

Invitation to speak at the CSPC Nov19 plenary

From : "Lisk, David" </o=corp/ou=exchange administrative group (fydibohf23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=fd326183c40a4490933f1039267a226c-lisk,david">
To: "Davies, Mitch (IC)" <mitch.davies@canada.ca>
Cc: "Clermont, Natalie" <natalie.clermont@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>, "McRae, Will" <william.mcrae@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>, "Lazaratos, Michelle" <michelle.lazaratos@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>, "Leung, Flavia" <flavia.leung@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca>
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Hi Mitch,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a plenary session that the National Research Council (NRC) is organizing at the Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC) this November. [CSPC](#) is Canada's preeminent annual science policy conference and attracts a diverse group of research and innovation policy leaders and practitioners to discuss issues related to science policy, science communication, innovation and research funding.

The NRC's plenary session will be "The first 100 days of the COVID-19 pandemic: Mobilizing Canada's innovation R&D ecosystem and what we learned." **I am inviting you to speak on our panel – to illustrate how government, the private sector, and research partners collaborated on scaling up testing capacity, producing therapeutic and personal protective equipment, as well as creation of Canada's Vaccine Task Force.** The panel will take place virtually on **Thursday, November 19th from 4:30- 6:00pm (Eastern Time).**

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the role of public R&D institutions in mobilizing the innovation community. Canada's federal departments and agencies responded in the early moments of the COVID-19 pandemic through new programs to respond to a range of immediate health and economic needs. This panel will present perspectives from both public and private institutions to discuss: (1) what needs were faced at the outset of the pandemic (testing, therapeutic equipment, PPE, modeling) and what were Canada's national gaps; (2) what science, technology and innovation was needed to address the pandemic (at hand, applied, resident or build upon ready) and on what timeline (immediate, or near term); and (3) what was done (refocusing of staff, facilities, and experts, innovative procurement, ISC and IRAP and NRC challenges) to respond.

The panel format will be a moderated 60-minute session + 20 min of Q&A, with 4-6 high-level speakers. We would be delighted if you could participate as a speaker. Should you be interested in participating, we would appreciate you sending a brief bio and photo of yourself. William McRae (William.mcrae@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca , cc'd), who is helping to organize the panel, will be in touch with to help coordinate content and obtain your input. We would appreciate your response by **Monday, October 19, 2020.**

I look forward to hearing from you,
Cheers Dave