

Minister of State  
(Science and Technology)  
(Federal Economic Development  
Agency for Southern Ontario)



Ministre d'État  
(Sciences et Technologie)  
(Agence fédérale de développement  
économique pour le Sud de l'Ontario)

## **Speaking Points**

**The Honourable Gary Goodyear, PC, MP  
Minister of State (Science and Technology)**

**Announcement of the  
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council's  
Partnership Grants and Partnership Development  
Grants**

**Communitech Hub, The Tannery  
Kitchener, Ontario  
May 25, 2012**

**Check Against Delivery**

**Canada**

Thank you for the kind introduction, Peter.

Ladies and gentlemen, good evening and thank you all for joining us.

I would also like to thank the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Communitech, the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) for making this event possible.

I am very pleased to be in Kitchener-Waterloo for the official opening of the 2012 edition of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, which has brought together more than 6,000 delegates to our region. This Congress will highlight research excellence and the sharing of ideas and knowledge in the social sciences and humanities across campuses, and with communities, businesses and organizations.

The Harper Government, as you know, is committed to making our country a global centre of research excellence, innovation and higher learning. That includes, fostering a strong social sciences and humanities research environment.

Our government understands that investing in research strengthens the economy, enhances our competitiveness, and improves Canadians' quality of life.

I think we can all agree that competition for the brightest minds remains fierce. The pace of technological change is lightning-quick, and it is happening in both developed and emerging economies. This means that to ensure Canada's long-term economic competitiveness, we must create and nurture globally competitive businesses that innovate and create high-quality jobs.

The granting councils have been increasing their focus on partnerships between post-secondary institutions and industry to better target research to business needs and transfer knowledge into economic advantage.

By investing in partnerships between academia and the private, public and not-for-profit sectors, we are expanding our knowledge capacity and increasing Canada's economic advantage.

That is why, in Economic Action Plan 2012, we have provided an additional \$7 million per year for SSHRC to enhance its support for industry-academic research partnership initiatives.

By focusing on the drivers of growth and job creation—innovation, investment, education, skills and communities—the new measures in Economic Action Plan 2012 will strengthen and draw upon the private sector’s role as a driving force behind Canada’s future economic prosperity. We will support innovation that will create high-value jobs through enhanced support for high-growth companies, research collaborations, applied research, procurement opportunities and risk financing.

And so, ladies and gentlemen, it is my pleasure to announce that the our Government has awarded more than \$70 million in SSHRC Partnership Grants and Partnership Development Grants to support 92 research teams across the country.

This investment demonstrates the Harper Government's commitment to maintaining a strong research environment in Canada, and developing stronger linkages between universities and the private and not-for-profit sectors.

Thanks to this support, these research teams are collaborating with regional, national and international partners from the academic, private, public and not-for-profit sectors to produce top quality research across a range of important topics from nanotechnology and intellectual property, to anti-terrorism, and violence protection; from transforming music education on the Web, to workforce issues and employment in today's digital economy.

This, ladies and gentlemen, will benefit our communities, our businesses and Canadians, while continuing to enhance our country's competitive advantage.

Social sciences and humanities research and training, build greater understanding about people, communities, institutions and societies. This research and training fosters an environment where talented leaders who will contribute to our future can reach their full potential.

On the topic of leaders, I would like to recognize the project lead for one of the local partnership grants announced today, Dr. Neil Randall, from the University of Waterloo.

Dr. Randall's IMMERSe project is a multi-institutional and multi-partner network for games research. It demonstrates how academic and industry partners are collaborating to better understand the impact of the players' experience.

Among other research objectives, Dr. Randall and his partners will seek to understand what elements captivate a player in video games.

While game designers seek to create highly immersive products and technologies, there are growing questions among researchers, teachers, parents and the media, about players becoming involved in these games to exclusion of other social, physical, and mental activities.

Dr. Randall and his team will be partnering with regional industry partners, including Communitel, here in Kitchener, PineLake Communications of Waterloo, as well as Digital Extremes of London, Ontario, and companies such as Electronic Arts and Microsoft Corporation, to address important issues related to these entertainment technologies in our society.

The researchers being supported today are among Canada's leading scholars in the social sciences and humanities, whose talents are contributing to the culture of innovation and excellence that is critical to our nation's success.

Today's investments demonstrate the high priority our Government places on keeping Canada at the cutting-edge of research, development and innovation. Thanks to our government's commitment, we can look forward to more outstanding Canadian achievements.

I hope you enjoy the lectures and discussions which will take place over the course of this Congress. Through these annual conferences, you encourage innovative and creative thinking, knowledge exchange and more importantly, research excellence on topics of importance to all Canadians.

Thank you.