

SSHRC  CRSH

Implementation of Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*

Status Report 2007-08

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

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Canada

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1 General Information

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)	
Address	350 Albert Street P.O. Box 1610 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G4
Website	http://www.sshrc.ca
Minister Responsible	Minister of Industry
Senior Official Responsible for Implementation of Section 41 of the <i>Official Languages Act</i> (OLA)	Dr. Chad Gaffield, SSHRC President
Mandate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and assist research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities. • Advise the Minister on related matters
National Co-ordinator Responsible for the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA	Erin Skrapek
Title	Coordinator, Corporate Operations Corporate Secretariat Directorate of the Executive Vice-President
Address	350 Albert Street P.O. Box 1610 Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6G4
Email	erin.skrapek@sshrc.ca
Regional Co-ordinators	n/a

2 Summary of Main Results Achieved

2.1 Awareness

In 2007-08, SSHRC's national co-ordinator responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* (OLA) continued to collaborate with staff in programs divisions to promote SSHRC programs that either specifically target, or are open to, research on bilingualism and official language minority questions, and those that can support the development of the research capacities of small universities in minority language contexts. As required, and as appropriate within SSHRC's mandate, staff continued to brief and advise SSHRC's management and Board on research issues related to bilingualism and official language minority questions. Finally, the national co-ordinator continued to act as a liaison between SSHRC and the interdepartmental network of national co-ordinators.

2.2 Consultation

SSHRC regularly consults with its stakeholders, both on an ad hoc basis and formally. These consultations help ensure that SSHRC's programs and processes best serve the needs of its client communities—including researchers who work on official language minority issues. The consultations also help SSHRC determine its strategic priorities, both at the corporate level and in terms of program offerings.

2.3 Communications

Continuing its standard practice, during 2007-08 SSHRC informed its community about its programs and related topics, both through the corporate website and e-mail, and through regular mail-outs. Specifically in the field of bilingualism and official language minority research, SSHRC distributed program and other information to individual researchers, to universities in official language minority regions, and to associations such as the Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne (AUFC).

SSHRC also reaches its primary client communities (researchers) through periodic university visits. SSHRC representatives visit each university in Canada at least once every three years. In 2007-08, SSHRC conducted visits to over 40 universities, including Université Laurentienne, Université de Sudbury, and McGill University.

In March 2008, SSHRC's President, Dr. Chad Gaffield, was awarded the prestigious Prix de la francophonie de l'Ontario 2008. The award recognizes individual citizens, Francophones and Francophiles, who have made valuable contributions to the social, economic, political and cultural vitality and well-being of Ontario's Francophone community.

2.4 Co-ordination and Liaison

In 2007-08, SSHRC continued to work with several governmental bodies on initiatives concerned with research on bilingualism and official language minority communities. These included:

- the interdepartmental Co-ordinating Committee on Official Languages Research;
- the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Consultative Committee on Official Languages Research;
- the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages, in its initiative aimed at identifying best practices of federal granting agencies that effectively promote linguistic duality and the vitality of official language minority communities;
- the national network of co-ordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the OLA;
- the partnership with the Department of Canadian Heritage that developed the strategic joint initiative program Official Languages Research and Dissemination.

2.5 Funding and Program Delivery

In 2007-08, SSHRC awarded approximately \$3.4 million for research and related activities in the areas of bilingualism and official language minority issues. This funding was awarded across the spectrum of SSHRC's programs:

- \$806,000 Research training programs (at the master's, doctoral and postdoctoral levels);
- \$1,261,037 Standard Research Grants Program;
- \$223,000 Aboriginal Research Program
- \$39,046 Research Development Initiatives Program
- \$1,000,000 Community-University Research Alliances Program
- \$49,050 Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences in Canada Program

In addition, there were several Canada Research Chairs that focused on (or examined among other topics) questions related to bilingualism and official language minority issues. SSHRC administers the Canada Research Chairs program on behalf of Canada's three research funding agencies.¹

2.6 Accountability

In 2007-08, SSHRC's national co-ordinator responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the OLA continued to:

- monitor and co-ordinate the implementation of section 41 of the OLA at the SSHRC, and brief and advise management and program officers on related issues;
- draft the annual *Status Report on the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA* in line with the *Multi-Year Action Plan on the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA*;
- liaise with the interdepartmental network of national co-ordinators.

¹ SSHRC, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

3 Background

3.1 About Section 41 of the *Official Languages Act*

The *Official Languages Act* (OLA) was first passed in 1969 and revised in 1988 in the context of the new constitutional order resulting from the *Constitution Act, 1982*. Since 1988, federal institutions have been subject to responsibilities contained in Part VII of the OLA, which states the federal government's commitment to enhance the vitality of the English and French language minority communities in Canada, support and assist their development, and foster the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

On November 24, 2005, Part VII of the OLA was amended to enhance the accountability of federal institutions with respect to promoting the vitality of English and French language minority communities. Section 41 (and 77) of the OLA now read:

41. (1) The Government of Canada is committed to

(a) enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada and supporting and assisting their development; and

(b) fostering the full recognition and use of both English and French in Canadian society.

(2) Every federal institution has the duty to ensure that positive measures are taken for the implementation for the commitments under subsection (1). For greater certainty, this implementation shall be carried out while respecting the jurisdiction and powers of the provinces.

(3) The Governor in Council may make regulations in respect of federal institutions, other than the Senate, House of Commons, Library of Parliament, office of the Senate Ethics officer or office of the Ethics Commissioner, prescribing the manner in which any duties of those institutions under this Part are to be carried out.

77. (1) Any person who has made a complaint to the Commissioner in respect of a right or duty under sections 4 to 7, sections 10 to 13, or Part IV, V or VII, or in respect of section 91, may apply to the Court for a remedy under this Part.

In 1994, the government designated 27 federal institutions that are required to develop an annual action plan and report on the actions taken to implement section 41 of the OLA. SSHRC was one of the original 27 designated federal institutions, a group that has now grown to 31.

3.2 About SSHRC

3.2.1 Mandate and Governance

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) is one of three federal granting agencies in Canada that support academic research. SSHRC's mandate is to promote and assist research and scholarship in the social sciences and humanities, and to advise the Minister in respect of such matters relating to such research as the Minister may refer to SSHRC for its consideration.² SSHRC reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry, who has certain statutory responsibilities regarding, and general oversight of, the Agency. SSHRC is governed by an independent 22-member Council, which the Governor-in-Council appoints to represent the interests of the academic, public and private sectors in all regions of Canada and its two official languages.

² See the *SSHRC Act* (1977) at <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/S-12/index.html>.

3.2.2 Funding Research Excellence Through National, Peer-Reviewed Competitions

SSHRC fulfills its mandate by providing research funds through open, transparent, national competitions, involving a rigorous peer-review process—internationally recognized as the fairest and most-effective method to assess the scientific merit of research proposals. Peer-review committee members are selected to ensure a balanced representation of expertise, official languages, gender, regions and institution sizes. In accordance with its mandate and its strict peer-review selection criteria (the track record and competence of the applicant; the quality of the research proposal; etc.), SSHRC programs are accessible to all humanities and social sciences researchers affiliated with eligible institutions.

3.2.3 How SSHRC Can Support Implementation of OLA Section 41

SSHRC's *raison d'être* is to support excellence in Canadian research. SSHRC programs therefore can neither have quotas based on language (or gender) nor can they privilege researchers from particular groups such as official language minority communities. Furthermore, SSHRC programs must be national in scope and cannot be restricted to certain geographic regions. Given the nature of its programs, SSHRC can implement OLA section 41 by (a) ensuring that researchers who are members of official language minority communities are aware of SSHRC funding opportunities; (b) ensuring that SSHRC's peer review and adjudication processes offer equal opportunity to official language minority applicants; and, importantly, (c) supporting, through its programs, research and research-related activities that address the objectives of the *Act*.

3.2.4 SSHRC and Research on Bilingualism and Official Language Minority Questions

With respect to this last area, SSHRC is unique among designated federal institutions in its ability to support research and research training that contribute to a better understanding of bilingualism and official language minority issues and to innovation in approaches to address these.

SSHRC has two types of programs to support research:

- “investigator-framed” programs, for which the researcher defines the thematic area and the subject of the proposed research;
- targeted or strategic programs, for which SSHRC (and funding partners) define the thematic area of research, while the researcher proposes the subject.

With investigator-framed programs such as Standard Research Grants (SRG), Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI) and research training programs, SSHRC does not play a role in identifying particular research areas of interest that it wants to fund. However, through its strategic programs, SSHRC can target research on social, economic and cultural issues of key importance to Canadians. SSHRC targets specific thematic areas through:

- strategic programs, designed in accordance with SSHRC's strategic priorities;
- joint initiative programs designed with partners from the government, not-for-profit, and private sectors.

This year, SSHRC updated and published its strategic plan in *Framing Our Direction*³, which is set in the framework established by the Government of Canada's new science and technology strategy: *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage* (published May 2007)⁴

SSHRC's strategic priority areas are usually set for a period of three to five years, and currently do not include “official languages research.” SSHRC recently completed a joint SSHRC-Canadian Heritage program: Official Languages Research and Dissemination.

Section 4.5 of this report, “Funding and Program Delivery,” provides more detail on the programs—both

³ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/framing_our_direction_e.pdf .

⁴ See [http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/vwapj/S&Tstrategy.pdf/\\$file/S&Tstrategy.pdf](http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/vwapj/S&Tstrategy.pdf/$file/S&Tstrategy.pdf)

investigator-framed and strategic—through which SSHRC has funded research on bilingualism and official language minorities. A compendium listing the research projects funded in 2007-08 is provided in section 7.

4 Detailed Status Report

4.1 Awareness

4.1.1 Main Expected Results

SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan*⁵ lists its main expected results from promoting awareness of its responsibilities regarding section 41 of the *Official Languages Act* as:

- awareness among SSHRC staff of bilingualism and official language minority questions as well as of related policy and program issues;
- awareness among SSHRC management and governing Board of bilingualism and official language minority questions as well as of related policy and program issues;
- awareness at SSHRC of interdepartmental discussions and initiatives with a potential impact on research on bilingualism and official languages minority questions as well as on related policies and programs.

4.1.2 Main Activities Carried Out in 2007-08

SSHRC's national co-ordinator responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the OLA continued to collaborate with staff in programs divisions to promote SSHRC programs that either specifically target or are open to research on bilingualism and official language minority questions, and those that can support the development of the research capacities of small universities. As required, and as appropriate with regard to SSHRC's mandate, staff continued to brief and advise SSHRC's management on research issues related to bilingualism and official language minority questions. Finally, the national co-ordinator continued to act as a liaison between SSHRC and the interdepartmental network of national co-ordinators, and participated in related discussions.

4.2 Consultation

4.2.1 Main Expected Results

In SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan*, the main expected results for consultation with its stakeholders (including official language minority communities) are stated as:

- SSHRC programs, priorities and policies are well-attuned to, and take into account, the opportunities and challenges of research on bilingualism and official languages minority questions and related issues.

4.2.2 Main Activities Carried Out in 2007-08

SSHRC regularly consults with its many stakeholders both on an ad hoc basis and formally. These consultations help ensure that SSHRC's programs and processes are serving the needs of its client communities (including official language minority researchers), and help SSHRC determine its strategic priorities, both at the corporate level and in relation to its strategic programs.

SSHRC seeks advice and input from such stakeholders as: individual researchers, learned and professional associations, universities and research institutions, government departments and agencies at all levels, and organizations in the not-for-profit, public and private sectors. As a matter of course, these include universities that serve official language minority communities, such as Bishop's University,

⁵ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/ola_e.pdf.

Collège Universitaire de Saint-Boniface, Concordia University, McGill University, Université de Moncton, Université de Sudbury, Université Laurentienne, Université Sainte-Anne, and Université d'Ottawa. Among the associations and other organizations that SSHRC regularly consults are those serving official language minority communities, such as the Association des universités de la francophonie canadienne (AUFC),⁶ the Association francophone pour le savoir (ACFAS),⁷ and the Institut canadien de recherche sur les minorités linguistiques at Université de Moncton.⁸

4.3 Communications

4.3.1 Main Expected Results

SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan* lists the main expected results for communicating with client communities on issues of research on bilingualism and official language minorities, and for communicating with official language minority communities on SSHRC activities and programs that could be of interest to them, as:

- stakeholder and research communities are well-informed and aware of SSHRC programs and other initiatives related to research on bilingualism and official language minority issues and related questions;
- stakeholder and research communities and the general public are well-informed and aware of SSHRC-funded research on bilingualism and official language minority issues.

4.3.2 Main Activities Carried Out in 2007-08

During 2007-08, SSHRC continued to inform its client communities about its programs and related topics, both electronically and through regular mail-outs. SSHRC communicated with its clients through postsecondary institutions (universities, colleges, research institutes, and other organizations with a research mandate) and associations. Among SSHRC's key contacts were individual researchers, leading representatives of associations and learned societies, presidents, vice-presidents, research administrators, associate and vice-deans, department heads, directors of centres, schools and institutes, financial officers, etc. Specifically in the field of bilingualism and official language minority research, SSHRC distributed program and other information to individual researchers, to universities in official language minority regions, and to associations such as the AUFC.

In August 2007, a SSHRC representative met with the AUFC regarding their research strategy, which focuses on developing research capacity among the AUFC's member universities.⁹

SSHRC also reaches its primary client communities (researchers) via periodic university visits. SSHRC has a three-year plan for these visits, which ensures that every university in Canada is visited within a three-year period. These visits provide information about SSHRC's programs and policies, and on the application and adjudication processes. Researchers are able to meet a SSHRC representative and obtain immediate answers to questions they may have. The presentations are conducted in the language of the university (or bilingually, in the case of bilingual universities), and all take-away materials are provided in both official languages. Questions may be asked in either official language, and the SSHRC representative is able to answer the question in the language in which it was asked. In 2007-08, SSHRC conducted visits to over 40 universities, including Université Laurentienne, McGill University, Université de Sudbury, Université d'Ottawa, Université Saint-Paul, and Concordia University.

⁶ See <http://www.aufc.ca>

⁷ See <http://www.acfas.ca/>

⁸ See <http://www.umoncton.ca/icrml>

⁹ See http://www.aufc.ca/enjeux_interventions/AUFC-Plan_soutien_recherche.pdf

In terms of communicating information about SSHRC-funded research on bilingualism and official language minority questions, this information is available to any interested person via SSHRC's online Awards Search Engine,¹⁰ which in 2007-08 continued to offer searches by project title, project keyword, area of research, discipline, researcher, year, program, affiliated institution, province, etc. In addition, SSHRC maintained its compendium of funded research on issues related to bilingualism and official language minority communities, which is attached as an annex to the present report (see section 7).

In March 2008, SSHRC's President, Dr. Chad Gaffield, was awarded the prestigious Prix de la francophonie de l'Ontario 2008. The award recognizes individual citizens, Francophones and Francophiles, who have made valuable contributions to the social, economic, political and cultural vitality and well-being of Ontario's Francophone community. Dr. Gaffield is perfectly bilingual and has always worked in both official languages, while taking a special interest in Canada's diverse Francophone communities. He has devoted a considerable portion of his academic career to studying the French presence in Ontario, in particular conflicts regarding the use of French in schools. In so doing, he has helped the Franco-Ontarian community to gain a greater understanding of the different aspects of its history, while making Anglophones aware of the realities of Francophone communities in Ontario and throughout Canada. Of the prize's two awardees, Premier Dalton McGuinty said, "The contributions of these outstanding people have made our Francophone community stronger — and that enriches our entire province".

4.4 Co-ordination and Liaison

4.4.1 Main Expected Results

In SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan*, the main expected results for co-ordinating and liaising within SSHRC and between SSHRC and other government institutions are stated as:

- awareness at SSHRC and at interested government departments and agencies of research-related federal programs and initiatives dealing with bilingualism and official language minority issues.

4.4.2 Main Activities Carried Out in 2007-08

SSHRC continued to participate in the work of the interdepartmental Co-ordinating Committee on Official Languages Research, chaired by the Official Languages Directorate, Privy Council Office (PCO). At the meetings of this committee, SSHRC shared information about its recently completed funding program, Official Languages Research and Dissemination, and in turn was made aware of other federally funded research in this area.

During 2007-08, a SSHRC representative served on the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Consultative Committee on Official Languages, offering advice on the implementation of CIHR's Research Initiative on Official Language Minority Communities. The SSHRC representative also served on a review panel for this research initiative.

SSHRC was also engaged in an initiative of the Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages aimed at identifying best practices of federal granting agencies to effectively promote linguistic duality and the vitality of official language minority communities. The Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages released a report on this initiative in January 2008 and SSHRC – jointly with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) – briefed the Minister of Industry on the report's findings and agreed to take the report's recommendations into consideration.

Following the release of this report, SSHRC representatives attended the Canadian Heritage Symposium on Official Languages Research in January 2008, at which the report was presented, along with

¹⁰ See <http://www.ost.ugam.ca/CRSH/RechProj.aspx?vLangue=Anglais>.

presentations by various experts on the state of official languages research.

SSHRC continued to participate in meetings of the national network of co-ordinators responsible for implementing section 41 of the OLA, which is facilitated by Canadian Heritage.

SSHRC also continued its partnership with Canadian Heritage in the delivery of the targeted research program, Official Languages Research and Dissemination (which was completed in 2006-07) and began discussions on possible follow-up activities to this three-year program. SSHRC representatives met twice with Canadian Heritage in 2007-08 to explore future possibilities for programming in this area, and options remain under discussion.

4.5 Funding and Program Delivery

SSHRC's main activity—funding peer-reviewed scholarly research—can contribute to enhancing the vitality of the English and French linguistic minority communities in Canada primarily by supporting research that addresses questions of bilingualism and linguistic minorities. SSHRC's activities also contribute to the vitality of official language minority communities by ensuring that researchers who belong to such communities, and the universities that serve such communities, are fully aware of SSHRC's programs and have full opportunity to access them.

4.5.1 Main Expected Results

SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan* lists the main expected results for funding and program delivery as:

- SSHRC's support for research on bilingualism and official language minority questions;
- SSHRC's client community is served in the language of its choice, English or French.

4.5.2 Main Activities Carried Out in 2007-08

Following well-established practice, SSHRC continued to offer all its services in both official languages to ensure fair and equitable linguistic treatment. This included:

- ensuring bilingualism of SSHRC staff and materials at university visits;
- providing and promoting the option of submitting proposals in either official language;
- providing and promoting the additional choice of either official language for correspondence; with SSHRC (i.e., the language of proposal and language of correspondence need not be the same);
- ensuring the bilingualism of the peer-review process (ensuring that adjudication committees have competence in both official languages);
- ensuring that the composition of SSHRC's governing Board achieves geographic and linguistic balance.

In 2007-08, SSHRC awarded funding for research and research-related activities addressing questions of bilingualism and official language minorities amounting to approximately \$3.4 million. The funding was disbursed through the range of SSHRC's programs, a number of which are described below. Note, however, that while the programs described below represent some of the key programs through which research on bilingualism and official language minorities can be funded, not all of these programs necessarily funded such research in 2007-08. For a sample of funded research for research grants awarded in 2007-08, please see section 7.

4.5.3 CGS Master's and Doctoral Scholarships, Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

SSHRC's research training awards (Canada Graduate Scholarship (CGS) Master's Scholarships¹¹, CGS

¹¹ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/fellowships/cgs_masters_e.asp.

Doctoral Scholarships¹², Doctoral Fellowships¹³, and Postdoctoral Fellowships¹⁴) aim to develop key research skills, and assist in the training of highly qualified academic personnel. These objectives are achieved by supporting students who demonstrate a high standard of scholarly achievement in undergraduate and graduate studies in the social sciences and humanities. At the postdoctoral level, SSHRC supports the most promising new scholars in the social sciences and humanities, and assists them in establishing a research base at an important time in their careers.

In 2007-08 SSHRC awarded research training grants for projects related to bilingualism and official language minorities totalling \$806,000 (see sections 7.1, 7.2, and 7.3).

4.5.4 Standard Research Grants (SRG)

SSHRC's Standard Research Grants (SRG) program¹⁵ supports independent, high-quality research projects by one or more researchers for a period of up to three years. A number of projects successful in the 2007-08 SRG competition are investigating the vitality and development of official language minority communities and examining important facets of Canada's linguistic duality (see section 7.4). The value of these grants totals \$1,261,037.

4.5.5 Strategic and Joint Initiatives Programs

SSHRC develops and funds programs to support strategic research programs, both on its own and in partnership with other funding bodies, including government, private and community organizations. These programs generate new knowledge on pressing social, economic and cultural issues of particular importance to Canadians.¹⁶

In 2002-03, SSHRC selected priority areas to guide the direction and development of its strategic programs and joint initiatives over the medium-term. These were established after consultations with SSHRC's client communities and stakeholders in the public, private, and non-profit sectors.:

- Aboriginal research;
- environment and sustainability;
- culture, citizenship and identities (including official languages);
- image, text, sound and technology;
- Northern research.

In 2007-08, SSHRC developed a new strategic plan, *Framing Our Direction*¹⁷, which is set in the framework established by the Government of Canada's new science and technology strategy: *Mobilizing Science and Technology to Canada's Advantage* (published May 2007)¹⁸. Taking the principles of the S&T Strategy into consideration, SSHRC added the strategic priority area of Management, Business and Finance in 2007-08. Further review and refinement of SSHRC's thematic priorities are underway.

In 2007-08, SSHRC awarded research training grants for projects related to bilingualism and official language minorities in the following Strategic and Joint Initiatives Programs:

¹² See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/fellowships/doctoral_e.asp.

¹³ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/fellowships/doctoral_e.asp.

¹⁴ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/fellowships/postdoctoral_e.asp

¹⁵ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/standard_e.asp.

¹⁶ SSHRC's current strategic programs are posted at http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_index_e.asp#2.

¹⁷ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/framing_our_direction_e.pdf .

¹⁸ See [http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/vwapi/S&Tstrategy.pdf/\\$file/S&Tstrategy.pdf](http://www.ic.gc.ca/epic/site/ic1.nsf/vwapi/S&Tstrategy.pdf/$file/S&Tstrategy.pdf)

- \$223,000 Aboriginal Research Program (see section 7.5)
- \$39,046 Research Development Initiatives Program (see section 7.6)

4.5.6 Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences in Canada

SSHRC supports workshops and conferences held in Canada that will facilitate the transfer of research results within and between disciplines and among Canadian and international researchers, including those researchers in official language minority environments. In 2007-08, SSHRC awarded grants totalling \$49,050 for aid to research workshops and conferences related to bilingualism and official language minorities (see section 7.8).

4.5.7 Community-University Research Alliances (CURA)

SSHRC encourages researchers in an official language minority environment to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by its programs, among them the Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) program.¹⁹ SSHRC established the CURA program to encourage community organizations and universities to combine their forces to tackle issues of common concern. The program fosters the creation of dynamic, on-going partnerships between university and community groups and provides community groups with research results and knowledge. More specifically, the program creates student-faculty teams to address community research needs and provide training and employment opportunities for youth. SSHRC is convinced that establishing partnerships between community organizations and Canadian universities contributes to the social, cultural and economic development of those communities through a variety of innovative joint training and communications activities. In 2007-08, SSHRC awarded one grant totalling \$1,000,000 to a CURA project related to bilingualism and official language minorities (see section 7.7).

4.5.8 Aid to Small Universities

This program helps small Canadian universities to develop and strengthen focused research capacity in the social sciences and humanities. It is open to postsecondary institutions that, among other criteria, have fewer than 250 full-time faculty in SSHRC fields. Many of the postsecondary institutions that serve official language minority communities meet this criterion, and so this program may be seen as having potential to enhance the vitality of official language minority communities: that is, by developing the social institutions that can nurture and reinforce the social, cultural and economic life of such communities. This program awards grants on a three year cycle. There was no competition in 2007-08, but in 2005-06, SSHRC awarded two three-year grants under this program to institutions serving official language minority communities: one to Université de Moncton (for Recherche en sciences humaines et sociales dans un milieu minoritaire) and one to Bishop's University (for an Eastern Townships Research Centre / Centre de recherche des Cantons de l'Est).

4.5.9 Canada Research Chairs Related to Bilingualism and Official Language Minority Questions

In 2000, the Government of Canada allocated \$900 million to establish 2,000 research professorships—Canada Research Chairs—in universities across the country. In the natural sciences and engineering, in the social sciences and humanities, and in health sciences, Canada Research Chairs advance the frontiers of knowledge in their fields, not only through their own work, but also by teaching and supervising students and by co-ordinating the work of other researchers.

On behalf of Canada's three research granting agencies, SSHRC hosts the Canada Research Chairs secretariat, which administers the Canada Research Chairs program and the Indirect Costs of Research

¹⁹ See http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/program_descriptions/cura_e.asp.

program. The following gives a sample of current chairholders²⁰ in the social sciences and humanities who focus on, or examine among other topics, questions related to bilingualism and official language minorities:

- **Prof. René Audet** (Canada Research Chair in Contemporary Literature, Université Laval) conducts research aimed at determining current usage and functions of narrative speech and fictional characters contained in Quebec and French works, highlighting the uniqueness of these texts and identifying the workings using common language categories, as well as furthering our understanding of the fundamentals of literary speech.
- **Prof. Ann Beaton** (Canada Research Chair in Intergroup Relations, Université de Moncton) studies intergroup dynamics to determine the factors that hinder and foster social inclusion of minority groups.
- **Prof. Jennifer Brown** (Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Peoples in an Urban and Regional Context, University of Winnipeg) carries out collaborative research centred on language and oral literature, on archival and documentary resources, and on the study of material culture and constructed environments, old and new.
- **Prof. Susanne E. Carroll** (Canada Research Chair in Second Language Studies, University of Calgary) researches questions of second language input (i.e., what learners see and hear in the process of learning a second language) and how different types of input affect the learning process.
- **Prof. James P. Cummins** (Canada Research Chair in Language Learning and Literacy Development in Multilingual Contexts, University of Toronto) identifies factors that inhibit literacy among four groups: ESL learners, students with hearing impairments, First Nations students and French immersion students.
- **Prof. Denis Gagnon** (Canada Research Chair in Métis Identity, Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface) is conducting an ethnohistorical study of the culture of Manitoba's Métis, with a focus on the issue of identity.
- **Prof. Will Kymlicka** (Canada Research Chair in Political Philosophy, Queen's University), investigates the prospects for an international consensus on the protection of ethno-cultural minorities.
- **Prof. Karim Larose** (Canada Research Chair on Quebec Literature and Cultural Discourse, Université de Montréal) studies the relationship between language, speech and cultural discourse in French-language poetry and essays in Québec.
- **Prof. Richard MacKinnon** (Canada Research Chair in Intangible Cultural Heritage, Cape Breton University) studies, records and interprets the globally significant, endangered, traditional cultural expressions of Cape Breton Island.
- **Prof. John F. McGarry** (Canada Research Chair in Nationalism and Democracy, Queen's University) studies the relationship between globalization and minority nationalism, and the democratic management of minority nationalism in an era of globalization.
- **Prof. Jean Morency** (Canada Research Chair in Intercultural Literary Analysis, Université de Moncton) studies Acadian and Quebecois literature and selected texts from Ontario and the West to gain a better understanding of the multicultural bases of French-language literature in Canada.
- **Prof. Jean-Pierre Pichette** (Canada Research Chair on Orality and Popular Traditions of French Minority Communities, Université Sainte-Anne – Collège de l'Acadie) is establishing an oral literature laboratory for conserving and analyzing the oral heritage of Francophone and Acadian minority communities in Canada (and North America).
- **Prof. Shana Poplack** (Canada Research Chair in Linguistics, University of Ottawa) studies bilingual speech in immigrant communities, African-American English in Nova Scotia and how spoken French has evolved over the centuries.
- **Prof. Victoria Purcell-Gates** (Canada Research Chair in Early Childhood Literacy, University of British Columbia) examines early literacy development in both community and pre-school environments and looks for similarities and differences in socioculturally rooted

²⁰ As of June 2008, there were 1,829 Canada Research Chairs at Canadian universities. See their profiles at: <http://www.chairs.gc.ca/web/chairholders>.

literacy practices, texts, functions, and values. She looks at the literacy practices of these communities as well as at the ways that multilingualism interacts with multiliteracies. She also explores the impact of language domination on native languages and its implications for early literacy learning.

- **Prof. Laurier Turgeon** (Canada Research Chair in Heritage, Université Laval) is developing the concept of “intermingling of cultures” in order to gain a better understanding of the intermixing of the cultural heritage of Québec and the diverse cultures of French-speaking America.
- **Prof. Gerard Van Herk** (Canada Research Chair in Regional Language and Oral Text, Memorial University of Newfoundland) studies the processes of language retention and change, enriching dialect- and language-change research worldwide.
- **Prof. Eric Vatikiotis-Bateson** (Canada Research Chair in Speech and Cognitive Science, University of British Columbia) develops new approaches to the study of communication, and applying these and established techniques to child language development, the conservation of endangered languages and human-machine communication.
- **Prof. Janet F. Werker** (Canada Research Chair in Psychology, University of British Columbia) is working on identifying the steps in normal language learning by infants, including bi- and multilingual children.
- **Prof. Stephen C. Wright** (Canada Research Chair in Social Psychology, Simon Fraser University) examines the psychological mechanisms that underpin prejudice and inter-group discrimination and that guide the responses of people in societally disadvantaged groups, affecting, for example, the lives of minority-language children.

4.6 Accountability

In SSHRC's 2005-2008 *Multi-Year Action Plan*, the main expected results for accountability are stated as:

- distribution and yearly updates of SSHRC's *Annual Status Report* and its *Multi-Year Action Plan* on the implementation of section 41 of the OLA.²¹

In 2007-08, SSHRC's national co-ordinator responsible for the implementation of section 41 of the OLA continued to:

- monitor and co-ordinate implementation at SSHRC, and brief and advise management on related issues;
- draft the annual *Status Report on the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA* in line with the *Multi-Year Action Plan on the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA*;
- liaise and interact with the interdepartmental network of national co-ordinators.

²¹ See the SSHRC publications web page: http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/publications_e.asp .

5 Communication Plan

5.1 Distribution List

In addition to being posted on the SSHRC website (see below), this report is distributed to the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Official Languages, and the Senate Standing Committee on Official Languages.

5.2 Web Address of Federal Institution's Status Report

SSHRC's 2005-08 *Multi-Year Action Plan for the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA* and the *Status Report on the Implementation of Section 41 of the OLA, 2007-08* are posted on SSHRC's website at: http://www.sshrc.ca/web/about/publications/publications_e.asp .

6 Signature of National Co-ordinator

Erin Skrapek, National Co-ordinator

Date

7 Annex: SSHRC Programs Supporting Research on Official Language Minority Questions, 2007-08²²

7.1 Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) – Master’s Scholarships

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Mireille Godin, University of British Columbia	University of British Columbia	La création de l'identité Acadienne à travers la littérature	17,500	1
Annaïch Le Serrec, Université de Montréal	Université de Montréal	Contribution de l'extraction automatique de termes à l'établissement d'une nomenclature bilingue anglais/français du domaine du changement climatique	17,500	1
Alexandra Nadon, Université d'Ottawa	Université Laval	La langue et l'éducation : étude des effets du matériel scolaire traduit dans les salles de classe de minorités linguistiques	17,500	1
Julie Noël, Université de Moncton	Université de Moncton	L'identité culturelle chez les adolescents issus d'un groupe minoritaire francophone : son profil et ses conséquences sur le bien-être psychologique	17,500	1
Vicki Plourde, Université Laval	Université Laval	L'argument de la fausse conscience à l'égard des minorités vulnérables au sein de minorités culturelles et religieuses	17,500	1
Jenna Thompson, University of Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Translation and language barriers: the presentation of translated texts in Canada	17,500	1
		Total	105,000	

²² Please note that this compendium represents a sample of research projects awarded funding in 2007-08. The limitations of searching by keyword make compiling an exhaustive list of projects related to bilingualism and official language minority communities impossible. Note also that these are projects that were awarded grants in 2007-08: multi-year grants awarded in previous years are not included here.

7.2 Canada Graduate Scholarships (CGS) – Doctoral Scholarships

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Nathalie Dion, University of Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Language contact and language change: intergenerational comparisons in a bilingual setting	105,000	3
Marie-Eve Harton, Université Laval	Université Laval	Régimes démographiques des canadiens français en Amérique du Nord à la fin du XIXe siècle	105,000	3
Vincent Roy, University of Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Le rôle géographique des institutions dans la vitalité démographique communautaire francophone du Nouveau-Brunswick depuis les années soixante	105,000	3
Sandrine Tailleux, University of Ottawa	University of Toronto	Variation syntaxique en milieu minoritaire : étude de la valence verbale dans les français de l'ouest canadien	105,000	3

Total 420,000

7.3 Doctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowships

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Mireille McLaughlin, University of Toronto	University of Toronto	L'acadie post-nationale : une approche sociolinguistique critique aux liens entre langue(s) et identité(s)	40,000	2
Mark Power, University of Cambridge	University of Cambridge	The constitutional accommodation of national minorities	40,000	2
Mélanie Samson, Université Laval	Université Laval	Les interactions de la Charte des droits et libertés de la personne avec le Code civil du Québec : complémentarité ou subordination	80,000	4
Isabelle Violette, Université de Moncton	Université de Moncton	Pour une redéfinition de la francophonie : transformations sociolinguistiques du milieu minoritaire à partir de l'immigration francophone en acadie	40,000	2
Sylvie Lamoureux, University of Toronto	University of Toronto	Études postsecondaires et étudiant(e)s francophones en milieu minoritaires	81,000	2

Total 281,000

7.4 Standard Research Grants (SRG)

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Louise Beaulieu, Université de Moncton; Wladyslaw Cichocki, University of New Brunswick	Université de Moncton	Changement et continuité en français acadien : 1871-1968	26,915	3
Nathalie Bélanger, Université d'Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Représentations des élèves et inclusion à l'école de langue française en Ontario	84,142	3
Annette Boudreau, Université de Moncton; Marie-Eve Perrot, Université d'Orléans	Université de Moncton	Idéologies et représentations linguistiques dans les textes écrits sur l'Acadie de la fin du 19e siècle à la période contemporaine	60,585	3
Denis Joseph Bourque, Université de Moncton; Bernard Emont, Autre/Inconnu; Monika Boehringer, Mount Allison University; Raoul Boudreau, David Décarie, Pierre Gérin, Ronald Labelle, Université de Moncton; Chantal Richard, University of New Brunswick	Université de Moncton	Édition critique des oeuvres fondamentales de la littérature acadienne	133,369	3
Richard Clément, Université d'Ottawa; Peter MacIntyre, Cape Breton University	University of Ottawa	Bilinguisme et identité: dynamique et aboutissants	90,295	3
Christine Dallaire, Université d'Ottawa; Jean Harvey, Université d'Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Les jeux et la reproduction des identités des jeunes dans la francophonie canadienne	107,000	3
Louis-Georges Harvey, Bishop's University	Bishop's University	Tories, whigs and patriots: anglophone political discourse in lower Canada 1805-1837	44,000	3

Standard Research Grants (SRG) (continued)

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Elizabeth Kay-Raining Bird, Dalhousie University; Patricia Cleave, Dalhousie University; Ann Sutton, Natacha Trudeau, Université de Montréal	Dalhousie University	Bilingualism in children with Down syndrome	101,002	3
François Larose, Université de Sherbrooke; Jimmy Bourque, Viktor Freiman, Université de Moncton; Thierry Karsenti, Université de Montréal; Johanne Bédard, Marie-Pier Morin, Laurent Theis, Université de Sherbrooke; Annie Savard, Université McGill	Université de Sherbrooke	Impact du recours à un contexte virtuel à caractère ludique sur l'enseignement et l'apprentissage des probabilités dans deux provinces francophones	111,700	3
François Paré, University of Waterloo	University of Waterloo	L'Amérique française diasporale et les figures de l'oubli	69,822	3
Annie Pilote, Université Laval; Marc Molgat, Université d'Ottawa; Stéphanie Garneau, Université de Montréal; Yvonne Hébert, University of Calgary	Université Laval	Mobilités étudiantes et construction identitaire : études de cas dans trois universités canadiennes auprès de jeunes en provenance d'un milieu francophone minoritaire	184,296	3
Claude Poirier, Université Laval; Jean-Pierre Chambon, André Thibault, Université de Paris IV (Paris-Sorbonne)	Université Laval	Dictionnaire historique du français québécois, édition finale : recherche et rédaction	93,151	3

Standard Research Grants (SRG) (continued)

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Philippe Prévost, Université Laval; Joyce Bruhn de Garavito, The University of Western Ontario; Antonia Androutsopoulou, Claudia Borgonovo, Manuel Español-Echevarría, Université Laval	Université Laval	Les phénomènes d'interface et la nature de l'optionnalité en acquisition d'une langue seconde	75,337	3
Laurens Vandergrift, University of Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Explaining variance in second language listening: implications for French immersion education	79,423	3
		Total	1,261,037	

7.5 Aboriginal Research

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Nicole St-Onge, University of Ottawa; Heather Devine, University of Calgary; Brenda Macdougall, University of Saskatchewan; Carolyn Podruchny, York University	University of Ottawa	Patterns of genesis: identity, culture, communication and mobility in the emergence of Northwest Metis populations	223,000	3

Total 233,000

7.6 Research Development Initiatives (RDI)

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Jean-Pierre Pichette, Université Sainte-Anne; Ronald Labelle, Université de Moncton; Marcel Bénéteau, Université de Sudbury; Aurélien Boivin, Université Laval	Université Sainte-Anne	De l'oral à l'écrit : établissement d'un corpus de littérature orale (ÉCLORE) - proposition d'un modèle pour l'édition des narrations populaires, contées et chantées, d'Amérique française	39,046	1

Total 39,046

7.7 Community-University Research Alliances (CURA)

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, Léonard Rivard; Boniface Bahi, Luc Côté, Gestny Ewart, André Fauchon, Lise Gaboury-Diallo, Denis Gagnon, Sandrine Hallion Bres, Yves Labrèche, Moses Nyongwa, Jules Rocque, Jean Valenti, Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface; Davy Bigot, Université Concordia; France Martineau, Université d'Ottawa; Marianne Cormier, Martin Geoffroy, Université de Moncton; Anne-Sophie Marchand, Robert Papen, Université du Québec à Montréal; Martine Cavanagh, Louise Ladouceur, Carol Léonard, Lucille Mandin, University of Alberta; Douglas Walker, University of Calgary; Nathalie Piquemal, University of Manitoba; Laurie Carlson Berg, Nicole Côté, University of Regina; Marie-Diane Clarke, University of Saskatchewan; Annette Chretien, Wilfrid Laurier University	Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface	Identités francophones de l'ouest canadien : définition, valorisation et transmission	1,000,000	5

Total 1,000,000

7.8 Aid to Research Workshops and Conferences in Canada

Scholars / Chercheurs	Administering Org. / Établissement	Title of project / Titre du projet	Awarded \$ / \$ accordé	Duration / Durée (years/ années)
Linda Cardinal, Université d'Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Gouvernance et participation démocratique au sein des minorités linguistiques et nationales	9,050	1
Phyllis Dalley, Université d'Ottawa	University of Ottawa	Produire et reproduire la francophonie en la nommant	12,000	1
Johanne Melançon, Université Laurentienne	Laurentian University	L'écriture au féminin au Canada français	13,000	1
Jean-Pierre Pichette, Université Sainte-Anne	Université Sainte-Anne	La Résistance des marges : Exploration, transfert et revitalisation des traditions populaires des francophonies d'Europe et d'Amérique. Colloque international à l'Université Sainte-Anne	15,000	1
Total			49,050	