

BC/YUKON

SCIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR THE 2024 REGIONAL COUNCIL

JUNE 8 2024

Committee Members:

Name	Position	Region	Group/Sub-Group
Norma Domey	PIPSC VP, Chair	NCR	SP
Lawrence Mak	Member	Atlantic	RO-RCO
Terri D'Souza	Member	BC/Yukon	CFIA-S&A
Mathew Macleod	Member	NCR	RE
Tina MacDonald	Member	Ontario	WRH-RT
Ira Hill	Member	Prairies/NWT	SP
Julie Bourque	Member	Québec	CFIA-S&A
Stanley Poon	Friend	Atlantic	RE
Lingbo Li	Friend	BC/Yukon	SP
Violina Thomas	Friend	NCR	SP
Dongfang Yang	Friend	Ontario	RO-RCO
Alebachew Demoz	Friend	Prairies/NWT	RE
Najat Benbouta	Friend	Québec	SP

My name is Terri D'Souza and I have been a PIPSC member for 2 years. Since we last met at the 2023 Regional Council, I now sit on the BC/Yukon Regional Executive and BC/Yukon Young Professionals' Committee Executive, as well as being the President of the Fraser Valley Branch. I was selected by the BoD to be our region's representative on the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) for 2024.

I have attended 1 meeting in person since joining the committee in February, having missed the first meeting due to being in Whitehorse on union business with our Regional Director and Young Professionals' Chair.

As a committee, we are currently working on the strategic and operational plan for 2024-2027 with some of the following potential areas of focus:

- Media monitoring - strategic promotion of awareness for public science issues
- Discuss the rise and role of AI within science and its impact on research ethics
- Continue to emphasize the importance of scientific integrity, especially since its decline erodes the bargaining power of our scientists

We also developed a survey for science members to help PIPSC gain an understanding of the current state of government science and the challenges faced by federal government scientists in Canada.

The committee has discussed Budget 2024 and the impacts on science spending in the federal public service, as well as the potential need for a science-specific components in steward training to better equip new stewards who may encounter some of these issues scientists are facing.

A reminder that PIPSC has a Women in Science (WiS) Café Series on a variety of interesting topics and I encourage you to watch the latest webinar.

The next SAC meeting will be held virtually on June 21st.

In solidarity,

Terri D'Souza

BC/Y Representative on the National Science Advisory Committee

BC/Y Regional Executive

BC/Y Young Professionals Committee Executive

Fraser Valley Branch President

CFIA S&A Member