ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR CANADA’S FUTURE

ENABLING EXCELLENCE, BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS, CONNECTING RESEARCH TO CANADIANS

Innovation in Evidence Conference
November 15, 2018, Regina

Ursula Gobel
Associate Vice-President, Future Challenges
Our role

Federal agency mandated to promote and support postsecondary-based research and training in the social sciences and humanities

Through grants, fellowships and scholarships SSHRC:

- **Trains** the next generation of talented, creative thinkers and doers
- **Builds** knowledge and understanding about people, cultures and societies
- **Drives** the innovations that address the challenges of today and tomorrow
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE FOR CANADA’S FUTURE

1. Enable excellence in a changing research landscape

2. Create opportunities for research and training through collaborative initiatives

3. Connect social sciences and humanities research with Canadians
IMAGINING CANADA’S FUTURE
Through its **Imagining Canada’s Future** initiative, SSHRC seeks to advance the contributions of the social sciences and humanities towards meeting Canada’s future, long-term societal challenges and opportunities.
New ways of learning

Quest for energy & natural resources

Emerging technologies

A successful shared future with Indigenous peoples

An interconnected and evolving global landscape

Global peak population
**2013-2017**

**ASKING TOMORROW’S QUESTIONS TODAY**

### Insights on Future Challenges
- ForeSight identifies 6 top future challenges for Canada
- SSHRC Launches Knowledge Synthesis Grants (KSG)
- Social sciences and humanities expertise grows in demand

### Research Capacity
- Data analysis highlights research capacity
- Graduate students address FCAs
- Strong focus placed on knowledge mobilization

### Collaboration & Engagement
- Special events convene academics and key stakeholders
- Multiple cross-sector partnerships established
- Unique initiatives co-created: e.g., International Policy Ideas Challenge

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<th><strong>6</strong> Future challenge areas (FCAs)</th>
<th><strong>$3M</strong> Invested in KSG competitions including co-funding</th>
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<td><strong>5</strong> Summary reports</td>
<td><strong>120</strong> KSG reports</td>
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<td><strong>25%</strong> projects aligned to FCAs over 5 years</td>
<td><strong>+3100</strong> students</td>
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<td><strong>1250</strong> participants</td>
<td><strong>$420k</strong> leveraged</td>
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<td><strong>+40</strong> partnerships</td>
<td><strong>+12</strong> Fora/Workshops/Roundtables</td>
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Key Findings Linked to the Future Challenge Areas

- The KSGs are overall seen as an effective tool to assess the state of knowledge on key issues.
- Final reports and SSHRC summary reports are user-friendly.
- Knowledge mobilization objectives are being leveraged through SSHRC events.
- Face-to-face collaborative, interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral engagements are priorities across all sectors.
- Clear interest in foresight or futures-
Building Together
Culturally Appropriate Housing for Sustainable Communities

Dr. Shelagh McCartney,
Ryerson University
Evidence-Based Research for Policy Makers

From left to right: Ursula Gobel, Maïka Sondarjee, Madeline Johnson, Ian Clark, Ilona Sachas Martin, Bipasha Baruah
2018-2021
ASKING TOMORROW'S QUESTIONS TODAY

Research on Emerging Issues
- Address emerging issues in the public interest
- Build collaborations and partnerships
- Mobilize research expertise to inform decision-making

Foresight on Societal Futures
- Horizon scan
- Cross-sector engagement and input
- Future challenges identified for Canada in a global context

Futures in Research and Training
- Monitor trends, innovations, challenges
- Foster national and international collaboration
- Assess opportunities to support new and innovative models

SSHRC CRSH
Foresight on Societal Futures
Global challenges horizon scan: 16 emerging challenges
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