

# Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

1999-2000  
Estimates

Report on Plans and Priorities

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Minister of Industry

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# Section I: Messages

## 1. Minister's Portfolio Message

Our vision of Canada at the dawn of the new millennium is that of a strong and dynamic country poised to be a global leader in the knowledge-based economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Canada continues to face the challenges of responding to the rapid pace of global change, and of harnessing the benefits of the knowledge-based economy for all Canadians. The government's goal is to create economic growth and more jobs for Canadians, in order to improve incomes and our standard of living.

Our standard of living depends directly on productivity, and improving productivity growth will be one of Canada's key challenges in the years ahead. The Industry Portfolio has a pivotal role to play in meeting this challenge. With 42 percent of federal science and technology funding and many of the government's micro-economic levers at its disposal, the Industry Portfolio has a unique capacity for

innovation, research excellence, and partnership. The 13 Portfolio members bring together a versatile array of complementary programs to help improve Canadian productivity and competitiveness by focusing on such strategic priorities as promoting innovation through science and technology, helping small- and medium-sized enterprises to grow, encouraging trade and investment, and promoting economic growth in Canadian communities.

I am pleased to present the Report on Plans and Priorities for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). This Report sets out for Canadians the planned activities, priorities and resources over the course of the next three years. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada helps to continually build the human knowledge and skills Canada needs to improve the quality of its social, economic and cultural life through the promotion of, and assistance to research and training in the social sciences and humanities.

In particular, SSHRC will address strategic knowledge gaps and provide the knowledge needed to develop effective policies and programs to manage change. To provide Canadians with the knowledge needed for public policy decisions, SSHRC will continue to respond to new developments and priorities in the policy and research environments. It will promote targeted training to prepare Canadian youth to find employment and meet the need of the knowledge economy and society, and sustain a strong innovation capacity by increasing

The Industry Portfolio is...

Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency  
Business Development Bank of Canada\*  
Canadian Space Agency  
Competition Tribunal  
Copyright Board Canada  
Canada Economic Development for  
Quebec Regions  
Industry Canada  
National Research Council Canada  
Natural Sciences and Engineering Research  
Council of Canada  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research  
Council of Canada  
Standards Council of Canada\*  
Statistics Canada  
Western Economic Diversification Canada

*\*Not required to submit Reports on Plans and  
Priorities*

the core support for research and training in the human sciences. SSHRC will continue to build a targeted research capacity through the development of partnerships and alliances with users of research in the public and private sectors to respond to the needs of society, government, business and community groups. These plans illustrate how the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as a member of the Industry Portfolio, will contribute to improving Canada's competitiveness.

Canada is well equipped to be a leader in the knowledge-based economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We have the people, the institutions and the research excellence. We have the vision to not only connect all Canadians, but also to connect them to the global marketplace. We know the challenges that we face and the opportunities afforded to us. By mobilizing our resources, we can be a leader in the new economy. By working together, we can ensure continuing success as we embark on the new millennium.

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The Honourable John Manley

## **2. Secretary of State Message (Science, Research and Development)**

Science, research and development are crucial to Canada because our economy - and the global economy - is changing rapidly. Our future success will be built on a virtually limitless resource: knowledge. Our ability to create future wealth will depend on the effective management of knowledge - the ability to create it, acquire it, disseminate it and exploit it. This ability forms the foundation of what is known as a knowledge-based economy.

Science, research and development are all about the search for knowledge - the discovery of new information and new understanding of how our world works. Knowledge is the key to improving the human condition and to improving our quality of life. Search for knowledge must be an ongoing process and a top priority in all sectors because of the potential applications in health and social sciences, education and the environment, business and the economy.

Canadians have worked together to build a society and an economy that are envied around the world. Canada is already a world leader in science, technology, research and development. Our challenge, indeed our opportunity, is to build on our co-operative links and partnerships with all sectors so that we are prepared for the new knowledge-based economy.

The government is committed to maintaining the high levels of success that Canada has attained in the past. We will accomplish this as a nation by continuing our investment in education and the discovery of knowledge and, by sharing, cooperating and working together to improve our economy and quality of life. By continuing to build stronger communities and, thereby, a stronger Canada, we will be able to compete in the new global economy.

Canada has unlimited potential to be a leader in the global knowledge-based economy. I am confident we will remain a strong and prosperous nation with enormous opportunities for all Canadians as we move into the new millennium.

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The Honourable Ron J. Duhamel

## Management Representation Statement

<b>MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATION / DÉCLARATION DE LA DIRECTION</b> <i>Report on Plans and Priorities 1999-2000 / Un rapport sur les plans et les priorités de 1999-2000</i>	
<p>I submit, for tabling in Parliament, the 1999-2000 Report on Plans and Priorities (RPP) for <b>The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada</b></p>	<p>Je sou mets, en vue de son dépôt au Parlement, le Rapport sur les plans et les priorités de 1999-2000 du <b>Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada</b></p>
<p>To the best of my knowledge (and subject to the qualifications outlined below), the information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accurately portrays the agency's mandate, plans, priorities, strategies and expected key results of the organization.</li> <li>• Is consistent with the disclosure principles contained in the <i>Guidelines for Preparing a Report on Plans and Priorities</i>.</li> <li>• Is comprehensive and accurate.</li> <li>• Is based on sound underlying agency information and management systems.</li> </ul> <p>The planning and reporting structure on which this document is based has been approved by Treasury Board Ministers and is the basis for accountability for the results achieved with the resources and authorities provided.</p>	<p>À ma connaissance (et sous réserve des observations ci-dessous), les renseignements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Décrivent fidèlement les mandat, plans, priorités, stratégies et résultats clés escomptés de l'organisation.</li> <li>• Sont conformes aux principes de divulgation de l'information énoncés dans les <i>Lignes directrices pour la préparation du Rapport sur les plans et les priorités</i>.</li> <li>• Sont complets et exacts.</li> <li>• Sont fondés sur de bons systèmes d'information et de gestion sous-jacents.</li> </ul> <p>Les ministres du Conseil du Trésor ont approuvé la structure de planification, de rapport et de responsabilisation sur laquelle s'appuie le document et qui sert de fondement à la reddition de comptes sur les résultats obtenus au moyen des ressources et des pouvoirs fournis.</p>
<p>Name / Nom: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	

## **Section II: SSHRC Overview**

### **Mandate, Roles and Responsibilities**

SSHRC was created by Part 1 of the *Government Organization (Scientific Activities) Act, 1976*. As stipulated in the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Act (1976-77, c. 24, s. 2)*, the Council's mandate is to:

- promote and assist research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities; and,
- advise the Minister in respect of such matters relating to such research as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is a key national agency helping Canada build the knowledge and skills it needs to thrive in a global, knowledge-based economy. More specifically, SSHRC promotes and supports university-based research in the social sciences and humanities, as well as the training of highly qualified people in these fields. The social sciences and humanities embrace a wide range of disciplines and fields of knowledge that examine human action and behaviour, including their social, economic and cultural determinants. Some examples are economics, business and administrative studies, ethics, education and law, as well as history, literature and philosophy, anthropology, psychology, sociology, fine arts, native, religious, environmental and women's studies. SSHRC's clientele represents 54% of all full-time university-based researchers and 61% of all full-time graduate students.

By investing in research and training in the human sciences, SSHRC makes an important contribution to improving Canada's standard of living and quality of life. It helps to build the dynamic knowledge and skills we need to:

- innovate and compete in a rapidly changing world economy;
- maintain a society that is well-informed and intellectually strong;
- draw on our cultural heritage, and address new challenges with imagination and wisdom.

SSHRC provides critical leadership in the development of social sciences and humanities research across Canada and in the development of policies governing research as a whole. It seeks to consolidate and structure the national research effort in the human sciences, to enhance knowledge-building and innovation, and to respond effectively to the changing needs of government, business and community groups and the broader Canadian society.

In the coming years, SSHRC will continue to act as a catalyst within the research community and steer the research effort in ways that further research excellence, innovation, productivity and socio-economic relevance. Recognizing that the broad range of social, economic, cultural, and intellectual problems to be addressed inherently requires a mix of research methods and approaches, the Council will continue to operate with a flexible program structure and strategic partnerships wherever opportunities exist. This structure will enable researchers to draw on traditional, single-disciplined approaches and more open, exploratory approaches based on partnerships and interdisciplinary collaboration—whichever is best suited to tackling the research challenge at hand.

## **Objectives**

In broad terms, SSHRC's objectives are to:

- support high-quality research and research training that help us to understand the evolving nature of the society we live in and to address emerging challenges and opportunities more effectively, and;
- help put the benefits of research to work by promoting the transfer of knowledge among researchers, research partners, policy makers and other stakeholders within Canadian society.

## **Operating Environment**

The continuing environmental factors influencing SSHRC's operations present both constraints and opportunities. A key challenge for SSHRC in the current context is to find balanced, effective ways to respond to the competitive needs and demands of a vast, diverse clientele and numerous stakeholder groups. This section presents key elements of the internal and external environment in which SSHRC currently operates, including changes in the university research system, public expectations, and greater demands from government and the private sector for research applications and highly trained personnel.

### **A. A changing university environment**

Like many other public institutions in Canada, universities are still grappling with large-scale cutbacks. The infrastructure and other types of support required to sustain research at Canadian universities have fallen substantially, and cost-driven restructuring has impacted significantly on academic departments, research structures, programs and the training of highly qualified personnel. SSHRC and the universities are the primary partners in sustaining a strong Canadian research and training enterprise in the humanities and social sciences.

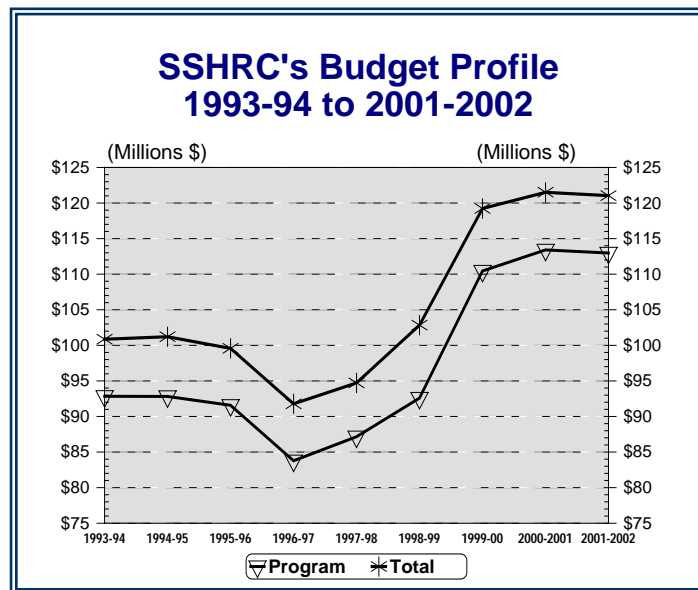


At the same time universities are playing an important role in providing the knowledge base needed to meet the daunting intellectual and social challenges of today – from restructuring the world economy to dealing with the complex ethical issues facing society. Furthermore, necessary but expensive co-operation among researchers across disciplines and across institutions, both nationally and internationally, has become essential for research work and for the advancement of knowledge on major issues which are becoming increasingly horizontal in nature. The constraints operating in the universities have an important impact on research and training capacity in social sciences and humanities resulting in greater demands and pressures on SSHRC resources.

## B. SSHRC and the research enterprise

SSHRC is faced with the need to respond in a balanced way to increasingly diverse needs and expectations. For example, through its funding programs and policy initiatives, SSHRC must help the national research enterprise remain strong and intellectually competitive so that Canada can sustain its capacity for world-class research in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC must support research that benefits Canadian society in both the short and longer term. SSHRC must also contribute effectively to the government's national science and technology (S&T) strategy and fulfil its responsibilities as a member of the Industry Portfolio. It must also contribute to the government's social agenda and respond to the public's need for a high rate of return on the government investment in human sciences research. In sum, SSHRC's resources allocations must take into account the needs of a vast clientele with competing demands.

Graph 1



There is also the need for SSHRC to raise awareness among decision-makers and the Canadian public about the important role the social sciences and humanities play in our country's socio-economic activities and about the knowledge available as a result of SSHRC funded research. To achieve this, a key part of the Council's communication strategy is to enhance its role as a "knowledge broker" with users of research and decision-makers in government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the general public.

A three-year budget increase announced in the 1998 and 1999 Federal Budget allows SSHRC to begin to respond to the most pressing needs for expanded research and expertise in its fields. SSHRC's Board has adopted a revised budget to allocate new funds to address shortfalls in core existing programs as well as to new initiatives related to its strategic priorities.

### **C. Knowledge gaps**

The Canadian social sciences and humanities community is one of the most dynamic and competent in the world. Researchers in these fields supply essential information (data, indicators, analysis) on social and economic development and work toward solutions for fundamental issues in society. Their work influences the scientific and technical, economic and political development of advanced societies and provides analysis of the major social transformations underway – such as unprecedented demographic changes, the communications revolution, the globalization of the economy and their multiple impacts on employment, governance structures, social stability and cohesion, and sustainable development.

A massive federal interdepartmental effort, as well as SSHRC's own consultations with users of research in government and industry, helped identify areas where we need new knowledge to develop effective policies and programs to manage change and succeed as a smart society in a knowledge-based economy. Long-term investment in research in these key policy areas will be necessary to ensure Canada's ability to compete and innovate in a knowledge-based world. SSHRC will continue to steer its targeted research support programs to developing areas of strength in policy-relevant research on critical national issues, and to further mobilizing Canada's "intellectual army".

## D. Addressing training needs

Canada is facing an expanding range of intellectual challenges as well as important changes in demographics and labour market factors. It is of vital importance for Canada that SSHRC be in a position to meet the dual strategic needs of “la relève” – the highly qualified personnel of tomorrow – in key sectors of Canadian society where social sciences and humanities expertise will be required, and of easing the transition of youth to the job market. Here are three areas where SSHRC will focus on building Canada’s human capital in the coming years:

- **Preparing for a globalized political and economic system** – to ensure that Canada has enough experts in areas such as foreign languages, cultures, business practices, political and economic structures, etc., and that expertise is steered toward regions of strategic importance to our country, such as China, Eastern Europe and Latin America.
- **Matching employers and human science graduates** – to ensure that public, community and private sectors have access to graduates with the appropriate managerial skills and other relevant expertise through jointly supervised training with partnering sectors.
- **Replenishing the capacity for innovation in Canadian universities and society** – to keep our best young minds in Canada by funding them at the critical phase in their careers when they have to broaden their skills and build the networks required to launch their research careers or to create their own jobs.

## E. Need for strategic partnerships, research collaboration and network building

SSHRC needs to further mobilize Canada's “intellectual army” in the human sciences to work in more direct partnership with policy-makers and other end-users of research results. Among other things, such partnerships can help close gaps in policy-relevant knowledge related to the government's social agenda including areas such as human development, social cohesion, globalization, growth and governance.

Canadian legislators, policy makers, NGOs, and business sectors have traditionally relied on knowledge developed by social sciences and humanities to move forward in key areas of national concern. For example, it is partly owing to research in these fields that reinvesting in our children has been recognized as a national priority. Research in these fields is also helping the federal and provincial governments in restructuring their medical, education and training sectors. Knowledge from human science research is also helping us fine-tune our immigration policies, develop new tools for community empowerment, and provide our children with the tools to bond with each other through the information highway while staying in their own local schools.

There is also growing recognition among all sectors that research partnerships can be effective means to better identify research priorities and communicate the results of research to those who may apply it to practical ends. One of the key benefits of partnership development is the creation of effective two-way communication.

Earlier program reorientation encouraged more collaboration, teamwork and networking, recognizing that concentration can help researchers to work together and thus improve the quality and impact of their research. The Strategic Grants Programs, Major Collaborative Research Initiatives, Research Development Initiatives, Joint Initiatives, Research Networks Grants, the Thematic Programs and the Networks of Centres of Excellence have all had a significant impact on changing the way social sciences and humanities researchers conduct their research. These programs have attracted partners from a variety of economic sectors ranging from multinational resource extraction, communications and other high-tech industries to NGOs and federal, provincial and municipal government departments. The SSHRC Joint Initiatives, in particular, have successfully levered significant new resources for research and provided a major boost to knowledge transfer between researchers and users. Graph 2 (page 21) – illustrates the partnership development dimension of SSHRC programming and the success in leveraging resources.

In a context where need for knowledge is increasing, SSHRC will continue to pursue additional opportunities for partnerships. SSHRC is committed to developing partnerships with the users of research by directing resources and programs to partnerships with government departments, business and community organizations.

## Figure 1: Financial Spending Plan

### Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

(\$ millions)	Forecast Spending 1998-99*	<b>Planned Spending 1999-00</b>	Planned Spending 2000-01	Planned Spending 2001-02
<b>Gross Program Spending:</b>				
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	102.7	<b>119.2</b>	121.5	121.0
Less: Revenue Credited to the Vote	-	-	-	-
<b>Net Program Spending</b>	<b>102.7</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>121.0</b>
Less: Revenue Credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF)	(0.7)	<b>(0.7)</b>	(0.7)	(0.7)
Plus: Non-budgetary	-	-	-	-
Plus: Cost of Services Provided by other Departments	1.5	<b>1.5</b>	1.5	1.5
<b>Net Cost of the Agency</b>	<b>103.5</b>	<b>120.0</b>	<b>122.3</b>	<b>121.8</b>

\* Reflects best forecast of total planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

Note: Planned spending includes additional funding announced in the 1999 federal budget of \$12.5 million per year (\$5 million plus \$7.5 million targeted for health-related research).

## Section III: Plans, Priorities and Strategies

### A) Summary of Key Plans, Priorities and Strategies

<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>	
<i>(Plan) to provide Canadians with:</i>	<i>(Strategies) to be achieved/demonstrated by:</i>
A strong and diverse <u>research capability</u> in social sciences and humanities to continue the advancement of knowledge and further develop a strong capacity for innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the development of the social sciences and humanities base and the expansion of knowledge through funding for peer-reviewed research</li> <li>• Enhancing research skills, developing data resources, new methods and technological applications, and thus providing institutions with a range of opportunities to improve research performance</li> </ul>
Targeted research capacity built on <u>partnerships and alliances</u> with users of research in the public and private sectors to respond to needs of society, government, business and community groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing partnerships with private and public sector organizations</li> <li>• Creating research alliances to promote collaboration across disciplines and sectors</li> <li>• Establishing multi-institutional research networks to maximize use of resources, technology and expertise</li> <li>• Focusing support to areas dealing with major social problems/challenges faced by Canadians to assist policy development on these key national issues</li> </ul>
<u>Highly skilled and flexible professionals</u> , trained in research, critical thinking and problem-solving to meet the needs of employers in academic, government and business environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustaining direct support to students and promising new researchers through Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships</li> <li>• Expanding the range of research training opportunities for students at the masters and doctoral levels through SSHRC-funded basic, collaborative and strategic research projects</li> </ul>

<p><u>Highly skilled and flexible professionals</u> (<i>cont.</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing opportunities for training through partnerships involving matching employers and graduates in social sciences and humanities</li> <li>• Encouraging development of expertise in regions of strategic importance to Canada</li> <li>• Fostering interdisciplinarity to build problem-solving capacity and expertise</li> </ul>
<p><u>Increased international and comparative information</u> to help inform Canada's research and training priorities, resources and strengths</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting, whenever possible, international collaboration through SSHRC's existing research support programs</li> <li>• Promoting linkages to major foreign programs of research in social sciences and humanities when comparative work offers the possibility of deeper insights into issues being studied</li> <li>• Encouraging international research which can inform policy directions in regions of strategic importance to Canada</li> </ul>
<p><u>Increased opportunities to learn about and use the knowledge</u> generated through SSHRC funded research</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing research communication and knowledge transfer to promote awareness and use of SSHRC-funded research</li> <li>• Incorporating strategies for transferring knowledge to users through networks and collaboration mechanisms</li> <li>• Expanding the use of SSHRC's Web site by posting success stories and advice and support for funded researchers to improve standards of communication</li> </ul>

<p><u>Policy leadership</u> for the development of social sciences and humanities research capabilities in Canada</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing corporate initiatives and services to support a strong research and science policy</li> <li>• Meeting objectives of a more structured S&amp;T framework including the Industry Portfolio Action Plan aimed at increasing interdepartmental co-ordination and collaboration</li> <li>• Creating linkages between the SSHRC research community and the Federal Policy Research Initiative, to build knowledge for public policy decisions in Canada</li> </ul>
<p><u>A sound investment of resources</u> and effective management of programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Optimizing the returns from administrative expenditures within our budget</li> <li>• Systematically redirecting investment through a process of annually reviewing available resources and program priorities</li> <li>• Leveraging resources for social sciences and humanities research through partnerships</li> <li>• Optimizing the role of SSHRC's Board and its committees in policy development</li> </ul>



## **B) Details by Business Line**

SSHRC has one business line:

Support of research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities. All SSHRC activities relate to and support this business line.

### **1. Planned Spending**

Figure 1: Financial Spending Plan (see page 11)

### **2. Objectives**

SSHRC's objectives are to:

- support high quality research and training that results in better understanding of the evolving nature of the society we live in and in addressing emerging challenges and opportunities more effectively and;
- help put the benefits of research to work by promoting the transfer of knowledge among researchers, industry, policy makers and other users within Canadian society.

### **3. Key Activities and Strategies**

A three-year budget increase announced in the 1998 and the 1999 Federal Budget allows SSHRC to begin to respond to the most pressing needs for research and expertise in its fields.

In March and October 1998, SSHRC's Board adopted a three-year "Action Plan" (called the Innovation Scenario and Update on SSHRC's Innovation Scenario) to operationalize the priorities outlined in its Strategic Plan. The Innovation Scenario proposes initiatives which relate well to the government's priorities. SSHRC's Board has adopted a revised budget to allocate new funds to existing programs as well as to new initiatives related to its strategic priorities. Therefore, SSHRC resources are being concentrated on the core function of support for basic research, partnership development and training of highly qualified people.

### 3.1 Addressing Strategic Knowledge Gaps

#### ▪ **Expanding University/Community Partnerships**

On track with its Innovation Strategy to supply policy relevant knowledge, SSHRC has developed an innovative program called **Community University Research Alliances (CURA)** to support the infrastructure for diversified research, training and knowledge dissemination programs. Launched as a pilot project in order to evaluate its potential, it will support up to sixteen (16) CURAs located in Canadian universities who will be responsible to develop research collaborations with the community over a two-year period. It is expected to encourage on-going, active partnerships between universities and groups from the community, to produce useful knowledge for these groups, to increase expertise, know-how and employment prospects for students, and to provide better recognition of the contribution of universities and of humanities and social sciences research.

#### ▪ **New Strategic Themes**

In order to identify knowledge gaps, SSHRC held a major national consultation to seek input in the identification of new strategic themes of national importance. Advice was sought from social, cultural, student and academic organizations, universities, learned societies, think-tanks, private sector groups and federal governments and agencies

SSHRC's Board subsequently reviewed the results of the consultation and selected new areas for strategic research. The new Strategic Themes were launched in the fall 1998 and are the following:

- **Exploring Social Cohesion in a Globalizing Era;**
- **Challenges and Opportunities of a Knowledge-based Economy;** and
- **Society, Culture and the Health of Canadians.**

It should be noted that the greatest response rate to the consultation was from federal departments and agencies, many of them expressing strong support for the new directions for targeted research at SSHRC. The new strategic themes support strongly the federal government's Policy Research Initiative. As an indirect benefit, the consultation process helped identify potential partners for SSHRC's Joint Initiatives program.

In its updated Innovation Scenario from December 1998, SSHRC proposes to create a series of new targeted research programs on emerging social and economic issues. These programs would continue building integrated, multidisciplinary knowledge and expertise required to understand and address complex problems. By creating active partnerships with policy-makers and other users of research, expansion of these programs would strengthen the policy-making process at all levels.

- **Maximizing the use of social statistics for better policy and planning**

A joint SSHRC-Statistics Canada Working Group has recommended to SSHRC's board the funding of an integrated Canadian Social Statistics Research System (CSSRS) to maximize the potential benefits of the \$50M invested in Statistics Canada in socio-economic databases. This system would be comprised of three components: advanced research and training, access to data and communications. Such a system could contribute to increase the number of trained researchers in the field of quantitative analysis, facilitate the access to micro-data especially those of Statistics Canada and strengthen the links between the work of policy makers and social scientists. The program could make a significant contribution to improving evidence-based decision making in the development of sound policies and effective social programs.

- **Reconceptualizing Health Research**

The SSHRC is playing a central role in developing proposals on how to best integrate and fund the production of health research knowledge in Canada in order to capture the full potential of Canadian research expertise across the humanities and social sciences, the life sciences and the medical sciences. In this context, the Council will be funding policy relevant research on the health of Canadians through its new strategic themes.

In addition, SSHRC has played a key role in the development of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) which the federal government announced in its 1999 budget. Developed by a Task Force comprising representatives of universities, charities, industry, biomedical and health researchers, and federal granting councils, this exciting initiative answers the call for leading-edge research and is a unique Canadian approach to structuring and funding broadly-based, integrated health research. Most importantly of all, the CIHR hold out the promise of better health for Canadians.

Over recent years, researchers in the social sciences and humanities have been shedding much new light on the social, economic, psychological and cultural factors that influence our health. The CIHR will enable researchers from the social sciences and humanities, the biomedical and natural sciences to work together in responding to serious issues in human development, health and health care as they arise, and to anticipate problems before they arise.

### 3.2 Training for Youth and Employment Needs

The SSHRC allocates 30% of its budget to the training of highly qualified personnel in the social sciences and humanities through its doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships programs. In 1999-2000, it plans to modestly increase its support in this area to better meet the needs of employers in the academic, government and business sectors.

In addition, SSHRC is targeting the following areas:

- SSHRC and International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have established a joint awards program, **Canada in the World Grants**, to enable young Canadian researchers to develop expertise and knowledge in new and emerging issues on the Canada-Asia and Canada-Latin America horizon that will shape the relationships between Canada and these regions of strategic importance to Canada;
- The joint **Forest Research Partnerships Program**, established by the Canadian Forest Service, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and SSHRC, provides for the training and participation of students in leading-edge forestry research that is socially, economically, culturally and environmentally responsible. This program promotes the sustainable development of forest, the forest industry, and the communities that depend on the forests;
- The new **Strategic Themes** will provide training opportunities in an interdisciplinary setting in the areas of social cohesion, the challenges and opportunities of a knowledge-based economy and the social and cultural aspects of health.

Future plans related to training of youth and addressing employment needs include the following initiatives:

- The new **Community University Research Alliances** Program which will provide undergraduate and graduate students with the opportunity to gain diversified training (including research, field projects, networking and others) and expertise as well as know-how and workforce skills conducive to employability;
- SSHRC plans to **increase the number of doctoral fellowships** it offers so that it can support 15% of the full-time Canadian graduate students in the social sciences and humanities. SSHRC is also seeking to increase the value of its doctoral fellowships;
- It is planned to introduce a new **Targeted Masters Scholarships** program. This program could address the need for an expanding pool of experts on foreign countries and regions in the new world economy;

- SSHRC plans to implement a broadly-based **internship program in the public, community and private sector**. The goal is to assist institutions in selectively matching interests of top-notch graduate students and young researchers with those of public, community and private organizations. The focus will be on providing valuable hands-on experience to enhance the employability of the participants and facilitate their transition to the job market while providing state-of-the art expertise to a diversity of institutions.

### 3.3 Sustaining a Strong Innovation Capacity

Basic research is a fundamental intellectual asset in achieving advancement of knowledge and innovation. By definition basic research is responsive to researchers' perceptions of research opportunities, and flexible enough to allow a rapid response to new and emerging opportunities. It provides opportunities for individual researchers at all career stages to develop and acquire skills through carrying out quality research, developing new theories and methodological innovations. Support for basic research comprises the single largest proportion of SSHRC grant funds, and will be maintained. The Council's current budget level enables it to support, on an annual basis, about 15% of full-time Canadian university teachers and 5% of full-time Canadian graduate students in its fields.

In the past, SSHRC has supported national and international research collaborations as well as knowledge structuring, transfer and integration activities, on an ad hoc basis through the Council's Presidential Fund for Innovation and Development. Such activities are vital to the development of innovative, world-class research. SSHRC has therefore developed the **Research Development Initiatives (RDI)** program to provide for the support of such activities through an ongoing peer-reviewed program. Competitions under the program are held three times a year. The first competition for awards was held in the Spring of 1998.

Future plans to sustain and replenish the innovation capacity of Canadian research include the following initiatives:

- A new **Human Science Career Entry Awards** program would enable SSHRC to support more young PhD graduates and strengthen Canada's ability to maximize the potential benefits of the investment made in their education. The program would also enable SSHRC to introduce new mechanisms of support for young researchers to conduct research within and outside academia in areas where there is a shortage of skills and expertise. Such areas would include data development and analysis, telelearning, health and environmental impact assessment, sustainable natural resource management, and applied ethics.

- Building on the highly successful Program of Chairs in the Management of Technological Change, the Council will consider a new Program of **Research Chairs for both Humanities and Social Sciences researchers**. The Program would promote Canadian world-class leadership in our disciplines by supporting a select number of outstanding, internationally recognized champions. The goal is to sustain a dynamic and innovative research and training environment on key issues. To give two examples: chairs on contemporary civilizations could build greater knowledge and understanding of the factors influencing cultural evolutions and geo-political realignments and their implications for Canada and the world community. Chairs on innovation and social entrepreneurship could focus attention on the factors affecting the sustaining of a civic society and bringing knowledge to bear on institutional change.

### **3.4 Communications and Knowledge Brokering**

The actual contribution of social sciences and humanities research – both to the advancement of knowledge and the broader application of that knowledge – depends to a large extent on how effectively its results are shared with a broad range of audiences. For this reason, SSHRC is committed to the principle that effective communication and transfer of knowledge are an essential part of the research process.

SSHRC will continue to build on its partnership programs and research alliances to foster an increased transfer of knowledge between the researchers it funds and various user groups in government, the community, and private-sector (policy-makers, community groups and NGOs, business, etc.). SSHRC will also look for new ways to play a knowledge-brokering role between the producers and consumers of social sciences and humanities research.

In order to better meet this objective, SSHRC has reorganized its Communications Division, enhancing the Public Affairs and Knowledge Transfer aspect of the Division's activities. This reorganization will provide the Division with additional resources for the planning, development and administration of SSHRC-funded knowledge transfer programs and related activities, and the planning, development and production of outreach activities.

SSHRC is also developing strategies to enhance the Council's links with parliamentary audiences and the federal policy sector, building on activities in 1998-99, which included the preparation of presentations to various parliamentary caucus groups, as well as an innovative awareness event which took place in the fall 1998. This event brought some 65 social sciences and humanities researchers from across Canada to Ottawa to talk to MPs, Senators, and senior federal officials about social sciences and humanities research in Canada.

In addition, SSHRC will continue to support activities such as “Breakfasts on the Hill”, an initiative which allows Canada’s elected representatives and senior policy-makers to hear about leading-edge knowledge in key policy areas directly from the best Canadian specialists.

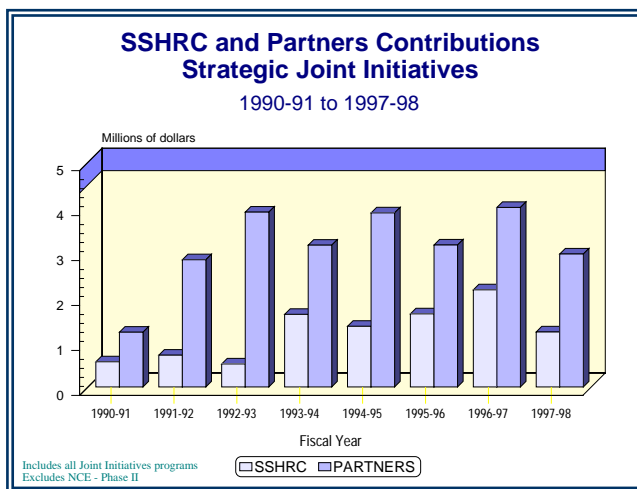
### 3.5 Research Alliances and Partnerships, Research Collaboration and Network Building

While maintaining its commitment to support basic research, SSHRC has geared its new and some of its well-established programs to new forms of knowledge production and promising trends in social sciences and humanities research both here and abroad. It has done this by emphasizing and promoting:

- A stronger and more active collaboration among researchers through *teamwork* and *networking* as well as *interdisciplinary research*, which is one of the most promising routes for making headway at a time when the quantity and variety of information and the complexity and horizontal nature of research issues are continually expanding. Interdisciplinary research is vitally needed to counterbalance the effects of specialization and the ongoing proliferation of disciplines. It also contributes to tackle more efficiently and thoroughly the increasing breadth and basic interrelatedness of contemporary national and global issues and problems. This approach naturally complements more traditional and individual approaches to research problems.

- *Intellectual and financial partnerships* are essential, not only from a financial point of view, but also in order to bring academics closer to the community, better match the interests of researchers and the needs of society, and facilitate the transfer of knowledge to the potential users of research.

Graph 2



Partnerships between SSHRC and other sectors, including government and business, are at the center of our strategy to promote use of social sciences and humanities research results in government and industry and to leverage additional resources for research in these fields.

In 1998 SSHRC has established closer links with business through the Industry Portfolio's Action Plan *Sciences and Technology for the New Century* and launched the **Network on Innovation Systems** involving SSHRC, NRC and NSERC as partners. Composed of five regional networks across Canada, the Network is studying the relationship between innovation and economic development at local and regional levels with the aim of improving regional innovation systems. The Network will provide a forum for researchers, private sector firms and associations and government policy makers to share ideas and research results and to chart new directions for research in this key area. The Network held its first national annual meeting in the fall of 1998.

With other government departments, SSHRC is developing mechanisms to strengthen linkages between researchers and the federal policy research community to define major trends influencing policy development. In addition to the **CFS/SSHRC Forest Research Partnerships Program** and the **IDRC/SSHRC Canada in the World Grants Program** described above, SSHRC will be supporting research and training through the **National Literacy Secretariat joint initiative Valuing Literacy**, and through a grants program entitled **Federalism and Federations**, sponsored jointly by **Intergovernmental Affairs and SSHRC**.

The SSHRC has to date concluded twenty (20) joint initiatives. We believe there is more scope for closer alliances and partnerships with users of research in business and government than is presently realized. In 1999-2000, SSHRC will pursue an expansion of such collaboration in all aspects of its work.

### **3.6 Policy Leadership**

SSHRC has become an active and important player in the Federal **Policy Research Initiative** aimed at enhancing the policy research capacity in the federal departments through strengthening the knowledge base. SSHRC is working closely with the Policy Research Committee to engage the academic community in this major endeavour. More than 200 researchers have submitted proposals to examine 8 mega-trends that will drive Canada in the next Millennium:

- Globalisation
- North American integration
- Technological change and the information revolution
- The environment
- Demographics – aging
- Value change
- Multiple centres of power
- Social differentiation



Over 65 university-based researchers are now working in partnership with government researchers and policy-makers to define research agendas that will allow them to jointly build the knowledge needed to develop effective policies and programs to manage change in these cross-cutting areas.

Through the release of the **Tri-Council Policy Statement on Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans**, Canada is the first country to have a comprehensive ethical policy statement. The SSHRC/NSERC/ MRC new joint policy statement addresses a number of complex ethical principles surrounding the duties, rights and norms of those conducting research and seeks to ensure that research subjects are treated with respect and privacy, and that Canadian society benefits from research that is conducted in a socially and scientifically responsible matter.

One of the SSHRC Council goals is to explore at an early stage the potential for new targeted research areas in the social sciences and humanities. In this context, SSHRC is participating with NSERC in setting up a joint **Task Force on Northern Research** with the objective of gathering information about the level of university research activity in the North, reviewing government initiatives and assessing the current funding environment for Northern research in Canada. This Task Force will allow the two councils to assess Canada's capacity to resolve Northern issues through collaboration between natural sciences and human sciences.

### **3.7 SSHRC's International Activities**

Research in today's world is an international enterprise and is directly affected by the accelerating trend towards globalization. For Canadian researchers, working in a relatively small and open community, it is increasingly important to develop international linkages, and to bring back new knowledge, technologies, innovations and new research practices that can strengthen Canadian S&T resources.

SSHRC's international strategy calls for:

- expanding research support for international activities through more effective use of the present array of funding modalities in use at SSHRC, including the recently launched Research Development Initiatives Program, and targeted thematic research;

- encouraging and facilitating collaborative endeavours with foreign partners in designated thematic areas, where comparative and international studies offer deeper insights and valuable data into issues being studied;

SSHRC will promote this new international orientation through partnerships and research alliances, building on such models as the Metropolis Project, and the SSHRC/IDRC Canada in the World Grants program.

In order to develop international collaboration and linkages, SSHRC has undertaken visits with United States counterparts to assess potential collaborations on social sciences and humanities related issues. In the coming years, SSHRC will undertake to further international institutional collaborations.

SSHRC is also developing in collaboration with the United States and the United Kingdom, a proposal to hold a workshop on the Large Scale Infrastructure for the Social Sciences, under the auspices of the OECD Global Science Forum. The objectives of this workshop, to be held in the fall of 1999 in Ottawa, will be to examine the relationship between infrastructure development in the social sciences and its impact on research capabilities and productivity. The workshop will identify and explore technical and policy issues involved in expanding and improving the efficiency of electronically linked, widely accessible, international databases containing data relevant to social science research and analysis.

### **3.8 Operations and Resource Management**

SSHRC is committed to improving the quality of service provided to researchers and other clients. This has required particular attention to organizational structures, management practices, and ways of working to maximize the potential of existing staff. In early 1998, SSHRC reorganized the Council Committee structure to use the expertise of the newly appointed Board to best advantage. The restructuring of the Board included a redefinition of the role of standing committees in addition to the creation of three new standing committees (Strategic Programs and Joint Initiatives Committee; Research and Dissemination Committee; Fellowships and Career Development Committee) and, the creation of a Committee on Ethics and Integrity, to provide better advice to Council on priority areas.

SSHRC's program delivery structure is being adjusted to reinforce the linkages between the corporate and program functions. The reorganization has been completed through the integration of the divisions of policy, planning and evaluation with the division of programs under the leadership of one Director General for Programs, Policy and Planning.

Collaboration with NSERC on the creation of a Common Administrative Services Division (comprising administration, finance, information management and human resources) to rationalize key operations and provide more efficient and effective client service, has been completed. The Common Administrative Services Division is now operational.

SSHRC will continue to fine-tune and achieve further efficiency gains in the planning and delivery of national funding competitions annually, which involve obtaining the assistance of thousands of experienced researchers in

Canada and abroad who conduct individual written assessments of over 6,000 separate applications for funding support in all fields of the human sciences.

#### **4. Expected Results**

SSHRC's investment supports research, which expands and communicates knowledge about economic, social and cultural change. This investment in research expertise and highly skilled people will continue to provide important benefits to Canada as the impacts of technological, political, economic and social changes accelerate in the decades ahead. Quality of life for all Canadians is dependent on our ability to understand and interpret the world we live in, and also to help shape that world. The return on Canada's investment in social sciences and humanities research and training will contribute, both intellectually and practically, to quality of life for all Canadians.

In pursuing this goal, SSHRC restates its commitment to the continued funding of high quality basic and strategic research. To accomplish this SSHRC will provide support for exploring the most exciting and innovative frontiers of research and creating knowledge to help address business and public policy agendas in the late 1990s and beyond. SSHRC will retain a commitment to promoting interdisciplinary research, and expanding research partnerships and collaborative alliances. SSHRC will, moreover, transfer the results of research to a wider audience of research users and the general public as part of its mission to increase its impact and visibility.

SSHRC will also continue to invest in training of social scientists and humanists in universities, business and government sectors. With this aim, the SSHRC will help the transition of youth to job markets and provide key sectors of Canadian society with needed skills and research expertise.

### **C. Consolidated Reporting**

#### **Year 2000 Readiness**

SSHRC is making a major effort to ensure that the Council's operations are not impaired by Y2K problems in internal systems. The following summarizes the progress made in responding to Y2K readiness issues:

***SSHRC's custom-made systems:*** In October 1997, SSHRC management approved the Awards Management Information System (AMIS) project which is adapting the Y2K-compliant NAMIS system recently implemented by NSERC. Like NAMIS, AMIS will be a bilingual, GUI-based, Windows-compatible, client-server system consistent with Treasury Board standards and guidelines. This system will provide the foundation to support the Council's knowledge-broker role, including electronic information exchange with researchers, research administrators, graduates students, and other stakeholders. The content will also be expanded to include more relevant data for performance management and reporting, as well as for planning and evaluation activities. To date, a Beta version of the system has been developed and installed, and is being tested by Council staff. Version 1 of the production version is on track for delivery in spring 1999.

***Contingency plans:*** A Y2K assessment of the older, Wang-based systems was completed; this study indicates September 1999 as the latest feasible implementation date for AMIS. Accordingly, a contingency plan was developed, in case AMIS is delayed. Based on the good progress of AMIS to date, the contingency plan has not been activated. SSHRC is now developing a business resumption contingency plan.

***Shared federal government systems:*** SSHRC's Treasury Board-approved Human Resources system, HRIS, is Y2K compliant. However, SSHRC's Finance system (Freebalance, DOS version) is non-compliant and is a high priority for replacement. The Y2K-compliant client-server version of Freebalance has been selected from the list of Treasury Board-approved shared Finance systems. The new system has been installed on site and implementation is underway, with full production scheduled for April, 1999.

***Infrastructure (LAN desktop/server hardware and software):*** During the past two years, SSHRC has upgraded much of the equipment and commercial off-the-shelf software on our Local Area Network. As a result of acquiring and installing these Y2K-compliant systems, SSHRC does not anticipate significant Y2K problems in this area. However, the Council completed a hardware/software inventory and is finalizing the related compliance assessment. Required upgrades will be completed by mid-1999.

***External Y2K issues:*** In 1997-98, the Council established, in partnership with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC), a working group to develop the Council response to external Y2K issues – those associated with the Y2K-status of institutions and activities supported by Council grants. The Working Group has drafted a message to all Canadian universities to raise Y2K awareness and stimulate action. SSHRC is posting this communication on its website.

## Section IV: Supplementary Information

### Spending Authorities

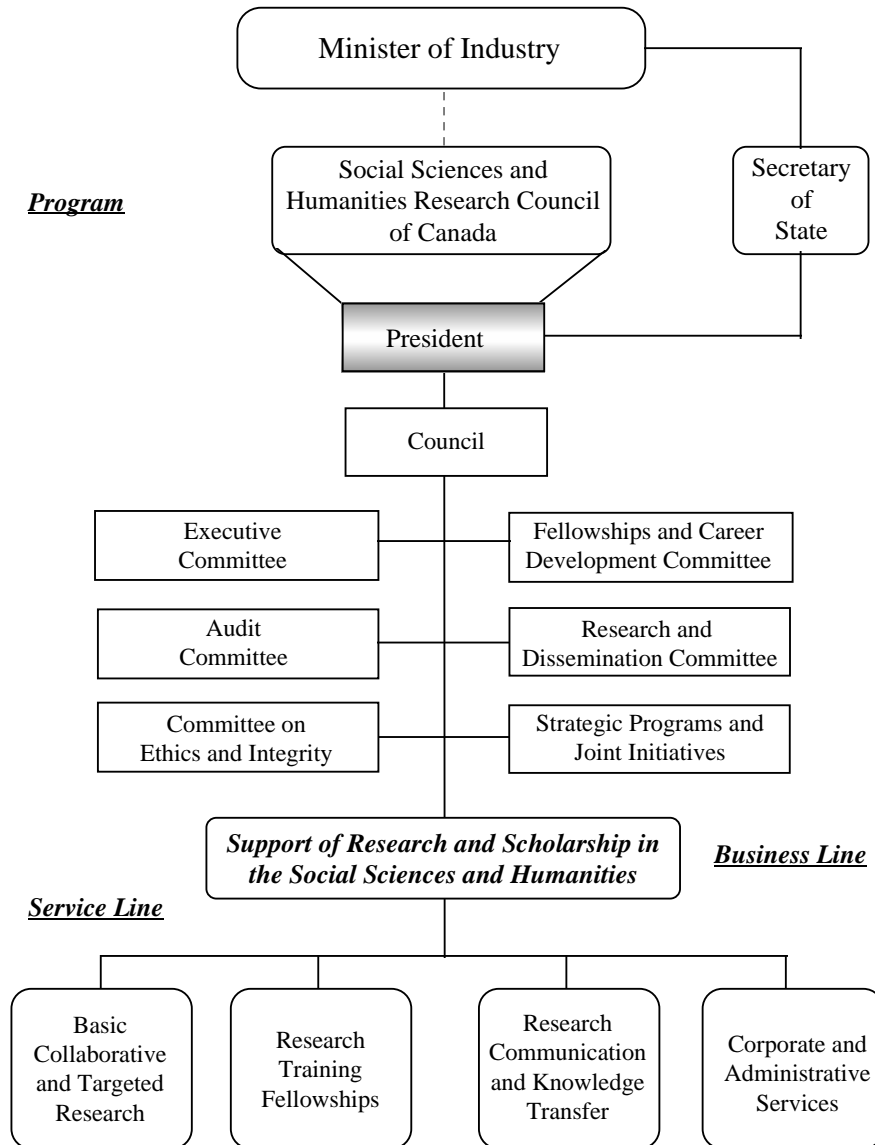
#### Industry

**Table 1: Spending Authorities – Ministry Summary Part II of the Estimates**

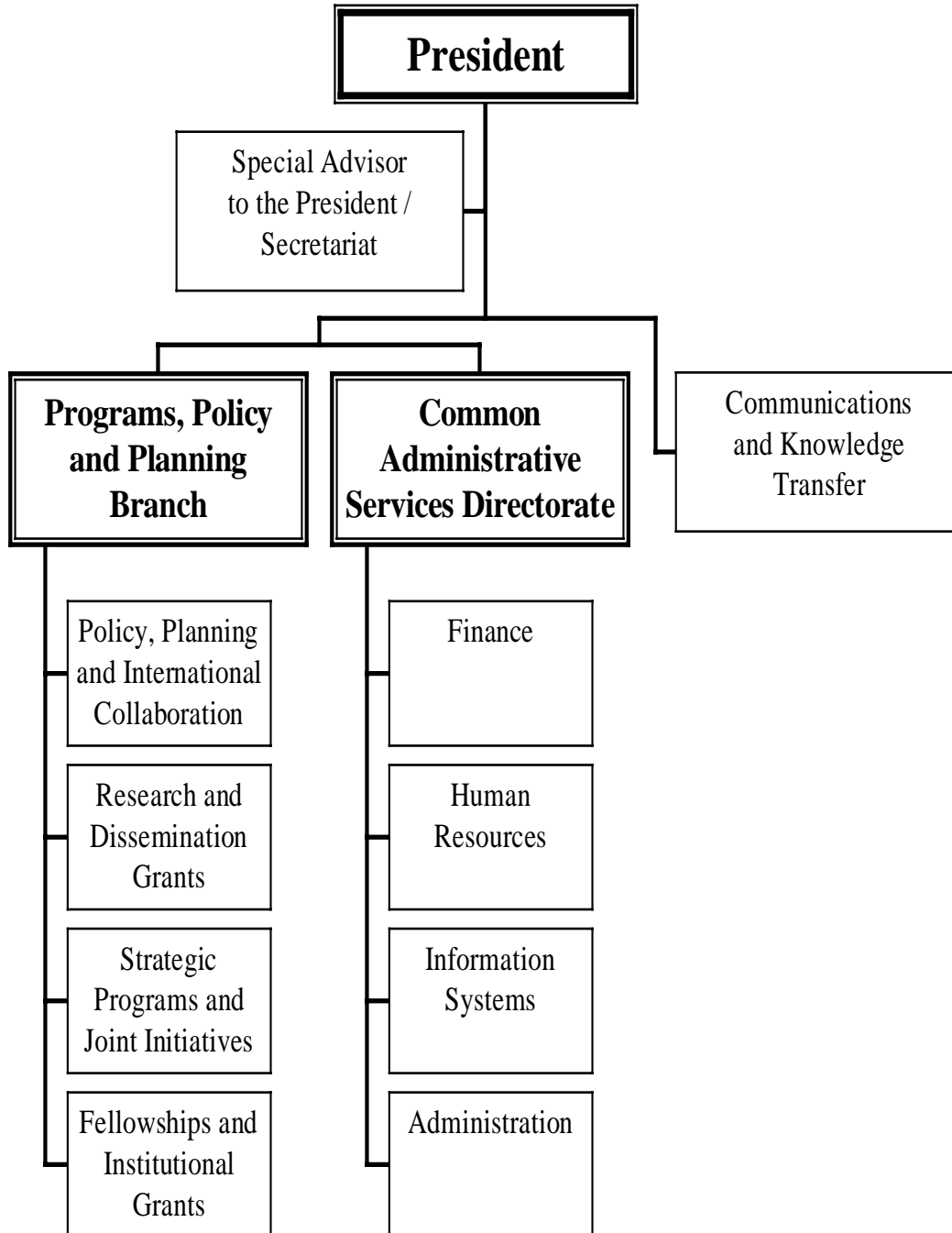
Vote	(\$ millions)	1999-2000 Main Estimates	1998-99 Main Estimates
<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>			
95	Operating expenditures	7.8	6.4
100	Grants	98.0	84.2
(S)	Contributions to employee benefit plans	1.0	0.9
<b>Total Agency</b>		<b>106.7</b>	<b>91.5</b>

## Personnel Information

**Table 2.10: Organization and Program Composition**



**Table 2.11: SSHRC's Corporate Organization**



**Table 2.2: Planned Full Time Equivalents (FTEs) by Program and Business Line**

	Forecast 1998-99	Planned 1999-00	Planned 2000-01	Planned 2001-02
<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>				
Support of Research and Scholarship in Social Sciences and Humanities	107	118	118	118
<b>Total (FTE)</b>	107	118	118	118

### Capital Projects Information

**Table 3.1: Capital Spending by Program and Business Line**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 3.2: Capital Projects by Program and Business Line**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 3.3: Status of Major Crown Projects**

*Not applicable.*



## Additional Financial Information

**Table 4: Agency Summary of Standard Objects of Expenditure**

(\$ millions)	Forecast Spending 1998-99*	Planned Spending 1999-00	Planned Spending 2000-01	Planned Spending 2001-02
<b>Personnel</b>				
Salaries and wages	5.7	5.0	4.8	4.8
Contributions to employee benefit plans	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0
	6.8	6.0	5.7	5.7
<b>Goods and Services</b>				
Transportation and communications	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Information	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Professional and special services	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.7
Rentals	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Purchased repair and upkeep	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Utilities, materials and supplies	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Minor capital	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.3
<b>Total Operating</b>	10.1	8.8	8.1	8.1
<b>Capital</b>				
Controlled capital	-	-	-	-
Revolving Fund	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Transfer payments</b>				
Voted	92.6	110.5	113.4	113.0
Statutory	-	-	-	-
	92.6	110.5	113.4	113.0
<b>Gross budgetary expenditures</b>	102.7	119.2	121.5	121.0
<b>Less:</b> Revenues Credited to the Vote	-	-	-	-
Revenues Credited to the Revolving Fund	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
<b>Net budgetary expenditures</b>	102.7	119.2	121.5	121.0
<b>Non-budgetary (LIAs)</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	102.7	119.2	121.5	121.0

\* Reflects best forecast of total planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

**Table 5: Program Resources by Program and Business Line for 1999-2000**

(\$ millions)	Budgetary						Plus: LIAs	Gross Planned Spending	Less: Revenue Credited to the Vote	Net Planned Spending
	FTE	Operating	Capital	Transfer Payments	Planned Spending					
Business Line										
<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>										
Support of Research and Scholarship in Social Sciences and Humanities	118	8.8	-	110.5	119.2	-	119.2	-	119.2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>110.5</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>119.2</b>	

Note: Planned spending includes additional funding announced in the 1999 federal budget of \$12.5 million (\$5 million plus \$7.5 million targeted for health-related research).

**Table 6: Transfer Payments by Program and Business Line**

(\$ millions)	Forecast Spending 1998-99*	<b>Planned Spending 1999-00</b>	Planned Spending 2000-01	Planned Spending 2000-02
<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>				
Support of Research and Scholarship in Social Sciences and Humanities	92.6	<b>110.5</b>	113.4	113.0
<b>Total Grants</b>	92.6	<b>110.5</b>	113.4	113.0
<b>Contributions</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Transfer Payments (if any)</b>	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	92.6	<b>110.5</b>	113.4	113.0

\* Reflects best forecast of total planned spending to the end of the fiscal year.

Note: Planned spending includes additional funding announced in the 1999 federal budget of \$12.5 million per year (\$5 million plus \$7.5 million targeted for health-related research).

**Table 7: Revenue by Program**

Revenue Credited to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) (\$ millions)	Forecast Revenue 1998-99	<b>Planned Revenue 1999-00</b>	Planned Revenue 2000-01	Planned Revenue 2001-02
<b>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council</b>				
Support of Research and Scholarship in Social Sciences and Humanities	0.7	<b>0.7</b>	0.7	0.7
<b>Total credited to the CRF</b>	0.7	<b>0.7</b>	0.7	0.7
<b>Total Revenue</b>	0.7	<b>0.7</b>	0.7	0.7

**Table 8: Net Cost of Program for 1999-2000**

(\$ millions)	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Program	Total 1999-00
<b>Gross Planned Spending</b>	119.2	119.2
Plus:		
<i>Services Received without Charge</i>		
■ Accomodation provided by Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC)	1.2	1.2
■ Contributions covering employees' share of Insurance premiums and costs paid by TBS (\$5.0 million x 5.5%)	0.3	0.3
■ Employee compensation payments provided by Human Resources Development Canada	-	-
■ Salary and associated costs of legal services provided by Justice Canada	-	-
	1.5	1.5
<b>Total Cost of Program</b>	120.7	120.7
Less:		
Revenues Credited to the Vote	-	-
Revenues Credited to the CRF	(0.7)	(0.7)
<b>Net Cost of Program</b>	120.0	120.0
<b>1999-2000 Estimated Net Program Cost</b>	120.0	120.0

Note: Planned spending includes additional funding announced in the 1999 federal budget of \$12.5 million (\$5 million plus \$7.5 million targeted for health-related research).

**Table 9.1 Revolving Fund – Statement of Operations**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 9.2 Revolving Fund – Statement of Changes in Financial Position**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 9.3 Revolving Fund – Projected Use of Authority**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 10. Loans, Investments and Advances by Program and Business Line**

*Not applicable.*

**Table 11. Tax Expenditures**

*Not applicable.*

## **Other Information**

### **Table 12: Listing of Statutes and Regulations**

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) does not administer any legislation.

The Council was created by Part 1 of the *Government Organization (Scientific Activities) Act*, 1976. The *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Act* (1976-77, c. 24, s. 2) gives Council the authority to:

- promote and assist research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities; and
- advise the Minister in respect of such matters relating to such research as the Minister may refer to the Council for its consideration.

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