Management Response Summary
Evaluation of SSHRC's Knowledge Mobilization (KMb)

Context

Over the past decade, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has implemented a number of funding vehicles to support the development of KMb, aiming to strengthen its role and importance within the SSHRC organization and across its research community. The 2013-2016 Strategic Plan[1] and renewed Program Architecture (PA) have reaffirmed the importance of KMb to SSHRC's mission. SSHRC's targetted knowledge mobilization funding opportunities have now been gathered under the new Connection program, while new the Insight and Talent programs are moving further strengthen emphasis on the integration of KMb into research and research training.

Although the select funding opportunities under evaluation have been or are being phased out, the focus of this evaluation was to create an opportunity for organizational learning as well as to demonstrate the results and impacts of SSHRC's investments in knowledge mobilization. In a forward-looking stance, the evaluation study aimed to inform SSHRC's thinking and decisions to support further development of knowledge mobilization, to strengthen its role and importance within SSHRC and across its research community.

Conclusion

Key conclusions drawn from this evaluation have produced three recommendations, presented below, aimed at informing current and future SSHRC knowledge mobilization initiatives. These recommendations are useful and are extremely timely as SSHRC prepares to renew its KMb strategy, and for future program improvements in the context of its renewed program architecture.

Management response matrix follows.

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[1] Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Strengthening Canada's Cultures of Innovation. SSHRC's Strategic Plan, 2013-16 retrieved from: http://www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/about-au_sujet/publications/strategic_plan_2013-16-plan_strategique_2013-2016_e.pdf

Evaluation Recommendations		Program Management Response			Implementation Tracking	
Theme or category of recommendation	Recommendation	Response (Action Items)	Responsibility	Priority/ Timeline	Status	Comment
Review strategic objectives for KMb and implement a renewed KMb Strategy. **Targeted at the program, and also at the corporate level**	It is recommended that SSHRC: 1) Further integrate, penetrate and systematize KMb practice across social sciences and humanities research by reviewing its strategic objectives for KMb and developing and implementing a renewed Knowledge Mobilization Strategy.	Agree. 1a) Review the SSHRC Knowledge Mobilization Strategy to determine to what extent revisions may be required to ensure alignment with: • SSHRC strategic objectives and corporate priorities • Current thinking and developments in the field of knowledge mobilization. Request formal endorsement from SSHRC Council for the strategy. 1b) Develop and put into place an implementation action plan to support the revised strategy that addresses both program delivery and corporate issues: • Review all documentation related to the design and	VP Research. Lead with support from: Director of Knowledge Integration. In consultation with: Director of Partnerships Portfolio; Director of Research Portfolio; Director of Research Training Portfolio Director of Communications.	1a) Beginning in 2013-14 and leading up to SSHRC Council endorsement by fall 2014. 1b) Beginning early in 2014 and completed by December 2014		

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		delivery of Talent, Insight and Connection programs and funding opportunities to determine whether there is a need to adjust in order to ensure consistent language and messaging about knowledge mobilization supports the objectives of the renewed strategy. • Explore options for communication and engagement on SSHRC's strategy and support for knowledge mobilization. • Explore options for promoting and providing resources for knowledge mobilization to researchers, committee members.				
Further integrate knowledge mobilization within indirect and direct	2) As a specific, high priority component of the renewed Knowledge Mobilization	Agree. 2a) Include any agreed to KMb objectives within the Guidelines for Effective Research Training	VP Research Capacity. Lead with support from: Director of	2a) March 2014		

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research training support. Targeted at the program level	Strategy, optimize knowledge mobilization within indirect and direct research training support that contributes to the development of HQP.	currently under development: • Discuss specific requirements for students trained under various research grants (indirect support) & through Connection grants • Consider changes to evaluation sub-criteria • Assess need for other resources (e.g., online) to support research training plans in relation to KMb (e.g., making best practices available) 2b) Include any agreed to KMb objectives within requirements for research training plans for postdoctoral fellows currently being under development: • Assess KMb objectives and measures within research and consultations planned for Phase 2 of Program Architecture changes to postdoctoral funding opportunity	Research Training Portfolio. In consultation with: Director of Knowledge Integration; Director of Partnerships Portfolio; Director of Research Portfolio; Director of the Tri-Council harmonization team	2b) March 2014 (changes to be included in 2014 competition)		

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		2c) Review operationalization of agreed KMb objectives: • within the SSHRC Doctoral Fellowships and Talent Partnerships funding opportunities • within Vanier, Banting and CGS-(Master's, Doctoral, MS FSS) funding opportunities		2c) Assessment prepared by March 2014		
Promoting and measuring and uptake and impact of knowledge mobilization. **Targeted at the program level, and also at the corporate level.**	3) Develop and implement appropriate and effective systems to monitor and assess the outcomes of knowledge mobilization in terms of benefits to Canadian and international well-being and prosperity.	Agree. 3a) Finalize and implement harmonized Achievement Reports that: • better capture the outcomes and impacts of knowledge mobilization funding through SSHRC's Talent, Insight and Connection programs. • are streamlined and easy to use, and allow for reporting at any time during or beyond the duration of the grant • address requirements	Executive Vice-President. Lead with support from: Executive Director of Corporate Strategy and Performance. In consultation with: Director of Knowledge Integration; Director of Research Portfolio; Director of Research Training	3a) In 2013-14, confirm the content, business process and delivery platform for the first funding opportunity to use the new Achievement Reporting system. Implementation for other funding opportunities		

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		relating to performance monitoring and reporting, and program evaluation 3b) Explore the possibility of undertaking regular Impact Studies that address a particular topic and systematically seek out, from knowledge users beyond academia, instances of the uptake and application of knowledge generated from SSHRC-funded grants and scholarships.	Portfolio; Director of Partnerships Portfolio; Director of Evaluation; Director of Communications; Deputy Chief Information Officer.	would continue through subsequent years. 3b) Launch, in 2013-14, a pilot Impact Study focused on the research area Management, Business and Finance.		