



October 29, 2020

To whom it may concern:

Please accept my support for the nomination of Dr. Jérôme Levesque and Dr. David Maybury for the Public Service Award of Excellence in the category for Excellence in Profession.

An eventual return to the workplace of civil servants under COVID-19 presents extraordinary challenges in decision making and setting appropriate policies. My team in Real Property Services, Public Services and Procurement Canada guides this effort. The decisions we make affect our employees both in terms of their physical safety and their mental health. It is a task that none of us take lightly.

We need to exploit data science and mathematical modelling to make decisions with confidence and I am impressed by the efforts of Dr. Levesque and Dr. Maybury, the leads of data science at Public Services and Procurement Canada. They have shown true dedication to their craft, generating a thoroughly creative and innovative product that helps Real Property Services develop policy.

Based on their recent academic publication in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, Dr. Levesque and Dr. Maybury developed a Web app that allows our management teams to explore different return-to-work scenarios and examine the effect of policy recommendations. Most importantly, management can now understand and quantify the consequences of lax rule implementation more clearly. These observations allow us to communicate more effectively with all of our employees and help ensure their safe return.

Dr. Levesque and Dr. Maybury embody the highest level of innovation in data science and decision making support to the civil service. They reached out to the Public Health Agency of Canada over the course of their mathematical investigations and they continue to work with their scientists to this day. They show mastery of data science, mathematical model building, and its application to Government of Canada problems.

It is my pleasure to recommend Dr. Levesque and Dr. Maybury for the Public Service Award of Excellence for their outstanding professionalism.

Sincerely,

Stéphan Déry
Assistant Deputy Minister
Real Property Services
Public Services and Procurement Canada