

# SSHRC Cuts Off Funding to Private Scholars

At its most recent council meeting held in Ottawa, May 23-24, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council took what it described as a "difficult decision" concerning funding for private scholars. In a communiqué to university deans and administrators, Paule Leduc, President of SSHRC, noted that a "question of priorities" had necessitated the decision to consider private scholars ineligible for SSHRC grants. Although conceding that "over the years, the SSHRC has supported a number of excellent research projects carried out by private scholars, projects whose merit passed the acid test of the peer review selection process" the Council nonetheless decided to take this step, based, it appears, on two criteria. First of all, the Council felt justified in following the lead of the NSERC and the MRC which, although they have larger budgets, noted Leduc, "have chosen, as a matter of policy, to focus on the university sector". The second justification for this cost-cutting move appears to be based on a negative assessment of the contribution private scholars make to the "larger research enterprise". As Leduc put it, "The simple truth of the matter is that the university environment provides opportunities to combine research

with teaching and training opportunities, which private scholars, regrettably, cannot match". It would appear that the SSHRC has been forced to conclude, under pressure of financial constraint, that private scholars make an inferior contribution to scholarship.

In a move which can perhaps be termed a 'proletarianization' of an already small, isolated and marginal group, the SSHRC

has conceded that private scholars "may still participate as non-university co-investigators in a university-led research team supported under the SSHRC's Strategic Grants Program". Leduc also noted, somewhat ironically, given the growing tendency among university administrators to hire part-time and sessional teachers, that the Council has taken great care with its definition of university scholars. "To protect the  
...SSHRC, p. 8

## The Use and Overuse of Sessional and Part-Time Lecturers in Canadian Universities

At a session of the past CHA annual meeting, a panel of four experts discussed the growing concern over the employment of sessional and part-time lecturers in history departments of Canadian universities. W. Godfrey, Dean of Arts and History Professor at Mount Allison University presented the administrative viewpoint, while Larry Hannant offered insights gained through his own experience as a limited term faculty member at Simon Fraser University. Gordon LeFebvre of the Université du Québec à Montréal described the Quebec situation, and Indhu Rajogopaul reported on a major study being conducted at York University, on part-time faculty in Canadian universities.

Panel discussion centred on two major themes. Firstly, descriptive data on working conditions for part-time faculty as well as statistical information on who this growing number of scholars are, was presented. Secondly, some proposed solutions to this growing problem—one which will create a two-tiered teaching faculty in Canadian universities—were heard.

### Defining the Problem

Larry Hannant offered a working definition of sessionals as "those post-secondary instructors who are in charge of the content and evaluation for one or more courses, who are not permanently employed by the institution in which the course is offered, and who have no other permanent position."

Just how many of these workers are there, and is their number growing? Quoting Linda Kealey's study of women in history departments in Canada, Godfrey indicated that history departments are not immune to this growing hiring practice in Canadian universities. The percentage of total history faculty teaching in non-tenurable positions ranges from 0 percent at Glendon to 67 percent at Université du Québec à Rimouski, however the vast majority of institutions who responded to Kealey's survey ranged between 21 percent and 40 percent. Hannant noted that in Quebec up to 70 percent of first year university

... *The Use and*, p. 4

Inside	
Conferences and Calls for Papers ...	2, 5
Heritage Quiz .....	3
In Memoria .....	6
Letters to the Editor .....	3
Miscellany .....	8
Correction to Date of CHA Annual Conference .....	2
1992 CHA Prizes:	
Calls for nominations .....	6
Prizes and Scholarships .....	4

## SSHRC Cuts Off Funding to Private Scholars

from page 1

eligibility of young researchers who are employed by universities but who are not in tenure track positions, any university teacher, whether holding a full-time or part-time, salaried or unsalaried position, may apply for and receive grants", the report noted. As we have explored in our article on Part-time and Sessional Lecturers, this growing group of 'second-class' scholars contains a disproportionate number of women. Refusing funding to private scholars further limits the options of scholars who cannot obtain access to tenure-stream positions, and contributes to a gendered division between tenured and non-tenured university professors. With this latest development, scholars will be forced to accept one of the growing number of underpaid, dead-end, part-time, sessional or perhaps even unsalaried positions in order to obtain SSHRC research grants. University administrations are only too happy to offer such 'jobs', to anyone willing to take them.

One must also question whether it is appropriate for the SSHRC to follow the lead of NSERC and MRC in requiring all research to be university-led. Are there not outstanding differences between research in the humanities/social sciences, compared with engineering, science and medicine, both in terms of the type of research done, and the scholarly community?

The Canadian Federation for the Humanities is concerned about this issue, and would like to represent the views of CHA members in upcoming briefs to the SSHRC. Responses are welcome and may be addressed to: The Canadian Federation for the Humanities, 151 Slater Street, Suite 407, Ottawa K1P 5H3, (613) 236-4686. Those who would prefer to send a letter of protest directly to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, may address them to 255 Albert Street, Ottawa, K1P 6G4 (613) 995-5488, FAX (613) 992-1787.

## Miscellany

The University of Calgary, Department of History, invites **applications for a senior Associate or junior Full Professor in Western Canadian History**. This will be an appointment without term (tenured), commencing July 1, 1992. In accordance with Canadian Immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada. Please send applications, with curriculum vitae and three letters of recommendation by December 15, 1991 to: Dr. Holger H. Herwig, Head, Department of History, The University of Calgary, 2500 University Dr. NW, Calgary, Alberta T2N 1N4.

The **International Students of History Association (ISHA)** was founded in Budapest in May 1990. It is an academic, non-political, non-profit making association of students interested in history and related sciences. It seeks to bridge the gap between students of all backgrounds and to encourage international co-operation and understanding through a more objective and tolerant study of history. It organizes and co-ordinates joint projects and exchange programmes between history students and young people of all cultures. For more information about this association, you may write to: Pesti Barnabas utca 1, H-1364 Budapest, Hungary.

The **International Journalism History Interest Group** of the American Journalism Historians Association invites inquiries. Contact: James D. Startt, History Department, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso IN, 46383.

Catherine Vye, project historian with the Canadian Parks Service, Ontario Region, is compiling a social, use and structural history of **Laurier House, National Historic Site**. Laurier House, situated in Ottawa, was the former home of Sir Wilfrid Laurier and William Lyon Mackenzie King. This research focuses on the period of the Laurier and the King residencies (1897-1950). Anyone having letters, artifacts, photographs, or knowledge of this subject are asked to contact: Ms. Vye, Canadian Parks Service, Ontario Region, Historical Research, 111 Water St. E., Cornwall, Ontario, K6H 6S3.

The National Archives has published a new **Guide to the Government Records Division**, compiled by Cynthia Lovering, with an introduction by Terry Cook. The bilingual publication contains a profile of the Government Archives Division and includes a subject and alphabetical index to federal records, making it an essential reference work for the historian's bookshelf.

External Affairs and International Trade Canada has released **Canadian Heads of Post Abroad 1880-1989**, compiled by J.E. Thibault and Cheryl Moreau. The book contains a list by country of all Canadian representatives in national capitals and at the headquarters of international organizations who served during the period in the capacity of ambassador, high commissioner, minister, head of a permanent delegation, chargé d'affaires, acting high commissioner, or commissioner. The list, organized alphabetically by country or organization, gives information on the title, dates of appointment and presentation of credentials, and termination of mission. A limited number of copies are available free of charge from: Historical Section, Academic Relations Division, International Cultural Relations Bureau, External Affairs and International Trade Canada, 125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0G2, Attention: Mr. E.A. Kelly. Telephone: (613) 996-5293 Several weeks should be allowed for delivery.

## CHA Directory of Members Now Available

Alphabetical listing of individual members, including mailing address, institutional affiliation and position, thematic and geographic areas of interest, specific interests and current research, indexed by institutional affiliation. Alphabetical listing of institutional members.

\$19.95 for individual members, GST included. \$31.95 for institutional members and non-members, GST included. Please include a cheque or money order payable to the CHA, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 0N3.