



Canadian Federation for the  
**Humanities and Social Sciences**

Fédération canadienne  
des **sciences humaines**

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February 18, 2010

Hon. Jim Flaherty  
Minister of Finance  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Flaherty,

On behalf of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, representing over 50,000 researchers and scholars from 69 scholarly associations, 75 universities and colleges and 7 affiliate organizations, I am writing you today with respect to the priorities for the upcoming federal budget.

I would like to thank you for meeting with Federation representatives last spring, which provided an opportunity to engage in a productive dialogue on how to build Canada's innovation capacity. Our recommendations for Budget 2010 stem from these discussions and build on the Government's Economic Action Plan. Last year's federal budget demonstrated your support for universities by investing in research infrastructure and providing the funds to ensure world-class facilities at Canadian universities and colleges. Budget 2010 is an opportunity to bolster these past investments.

This current economic climate makes very clear that Budget 2010 will require difficult choices. The Federation understands the importance of ensuring that each dollar is spent wisely and for the benefit of all Canadians. But even in times of fiscal restraint, strategic investments are necessary to secure our future. The Federation believes that providing opportunities for new researchers, remaining globally competitive and connecting knowledge with Canadians are all part of achieving this. The Federation is recommending a total investment of \$100 million over three years through the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Supporting up-and-coming researchers is essential to build Canada's long-term research capacity. This new generation of social sciences and humanities researchers is embracing new technologies and looking at opportunities to partner with Canada's NGOs, social and cultural entrepreneurs, business leaders and decision makers in our public institutions. The Federation therefore is recommending an investment of \$50 million to increase support for new researchers and help seed the next generation of excellence in the social sciences and humanities.

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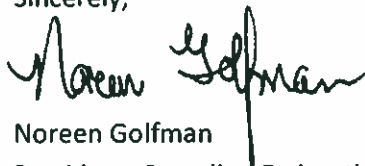
Many of our country's senior social sciences and humanities researchers are already recognized internationally. The Federation is recommending an investment of \$25 million to ensure they can continue to compete at the highest levels of global excellence and participate in large-scale international research initiatives.

Connecting the knowledge generated by social sciences and humanities researchers with Canadians is a Federation priority. There is a clear desire in industry, academia and among Canadians to enhance our national capacity to turn ideas and innovative concepts into social, cultural, political and economic progress. The research performed by our community helps improve service delivery, governance practices and business models. It also helps our industries understand the social, cultural and economic dynamics of the world, opening new doors for Canadian innovations in the global marketplace. To help bridge disciplines, sectors, needs and opportunities, the Federation is recommending an investment of \$25 million to help put that knowledge to work to the benefit of Canadians.

Ensuring that we get our economy back on track requires that we fully mobilize our country's innovation capacity. Our recommendations aim to build on the significant contribution of Canada's social sciences and humanities research community and to complement the Government of Canada's economic goals.

We thank you for considering our recommendations and would be pleased to meet with you should you wish to discuss our recommendations in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Noreen Golfman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" for Golfman.

Noreen Golfman

President, Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences