

KNOWLEDGE COUNCIL 

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council → Strategic Plan 2006–2011 → July 2005

 Knowledge Council: SSHRC, 2006–2011

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Canada



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PREFACE: FUTURE KNOWLEDGE

WE KNOW HOW TO SHAPE OUR FUTURE, SO WHAT'S STOPPING US?

Some of Canada's most insightful and internationally celebrated scholars have issued a warning, a heads-up. Their scrupulously researched and carefully argued warnings concern the future of humanity in the 21st century. The questions they pose and the potential environmental, social and political futures to which they point are sobering. The work of each scholar vividly demonstrates the crucial and growing importance of the social sciences and humanities in assuring our future.

Political scientist Thomas Homer-Dixon discusses the consequences of the widening "ingenuity gap" between our technical and humanistic understanding. Archaeologist Ronald Wright describes the "progress trap": how the modern, Western-created, global civilization demonstrates the same wilful ignorance that doomed so many past civilizations. Veteran social theorist Jane Jacobs presents evidence that the disintegrating foundations of our society point to a "dark age ahead."

Yet all these thinkers claim it is not too late, that we already possess, or can develop, the knowledge required to build a just, prosperous, sustainable and culturally vibrant world. But, it is not scientific knowledge or technological know-how that will enable us to preserve civilization for our grandchildren and theirs. Most of what we need in these domains we already have. Our problem, as a civilization, is one of values, of economic and political priorities and of social organization.

To adapt a statement by Homer-Dixon, we are in dire need of advanced humanistic and social scientific knowledge to manage our affairs in an increasingly complex and unpredictable world, and SSHRC plays a vital role in fulfilling this need in Canada.

Governments are beginning to recognize this, and Canada's more than most. The October 2004 Speech from the Throne is striking in this regard. With few exceptions, achieving its policy objectives will depend, in whole or in part, on the wise application of existing and future humanities and social sciences research. This is the case whether the goal is better integrating immigrants, Canada's sole source of population growth, or addressing, multilaterally, the religious, economic and political factors that breed terrorism. It applies as much to the urgent need to evaluate, without fear or favour, the dangers and benefits of globalization as it does to developing an internationally competitive, but environmentally sustainable economy. It is as necessary in order to design a national system of early learning and child care as it is to strengthen Canada's social foundations and nurture the country's cultural and intellectual life.

To take up Northrop Frye's challenge and create out of the world we have to live in, the world we want to live in, Canada needs humanities and social sciences research; and Canadian researchers and research institutions, SSHRC among them, must do a better job of getting hard-won knowledge out into the world, to families, community groups, policy-makers, legislators, and the media.

Canadians must be able to benefit from and apply the best social sciences and humanities research the world has to offer. That is what a knowledge council is all about. That is the transformed role for SSHRC to which our consultations and the proposals in this strategic plan point.

These proposals honour more than twenty-five years of experience in supporting humanities and social sciences research; they build on the ideas and consensus that emerged during exhaustive national consultations with academics, community organizations, business leaders and other Canadians who care deeply about the future of research in this country.

SSHRC wishes to thank every one of those people who gave so generously of their time and energy to help us understand the present and chart an exciting path into the future.

This plan describes SSHRC's commitment to a future where humanities and social sciences research provides Canadians with the knowledge and understanding to strengthen our social and intellectual foundations, to build an economy based on principles of fairness and equity for all, and to bring Canadian ideas onto the world stage.



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VISION

TO ENGAGE CANADIANS IN BUILDING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH RESEARCH AND IN USING THAT KNOWLEDGE TO CREATE A JUST, FREE, PROSPEROUS AND CULTURALLY VIBRANT WORLD.

In 1977, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) was created to support and promote research. To that end the Council has, for more than a quarter of a century, focused on “inputs”—on a careful and effective investment of money in the research and research training effort in Canada.

And this has paid off for Canadians who can boast of a well-managed funding organization that over the years has nurtured a growing research community, supported important research projects across the country and pioneered exciting programs that responded to the changing needs of researchers, students and Canadians.

The Council’s new vision—based on ideas coming from consultations with researchers and key stakeholders across the country—introduces a deeper concern for the impact of research—the important and often undervalued social, economic and cultural “outputs.”

In a world increasingly driven by technology and global economics, research in education and democracy, Aboriginal rights, business ethics, immigration and cities can provide the understanding to build a truly successful, resilient, modern society—one that can adapt to and prosper from technological innovation, deliver health-care services to all its members, protect human rights, inspire creativity and honour diversity.

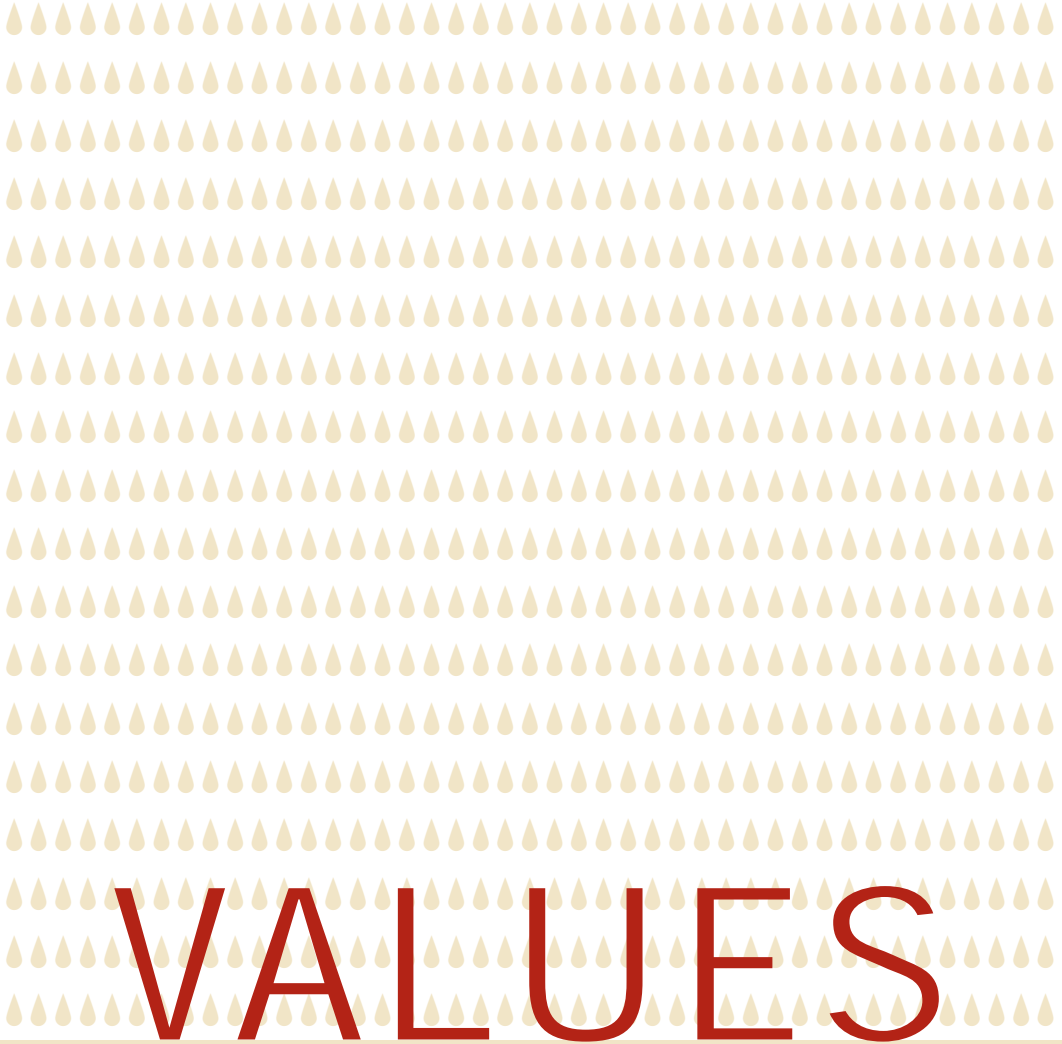
This plan proposes broad new directions for SSHRC that emphasize building connections to maximize the impact and quality of humanities and social sciences research.

But, no matter how transformed, SSHRC remains committed to the integrity of the peer-review system—to research excellence and independence. SSHRC will continue to support all the humanities and social sciences disciplines; it will support individual scholars strengthening and building knowledge in their particular discipline, as well as multi-disciplinary teams of scholars working with local and international partners on issues of importance to Canadians and to the world.

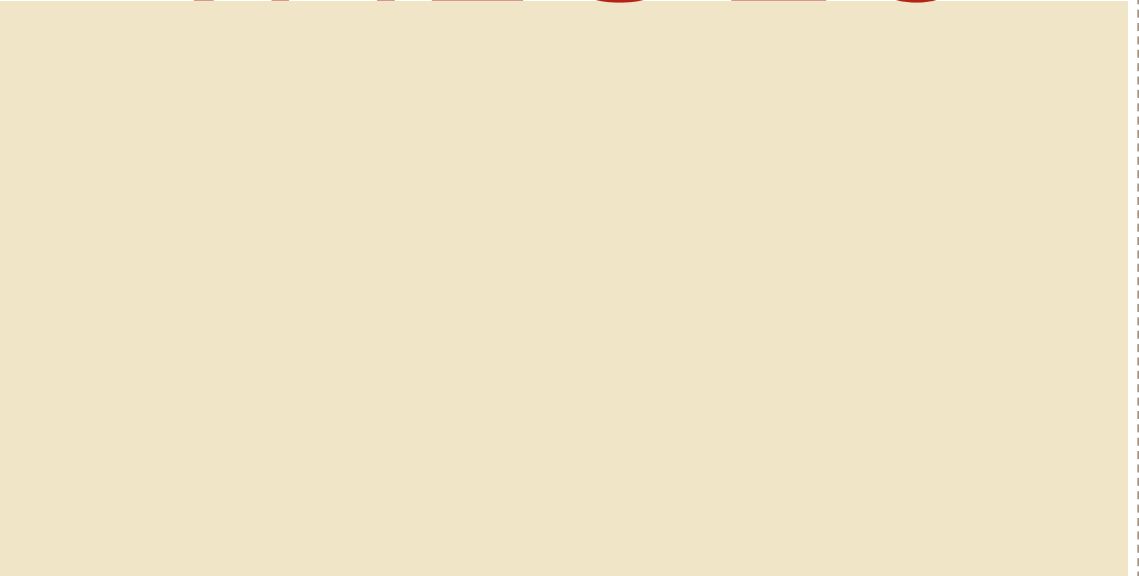
The new vision will build on SSHRC’s traditions of inclusiveness and excellence to deliver what Canada needs in the 21st century:

- a vibrant and internationally-renowned research environment;
- highly skilled and adaptable people;
- new understanding and innovative ideas;
- broad and systematic transformation of knowledge into action.





VALUES



SSHRC'S VALUES REPRESENT A UNIQUE CONSENSUS—THEY HONOUR OUR PAST AND THEY CARRY US INTO THE FUTURE.

EXCELLENCE

SSHRC's commitment to excellence begins with peer review—the international gold standard for judging the quality of research proposals. All SSHRC funding decisions are made by expert committees, balanced for region, gender, language and university size.

INDEPENDENCE

To do and to support reliable research that creates a deeper, clearer understanding of the world, SSHRC and the researchers it supports must be free from political, bureaucratic and commercial interference.

INCLUSIVENESS

All humanities and social sciences disciplines are essential to building a true understanding of the world. SSHRC is committed to supporting the entire range of perspectives and methodologies involved in all humanities and social sciences research.

IMPACT

Research knowledge must be made public. It must inspire and inform real world debate, enrich intellectual and cultural life, and invigorate the economy.

CONNECTION

Excellent research that can change the way we think and act depends on strong connections—true partnerships that cut across borders and disciplines and that bring researchers together with people working outside academia.

LEARNING

Research fuels learning; the university classroom is the birthplace and training ground of the next generation of researchers and highly-qualified people who will build Canada's future.

BUILDING CAPACITY

A diverse knowledge base is the essential foundation of a vibrant, resilient society. SSHRC is committed to the constant renewal of Canada's research capacity through support for students, faculty and institutions.

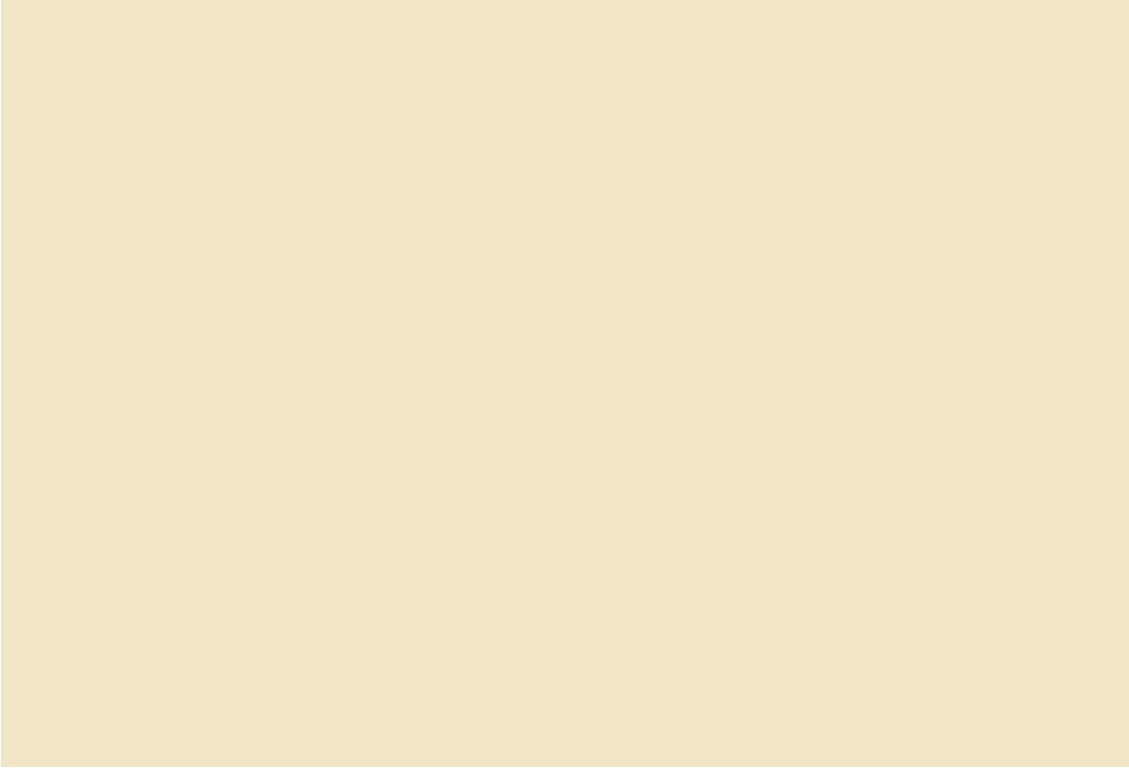
ACCOUNTABILITY

Good stewardship of public funds and open, transparent reporting is the foundation of SSHRC's commitment to Canadians.





CONTEXT



SSHRC'S DECISION TO TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO A KNOWLEDGE COUNCIL COMES AT A TIME OF GREAT CHANGE IN THE ACADEMIC WORLD, AND OF GROWING INTEREST IN SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH FROM ALL SECTORS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY.

For the last ten years, the Canadian government has shown its commitment to making Canada a knowledge leader with the creation of exciting new programs that have re-invigorated the Canadian research scene.

The complexity of global economic, political and social change has convinced leaders in key sectors that social sciences and humanities research is vital to building a just, prosperous and culturally vibrant world. This understanding is driving an explosion of research outside the academy—in government departments, museums, and in not-for-profit and voluntary organizations.

Change is also happening within our universities. Today, after months of campus consultations across the country, the research community is united as never before.

Massive faculty renewal as the “baby boomers” begin to retire is bringing a new generation of professors into the academy who are increasingly expected—and expect—to be active in research and in research training. At the same time, university researchers are changing the way they conduct research. They are working in multi-disciplinary teams and in collaborative arrangements with community organizations, government departments and other groups outside the academy, and they are giving greater prominence and importance to ethical and privacy issues.



BUT THERE ARE ISSUES THAT MUST BE ADDRESSED IF SSHRC AND THE RESEARCH COMMUNITY IT SUPPORTS ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO BUILD THE DEEP, DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE BASE THIS COUNTRY REQUIRES TO PROSPER.

DEMAND

While the new enthusiasm for research complements the Council's plans for more multi-disciplinary and collaborative studies, it also runs the risk of overloading the current funding system. Considering the fact that the success rate in SSHRC's core program (Standard Research Grants) is only 40 per cent and that SSHRC is seeing yearly increases in the number of applications to the program, the growing demand for research support constitutes a serious challenge.

If Canada wants to emerge as one of the 21st century's leaders in research, higher education, and innovation, SSHRC must find ways to meet this growing demand.

MODERN TOOLS

Changes in the way social sciences and humanities scholars conduct research has led to a demand for modern, innovative research tools. However, the prevailing myth that social sciences and humanities research doesn't require specialized, high-tech tools has resulted in a lack of support for the development of those tools.

TRAINING

In the last two years, the government has invested more money into research training through the Canada Graduate Scholarships, but despite this there is still a lack of funding for graduate students in humanities and social sciences disciplines and few opportunities for those students to be actively integrated in research projects as part of their graduate training.

MAKING AN IMPACT

Humanities and social sciences ideas can have enormous impact on society. There are the paradigm-shifting ideas of great philosophers,

historians, economists and psychologists and there is the practical knowledge coming from research that helps us understand and address immediate issues such as third-world poverty, security and human rights, education, and health-care delivery.

Today research knowledge is taught in university classrooms, published in academic journals and books, and shared at academic conferences. On an ad hoc basis, research ideas, discoveries and knowledge trickle into the public forum through the media and through the work of research consultants to government or private-sector organizations.

But these activities don't go far enough in getting research knowledge to Canadians—they do not give us systematic interaction between the research community and the rest of society that will guarantee excellent research knowledge reaches the people who need it.

BOTTOM LINES

After years of sustained public investment in research, governments expect to demonstrate the benefit of research through increased commercialization and by putting research knowledge into practice, policy and public discourse. The challenge for the social sciences and humanities is to expand the idea of "return on investment" to include benefits other than mere commercial ones.

But even with a strong argument for the broader benefits of research there is never a guarantee that the government's support for research will continue to grow. Faltering of the current federal commitment to research would be a threat to the Council's new vision, which requires SSHRC's funding for research and training to double.

SSHRC MUST TAKE STOCK OF THE SHORT AND LONG-TERM IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE IT, IF IT TRULY MEANS TO RE-MAKE ITSELF AS A KNOWLEDGE COUNCIL.

For more than twenty-five years, SSHRC has responded quickly and creatively to the changing needs of the research community and Canadian society. The Council has begun to play a larger role in the national research effort by contributing to the development of Canada's research and science policy. But to make Canada a leader in the knowledge economy, more is needed.

The following plan leverages the opportunities, addresses the challenges head-on and charts a truly exciting future for the Council and for Canada's research community.

PLAN



SSHRC will take very specific actions to transform itself over the next five years into a knowledge council. These actions fall into three categories:

- Retool and fine-tune programs
- Create new programs, new approaches
- Renew Council structures and organization

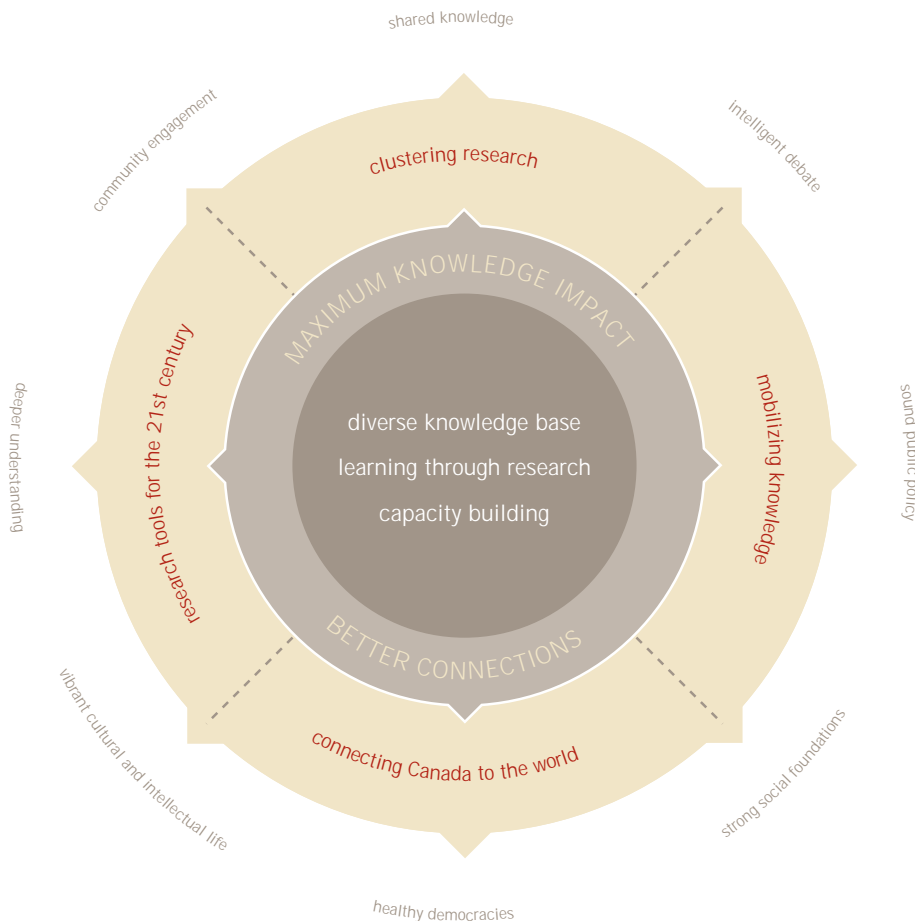


FIGURE 1: The Knowledge Council will build on SSHRC’s core support programs, taking the knowledge created through those programs into the world. The Council’s four new strategic directions—clustering research, building modern tools, mobilizing knowledge and connecting people—create a systematic and effective interaction between researchers and society, and provide researchers with the modern tools they need to do large-scale projects.



1. RETOOL AND FINE-TUNE PROGRAMS

The heart and soul of SSHRC is, and will remain, a suite of core programs that together build a broad and deep knowledge base, create excellent student training opportunities and expand the research capacity at universities and colleges across the country.

These foundational programs will be fine-tuned or retooled to make them more effective in achieving their goals.

EXPAND DIVERSE KNOWLEDGE BASE

Since its inception, SSHRC has funded investigator-driven research of the highest scholarly and ethical standards through rigorous and open competitions adjudicated by peer review. It has stimulated and supported research through a suite of programs that promote creativity and innovation, rooted in freedom of inquiry and a respect for diverse approaches. It has done so by supporting individual researchers and small research teams through the Standard Research Grants program, large multi-disciplinary research teams through the Major Collaborative Research Initiatives program, the Networks of Centres of Excellence and the Initiative on the New Economy, and it has supported institutions through the SSHRC Institutional Grants and Aid to Small Universities programs.

Taken together, these programs represent Canada's single most important investment in the creation of an original intellectual perspective on the world.

Over the next five years, SSHRC will maintain its commitment to investigator-framed research, while moving to:

- offer a continuum of funding that spans small, medium-sized and larger grants tenable for varying periods of time, with competitions for the different types of grants to be held at separate times of the year;
- improve the success rate in the small grant competitions, as budgets permit, to deal with the longstanding problem of grants recommended but not funded due to lack of funds;

- increase funding for, and introduce more innovative mechanisms to support, the publication of scholarly books and journals;
- re-examine the idea of supporting best-performing scholarly associations and the relevance of the Research Time Stipend.

FOCUS ON ADVANCED LEARNING

SSHRC fellowships and Canada Graduate Scholarships train a new generation of experts and encourage creativity and innovation. These programs prepare students for academic careers, as well as careers in all sectors of Canadian society.

To ensure that Canada has well-educated, highly-skilled experts who can develop new knowledge, teach the next generation and lead the country into a better future, SSHRC will:

- ensure that students have access to excellent training environments in order to improve completion rates and reduce time to degrees (possibly by increasing the funds available for training in all collaborative research undertakings);
- ensure that students have opportunities to study and attend conferences abroad (e.g., by recommending that the Canada Graduate Scholarships program extend its support to include students studying abroad);
- create fellowships that include training in applied settings outside universities (50 per cent of Canadian PhD graduates end up working outside academia).

BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY

In hundreds of communities across the country, Canada's network of universities and colleges provide strong institutional support for social, economic and cultural development through social sciences and humanities research and research training. Because the social sciences and humanities play vital roles in postsecondary institutions of all types, SSHRC itself is uniquely positioned to foster the

development of a robust research culture and research capacity in all regions of the country. Its highly successful program of Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) shows how fruitful research connections can be established to that end. Launched in 2005, a new Social Economy initiative, based on the CURA model, will continue this effort.

SSHRC will integrate the CURA program as a key element of its core program architecture and:

- revitalize the Aid to Small Universities program to help universities and colleges develop more robust research cultures and broaden their graduates' skill sets;
- encourage undergraduate students and workers in all sectors to rise to the challenge of the knowledge society by diversifying their skill sets through direct research experience (e.g., by creating undergraduate research participation awards and summer research training institutes);
- expand and improve university-community research partnerships to better equip communities to develop local solutions to local issues.

2. NEW PROGRAMS, NEW APPROACHES

Building on past collaborative, multi-disciplinary experiments such as Community-University Research Alliances, SSHRC will engage its research community in implementing four key new strategies: clustering research, mobilizing knowledge, connecting people and building tools.

CLUSTERING RESEARCH

Over the last several years, SSHRC has explored collaborations and partnerships that address complex, research questions on important social issues. Networks of Centres of Excellence, Major Collaborative Research Initiatives, the Initiative on the New Economy and SSHRC's recently launched Aboriginal Research program have all taught SSHRC valuable lessons in how to manage large, interdisciplinary research groups, how to engage collective action, and how to expand into new intellectual arenas.

SSHRC must now apply these lessons to develop support structures that will promote even more systematic interaction and ongoing linkages across fields of activity, institutions, communities, regions, languages and countries.

To do that SSHRC will:

- develop mechanisms to expanding networks across the country that will support and promote Canada's current and emerging research strengths;
- develop mechanisms, in partnership with external stakeholders, to identify and address critical gaps in research knowledge;
- continue the research activities started under the Initiative on the New Economy (current funding scheduled to end in 2007).

SSHRC is already addressing the need for expanded research networks. The Strategic Research Clusters Design Grants program was launched in 2004 to help identify areas in which Canada has attained a certain level of research strength and to help SSHRC design a program to support research clusters.

Researchers from across Canada, from both official language groups, and from different disciplines organized themselves into preliminary clusters. Depending on the nation's and the participating researchers' specific needs, clusters will vary considerably in size, areas and combinations of expertise and life-span.

A major focus for the investment of new resources, strategic research clusters will:

- build on and add value to research support in the foundational programs;
- encourage intellectual and geographic mobility of students and researchers;
- increase the visibility of social sciences and humanities research both nationally and internationally;
- catalyze the cross-fertilization of ideas between academia, foundations, voluntary sector organizations, and other stakeholders in the government, community and private sectors;
- facilitate, for critical intellectual and societal issues, the integration of new knowledge and practice;
- promote a vibrant environment for research training.

Important knowledge gaps appear as world issues evolve at a rapid pace. To take a few examples, the rise of countries in South and Southeast Asia as major economic powers, the spread of "freelance" political violence, the relentless march of technology, and the aging of Western populations are all major issues worldwide. Understanding and addressing these issues effectively demands new, focused social sciences and humanities research. Special initiatives

may be needed to address particular knowledge gaps, as in the case of the Initiative on the New Economy, launched in 2001, that has mobilized hundreds of researchers across Canada and around the world to understand and address the challenges of the emerging knowledge economy.

MOBILIZE KNOWLEDGE FOR GREATER IMPACT

In recent years, SSHRC has:

- promoted interactive relationships between scholars and government departments through numerous Joint Initiative programs and collaboration with the Policy Research Initiative;
- promoted mutually beneficial, sustained relationships between academic researchers and local community organizations through, among others, its Community-University Research Alliances program;
- provided fundamental support for knowledge sharing, primarily among scholars, through, for example, its Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences program;
- piloted the development of new tools and methods (e.g., Initiative on the New Economy programs) to encourage new alliances among researchers and to nurture actual and potential synergies across large interdisciplinary research teams working on related issues;
- experimented with new forums and events to bring research into public awareness. (The Knowledge Project, held in Ottawa in February 2005, featured 84 research exhibits and brought together more than 150 social sciences and humanities researchers and 600 stakeholders to participate in panel discussions on issues that cut across disciplinary and methodological boundaries.)

Thus far, however, such efforts have been largely ad hoc; much more intensive development is required. Canada needs systemic vehicles that, on a timely basis, enable stakeholders to connect with experts on key issues and problems, access relevant research results and syntheses on specific topics,

and understand the applicability and implications of this knowledge for their own spheres of interest.

Accordingly, over the next five years, SSHRC will:

- provide incentives for postsecondary institutions so that they can extend social sciences and humanities research knowledge beyond academic circles;
- establish mechanisms to place researchers and students in new settings—for example, visiting fellowships and applied scholarships would facilitate cross-fertilization of ideas and experiences, break open intellectual silos, bridge cultures and create trust relationships that can serve as foundations for collaborative activity;
- create new mechanisms to increase the impact of social sciences and humanities research on policy—and decision-making—for example, the Council could experiment, along the lines of a successful program pioneered in the United Kingdom, with funding agreements that convene a range of stakeholders around specific issues;
- develop and deliver a suite of regular knowledge events that bring researchers and stakeholders together to learn from each other.

In short, using its unique ability to convene a range of stakeholders and a breadth and depth of research expertise, SSHRC will introduce new mechanisms to create bridging platforms and arenas among academics, government and communities that will greatly improve the ability of social sciences and humanities researchers to impact policy and decision-making. Such activities represent another major focus for the investment of new resources.

CONNECT TO THE WORLD

The forces of globalization are accelerating the scope and international pace of research. To be a competitive economy and a successful society, a medium-sized country such as Canada must have continuous access to the rich diversity of knowledge around the world and must take advantage of opportunities for international collaboration.

Furthermore, the interconnected nature of global issues requires leveraging knowledge, resources and expertise on an international scale. The

Canadian research community is already active internationally, publishing with foreign researchers more often than most nations in the world. Several SSHRC programs, notably the Initiative on the New Economy and Major Collaborative Research Initiatives explicitly support international linkages.

SSHRC will build on these successes by:

- establishing an International Opportunities Fund that will allow Canadian researchers to take advantage of opportunities to lead and participate in collaborative international research activities that are important for Canada;
- introducing measures to foster student mobility over and above what is already permitted through SSHRC regular fellowships;
- providing international leadership with regard to the present state and future development of the humanities and social sciences (e.g., organizing international workshops on key issues such as data archiving standards, longitudinal surveys, large editorial projects and computing in the humanities);
- internationalizing its peer-review system by, for instance, encouraging more Canadian researchers to sit on the peer-review committees of other national research councils and arranging for foreign researchers to sit on SSHRC peer-review committees.

CREATE RESEARCH TOOLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

For many years, SSHRC has supported the development of collective research tools, notably dictionaries, bibliographic aids and document collections. Recently, with the assistance of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, SSHRC has helped create a new generation of such tools. Examples include the network of Research Data Centres that provide decentralized access to Statistics Canada's longitudinal survey data, as well as investments in servers and databases, software packages, digital recording equipment, communications technologies, mobile laboratories and cyber-cartographic systems.

The changing nature of social sciences and

humanities research—greater emphasis on large and complex intellectual and social issues, application of new information and communication technologies, and the increasing internationalization of research—highlights the importance for SSHRC and its research community of using new research infrastructure and dealing with “big science” issues in the social sciences and humanities.

Accordingly, SSHRC will contribute to developing not only the human infrastructure that underpins research but also the design and creation of research tools needed for such cutting-edge research. Over the next five years SSHRC will:

- work with the Canada Foundation for Innovation to ensure investments in research infrastructure meet the needs of the entire Canadian research community;
- support the development of leading-edge tools for large-scale research on complex issues that will position Canada as a world research leader (for example, editorial and other text-based initiatives, longitudinal surveys, research output management systems and more effective research data centres).

While support for this strategic thrust will not require vast sums, it will grow substantially over the next five years, pending availability of new resources.

3. BUILD THE KNOWLEDGE COUNCIL

SSHRC constitutes an integral part of the humanities and social sciences research community and plays a critical role in maintaining public support for excellence in research and scholarship adjudicated at arm's-length from political influence.

It also plays a role in representing the “collective face” of Canadian-based social sciences and humanities research—a role that has grown as scholars expand their activities outside the academic community and beyond Canada's borders.

The Council is called on to work with researchers and practitioners in all sectors of society and to liaise with scholars and granting agencies in other disciplines and in other countries. It seeks international opportunities for Canadian participation, develops policies and practices that complement or bridge those of other national research agencies and raises the international profile of Canadian research.

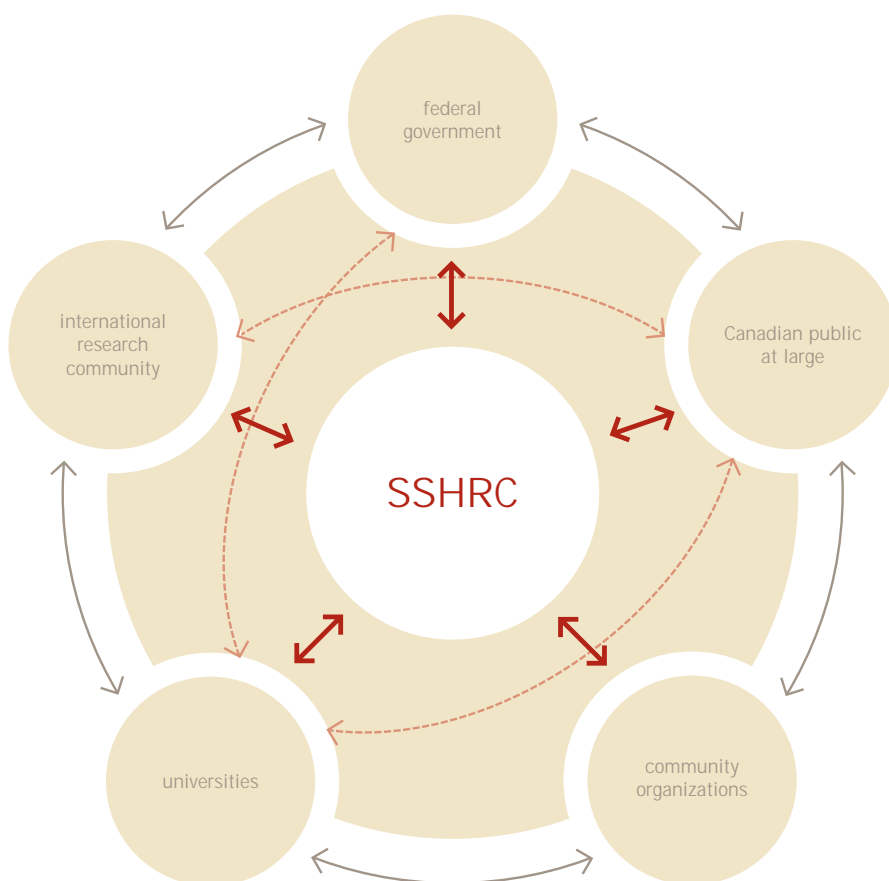


FIGURE 2: The complex net of relationships within which SSHRC functions as a granting council. The new Knowledge Council will intensify and expand these relationships.

In order to realize fully the Knowledge Council vision, SSHRC will develop the organizational capacity to:

- act as a national “clearinghouse” providing easy access to SSHRC-funded research findings—possibly by setting up a national database of research outcomes that complements institutional repositories and provides a single point of access, available in Canada and abroad, to Canadian research;
- create more effective, ongoing relationships with media, non-governmental organizations, private sector firms and governments at all levels;
- provide stronger policy leadership on strategically important issues such as research impact indicators, future research directions, the academic incentives and rewards system, and the status of “grey” literature;
- establish a network of SSHRC representatives on all Canadian university campuses.

The next few years will be challenging for SSHRC as it broadens its role to become a more inclusive and effective knowledge council. To make this transition, it must involve and inspire its employees through forward-looking and careful management of change and the recruitment of such new skills as may be needed to fulfill its expanded mission.

4. IMPLEMENTING THE PLAN

SSHRC's progress towards becoming a knowledge council will depend partly on federal budget appropriations.

Therefore, each year for the next five years, Council will identify and implement specific, affordable, priority goals from this strategic plan. The yearly implementation plan will be a supplement to SSHRC's Report on Plans and Priorities.

SSHRC is already involved in knowledge council activities (convening, bridging, promoting); but in order to deliver fully on the vision outlined in this strategic plan, SSHRC's budget will have to double, bringing it to between 20 and 25 per cent of the total federal investment in the three granting agencies.

SSHRC GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BUDGET 2010-2011

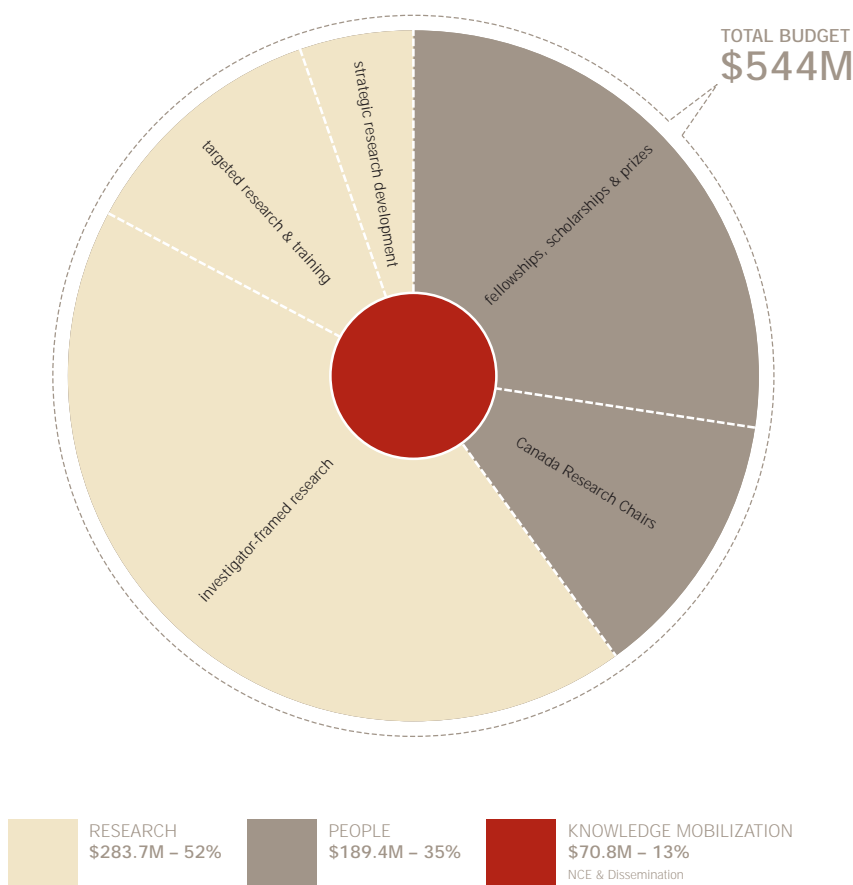


FIGURE 3: Knowledge Council budget, 2010-11 (in current millions of dollars) The budget of a fully transformed and appropriately financed Council. The largest relative increases will focus on clustering research, building research capacity and intensifying knowledge mobilization.

NOTES: 2010-2011 Budget forecasts. Does not include the Indirect Costs program.



CONCLU- SION

TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, CANADA AND THE WORLD NEEDS ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE TO DEAL WITH OUR MOST PRESSING SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

Real, lasting solutions to terrorism, AIDS, poverty, global warming will not come entirely from new technology or new science. We have medicines that we can't deliver to the most needy. We have high-tech weapons and information systems that can't stop subway bombs. Our scientists know the causes and consequences of global warming, but we ignore them. Our social scientists know that the most powerful determinants of health are social, not surgical or pharmaceutical, yet popular, policy and political discussions alike focus almost exclusively on the medicare system.

To solve these problems, we need to do a much better job of getting humanities and social sciences knowledge out into the world where it can make a difference, where it can inspire ideas and debate, where it can galvanize individuals, communities, businesses and governments into action.

To do this, SSHRC must operate as a knowledge council.

This means bringing the knowledge gained from both basic and applied research to families, community groups, policy-makers, legislators, business leaders and the media. This means improving by several orders of magnitude the present scope and effectiveness of sharing that knowledge—by fostering more sophisticated regional, national and

international research networks, by promoting more vigorous and sustained media attention to and engagement in research issues, by promoting research as a vital and honoured part of every education.

What pay-off can we legitimately expect from the transforming of SSHRC into a value-added knowledge council? Even at this early stage, we can look ahead to:

- more scholars with strong and effective linkages with other researchers across Canada and the world, as well as with a broader range of stakeholders and partners outside academe;
- more stakeholders who are aware of, and actively benefit from, social sciences and humanities research expertise;
- greater participation of Canadian researchers in international research projects;
- more students gaining broader perspectives, adaptive capacity and intellectual dynamism from studying in a variety of university environments;
- the foundations of a knowledge mobilization system that will provide more routine access to new data and research findings, and enable more evidence-based decision-making by governments and other sectors on key social, economic, cultural and other issues;



- greater presence in the mass media of articles, broadcasts and interviews on, and directly related to, the contributions made by social sciences and humanities research.

All this will make Canada a more connected nation that reaps unprecedented benefits from both the scale of its geography and the rich diversity of its population. The greater availability and systematic sharing of ideas and research insights will also support, both directly and indirectly, the fullest expression of Canada's particular approach to participatory democracy.

Canada stands to benefit greatly from the renewal of the social sciences and humanities—with greatly enhanced capacity for economic and social innovation, for wealth creation and for sustaining its citizens' overall quality of life in the 21st century.



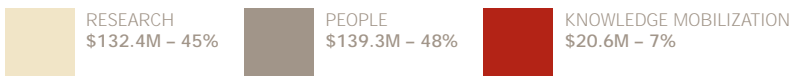
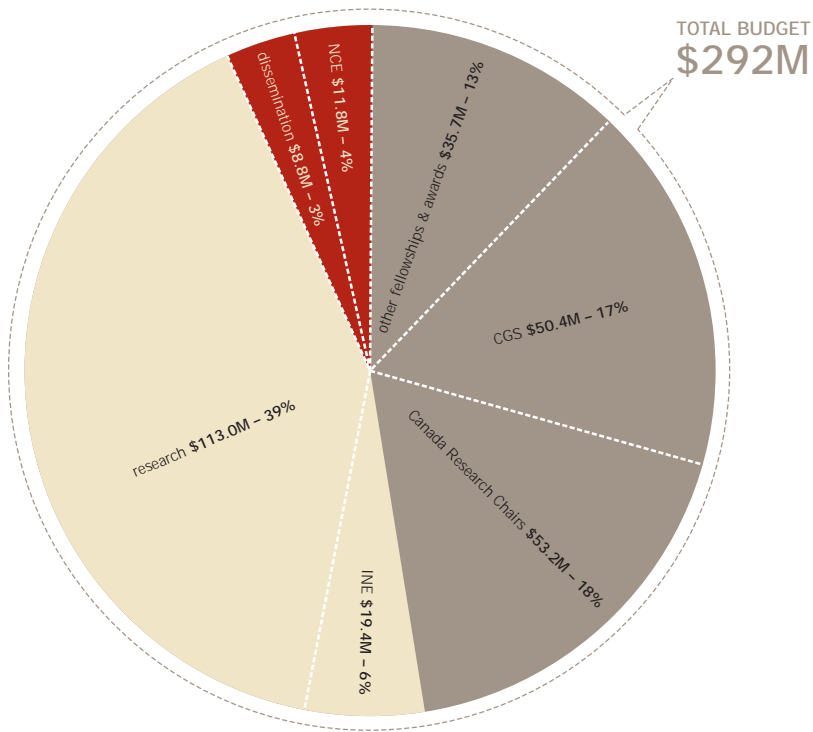
APPEN- DICES

SSHRC'S BUDGET

SSHRC'S budget for 2005-06 is \$292 million, of which \$157.4 million is allocated for core grants and scholarships, \$50.4 million to the Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) program, \$53.2 million to the Canada Research Chairs program, \$19.4

million to the Initiative on the New Economy (INE), and \$11.8 million to the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program. SSHRC also manages the federal government's Indirect Costs program, established on a permanent basis in 2003.

SSHRC GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS BUDGET 2005-2006



NOTES: 2005-2006 Budget subject to final approval. Excludes the Indirect Costs program.

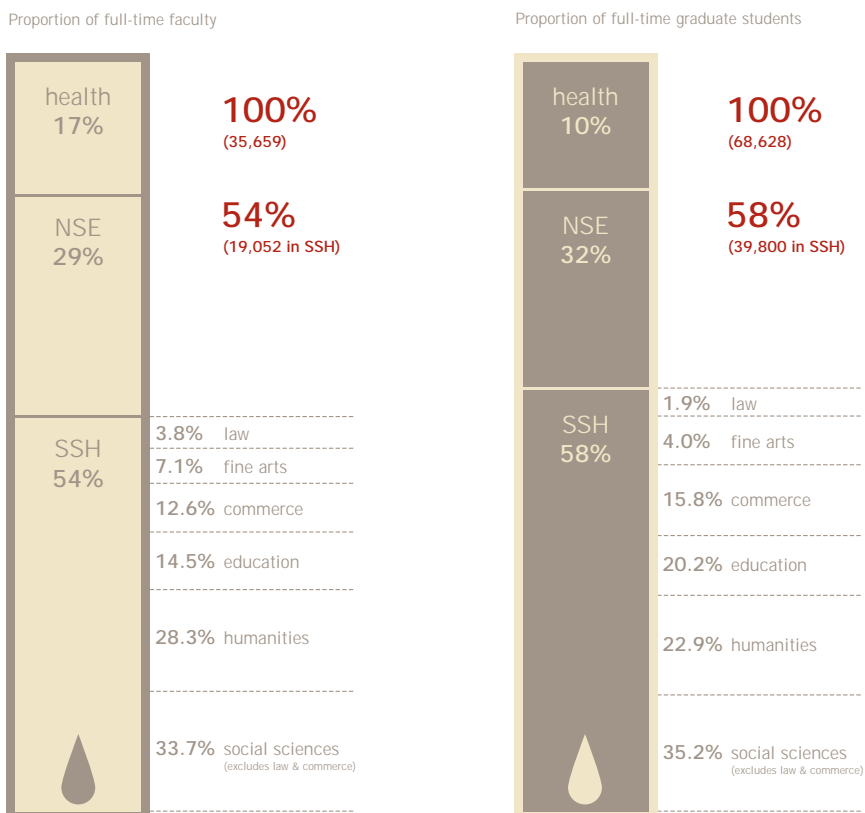
PROFILE OF SSHRC'S COMMUNITY

SSHRC's principal clients are the 19,000 full-time faculty and 40,000 graduate students in more than 90 universities across Canada who teach, study and conduct research in the social sciences and humanities. They work in such fields as economics, history, political science, business, education, philosophy and modern languages. Collectively, they represent 54 per cent of full-time professors and 58 per cent of full-time graduate students in Canadian universities. Compared with sister agencies nationally and internationally, SSHRC funds a very broad range of disciplines and fields,

including not only the social sciences and humanities but also fine arts, law, commerce, and education. All told, SSHRC funds research and training in over thirty disciplines.

The following two tables compare the numbers and percentages of all full-time faculty and graduate students in Canadian universities in the three main research sectors—health sciences (Health), natural sciences and engineering (NSE), and social sciences and humanities (SSH)—to those of full-time faculty and graduate students in the six broad fields into which SSHRC divides its client community.

PROFILE OF SSHRC'S CORE COMMUNITY OF FULL-TIME UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS



SOURCE: Statistics Canada – Faculty (2002–2003) and graduate students data (1999–2000).

