

SSHRC  CRSH



SSHRC's Program Architecture Renewal: Looking Back and Looking Forward

Presentation by Brent Herbert-Copley, Vice-President, Research Programs, SSHRC
At the
Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
Annual Conference
March 28, 2014

Overview of session

1. Vision and core principles
2. Objectives and design
3. SSHRC's experience to date
4. Budget 2014
5. Discussion: researchers' experiences and comments

Our Vision

To create a more flexible and effective system of application and assessment to support the most promising students, the best researchers, and the mobilization of social sciences and humanities research knowledge

Core Principles

- Excellence
- Simplicity
- Flexibility
- Integration
- Quality of service



Building a Better Future for Canada ... and the World

TALENT

Supporting students and postdoctoral fellows to develop next generation researchers and leaders across society

INSIGHT

Supporting excellent research to advance knowledge and build understanding about people, communities and societies

CONNECTION

Supporting the exchange of knowledge to maximize the intellectual, cultural, social and economic impacts of social sciences and humanities research

PARTNERSHIPS - Within the academic community and between academia, industry, government, not-for-profits and communities.

SSHRC Funding

TALENT

Master's
Scholarships
Doctoral
Scholarships
Postdoctoral
Fellowships

INSIGHT

Insight
Development
Grants
Insight Grants

CONNECTION

Connection
Grants
Support for
Journals

PARTNERSHIPS - Within the academic community and between academia, industry, government, not-for-profits and communities.

Partnership Development Grants

Partnership Grants (2 stages - LOI and Formal)

Objectives and Design

- **Create a simple, clear structure that moves beyond easy research distinctions**
 - Reduction of over 30 separately branded programs to three programs with a limited number of funding opportunities
 - No separate competitions for thematic research
- **Enable new, emerging, high-risk, and interdisciplinary forms of research, talent development, partnerships, and KMb**
 - Any approach and combination of approaches is possible
 - Increased opportunities for international and intersectoral collaboration

Objectives and Design

- **Embrace different types of research activity, scholarly traditions and sizes of proposals**
 - More flexibility in grant size and duration
 - Involvement of a broader cross-section of experts in the merit review process
 - Merit-review experts are no longer required to undertake detailed revisions of the budget
- **Define scholarly contribution, building on emphasis on journal articles & books, to include other means of mobilizing knowledge**
 - Changes on application to allow a broader conception of research contributions
 - Included in evaluation criteria and adjudication committee guidelines

Objectives and Design

- **Better support emerging scholars**
 - Reserving a portion of the Insight Development Grant funds for applications from emerging scholars to ensure consistent success for emerging and established scholars
- **Better capture the outcomes and impacts of research in the humanities & social sciences**
 - Developing new mandatory reporting requirements for completed grants that focus on outputs, results and impacts
 - Knowledge mobilization plan required on all applications

Harmonization of procedures and program regulations

- application procedures and forms
- regulations and definitions relating to grant applications
- assessment criteria (**Challenge**, **Feasibility** and **Capability** are common to all funding opportunities, but their respective weighting varies from one funding opportunity to another)

Renewal of SSHRC's Talent program

- Adopt a consistent approach to research training across the Talent, Insight and Connection programs
- Expand partnership opportunities to support research training
- Implement changes to those funding opportunities offering direct support to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers
 - Doctoral funding
 - Postdoctoral funding
- Harmonize tri-agency funding opportunities

What SSHRC is hearing

- **External observers of the competitions have:**
 - Confirmed that the excellence of SSHRC's merit-review processes has been maintained
 - Remarked on the benefits of the changes to the merit-review process
- **According to post-application surveys since 2011, respondents:**
 - generally found the information they were looking for with ease
 - found the information to be clear
 - transition issues: (Research Portal, CCCV)

What SSHRC is hearing

- New types of activities & partnerships have been enabled
- Creation of “development” grants (IDG/PDG) well-received; positive impact for emerging scholars
- Uncertainty regarding thematic research
- Balance between partnership & individual/small team grants
- Concern about decreasing success rates
- Concern with funding of small projects

SSHRC's Experience

New Activities and Approaches

- New activities (e.g., Partnered Research Training Initiatives, Support of Tools for Research and Related Activities)
- Diverse approaches (e.g., research-creation, Aboriginal research)
- Cross-sectoral and International Collaboration

SSHRC's Experience

Application Partner Organizations

Sector	2010		2011						2012						2013		Total	
	PDG		PDG		PG LOI		PG Formal		PDG		PG LOI		PG Formal		PG LOI			
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Non-profit	230	38%	214	34%	361	35%	223	41%	255	33%	287	33%	187	32%	349	34%	1696	34%
Post-Secondary	213	35%	222	35%	335	32%	145	26%	276	36%	271	31%	186	31%	400	38%	1717	35%
Public	82	13%	109	17%	240	23%	141	26%	164	21%	150	17%	132	22%	135	13%	880	18%
Private	44	7%	53	8%	56	5%	31	6%	44	6%	109	13%	46	8%	98	9%	404	8%
Abroad	43	7%	35	6%	41	4%	10	2%	29	4%	45	5%	40	7%	57	5%	250	5%
Total	612	100	633	100	1033	100	550	100	768	100	862	100	591	100	1039	100	4947	100

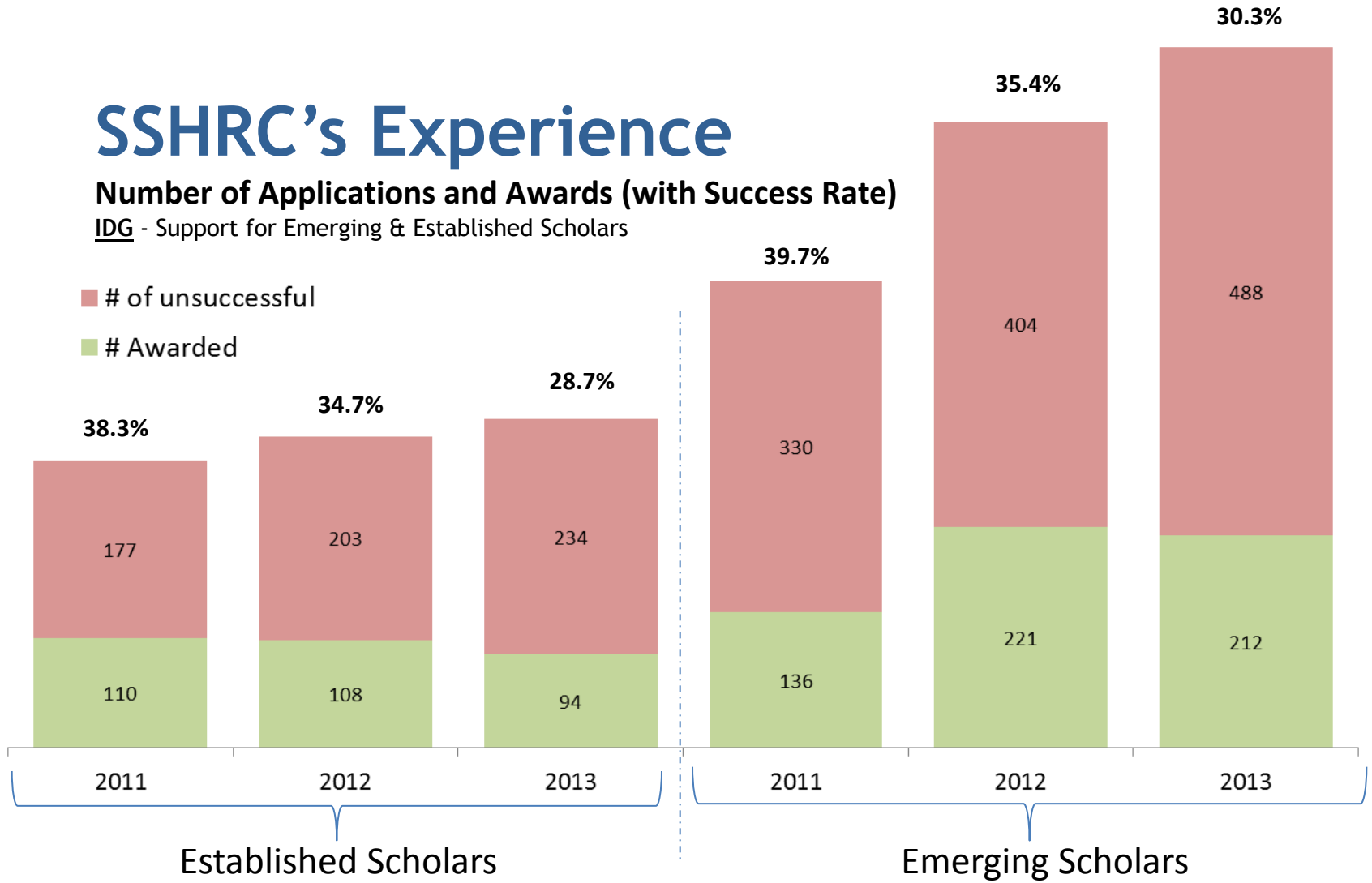
SSHRC's Experience

Number of Applications and Awards (with Success Rate)

IDG - Support for Emerging & Established Scholars

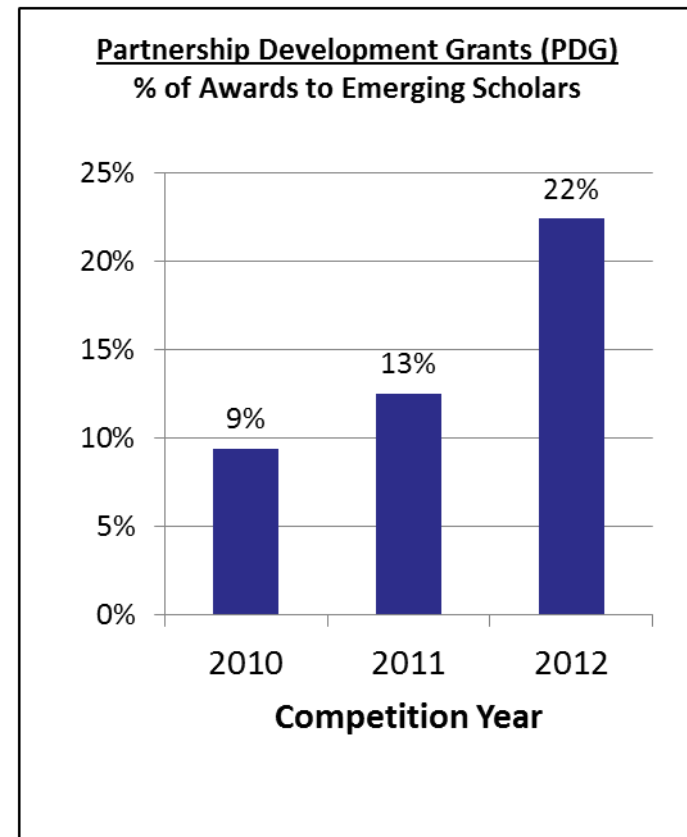
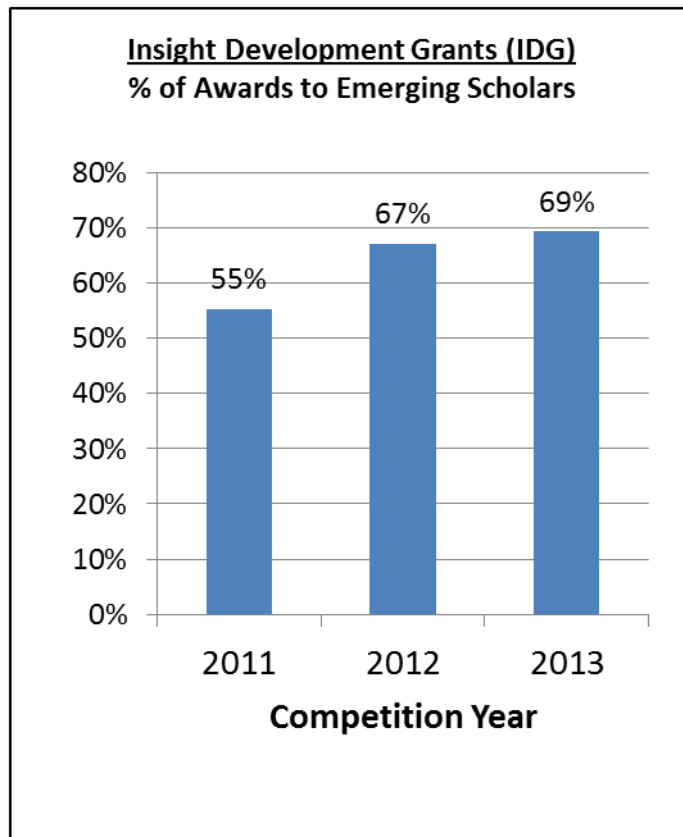
of unsuccessful

Awarded



SSHRC's Experience

IDG and PDG - Support for Emerging & Established Scholars

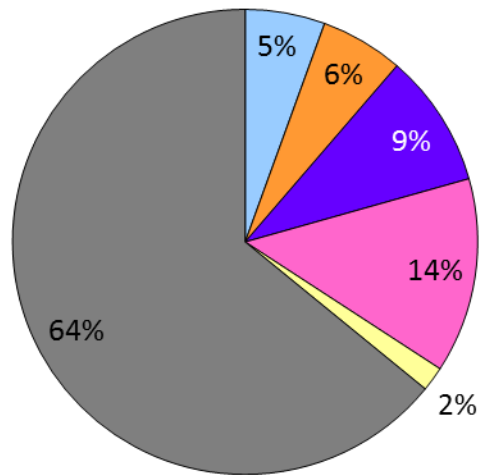


SSHRC's Experience

Thematic Research - # of applications

IDG 2012 - Priority areas

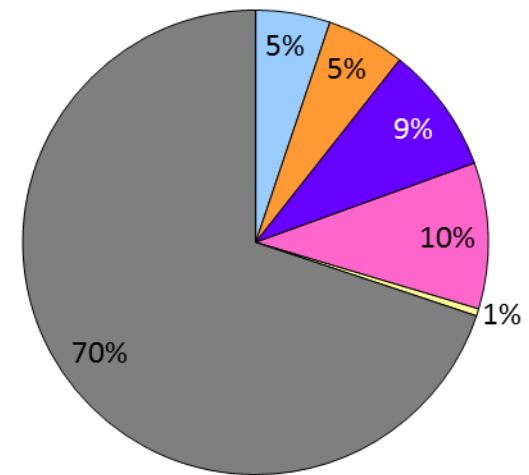
(n=936 applications)



Aboriginal Environment Digital Economy
ILP North No priority area

IG 2012 - Priority areas

(n=1799 applications)



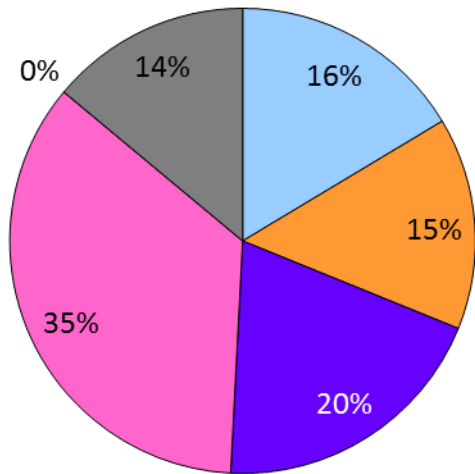
Aboriginal Environment Digital Economy
ILP North No priority area

SSHRC's Experience

Thematic Research - # of applications

PDG 2012 - Priority areas

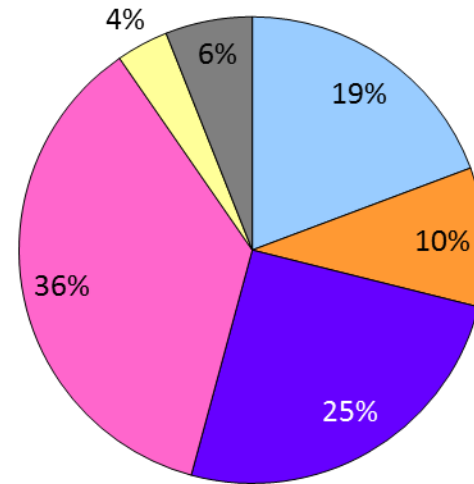
(n=153 applications)



Aboriginal Environment Digital Economy
ILP North No priority area

PG 2012 - Priority areas

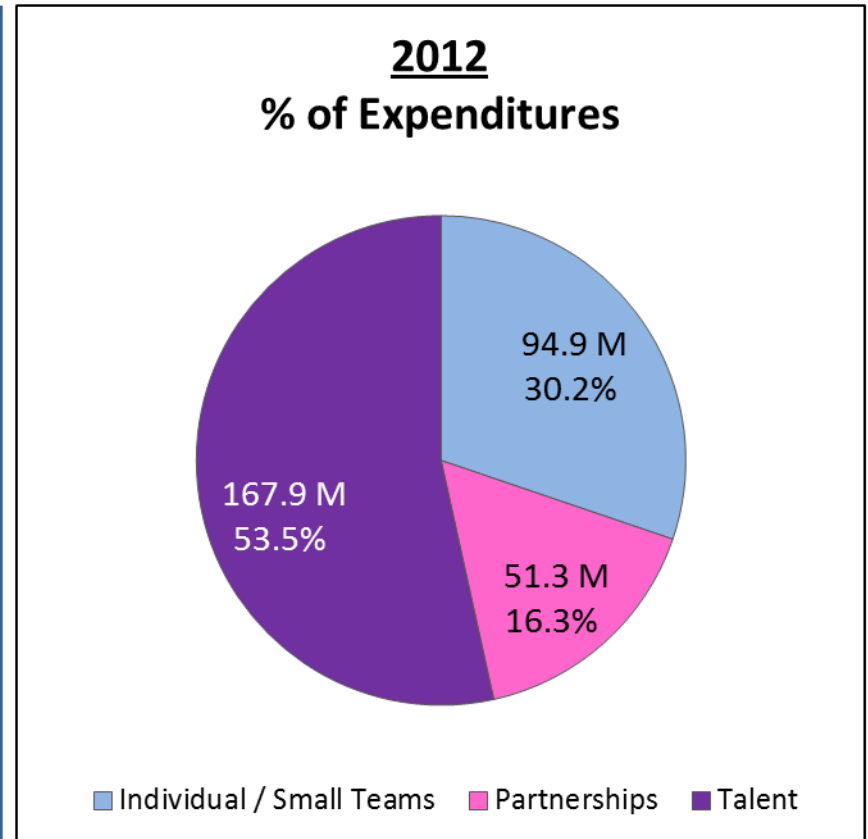
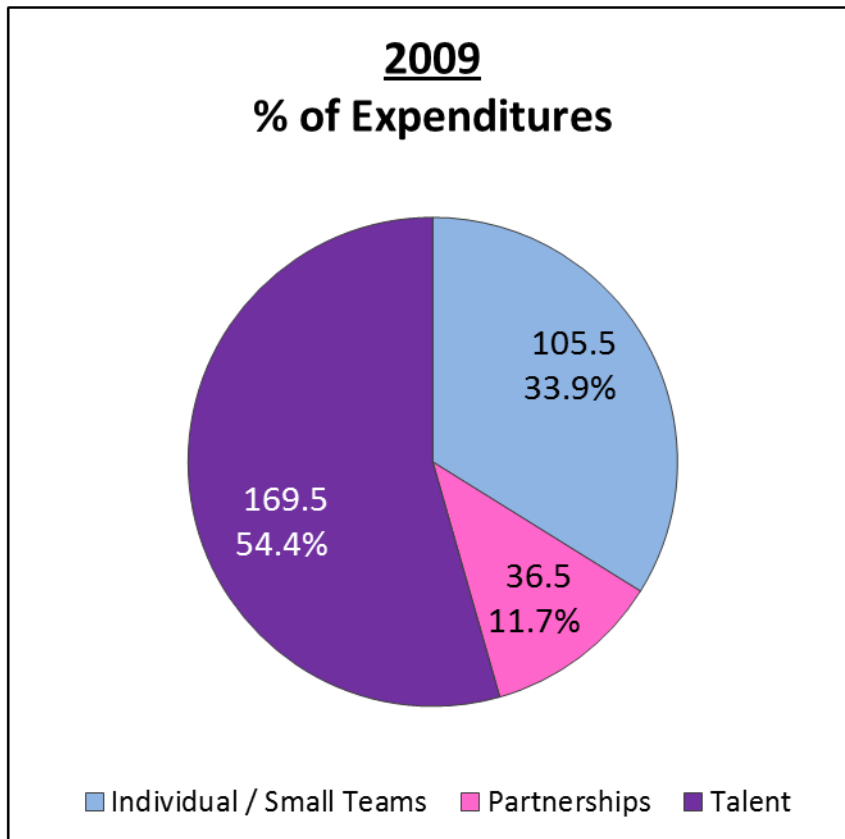
(n=100 applications, LOI stage)



Aboriginal Environment Digital Economy
ILP North No priority area

SSHRC's Experience

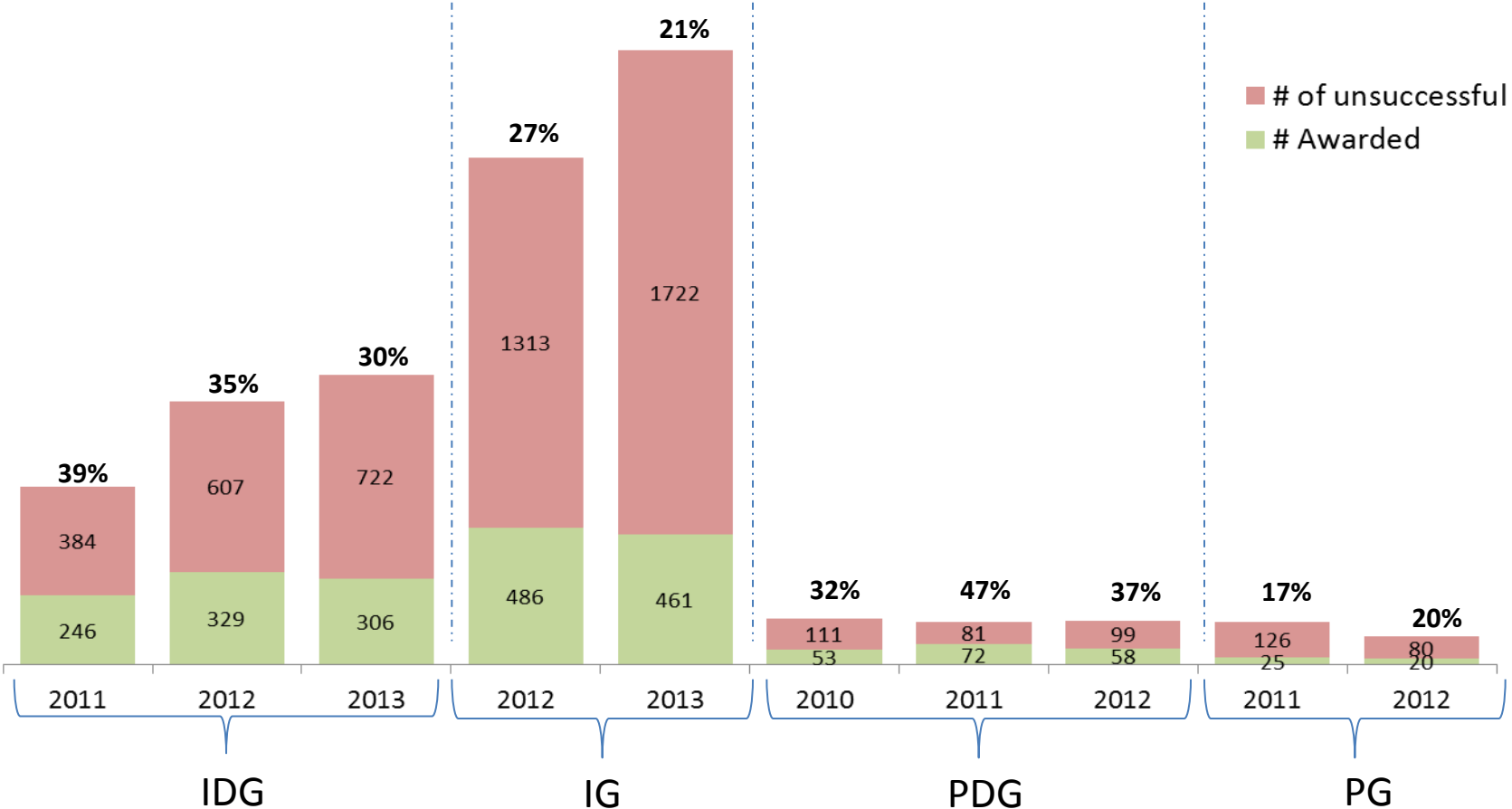
% of Expenditures



SSHRC's Experience

Number of Applications and Awards (with Success Rate)

Selected Funding Opportunities – Post Program Architecture Renewal



SSHRC's Experience

Grant size

	Individual/Small teams		Partnerships	
	2009	2012	2009	2012
Average Annual Grant	\$29,588	\$38,185 (+29%)	\$85,942	\$149,924 (+74%)
Median Annual Grant	\$26,333	\$34,462 (+ 31%)	\$68,353	\$66,667 (-2%)



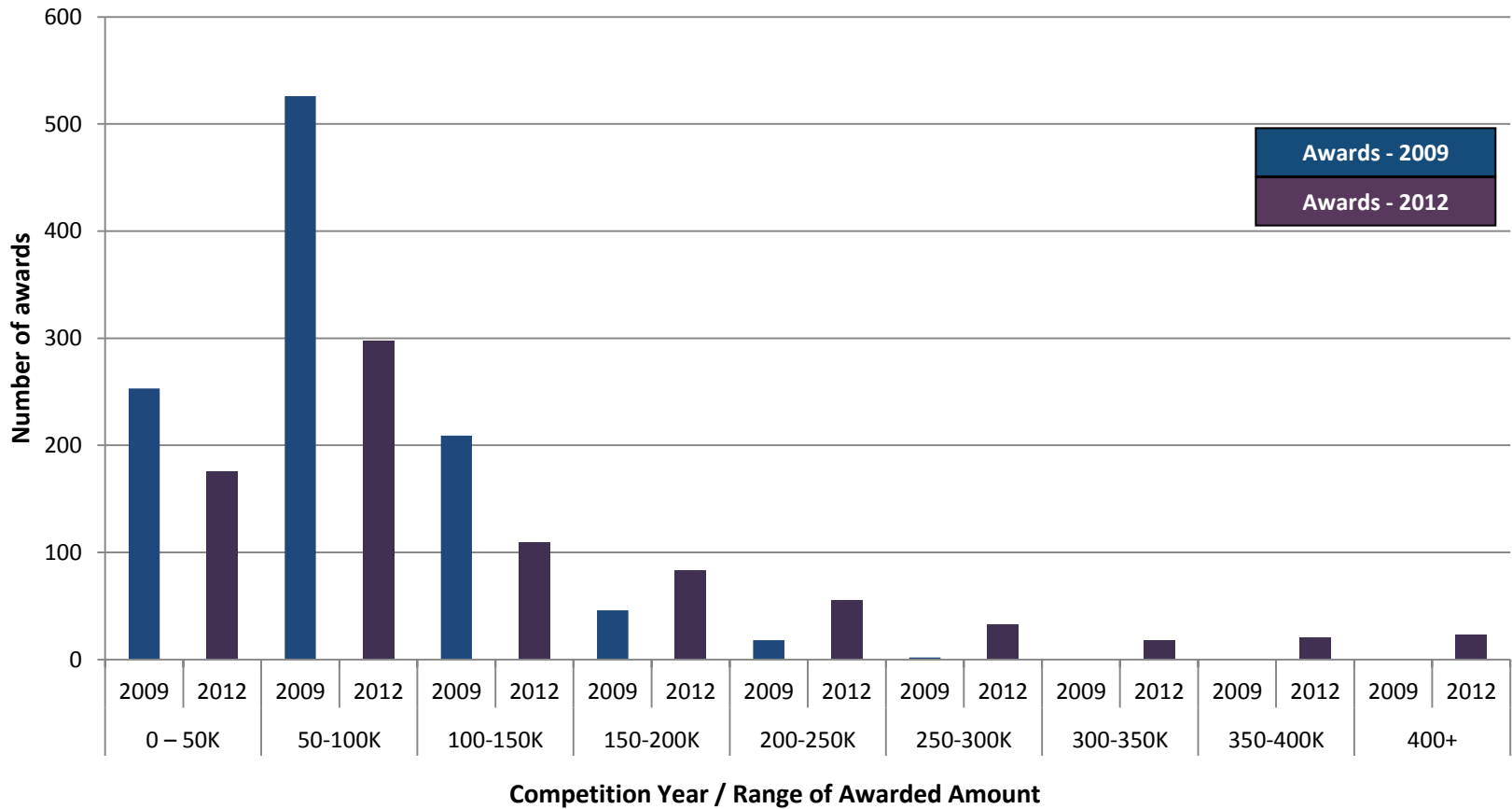
SSHRC's Experience

Grant Size - Insight Program (Individual/Small team)

Grant value (\$)	# of Awards	
	2009	2012
0 – 49,999	253	176
50K – 99,999	526	297
100K – 149,999	209	109
150K – 199,999	46	83
200K – 249,999	18	55
250K – 299,999	2	33
300K – 349,999		18
350K – 399,999		20
400K – 500K		23

SSHRC's Experience

Grant Size – Insight Program (Individual/Small team)



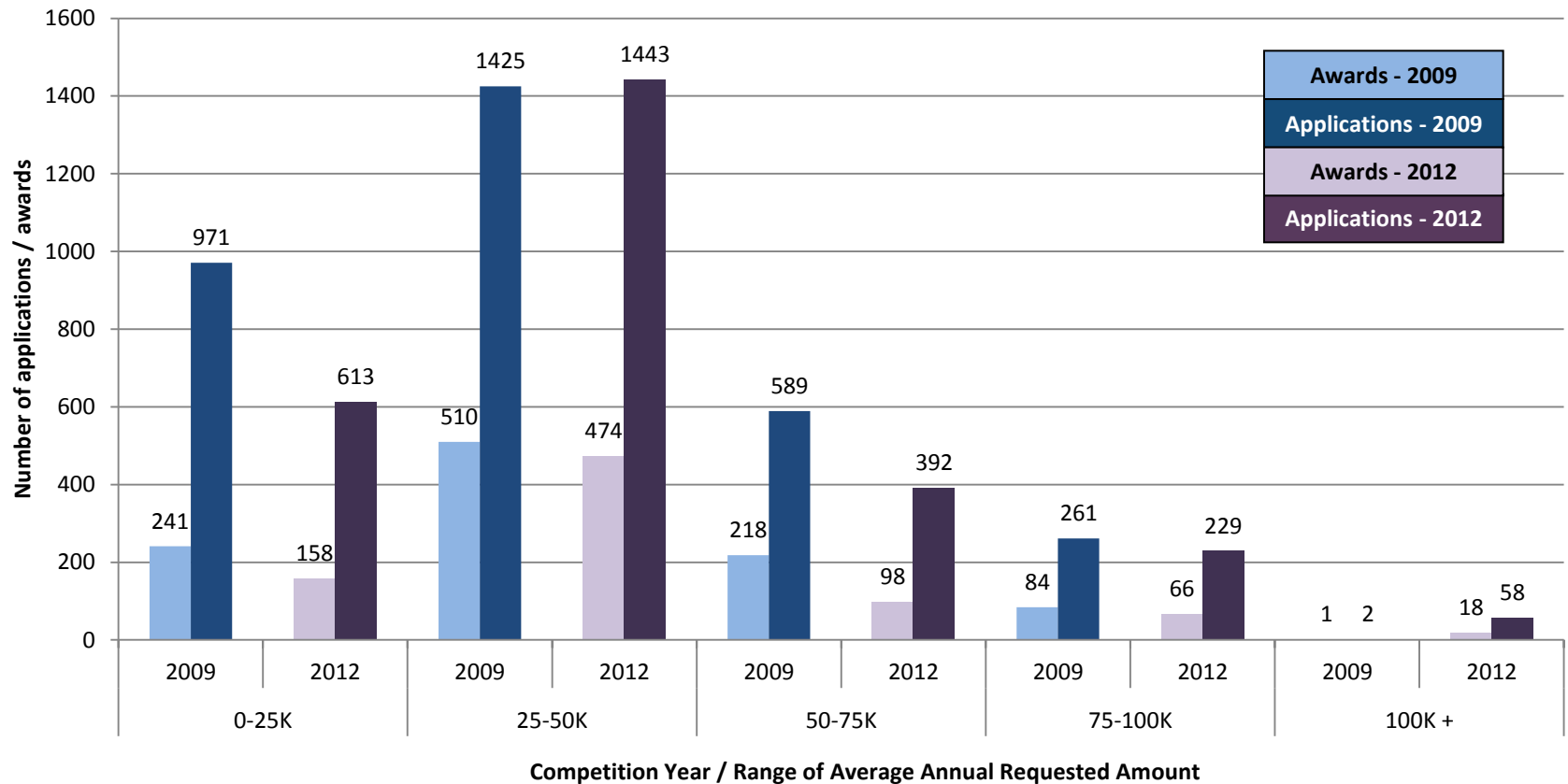
SSHRC's Experience

Awards & Applications based on Average Annual Requested Amount - Insight Program
(Individual/Small team)

Requested amount	2009			2012		
	Awards	Applications	Success rate	Awards	Applications	Success rate
0-25K	241	971	25%	158	613	26%
25-50K	510	1425	36%	474	1443	33%
50-75K	218	589	37%	98	392	25%
75-100K	84	261	32%	66	229	29%
100-125K	1	2	50%	10	38	26%
125-150K				7	11	64%
150-175K				1	9	11%
Total	1054	3248	32%	814	2735	30%

SSHRC's Experience

Awards & Applications based on Average Annual Requested Amount
Insight Program (Individual/Small team)



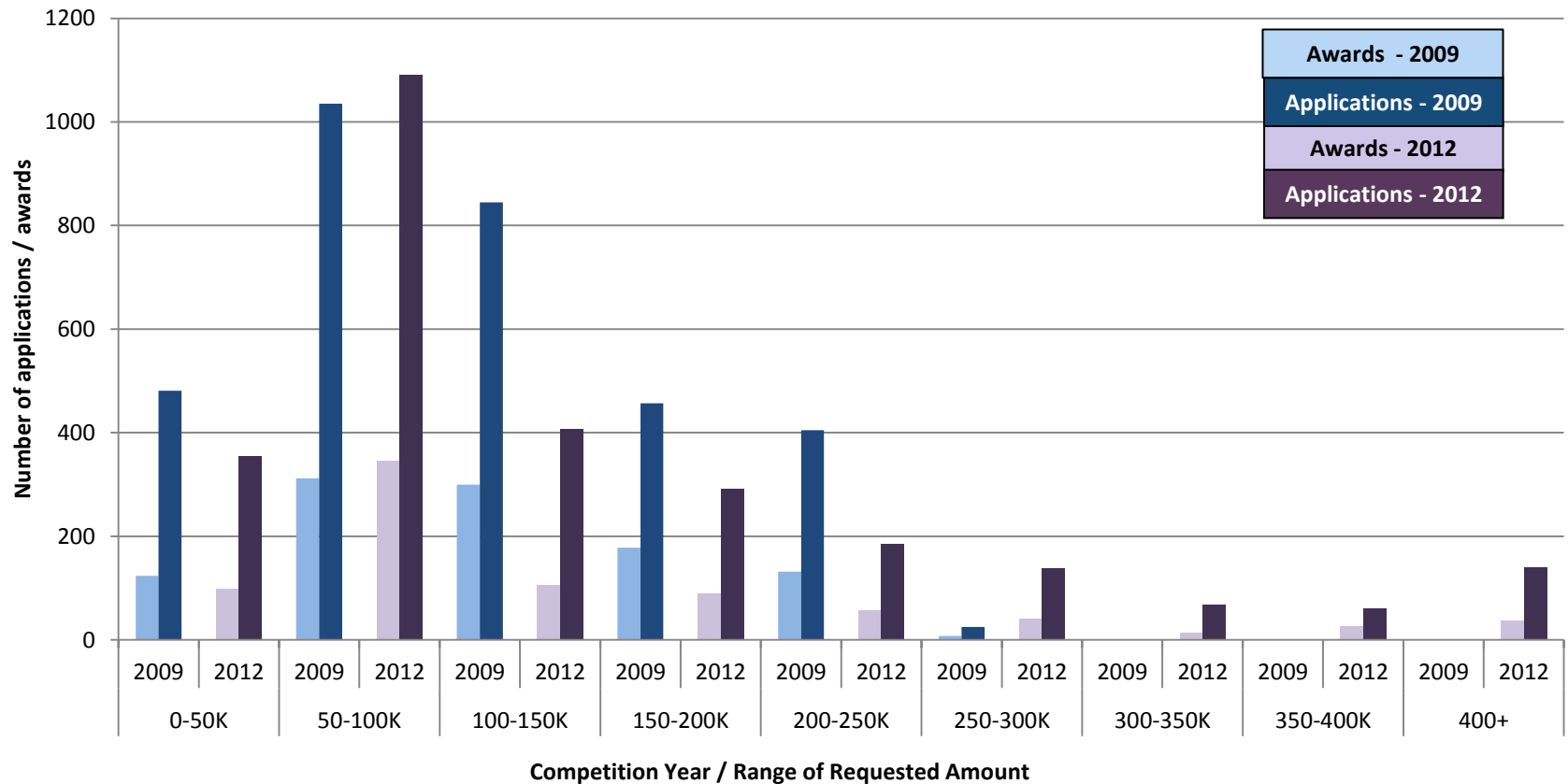
SSHRC's Experience

Awards & Applications based on Requested Amount
Insight (Individual/Small team)

Requested amount	2009			2012		
	Awards	Applications	Success rate	Awards	Applications	Success rate
0-50K	124	481	26%	99	355	28%
50-100K	312	1035	30%	346	1090	32%
100-150K	300	845	36%	106	407	26%
150-200K	178	457	39%	89	291	31%
200-250K	132	405	33%	57	185	31%
250-300K	8	25	32%	40	139	29%
300-350K				13	68	19%
350-400K				26	60	43%
400+				38	140	27%
Total	1054	3248	32%	814	2735	30%

SSHRC's Experience

Awards & Applications based on Requested Amount - Insight Program
(Individual/Small team)



SSHRC's Experience

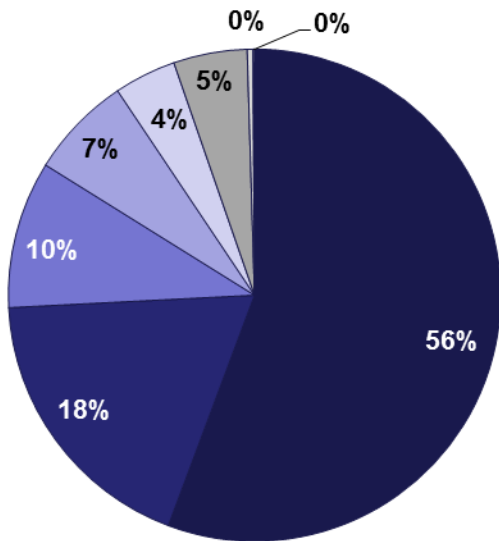
Team Size - Insight (Individual/Small Team)

Team Size	2009		2012		Change
	# of awards	% of total (1054)	# of awards	% of total (813)	
1	587	55.7%	400	49.2%	-6.5%
2	195	18.5%	181	22.3%	3.8%
3	102	9.7%	112	13.8%	4.1%
4	71	6.7%	50	6.2%	-0.6%
5	43	4.1%	32	3.9%	-0.1%
6-10	51	4.8%	32	3.9%	-0.9%
11-20	4	0.4%	6	0.7%	0.4%
20 +	1	0.1%	0		-0.1%

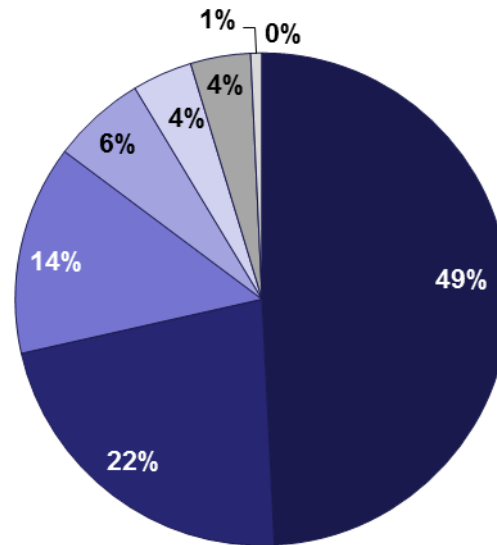
SSHRC's Experience

Team Size - Insight (Individual/Small team)

of Awards - 2009



of Awards - 2012



Team Size	% Change
1	-6.5%
2	3.8%
3	4.1%
4	-0.6%
5	-0.1%
6 to 10	-0.9%
11 to 20	0.4%
21+	-0.1%

What SSHRC is doing

- Clarification regarding merit review of proposed budgets in grant applications
- Firm upper limits for IG and PG
- Continued engagement with the community (e.g., SSHRC Leaders meeting, Congress, etc.)
- Continuous monitoring and analysis of competition results, trends, etc.
- Allocation of Budget 2014 funds

Budget 2014

- \$7M p.a. to support advanced research in the social sciences and humanities
- Fostering Social Innovation through Research at Colleges and Polytechnics (\$10M 2-year pilot)
- \$9M p.a. for the Indirect Costs Program
- Canada First Research Excellence Fund (\$1.5B over ten years)
- Not-for-profit organizations with an economic orientation now eligible for Mitacs programs
- \$3M over three years to create the Open Data Institute

Questions

- How are the different scholarly communities experiencing SSHRC's new program architecture?
- What do you see as the opportunities and challenges ahead?
- How do you feel SSHRC can best continue to engage the research community?

Thank you!

www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada

Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada