Research for Real Life

Official Languages

Canada's two official languages—English and French—are inherent to our national identity and cultural history. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) funds research and graduate training on linguistics, education and cultural diversity. This work builds understanding about bilingualism and helps support the use of both English and French throughout Canadian society. It also helps minority-language communities across the nation develop and thrive. By supporting linguistic duality and funding training for students in issues related to our official languages, SSHRC helps ensure Canada's place in the world as a just and culturally vibrant society.

\$27.5 M

SSHRC investments in research related to official languages *

396

research projects

389

researchers

193

graduate students

* These numbers represent multi-year awards across all SSHRC funding programs from 2006-07 to 2010-11.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) builds new knowledge on the issues that matter most to Canadians.

SSHRC funds research by the very best of Canada's 84,000 researchers and graduate students in the social sciences and humanities.

SSHRC also helps share the results of this research with businesses, governments and communities across the country, to maximize the benefits of new knowledge for all Canadians.

For more information www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca



Official Languages

Protecting francophone culture outside Quebec

Jean-Pierre Pichette of Université Sainte-Anne-Collège de l'Acadie in Nova Scotia is helping preserve the oral traditions of francophone and Acadian communities across North America. At his high-tech oral literature laboratory, Pichette is recording songs, stories and customs, and is analyzing them to determine what factors contribute to their preservation or erosion over time. Pichette's research is increasing awareness of francophone culture outside Quebec, as well as helping develop teaching tools to ensure these unique traditions continue to thrive.

The language of change

Shana Poplack of the University of Ottawa is Canada's leading sociolinguist and a world authority on the effects of bilingualism. She has spent more than 20 years studying how languages change one another. Her research has proven that switching between languages and borrowing words—common practices in bilingual communities—does not lead to language deterioration. In fact, it is an inescapable part of how languages change and, ultimately, survive.

Supporting vibrant communities

Edmund Aunger is investigating the importance of French-language institutions—such as schools, banks and health services—to the survival of French-speaking Canadian communities outside Quebec. Working at the University of Alberta's Campus Saint-Jean, Aunger discovered a direct link between the amount of French spoken and the francophone institutions available. His research is helping governments at all levels develop policies and programs to keep Canada's minority-language communities strong.

SSHRC at a Glance *

\$332.4M

12,925 applications

6,748 expert reviewers

4,381new grants, scholarships and fellowships

118 partnerships with industry, government and NGO's

* SSHRC Annual Report 2010-11