

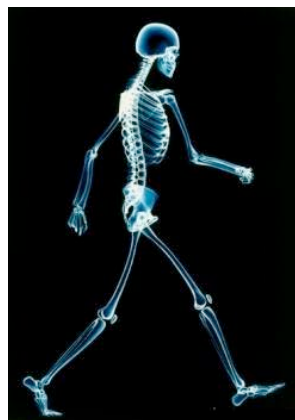


Environment
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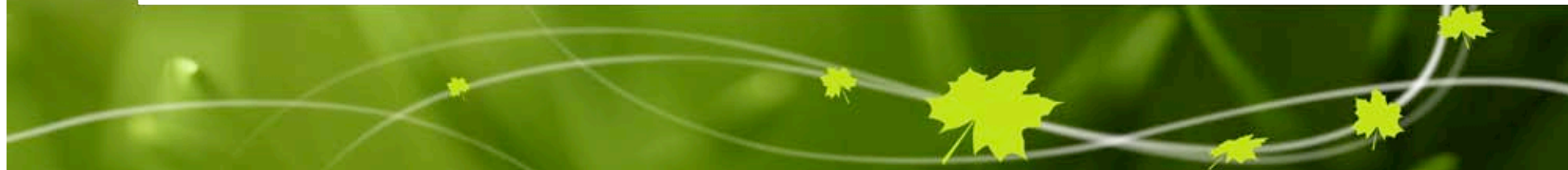
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Federal Science: Making the Invisible Visible



Michael Horgan
Deputy Minister, Environment Canada
PIPSC Science Policy Symposium
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Issues increasingly science-based

- Issues government deals with are increasingly scientific and technical
 - Particularly in environmental field

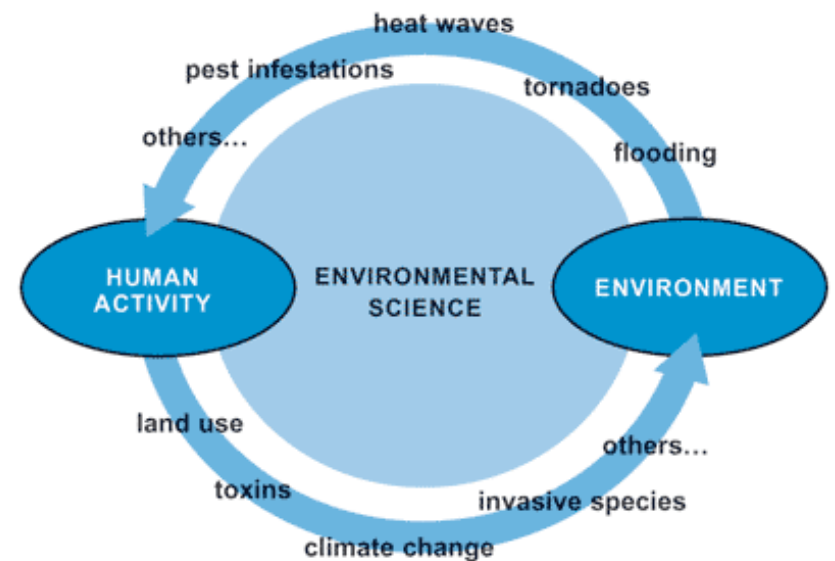
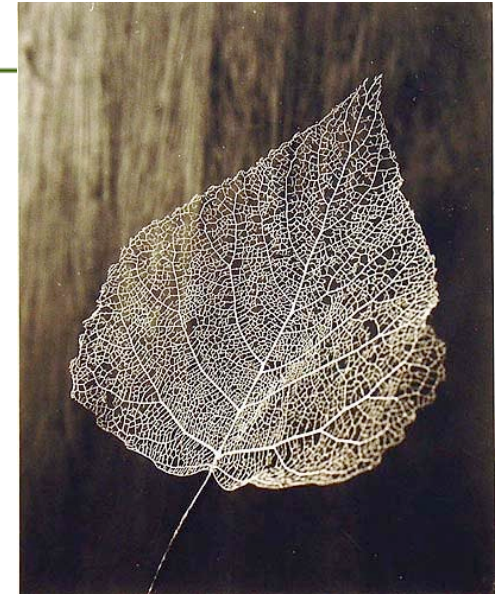


Fig. 1. The role of science in understanding and influencing human-environment interactions.

➔ **The government needs science**

Public support for science

- Optimism for capacity of science to solve society's problems
- Science is valued for decision making
 - Especially environmental decision making



The public recognizes that the government needs science

Does the public recognize that the government *does* science?

- Canadians have only a modest familiarity with federal research activities aimed at protecting the environment
- Only 2% of Canadians identified “conducting scientific research” as one of EC’s roles

The consequences of invisibility

- Public supports increased science spending by government
 - But directed to universities or even the private sector, not government research

Does the public recognize that the government needs *government science*?

Making federal science more visible: Building awareness

- Dedicated science communication units
- Communications integral to research plans
- Research scientist promotion criteria

Making federal science more visible: Building constituency

- Targeted S&T communication products
- User engagement
- Science-policy linkages

Environment Canada **Environnement Canada** **Canada**

Science and Technology into Action to Benefit Canadians

Environment Canada's science and technology is *S&T for the public good*, meaning it must focus on protecting and sustaining Canada's environment for the benefit of all citizens.

Often, the role federal S&T plays in establishing a new regulation or resource management policy is overlooked. A national public opinion study showed over 60 percent of Canadians say they have too little information about the impact of science and research on Canadian society. It is unlikely they are fully aware of the benefits they receive from government-led science and technology.

S&T into Action to Benefit Canadians tells the story of Environment Canada's success in generating tangible environmental, social, and economic benefits. This demonstrates how S&T has influenced the environmental decision-making process by supporting a regulation, guideline, strategy, policy, program, initiative or management decision.

S&T for the public good has helped produce cleaner technologies to protect the environment. It reports on success in the key areas of wildlife, biodiversity, water, air, soil, climate, environmental prediction science, and environmental technologies. It describes past successes and work-in-progress, and it transmits timely knowledge to those who use S&T, including environmental program managers, municipal planners, all levels of government, resource managers, policy analysts, and industry.

Research Impact Study Series www.ec.gc.ca/scitech

Making federal science more visible: Building literacy

- Science museums
- science.gc.ca
- Citizen scientists

Making federal science more visible: Building accountability

- Excellent: doing science right
- Relevant: doing the right science at the right time
- Linked: doing it with the right people



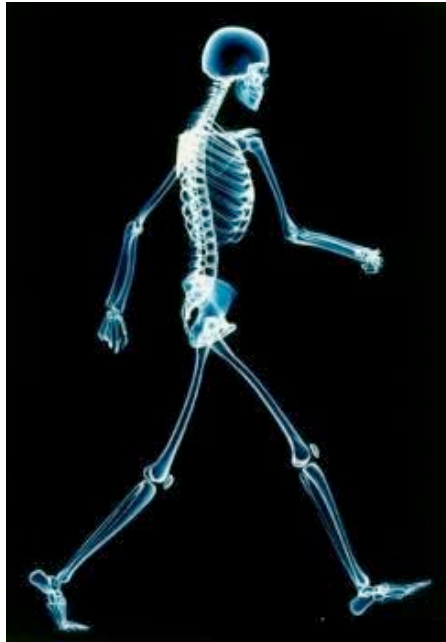
MOBILIZING
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Making the invisible visible



- Scientists
- Departments
- PIPSC