



## **Advocacy principles of the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences**

The Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences is a not-for-profit charitable organization that represents 85,000 Canadian scholars, students and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences. In advancing equity, diversity, knowledge, excellence and innovation, the Federation contributes tangibly to a free and democratic society. With a mission of promoting research, scholarship, creative activity and learning, the Federation works to foster understanding of the contributions made by the humanities and the social sciences to Canada and the world.

We believe that more than ever, the world needs agile and well-rounded thinkers who can assess and shape change by understanding the past and present in imagining a better future.

To those ends, education and research in humanities and social sciences prepares Canadians for the rapid transitions that mark the knowledge society with a deeper understanding of the complex and pressing issues of the day from humanist perspectives. There is also an educational component to our work: ensuring decision-makers and the public are more generally aware of what we do as a community. Our advocacy is evident across all the things we do: programs, partnerships, policy responses, research, publications and media relations.

Specifically, the Federation takes leadership on issues of national significance that broadly affect the membership, which comprises 80 institutions, 81 scholarly associations and six affiliate organizations. The Federation also represents the Canadian social sciences and humanities community internationally with relevant bodies to represent the interests of this community around the world.

We are committed to partnerships and to collaborating where possible to strengthen the collective voice and to ensure our members' interests are heard.

Beyond this broad support, we may initiate or contribute to discussion around specific policies, legislation or initiatives that we believe are of critical importance to our sector. We are strategic in our actions, recognizing that relationships must be nurtured in good times and bad, and that, with limited resources, we must focus on issues where we are likely to have an impact that serves our members and the public good. We will articulate positions that express the deeply held values of our community, while constantly seeking to impact the broader policy environment and engaging with society as a whole.





## ***Advocacy principles***

The following underlying principles guide the Federation in its advocacy activities:

1. Ensure activities are aligned with the Federation's vision and mission.
2. Focus on the shared interests and concerns of the collective membership (institutions, associations and affiliates).
3. Respect the diversity of organizations (institutions and associations), disciplines, regions and opinions that comprise the membership.
4. Act in a non-partisan manner.
5. Lead on national initiatives of public policy development and funding that support the social sciences and humanities community; support where/when appropriate on issues that pertain to other jurisdictions or sectors of the membership.
6. Ground advocacy by sharing empirical evidence.
7. Be a constructive resource for governments, PSE stakeholders and civil society in policy development, which involves recommending solutions where and when possible.

Given our expansive membership, the Federation's advocacy strategy deliberately concentrates on messages that capture the common interests shared across a diverse membership. Individual members remain autonomous and can make a case for their specific positions as they see fit. This also recognizes that advocacy may be needed in a variety of arenas, where different approaches may be appropriate.

