

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE FEDERATION

At its November 2001 meeting the General Assembly of the Federation approved several significant and exciting changes. Firstly, members approved a name change for the Federation. It will henceforth be known as: **Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences/Fédération canadienne des sciences humaines**. Secondly, members approved the establishment of **the Canadian Endowment for the Humanities and Social Sciences**. The goal is to raise \$11 million dollars over the five years of the campaign. Dr Robert Merrett of the University of Alberta has been named Vice President Development and will lead the fund-raising campaign. The goal is to place the Federation on a secure financial footing and to promote support for the humanities and social sciences. For further information, contact Dr Merrett at robert.merrett@ualberta.ca.

For Canadian universities, these are important days. Federal — and some provincial — initiatives are beginning at last to address the needs of our cash-starved institutions. In the 2001 Federal budget the government took two decisions with long-term impact when it comes to research and education in Canada. In funding the indirect costs of research, it has taken an historic step forward, a step which will help to ease the difficult situation in Canadian universities. But, at the same time, the long term impact of the government's funding decision for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada is cause for serious concern. While the \$9.5M increase to SSHRC's budget was welcome news, the Federation had looked to this budget to create balance in the government's funding of research. By increasing NSERC and SSHRC budgets by exactly 7% each, the Federal Budget actually increases the disparity between Granting Councils leaving SSHRC with only an 11.5% share of the total money provided to Granting Councils in Canada. We will continue our efforts on your behalf to make the case to government of the need to strike a balance when it comes to funding SSHRC.

In this context, we must do everything to ensure that the voice of our disciplines is strong and clear and that it be heard. This is a moment for the Federation to give critical attention to its communications strategy, both internal (so that we consolidate our collective strength) and external (so that we have impact in decision-making). This year, the Executive and the Staff of the Federation are putting into place a Strategic Plan aimed at achieving the following goals:

- strengthening member associations;
- raising the profile of the Federation on university campuses;
- developing the effectiveness of our partnership with SSHRC; and

- reinforcing the Government Lobby and increasing awareness of the humanities and social sciences in interested communities.

All of these goals support the overall mandate of the Federation. They are designed to give clear purpose and strength to our collective voice. I would be grateful to have any comments or input on these issues (c/o jawright@hssf.ca).

Other Federation activities over the coming year include:

- Congress 2002 at University of Toronto.
- Continued monitoring of the impact of the Canada Research Chairs and other funding initiatives on humanities and social sciences.
- Continued participation in Tri-Council Policy on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. At our AGM, Mr. Tim Flaherty, Director, Ethics Division of Health Canada, presented his views on the governance of the ethics of research on humans. One of the suggestions was the formation of a national body to ensure the accreditation of research ethics boards and the education of board members and researchers. Mr Flaherty will undertake a formal public consultation process in the new year and hopes to have a report completed by March 2002.
- Creation of two Task Forces, one on Scholarly Associations and the other on the New Generation of Scholars.
- Consultation with SSHRC on the Attendance Grants to Scholarly Associations.

Patricia Clements, DPhil, FRSC, President

