House of Commons
Chambre des communes
Canada

House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance – Pre-budget Consultations 2013

This brief is submitted by:

(•) **an organization** **Organization name:** Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences

or

( ) **an individual** **Name:** _____

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

*Recommendation 1: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Invest an extra $250 million over 3 years in the granting councils (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research), returning to investment levels in the 2007 and 2008 budgets. Distribute the funds equitably among the 3 granting councils for discovery and insight driven research across all disciplines.
In addition, ensure Canadian research infrastructure remains state-of-the-art by committing $2 billion over 5 years (beginning in 2016/17) to the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI).

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$100 million -$499.9 million

3 years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Research and innovation has been a priority in successive Federal Budgets for good reason: Canada is competing internationally for talent, for ideas, for business, and for our place in the global knowledge economy. Canada's relative investment in academic research as a proportion of GDP (HERD/GDP) is falling, from 3rd in the OECD in 2006 to 9th in 2011 according to the Science Technology and Innovation Council. The recommended $250 million investment, a 2.7% annual increase in government spending on HERD, will help reverse that trend and should come from the research funding envelope.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The granting councils support more than 7500 researchers, 300 postdoctoral scholars, and 5000 graduate students. But only about 1/3 of applications are able to be funded, even fewer in the humanities and social sciences. This means successful applications are world-class, but also means that important research advances are being left unfunded. Increased funding would benefit researchers and students in post-secondary institutions. By engaging in partnerships, entrepreneurs in the private, not-for-profit and public sectors would benefit from research advances.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The Government is justifiably proud of Canada's strong performance in and reputation for research performed in post-secondary institutions. Canadian research is world leading in fields such as historical studies, psychology, and business, according to the Council of Canadian Academies. This research excellence undoubtedly stems from sustained investments in the granting councils and CFI, and is felt throughout Canada. Innovative ideas solve problems in business, hospitals, schools and throughout society, and highly-trained young graduates take skills to the businesses of tomorrow.

Topic: Education and skills training

Recommendation 2: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

Develop Canada's capacity for social innovation by investing $15 million over 5 years in knowledge mobilization through ResearchImpact, an inter-university program designed to connect university research with partners from the private, not-for-profit and public sectors to maximize the benefits of research.
Knowledge mobilization supporting social innovation can also be encouraged by the Government of Canada, at no additional financial cost, by changing the regulations governing Mitacs internships so that graduate students can undertake internships in not-for-profit organizations.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$10 million-$99.9 million

5 or more years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

The $15 million over 5 years investment in social innovation through ResearchImpact could be funded through Human Resources and Skills Development Canada's (HRSDC) Social Finance program.
The change to the Mitacs eligibility rules to allow federal funds to be used to support graduate students to work with not-for-profit organizations requires no additional funding, simply a change in the funding agreement. Both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations would compete for internships within this proven program on the basis of potential to deliver benefit through innovation.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The services and social sectors account for 2/3 of GDP, yet innovation strategies tend to focus on the manufacturing sector. In the same way that commercialization takes ideas from lab to market, this investment in social innovation will link challenges in society in diverse areas such as immigration, mental health and veterans affairs with research capacity through campus-community collaborations. Organizations in the not-for-profit, private and public sectors benefit from access to research, student interns mobilize knowledge and gain experience, and researchers solve real-world problems.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

Social innovation and knowledge mobilization through campus-community collaboration provide returns to the triple bottom-line (economic, social and environmental). Canada's economy will benefit by reducing demands on public spending for health and social services. Social innovation also creates jobs, especially in the vibrant not-for-profit sector which employs 12% of Canadians. This recommendation also addresses the challenge of youth employment and work experience by facilitating internships for graduate students in the not-for-profit sector.

Topic: Innovation and commercialization

Recommendation 3: Please provide a short summary of your recommendation.

In line with the Government of Canada's commitment to shape the digital economy, invest $70 million over 2 years to support digitally-enabled research and scholarship across Canada's research enterprise.
This investment would comprehensively address the technological, security, ethical, legal and social challenges of the digital revolution. It would support networks and platforms including "big data" repositories, open access to data, and research. Graduate scholarships in all disciplines would provide training in managing and analyzing data - skills needed in every sector of the economy.

Expected cost or savings: From the pull-down menus, please indicate the expected cost or savings of your recommendation to the federal government and the period of time to which the expected cost or savings is related.

$10 million-$99.9 million

2 years

Federal funding: Please provide a precise indication of how the federal government could fund your recommendation. For example, indicate what federal spending should be reallocated, what federal tax measure(s) should be introduced, eliminated or changed, etc.

Through new and existing investments, in partnership with funding from Canadian businesses, the Government of Canada can invest in infrastructure, technologies, research and training to benefit from the digital world. This is a global issue and Canada should leverage international funding partnerships to take a leadership role in digital scholarship.
The proposed investment is equivalent to only a small fraction of the ICT-related revenue the Government will receive through the auction of wireless spectrum in 2014, and could be funded from that source.

Intended beneficiaries: Please indicate the groups of individuals, the sector(s) and/or the regions that would benefit by implementation of your recommendation.

The investment would directly benefit innovative and entrepreneurial businesses and researchers who use digital technologies and data to develop new products and services. ICT investment rate by Canadian businesses is only 58% of the US (CSLS 2013), contributing to the Canada-US productivity gap. This investment could help close that gap.
Research in all disciplines will benefit from infrastructure and platforms. Through graduate scholarships, students would be trained in digital scholarship and data management and analysis, preparing them for the jobs of tomorrow.

General impacts: Depending on the nature of your recommendation, please indicate how the standard of living of Canadians would be improved, jobs would be created, people would be trained, etc.

The challenges and opportunities of digital technologies and scholarship are global. But while technological innovations can be applied worldwide, Canada will need its own architecture and understanding of the economic and social implications of the digital revolution. Consideration of issues such as intellectual property, privacy and the impacts on organizations and work, alongside research and training, will allow Canada to attract the businesses, entrepreneurs and researchers of the future. This investment will stimulate innovation and enrich the Canadian economy and culture.

Please use this page if you wish to provide more explanation about your recommendation(s).

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is the national voice and public policy advocate for Canada's scholars, students and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences.

We are a not-for-profit charitable organization with a mandate to:
•Promote the value of research and learning in the arts, humanities and social sciences
•Support the dissemination of knowledge to the public and the public policy community
•Provide a range of services to individual members and member institutions
We represent a long tradition of academic excellence in Canadian universities across a rich spectrum of disciplines. Our membership comprises 82 scholarly associations, 80 institutions and 6 affiliate organizations, representing 85,000 researchers, educators and students across Canada.

As the voice of our country's learned societies, academic institutions and other organizations with a direct interest in social sciences and humanities scholarship, the Federation advances equity, diversity, knowledge, excellence and innovation. The Federation:
•Organizes Canada's largest annual gathering of academics, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences
•Brings leading scholars to Parliament Hill to discuss public policy and public relevance in our Big Thinking lecture series
•Supports the publication and sharing of new ideas through our Awards to Scholarly Publications Program

More than ever, Canada needs agile and well-rounded thinkers who can assess and adapt to change, analyze trends, communicate effectively, and consider the past to better prepare for the future. Thriving humanities and social science sectors ensure that Canada produces the human resources and the innovative ideas needed to spur new companies, jobs, investments and insights for an ever-changing world. This research can help fight poverty, inform policy, and help understand the challenges and opportunities of Canada's diverse society and First Nations.

These recommendations offer practical solutions to address three of the Government's top priorities: innovation; high quality jobs and training; and the digital economy. Research impacts communities through collaborations, informed policies and programs, while digital research and technologies make these results accessible.

By investing in fundamental leading-edge research through the granting councils, the Government of Canada can support research and innovation throughout the economy.

By supporting social innovation through partnerships between post-secondary institutions and other sectors, the Government of Canada can improve the dissemination of knowledge and technology throughout society, and provide students with access to life-changing experiences in the workplace.

Finally, by supporting digital scholarship, research and training in the technological, financial and ethical implications of a digital world, the Government of Canada can stimulate innovation, increase productivity and enrich Canada's economy and culture.

*Please note that at least one recommendation must be provided