Evidence-Based Decision Making Symposium, CSPC 2015

Symposium Facilitators:
- Janet Bax, interim president, Canadian Council of Academies
- Kamiel Gabriel, former ADM, Ontario Ministry of Research and innovation and professor of engineering, UOIT

Notes and synthesis:
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Background:

The EBDM symposium took place during the Canadian Science and Policy Conference (www.cspc2015.ca), at the Ottawa Delta Hotel, November 25, 2015. It was attended by over 80 people from provincial and federal government departments, academic institutions and industry. The symposium covered several topics including:

1. International perspective on science policy
2. Evidence-based decision making in a Canadian context
3. General concepts in EBDM
4. Examples of EBDM in practice
5. Panel on Science Integrity Project

Science mandate is to build an innovation-driven economy; develop the systems that channel it into long-term competitive advantage and foster a culture of innovation across all sectors of the economy.

Summary and recommendations

1. **Establish a framework for evidence to encourage integration**
   - Develop a means for integrating and synthesizing evidence from different sources and

bring it to the policymakers in a meaningful way
- Present the evidence in a way that is accessible to policy makers.
- Use common outcome measures understood by scientists, policymakers, politicians, industry and the public at large
- Establish assessment process to effectively bring science into practice

2. **Process to determine when you have sufficient credible evidence.**
   a. Transparency is key in building trust. Make STIC advice public and relevant science policy information accessible, transparent and reflective (use social media and existing structures to create a new open advisory council)
   b. Ensure that the research and public policy developer communities pay great attention to their responsibility in evidence generation and implementation
   c. Build a scorecard of how science departments are responding to integrity and transparency along with a checklist that demonstrates how evidence was used in reaching policy decisions
   d. Accessible data/generation of new data
   e. Seek to gather information on social values associated with issues
   f. Pay greater attention to both the supply and demand for evidence

3. **Establish a parliamentary science office to more effectively engage parliamentarians**
   a. Establish fellowships and training fora to better engage the science community in policy making process
   b. Establish a non- partisan central science policy office within the parliamentary apparatus
   c. Pay greater attention to the two strands of science: policy for science and technology, and science and technology for policy

4. **Network and support independent organizations that communicate science evidence in all of its forms**
   a. Civic engagement: encourage consumers and the public to have a voice
   b. Citizen participation
      i. Generation of evidence (citizen science, direction of research, evidence on public values)
      ii. Evaluation of evidence (assessment of evidential sufficiently, collaborative weight of evidence analysis)
      iii. Holding elected officials accountable to the evidence-based decision making process

5. **Establish Leadership in Canadian Science Policy**

   a. Develop alliances with other organizations nationally and internationally
   b. Engage all stakeholders nationally and internationally
   c. Develop an ongoing dialogue with the public through events, forums and seminars.
   d. Consider CSPC's engagement in this endeavor

Governments should rely on policies that actively integrate scientific perspective and are reinforced by their association with science's tradition of independent, rational and non-partisan analysis.