



Toronto Joins 400 Cities Around the World to March for Science on April 22, 2017

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TORONTO (Tuesday, March 28) - Toronto will be joining close to [400 marches](#) and rallies in 37 countries, including many across Canada, scheduled to take place on April 22, 2017. The March for Science represents an unprecedented gathering of citizens and scientists standing together to champion science that serves the common good, and the indispensable role it plays in our lives and communities. Toronto is marching in solidarity with Washington DC, but is more focused on threats to—and opportunities for—Canadian science.

The March will begin at Nathan Phillips Square at 11am and proceed from there to Queen's Park. At 12 pm, supporters will hear from Canadian speakers on why a non-partisan voice for science is important for all Canadians. Details of speakers will be confirmed closer to the date.

Science belongs to everyone. It both influences and is influenced by everyday life, so this March is open to all who support a voice for Canadian science. The organizing body for the Toronto March for Science is working closely with city venues and Toronto Police to make the March safe and accessible.

The objectives of the March for Science Toronto are:

- advocate for science integrity: the process of scientific research should be free from politically-motivated vetting / filtering
- advocate for evidence-based policymaking
- promote better and more inclusive science / STEM education
- celebrate Canadian scientists

The March for Science Toronto organizing body includes science communicators, scientists, and engineers, as well as activists passionate about ensuring science plays a central role in our future. As a not-for-profit, volunteer-led effort, the March for Science relies on its network of enthusiastic and dedicated supporters to make the March happen.

Donor support is vital to the mission of the March for Science, and each contribution strengthens the movement's capacity to effectively advocate for the role of science in public life. Funds to cover costs to execute the march have been raised through sales of t-shirts and individual donations. Any excess funds will be donated to a Canadian charity dedicated to science literacy.

Twitter: [@ScienceMarchTO](#) **Facebook:** [March for Science Toronto](#) **URL:** sciencemarchto.ca/

"During the Harper Government, Canada witnessed the damage that can be done when science is undermined and evidence is ignored. Environmental protections were gutted, labs were closed, and critical data about our society was lost. The United States has started to make these same mistakes. Everyone should march for science to ensure decision-makers safeguard our shared environment, safety, and prosperity with facts and evidence-driven policy."

- Dan Weaver, M.Sc., Board member, Evidence for Democracy

“As a physician and health researcher I know my patients want me to base my treatment advice on the best scientific evidence. This requires support for the full spectrum of medical research: from fundamental discovery research to translational research. We cannot continue to make medical advances without the underpinnings of a robust scientific enterprise. We must not let the great progress we have made be eroded!”

- Dr. Eva Grunfeld, MSc, MD, DPhil. Director, Knowledge Translation Research, Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and GIBLON Professor and Vice-Chair (Research), Dept. of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto

“Nothing in science is achieved in isolation, it’s one of the truly remarkable human endeavours that knows no borders; it is the pooled knowledge of us, as humans. New cancer treatments need international collaboration; safe space exploration needs the collected knowledge of research groups around the world. We’re in an age of information where more and more of the public realize that access to that knowledge is not a privilege but a right. Protecting that right is the reason I will stand in solidarity with those in DC.”

- Elliann Fairbairn, SciCommTO Chair and Ontario Institute for Cancer Research Project Manager