

SSFC Lobbying Activities

THE GOODS AND SERVICES TAX

Following the release of the long awaited Technical Paper on the proposed Goods and Services Tax, in August 1989, the Federation examined the document to determine what the potential impact of the new tax would be on the dissemination of research in Canada and on the viability of the learned associations which it represents. Following an analysis of the Technical Paper the SSFC concluded that the proposed GST will be detrimental to the research enterprise in this country. A brief prepared by the SSFC was presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance on 13 September 1989.

The brief dealt with two major points: 1, the effect on books and journals; and 2, the impact on the viability of learned associations.

On the first point, the SSFC recommended that the GST levied on books, magazines and journals be set at a zero rate. This recommendation was based on three principal arguments which are summarized below:

1. Since Confederation, books and magazines have not been taxed and the SSFC believes that the government should uphold this important principle which facilitates the flow of knowledge and the dissemination of information in Canada.
2. SSFC believes that by taxing reading material, the government will undermine the publishing industry which serves to make widely accessible the results of scholarly research often funded through government sources. The brief indicated that many countries which have adopted a value added tax have recognized the validity of not taxing books and magazines or at least, taxing them at a lower rate.
3. The federal government has embarked on a fight against illiteracy which the SSFC applauds. However, the SSFC believes that by taxing reading material, the government is going counter to the efforts to reduce illiteracy in

Canada as we move into an information based society.

Secondly, the SSFC brief made recommendations with regards to learned associations. The first recommendation reads as follows: **The SSFC recommends that the government treat all non profit organizations equally with regards to the 50% rebate.** This recommendation was made on the basis of the arguments summarized below:

1. A 9% tax on all purchases made by the learned associations would seriously undermine their viability.
2. The technical paper on the GST states that:

Non profit organizations which receive 50 percent or more of their revenues in a year in the form of federal, provincial and/or municipal grants will also be eligible to receive the 50-per-cent-rebate. (page 123)

The SSFC considers this criterion to be unfair to the learned associations who for the most part receive less than 50% of their total revenues from the government. We find it appalling that the non-profit organizations who are able to exist by raising most of their funds through their membership would be penalized by not being eligible for the rebate.

3. The government should also be made aware that the GST (with or without the rebate) will add important administrative costs to the learned societies.

The second recommendation concerning learned societies reads as follows: **The SSFC recommends that the government not impose a tax on the membership fees of the learned societies.** The recommendation was made on the basis of the following argument:

1. Many member associations of the SSFC publish one or more scholarly journals which members are entitled to receive through their membership fee. Under the proposed GST, the membership fees would increase by 9%. The SSFC has stated that it finds it unaccep-

table that a tax would be levied on services such as a scholarly journal. The Federation stressed that the products of research which are made available through these journals are of benefit to all Canadians and become a public good.

The SSFC feels that the recommendations put forward in its brief will help ensure that Canada maintains and enhances its research enterprise. We also believe that the recommendations that we have put forward are consistent with the Prime Minister's recently expressed concern for the quality of education in Canada.

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

Ever since the federal government implemented the Matching Grants Policy as a means for funding the three granting councils, the Social Science Federation of Canada has lobbied the government to change the present tax law in order to make the Research & Development tax credit eligible to social science research. There currently exists no tax incentive for research in the social sciences and humanities. Unfortunately, officials at the Department of Finance have steadfastly refused to budge on this issue. The SSFC therefore decided to submit to the Department of Finance, a proposal for an entirely new tax credit which would recognize the importance of social science research.

In September, a proposal prepared by Professors Brian Arnold (University of Western Ontario) and Tom Wilson (University of Toronto) was presented to the Prime Minister and to the Minister of Finance. A submission was made in early fall in order to allow government officials to seriously consider the proposal within the process of the 1990 federal budget preparation.

The tax incentive proposed would consist of a deduction from income and a refundable tax credit for taxpayers incurring qualifying expenditures. As for the direct subsidy program, it would contain most of the features of the proposed tax incentive for social science and humanities

research since those features embody the objectives of government assistance for such research. There are, however, some unique features of a direct subsidy program (please refer to the brief which may be obtained through the SSFC Secretariat). Although recognizing the importance of offering more than one option to the government, in its deliberations with Finance officials, the SSFC has made very clear that its preference lies with the tax assistance option.

The SSFC will be meeting with officials in the Department of Finance in the coming weeks to discuss the proposal and urge them to act on our recommendations.

THE NETWORKS OF CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

On October 26, the Federal government announced the results of the Networks of Centres of Excellence Programme. The SSFC is very disappointed that social science research has been excluded. Although the International Peer Review Committee had recommended the funding of a social science research network which was described as being of "high quality" and which could be supported "with confidence", the government decided that this project would be one of two which would not be funded.

Following this announcement, the SSFC sent out a press release in which we stated "that by not recognizing the important contribution of social science research to Canada's international competitiveness and productivity, the government is jeopardizing the development of a comprehensive national science policy. To enhance its competitiveness, Canada will have to recognize that there exists an indissociable link between the natural sciences and engineering and the social sciences. This could have been partly achieved through the Networks of Centres of Excellence Programme". We also urged the government "to reexamine its national science policy to ensure that research focusing on the social and human aspects of life in Canada be funded. Without this funding, Canada will be unable to meet the challenges of the next century".

Furthermore, the SSFC has initiated a letter writing campaign targeting the Prime Minister as well as Ministers Winegard and Weiner. Should you wish to participate in this campaign or simply receive more information, please contact the Secretariat of the SSFC at (613) 238-6112.

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES RESEARCH COUNCIL

The SSHRC is currently working to put in place the recommendations approved by Council from the Courtney Committee. *...SSFC, p. 8*

An Open Letter from the New President of the Social Science Federation of Canada

Dear colleagues,

BONJOUR, it is a great pleasure for me to have an opportunity to serve as President of the Social Science Federation of Canada and to represent your interests during the 50th Anniversary year of the Federation. I am grateful to Caroline Andrew for her assistance in passing the presidential baton and for providing our community with a strong and active leadership during her term as President. I look forward to the opportunity of working with you to continue to make Social Science Research more visible and appreciated as it affects the daily life of Canadians. It is a pleasure for me to welcome John Finlay, Dean of Arts at the University of Manitoba, to the Executive Committee as President-elect, and Professor Carmen Lambert from McGill University to the new Vice-Presidency responsible for Women's Issues. I look forward to working with both colleagues and the executive members and the board who are continuing their terms of office.

The meetings of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly provided an excellent opportunity for many of us to learn about the specific activities of the Federation during the past year.

During the three days of meetings, the Executive, the Board of Directors and the General Assembly had an opportunity to converse with representatives from the three political parties, the Presidents of the SSHRC and NSERC as well as the Secretary of State who hosted a reception on Parliament Hill "in honour of the Social

Science Federation of Canada for its strong leadership role in furthering the many and varied disciplines it encompasses." I thank the minister for this.

The papers presented by Chris Axworthy, M.P., NDP Critic for Post-secondary Education and Health, Ron Duhamel, M.P., Liberal Critic for Post-secondary Education, The Honourable Gerry Weiner, Secretary of State, Dr. Arthur W. May, President of NSERC, and Dr. Paule Leduc, President of SSHRC are available from the Federation's Secretariat. Their comments do provide an indication of how these leaders view the role of Social Science Research for Canada.

On October 13, 1989, over 100 Social Scientists met with staff from SSHRC and the Secretary of State to exchange concerns about specific areas affecting social science research policy. Reports from the rapporteurs are annexed to the above documents.

I personally found the day very productive and on behalf of the Federation, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all staff members from SSHRC and the Secretary of State who participated and also thank our Secretariat for making it happen.

Michel Allard
President, SSFC

News from History Departments

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At **UBC's Faculty of Education**, Department of Social and Educational Studies, J.D. Wilson became an honorary member of the Turku Hist. Soc., Finland, and J. Barman received a tenure-track appointment in the history of Canadian Education. **Cariboo U. College**, Kamloops, B.C., (which along with **Okanagan U. College**, Kelowna, introduced a four-year programme with degrees granted through U.B.C.), appointed J. Belshaw to a tenure-track position in Canadian and British Social. It is hiring in U.S., Asian, or Renaissance & Reformation. Okanagan granted tenure-

track positions to E.G. Nellis (U.S.), who is chair this year, J. Hull (Canadian), and M. Williams (European), and limited-terms to D. Dendy (Canadian), S. Russell (European), and A. Hiebert (Asian). The department expects to be appointing in Canadian, Asian, and Latin American. D. Thompson is temporarily on leave as Ass't. Dean of Arts.

At **Carleton** (which was discussed at further length in the last *Newsletter*), J.H. Taylor won the Fred Landon Award for the best book on regional history in 1988, and R. Philips received honourable mention for the CHA Wallace K. Ferguson Prize. At **Guelph**, E.G. Reiche is the new chair and D.T. Andrew has been promoted to assoc. professor. On leave are G.A. Stelter, R.M. Sunter, and D.R. Farrell (administrative). F. Iacovetta is Canada Research Fellow.

Manitoba (which includes **St. John's College** and **St. Paul's College**) has promoted E.M. Kinnear and D.N. Sprague to professor. G.A. Schultz retired, and R.A. Swanson is on permanent sick leave. J. Taylor (Canadian), R. Pearce (U.S.), A. Neal (Modern World/Methodology), and N. Kermod (Women's/Canadian) received limited-term appointments. Two probationary appointments are anticipated: in U.S. and in Canadian and Archives Management. T.E. Anna, I.J. Kerr, J.E. Rea, and O.W. Gerus are on sabbatical. P.C. Bailey, J.E. Kendle, and M. Kinnear have SSHRC release time stipends; A. Davis is a SSHRC Post-doctoral fellow.

T.W. Acheson is chair (to 1992) at **New Brunswick**, where G. Campbell (Canadian) and G. Waite (Early Modern European) have received tenure-track appointments. Meetings to be hosted in 1990 include "Pre-Confederation History of the Atlantic Provinces" (November), and "Rural History of Atlantic Canada" (October).

At **O.I.S.E.**, in the Department of History & Phil. of Education, H. Troper is on leave. The **Royal Military College of Canada**, Kingston, has promoted J.

Errington and B. McKercher, who received a SSHRC grant this year, to assoc. professor. A military history symposium is being held 15-16 March 1990.

W.A. Sloan is head of the **Selkirk College** department this year. Département des sciences humaines, **Sherbrooke**, expects to make an appointment in sciences politiques. J.-P. Kesteman has become assistant to the vice-recteur à l'enseignement. G-A. Legault is on leave. Sherbrooke hosted the annual meeting of l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française, in October 1989.

At **Simon Fraser**, V. Strong-Boag won the CHA Macdonald Prize for 1989. J. Little was promoted to professor, and D. Lindsay received a limited-term appointment in Native history. The department expects to make a tenure-track appointment in Canadian and a limited-term in British North America.

At **Toronto** (including **Scarborough** and **Erindale** colleges), D. Raby was promoted to professor, and L. Viola to assoc. professor. W. Nelson, J. Cairns, and J. Moir have retired. B. Todd (Women's) received a tenure-track appointment, and J. Power (African), D. Wilson (U.S.), and T. Raun (Estonian), limited-term appointments. Toronto anticipates making an appointment in Japanese history. W.C. Berman, R. Bothwell, J. Dent, H.L. Dyck, P.F. Grendler, R.J. Helmstader, D.C. Higgs, J.N. Ingham, M.A. Klein, T.H. Levere, M. Marrus, A.C. Murray, D. Raby, T.A. Sandquist, A.N. Sheps, and M. Wayne are on leave. Olwen Hufton, of Harvard University, is this year's Donald Creighton Lecturer. J. Beattie is Director of the Institute for Criminology, R. Johnson, Director of the Centre for Soviet & East European Studies, and M. Ekstein, Assistant Chair, Humanities, Scarborough College. The department will host a large conference on modern Germany, April 1990, the American Society for Ethnohistory meetings, November 1990, and a conference on "Pacifism in its International Context", May 1991.

SSFC Lobbying

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On the Courtney Report, SSFC has been very concerned about several recommendations, including those relating to the definition of new scholars. After the first meeting of the Network on Women's Issues, the then SSFC President Caroline Andrew, wrote to SSHRC expressing some of the concerns of the Network. The most urgent point related to the definition of young scholars which in the Courtney Report was in terms of numbers of years since obtaining degree. Our letter argued that two criteria should be used: years since obtaining the degree and years in a tenure-track position. By including these two criteria, people who have had a series of tenure-track positions would not be penalized. Given that such positions are not conducive to building the kind of research program necessary for Council support, it is important that the definition of young scholars takes this account.

The SSFC letter was presented to the Council meeting held in mid-October, and we were pleased to see that SSHRC decided to define young scholars on the two criteria: years since degree and years in a tenure-track position. In addition, the Council has agreed to recognize the special needs of women who have combined family responsibilities with their academic careers by including these people in the category of young scholars.