



November 28, 2002

The Honorable John Manley , P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Manley:

**Re: Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the
Federal Budget 2002/2003**

I am calling on you in your position as Minister of Finance to strongly support an increase in funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in the next federal budget. As the former Minister of Industry and in your current role as Minister of Finance, you have been instrumental in developing such important programmes as the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Canadian Research Chairs, the funding of indirect costs for research and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. These and other initiatives will provide benefits to Canada over the next few decades.

In the light of these new and exciting initiatives, the lack of funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council becomes increasingly obvious and serious. It is as if the federal government is suggesting that the research conducted by disciplines such as law, political science, psychology, industrial relations, criminal justice, history and economics, is not relevant to a vibrant and modern Canada. The opposite is, in fact, the case. Without a stable society, it is impossible to have a stable economy. Democracy and social cohesion are the keys to the future. It is absolutely essential to better understand human behaviour in order to strengthen productivity, innovation, and social cohesion.

Federal government support for SSHRC is woefully inadequate. This results in very low levels of support for peer-reviewed excellent research. As a consequence, Canada is the poorer through many missed opportunities. The federal government invests heavily in the natural sciences, engineering and health sciences. It is time for the federal government to invest equally in understanding its peoples, cultures and society.

Psychological science is funded across all three granting councils. We know firsthand the impact that the differential funding levels have on each of these research communities.

In the very near future we will be forwarding to you and Members of Parliament two documents: ***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***.

If you or your staff have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. John Service, Executive Director, at the Head Office of the Canadian Psychological Association.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Abraham S. Ross, Ph.D.
President