

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