



November 28, 2002

The Honorable Allan Rock, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Industry  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Rock:

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

As Minister of Health you were steadfast in your support for the broadened and more inclusive vision of health care research in Canada during the historic discussions that led to the fundamental transformation of the Medical Research Council into the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. History has shown that you were correct. The health research community has been reinvigorated and is world-class. The CIHR will have a lasting and positive impact on the health of Canadians well into the future.

Those MRC to CIHR negotiations were difficult. I remember them well as the Chairperson of the Network for the Advancement of Health Services Research and a member of your Ministerial Task Force and one of its working committees. Your personal and unwavering commitment to the broader and more inclusive vision of health research made the discussions a success and resulted in the legislation creating CIHR.

We are calling on you to show this same level of commitment to the adequate funding of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The funding of the SSHRC community lags woefully behind the funding levels of the other two granting councils. In order for Canada to have a comprehensive and inclusive research system, it is imperative that the social sciences and humanities receive an increase in their budget, ramped up over the next three years, to reach \$500 million per year.

This funding will allow SSHRC, through its peer review systems, to fund excellence in the social sciences and humanities at a level comparable to the funding of excellence in the other two domains. Without this funding, the social sciences and humanities research community will continue to be dispirited and neglected and Canada will be the poorer for it.

The federal government has invested wisely in a number of extremely important projects over the last few years. These include but are not limited to: The Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, the Canadian Research Chairs, support for the indirect costs for research, and the Millennium Scholarships. These are important investments in

Canada's future. The lack of funding for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council is a glaring chasm of neglect when objectively examining the Canadian research enterprise.

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***.

We hope we can count on your vigorous support for this most important of initiatives that falls under your purview as Minister of Industry. It is extremely auspicious that a minister who has demonstrated such fierce and successful support for a broad vision in health sciences is now the minister responsible for that research agency showing the signs of significant neglect.

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

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

John C. Service, Ph.D.  
Executive Director