

2010 Federal Budget Highlights

In discussions earlier this year regarding budget 2010, federal officials signalled the government's intention to continue implementing the Economic Action Plan and reinforced the need for Canada to address the growing deficit. Interested in the contribution of our disciplines in many sectors, they remained cautious about increased federal spending while holding out the possibility of moderate investments in some areas.

Viewed within the larger economic context, yesterday's federal budget represents a vote of confidence in the university community's ability to support Canada's innovation capacity and competitiveness.

The budget will also have a positive—though modest—impact on the social sciences and humanities community:

- The \$3 million untargeted increase to SSHRC'S base budget will be permanent.
- \$45 million was announced to create new post-doctoral fellowships. While the exact share is not confirmed at this point, we are operating on the assumption that one third of the funding will be available to our community.
- In addition, our community will have access to some of the \$30 million over two years set aside for the College and Community Innovation Program.

Though we would have preferred to see more funding specifically for our disciplines, we believe these measures are a step in the right direction. We consider this budget to be sending an encouraging signal, particularly in light of the Federation's recommendation to increase support for new researchers and provide untargeted funding to SSHRC.

This being said, we must continue taking all available opportunities to demonstrate to government officials the value of social science and humanities research.

Noreen Golfman
President

Creating world-class facilities

In 2010–11, the Government will provide \$1 billion to support deferred maintenance, repair and construction at Canada's colleges and universities.

Investing in post-doctoral fellowships

Building on the significant investments made since 2006, Budget 2010 provides \$45 million over five years to the granting councils to establish a new and prestigious post-doctoral fellowships program to attract top-level talent to Canada.

The proposed new post-doctoral fellowship program will be designed to be internationally competitive. These fellowships will be valued at \$70 000 each per year for two years. The first fellowships will be awarded in 2010–11. At maturity, the new program will fund 140 fellowships annually.

Supporting SSHRC

Budget 2010 increases the annual budgets of the three granting councils by an additional \$32 million per year, starting in 2010–11. This new funding will enable the councils to sustain their overall support for research and lead to increased commercialization in Canada. The new funding includes \$3 million per year to SSHRC to support world-leading research in the social sciences and humanities.

Community innovation

Through Budget 2010, the Government is doubling the budget of the College and Community Innovation Program by providing an additional \$15 million per year starting in 2010–11.

Advancing the digital economy

The Government will develop a Digital Economy Strategy that will enable the ICT sector to create new products and services, accelerate the adoption of digital technologies, and contribute to improved cyber security practices by industry and consumers.

Canadian High Arctic Research Station

Budget 2010 is taking a further step by providing \$18 million over five years to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada to commence the pre-construction design phase for the station.

For more information:

The [2010 federal budget](#) is available online.

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