## **RESULTS AT A GLANCE** Evaluation of SSHRC's Partnership Funding Opportunities

### SSHRC **C**RSH

#### ABOUT THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Partnership Grants (PG) provide \$500K-\$2.5M over 4-7 years to advance research, research training, and/or knowledge mobilization.
- Partnership Development Grants (PDG) provide \$75K-\$200K over 1-3 years to foster new research and/or related activities; and/or design and test new partnership approaches.
- Connection Grants (CG) provide \$50K over 1 year to support events and other outreach activities.

#### **KEY OUTCOMES ACHIEVED**

#### ABOUT THE EVALUATION

PG, PDG and CG were evaluated in 2017-18 focusing on fiscal years 2010-11 to 2016-17. Data collection focused on PG and PDG, with findings related to CG relying only on secondary data already available.

Data collection included: review of documents and key literature; review of financial data, grant files, and administrative data; interviews with key informants; survey of PG/PDG applicants, partners and collaborators; and case studies.

#### Immediate outcomes

PG/PDG/CGs are all consistent with SSHRC's mandate and strategic objectives

92¢ are leveraged from partners for every \$1 granted (PG)

78% of PG/PDGs mobilize knowledge through co-production, making the collaborative research process itself a dissemination method

25% of PG and 40% of PDG funds are spent on students/postdoctoral researchers

#### Intermediate outcomes

89% of PG/PDGs create new knowledge and 76% extend or apply existing knowledge

PG/PDGs are more likely than Insight Grants and Insight Development Grants to disseminate knowledge beyond academia

74% of PG/PDG partners and collaborators would participate in future research with academics

About ¾ of PG/PDG project directors believe trainees have more opportunities to develop key skills compared to other research projects

#### Long-term outcomes

81% of PG/PDGs lead to additional academic or other prestigious awards

PG/PDGs are more likely than Insight Grants and Insight

- Development Grants to report:
- Changes in professional practice (e.g., in partner organizations)
- Public policy impacts
- Economic, social, or cultural benefits

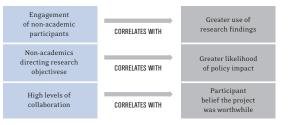
In 69% of PGs and 47% of PDGs, at least one student/postdoctoral researcher was hired by partners

#### OTHER KEY FINDINGS

Non-academics most commonly participate in PG/PDGs as partners

# O O O O Partners Collaborators Co-applicants Grant Recipients Academic Non-academic

#### Genuine collaboration with non-academics is linked to positive outcomes



#### Key challenges:

- The application process is demanding for non-academics
- Success rates are lower for non-academics and small universities than for medium and large universities
- \* The administrative categories of 'co-applicant' and 'collaborator' may be demotivating for non-academics as they can give the perception that the contributions
- of non-academic participants are less valuable
- Variation in participant involvement poses challenges for performance measurement
- Managing a large partnership demands competencies that are often not part of traditional academic training

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue to fund partnership-type funding opportunities that range in grant value and length

2. Encourage applicants to fully engage non-academics in leading projects and setting research objectives

3. Continue to ease the burden of the application process for non-academic participants

4. Develop a means to identify each participant's involvement in grant activities and intended benefits

5. Establish resources or mechanisms to support project directors leading a large partnership