



October 30, 2002

Dear Member of Parliament:

**Seeking Your Support for an Increase to the  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Base  
Budget in the next Federal Government Budget**

Canada is consistently judged one of the most successful societies in the world. This is in no small measure because of its talented people, magnificent natural resources, its excellent education and scientific community and a highly innovative and productive economic sector. It is clearly understood that highly-trained personnel and a science-driven economy are important to secure Canada's future.

Understanding Canada's peoples, cultures and society is critical to driving effective public policy that ensures a socially cohesive, stable and tolerant society. The principal engine for this type of research is the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. A lack of adequate support for the Council has resulted in many lost opportunities due to the inability to fund important research. The lost opportunities result in a social sciences and humanities deficit which has serious implications for the country.

The accompanying documents entitled *Productivity, Culture and Society: The Essential Contribution of Psychology as a Social Science* and *Highly Qualified Personnel: The Important Contribution of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Canada* are exemplars of the important work undertaken by SSHRC. The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) represents scientists who are supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research of Canada, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, as well as the thousands of downstream users of the research, the practicing psychologists.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. John Service, Executive Director, at the CPA Head Office.

We hope that we can count on your support on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Abraham S. Ross, Ph.D.