

Notes for a presentation to the House of Commons Finance Committee

**Graham Carr, President
Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**

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Check against delivery**

Mr. Chair, members of the committee,

Economic growth is often framed as a series of options: resource sector or manufacturing; college or university; basic or applied research. These are false choices. There's no single formula for prosperity. Society is too complex, the components of our success are too interlinked. Une économie prospère lorsque les citoyens peuvent imaginer et saisir les occasions de créer un monde meilleur.

En tant que président de la Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines, je représente plus de quatre-vingt cinq mille étudiants et chercheurs. Leur travail nous aide à comprendre des questions qui nous préoccupent tous, telles le harcèlement, la sécurité et l'immigration. And, their research nurtures companies, leads the digital revolution, and fosters innovation in all sectors.

Despite what you've heard, unemployment for social sciences and humanities graduates remains low. Yes, they take slightly longer to settle into careers than engineers or nursing students, but their income trajectories remain very healthy. Indeed, eight of the 11

fastest growing occupations in Canada overwhelmingly employ graduates with social science and humanities degrees.

This is why Chinese universities recently visited Canada for advice on liberal education. They want their graduates to succeed in the knowledge economy, be more versatile and capable of moving among different careers.

Cette faculté d'adaptation exige des aptitudes d'analyse et de communications—conjuguées à une sensibilité internationale—provenant d'une éducation diversifiée et enrichie par la recherche.

Significantly, the 2012 report on the *State of Science and Technology in Canada* confirmed we are a powerful force in the global research community. And not just in medicine. Canada is in the top four for historical studies, psychology, and visual and performing arts, and an emerging leader in digital media.

This success wouldn't be possible without continued direct federal investment in research. Nous avons aussi besoin d'institutions comme Statistique Canada et Bibliothèque et Archives Canada pour recueillir des données probantes qui éclairent les politiques, répondent aux questions et servent de fondement aux futures

découvertes. A strong research infrastructure is not just 'nice to have' in a digital globalized world. It's essential.

We know that if we stand still, we will rapidly fall behind. Let me turn to three specific measures that will strengthen Canada's advantage in a globally connected knowledge ecosystem.

First: Increase funding for the three granting agencies and CFI. We encourage the Government to achieve a more balanced Tri-Council portfolio by allocating a greater share of future increases to SSHRC as this Government did in Budget 2011. Because innovation is, at its core, a complex human process, social sciences and humanities research is essential to improving our national performance.

Deuxièmement : Investir dans la prochaine génération des professionnels et des dirigeants canadiens par le biais d'ambitieux programmes de bourses et de formation. This includes opportunities abroad, as recommended by the recent panel on Canada's International Education Strategy.

We must build on the good work going on at home that's leading to job creation. Programs like Mitacs and Connect Canada, traditionally industrial research internships, now want to engage students in the humanities and social sciences.

Finally: Building on Budget 2012 investments and Jenkins recommendations, invest in cross-sector collaborations between academic institutions, governments, communities and not-for-profits.

We're delivering on previous investments in this area and reducing barriers to collaboration. Par exemple, le projet IMMERSe, financé par le CRSH, dont le ministre Goodyear a fait l'annonce à notre Congrès annuel supporte la collaboration entre les universités et les partenaires de l'industrie pour mieux comprendre les réalités sociales et économiques du jeu et du divertissement numérique.

As the Governor General said, connections between communities and campuses “will help us ensure that social innovation is a key component of Canada’s innovation landscape.”

Mr. Chair, you asked five important questions on a range of issues. Our three specific measures will deliver on all of these for the benefit of Canada and Canadians.

Merci.