



Media Release

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Federal budget paves the way for future scholars

(OTTAWA) - "Today's federal budget signals a strong commitment to the next generation of scholars and leaders in Canada's post-secondary institutions," says Doug Owrarn, President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. "Permanent funding for indirect costs, thousands of new fellowships for graduate students and funding increases to the granting councils – these are three of the top issues that the social sciences and humanities research community has collectively pushed for since the last budget."

"The Canada Graduate Scholarships are something to celebrate," says Dr Owrarn. "We are extremely pleased that the government has allocated 60% of the scholarships to graduate students in the humanities and social sciences. Six out of ten graduate students study in our disciplines - I am gratified to see this recognized in the allocation of these scholarships."

"The Federation has long championed increased support for graduate students over the course of our meetings with the Prime Minister's Office, elected and senior department officials," explained Dr Owrarn. "We believe this funding will help recruit the best talent from undergraduate programs into graduate studies in Canadian universities."

The Federation sees the permanent funding of indirect costs of research as a direct benefit to the core operations of universities and especially to faculties of arts, humanities, education, law, commerce and social sciences. Capacity building initiatives, such as the indirect costs program, are crucial as universities face an influx of students and a need to recruit and retain new scholars.

"Moreover, a 10% increase in the budgets of SSHRC, CIHR and NSERC continues the government's movement in the past five federal budgets to enhance research capacity and to allow Canada to rank among the top five countries in R&D performance," explains Dr. Owrarn. "And while SSHRC did not receive any additional funding to address its severe budget constraints, I am confident that the discussions the human sciences community are now engaging in – about the transformation of SSHRC – will result in viable, long-term solutions to our funding issues."

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences represents 68 learned societies, 69 universities and over 24,000 researchers active in the study of applied and social sciences, humanities and fine arts. The Federation is the voice of the human sciences in Canada. It organizes the *Breakfast on the Hill* seminar series and the *Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences* and administers the *Aid to Scholarly Publications Programme*.

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