



November 28, 2002

The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Room 309-S
Centre Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

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

The Government has taken important steps to increase the research potential and science infrastructure in Canada. These steps which include but are not limited to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, Canadian Institutes for Health Research, the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, the Canadian Research Chairs, the Millennium Scholarship Fund, and support for the indirect costs of research, will have enormous positive impact for years to come.

The current funding level for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is a glaringly inconsistency with in this overall science and technology strategy. Your Government has wisely invested significantly in the natural sciences, engineering, and health sciences. It is time to balance your government's commitments with an investment of \$500 million per year increased ramped up over three years to SSHRC.

Canada is more than widgets and cells. It is a vibrant and tolerant culture of many peoples. It is a shining example to the rest of the world. We need to understand human behaviour, immigration and cultural issues, how children learn, the elements of a safe society, human factors in productivity and innovation, and so on. Investments in understanding Canada's peoples, cultures and society only strengthen the social infrastructure that supports economic activity. Without a highly trained workforce and a stable social environment, economic activity and the generation of wealth are in serious jeopardy.

Canada is a country of immigrants. Current social data suggests that this trend will increase significantly over the coming decades. It is absolutely essential that we continue our important scientific investigations, which will lead to a better understanding of the multiplicity of factors that lead to social harmony and peace, order and good government.

The federal government and the Trudeau family have established a foundation to further the social sciences and humanities. This is part of the answer to the current dilemma. A reinvestment in SSHRC will complete the job.

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.

The Canadian Psychological Association will be forwarding to you and the Members of Parliament two documents that further explain the contributions of the social sciences and humanities in Canada. These documents are 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***.

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.

Yours sincerely,

Abraham S. Ross, Ph.D.
President