, as it has for everyone. It has become clear, during these times of crisis, that we need more evidence-informed policy and support for the next generation. We must ensure that the platforms through which the next generation can gain experience, knowledge, and skills in science policy are inclusive, accessible, and equitable for all. With its 2021-2026 Strategic Plan, SPE commits



to reviewing, improving, and expanding its platform, to provide resources for and represent the diversity of voices of the next generation in science policy.

Upcoming Activities in 2022

For 2022, SPE will host two forums on food-related challenges in Canada: 1) Nutrition in the Age of Misinformation and 2) Food Insecurity in Canada. Following the success of our previous forums, we hope to provide a platform for the public to engage with experts in this field, increase their knowledge on these topics, ask their burning questions, and inform the experts on the public's concerns. After the forum, SPE volunteers will write a report to discuss the policy options to increase the number of Canadian households with secure food. In addition to the public forum, SPE will host roundtable discussions (SPE Café). One of these discussions will be Food for Thought: Growing Food Insecurity During the Pandemic to follow-up on the first SPE Forum. Another SPE Café will address the landscape of drug decriminalization in Canada. Following the roundtable discussions involving the participants and experts, a policy brief will be written and disseminated. Lastly, to foster the francophone community at SPE, we plan to expand our collaboration with French Science policy groups by co-hosting collaborative events.

SPE will continue to provide an open and accessible space for volunteers to voice their views through the Medium Blog, and through the new podcast *SPE Talks (Causeries DSP* in French). This podcast will feature some interviews with science policy experts as well as provide commentary on recent news items. Stay tuned!



Figure 25: Come on Get Happy: The science of stress management & productivity Public Forum in 2015



Figure 26: Gene Editing: Rewriting Your DNA Public Forum in 2015



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