

# Research for Real Life

## Persons With Disabilities

SSHRC-funded research is helping build an open, inclusive, barrier-free Canada—at home, in schools and in the workplace. From developing better ways to prepare youth with disabilities for the transition from classroom to boardroom, to improving the participation of persons with disabilities in an increasingly technology-driven labour market, SSHRC fosters access to knowledge that directly benefits persons with disabilities, as well as government, industry and the community at large. By funding excellence in research, training and connecting with Canadians, SSHRC is cultivating a more inclusive future for Canada and the world.

# \$17.1M

invested into research related to persons with disabilities and the Canadian labour market, education, training and/or skills development

# 163

SSHRC-funded research projects

# 199

researchers\*

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 84,834 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.

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For more information  
[www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca](http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca)

*The above numbers represent multiyear awards across all SSHRC funding programs from 2006 to 2012.*

*\* Leading research projects in collaboration with other scholars, students and partners.*



# Persons With Disabilities

## Digital inclusion in the workforce

More and more jobs in Canada require the use of information and communications technology, from Internet research in offices to touch-screen point-of-sale systems in retail stores. Technology that people with disabilities can use on the job, however, isn't as available. Jutta Treviranus, director of OCAD University's Inclusive Design Research Centre, studied how inclusive design—where developers design technology with the needs of the full diversity of human ability in mind—can lead to increased participation in the labour force by people with disabilities. Findings from Treviranus's research are being implemented by the Ontario Public Service Diversity Office, and have been cited by the United Nations in its development of a disability policy framework.

## Improving employment opportunities for youth with disabilities

Many youth with disabilities find the transition into the labour market challenging because they often experience barriers such as discrimination, lack of accommodation and lack of training opportunities. Very little is known, however, about employment skills and experience among these youth. At the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, researcher Sally Lindsay and her team study employment readiness and skills gaps among adolescents with disabilities. She aims to identify what skills employers are looking for, and then to provide training to ensure disabled youth are ready for entry-level positions.

## Creating prosperity for persons with disabilities

A SSHRC-funded Community-University Research Alliance team is finding that an increase in the rate of employment for persons with disabilities is related to completion of high school, participation in high-school co-op programs, access to public transportation, and employers' investments, such as ramps or larger washrooms, to make their workplaces accessible. The team—led by Yvonne Peters, of the Council of Canadians with Disabilities, and Michael J. Prince, from the University of Victoria—is using success stories across Canada to influence government, education and business policies by emphasizing the economic benefits of accommodating persons with disabilities in their efforts to participate in the labour market.

## SSHRC at a Glance

**\$339.1M**

in funding

**8,472**

projects

**5,053**

experts involved in merit review

*(2012-13 figures)*