



Bulletin on the Federal Budget ***Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences*** ***January 28, 2009***

Message from the President

Yesterday, the federal government unveiled its 2009-10 budget which sets out fiscal measures and investments to stimulate the economy. In his budget, Minister Flaherty outlined a number of measures aimed at universities and colleges, including money for:

- deferred maintenance and repair projects at post-secondary institutions,
- research infrastructure funding through the Canada Foundation for Innovation,
- an additional 600 graduate internships in science and business, and
- more Canada Graduate Scholarships.

The funding for the Canada Graduate Scholarships is allocated so that 40% goes to NSERC and CIHR each while the remaining 20% goes to SSHRC specifically for business-related degrees.

The infrastructure investment at universities and colleges and the extension of programs for graduate students represent a positive first step but it does not fully recognize the critical contribution of research and training in the social sciences and humanities to compete in the global knowledge based economy. Business-related research in areas such as law, ethics, sociology, and marketing represents only a fraction of the tremendous potential of arts, humanities and social sciences disciplines in an innovative economy.

It is estimated that industries that rely on the knowledge and skills generated by the arts, humanities, and social sciences account for nearly \$700 billion of Canada's GDP.

In its next budget, we hope that the federal government will recognize the essential role of research and training in the full spectrum of social sciences and humanities for an economic recovery and long term prosperity. The surest way to achieve this would be by increasing the budget of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

The trend in recent years to target programs and spending has continued with this budget. In addition, the recent strategic review of all federal departments and agencies is expected to result in a reduction of about 5% in the base budget of SSHRC. We will follow closely the impact of the federal program review on SSHRC and look for opportunities to influence in the implementation of this year's budget and the preparation of the next.

Nathalie Des Rosiers

Budget Highlights for the Humanities and Social Sciences Community

Postsecondary Infrastructure

\$2 billion has been allocated for repairs and building projects at universities and colleges. 70% of the funding will go to universities with the remaining 30% going to colleges. The money will be allocated by Industry Canada to projects that are considered meritorious and that meet the government's strategic priorities. The federal contribution will cover 50% of the cost, with the remaining funding coming from other partners.

Graduate Student Scholarships and Funding

\$85 million in increases to the Canada Graduate Scholarship Program were announced as a "temporary" measure in the budget. CIHR and NSERC will each receive \$35 million or 40% in untargeted funding, while SSHRC will receive \$17.5 million in funding, all of it targeted to business-related degrees. This funding represents an additional 500 PhD students, funded at \$35,000 each for 3 years, and 1,000 master's scholarships of \$17,500 each for one year, in both 2009-10 and in 2010-11. An additional \$3.5 million over two years was announced for 600 more internships in the Industrial Research and Development Internships program announced in 2007. All are targeted to science and business graduates.

Granting Councils and Strategic Review

The 2009 budget provides no direct increase to the permanent base budget of the three granting councils. Rather, it identifies Strategic Review Savings totaling \$17.7 million in 2009-10, \$43 million in 2010-11 and \$87.2 million in 2011-12 collectively. Strategic Review is part of a larger government-wide initiative introduced in 2007 that aims to find savings in a number of departments each year and reallocate these funds into the same and/or other departments. The granting council savings will support repairs at post-secondary institutions, upgrade Arctic research facilities, add Canada Graduate Scholarships and internships, and support research infrastructure through the Canada Foundation for Innovation. More information about the review savings and their impact on SSHRC will come in early February.

Canada Foundation for Innovation

\$750 million will go to research infrastructure costs through the Canada Foundation for Innovation. \$150 million of these funds will be made available to meritorious projects in the 2009 Leading Edge and New Initiatives Funds Competition. The other \$600 million will support CFI's future activities, including the launch of one or more new competitions by December 2010. These new competitions will be in support of areas of priority identified by the Minister of Industry in consultation with the CFI, and guided by their strategic plan.

Postsecondary Education Transfer

The budget announces a growth of 3% per year for the Canada Social and Equalization Transfer, with \$10.9 billion in 2009, and \$10.4 billion in 2010. The budget does not specify what portion of this increase is intended for transfers, direct spending and tax measures for postsecondary education within the Canada Social Transfer.

National Arts Training Contribution Plan

An additional \$20 million over the next two years and \$13 million per year thereafter has been allocated to the National Arts Training Contribution Program, which supports the highest calibre artistic institutions in Canada in training artists for professional careers.

For more information:

The budget contains some other measures related to research and PSE, such as student loans, government

science and others. The complete budget at:

<http://www.budget.gc.ca/2009/pdf/budget-planbugetaire-eng.pdf>

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