

## **Response to Budget 2010 – Extending our influence**

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is encouraging its member associations to take action on the recent federal budget. The university research community garnered some positive wins in the recent budget, with increased opportunities for our community. These gains are the result of several months of effort from the Federation, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and other stakeholders, and it is important that we continue to add our voice to the discussion with government officials.

### **Some budget highlights:**

- \$3 million untargeted increase to SSHRC'S base budget will be permanent.
- Untargeted funding for NSERC and CIHR – increasing available funds available at these agencies, part of which will be available to fund some work in our disciplines.
- Our community will have access to some of the \$30 million over two years set aside for the College and Community Innovation Program.
- \$75 million was dedicated to Genome Canada, which sets aside 10% of its budget to support research in the environmental, ethical, economic and legal aspects of genomics.

### **A response consistent with the Federation's recommendations**

One of the Federation's central recommendations in pre-budget consultations was to increase the support to the next generation of talented researchers. The allocation of \$45 million to create a new post-doctoral fellowship program will support the work of new scholars at a critical junction in their career.

This announcement does not mean that our work is over. We now need to encourage the Federal government to ensure the fellowship program provides equal support to the social sciences and humanities. We are recommending that the post-doctoral fellowship program be modelled on the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, wherein the program is managed as a Tri-Council initiative and funds are equally allocated among granting agencies.

The federal budget also committed the government to reviewing all support for research and development to improve its contribution to innovation. The Federation expects the government to consult widely in this process, ensuring that the value of research in all disciplines is understood and respected.

We invite you to contact the Minister of Finance (copying the Prime Minister, the Minister of Industry and the Minister of State for Science and Technology) to encourage him to implement these budget initiatives taking into account our community's contribution in many sectors. You may also want to copy your local MP.

## **Please remember**

- It is critical to thank the government for supporting research, using terms such as *positive signal, encouraging in the country's present economic outlook, or a step in the right direction*, etc.
- Providing specific and constructive recommendations will help your letter get attention. We believe it is essential to signal the importance of using the Vanier scholarship model for the newly announced post-doctoral fellowships.
- It is also important to remind the minister to engage our community in the proposed review of federal support to research and development.
- Finally, we strongly recommend including one or two examples of the research projects that are connecting scholars with the wider Canadian community. Please review the [examples](#) provided by the Federation.

## **The Federation is here to support your work**

If you require advice or support in crafting your communications with government, the communications team at the Federation is here to help. Do not forget to copy the Federation on your letter so that we can bolster our continued advocacy efforts.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact [media@fedcan.ca](mailto:media@fedcan.ca) or phone Pierre Normand at 613.238.6112 ext. 351.

You can find the [Federation's letter to the Minister online](#), if you would like to use it as a sample. We have also compiled a list of research projects to highlight the work of our disciplines to many sectors. Please send us any suggestions you have for additions to this list. We are looking for projects with broad impact and that include linkages with the larger community.

## **Sending a Letter to Members of Parliament**

Printed letters are the most impactful means to lobby elected officials. You can mail letters to Members of Parliament free of charge to the following address:

[NAME]  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6