

Carleton Centre for Community Innovation receives \$1-million SSHRC Grant for Responsible Investing Research

(Ottawa, May 25 2011) – The Carleton Centre for Community Innovation (3ci) at Carleton University has received a five-year, \$1-million Community University Research Alliance Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to investigate responsible investing in Canada and around the world.

Building on a previous three-year Knowledge Impact in Society Grant, the [Carleton Centre for Community Innovation](#) is fast becoming one of the world's centres of excellence in advancing our understanding of responsible investing and shareholder impacts on the environmental, social and governance standards of companies.

The financial market crash of 2008-2009 points to the critical need for greater oversight of today's financial markets in order to ensure the stability of our national and global economies. Increasingly, large institutional investors are being called upon to provide this type of active engagement and ownership in our capital markets. Many institutional investors are using their influence to engage, and in some cases, aggressively challenge the management of corporations in order to improve the environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards of the firms in which they invest. Such activity forms the core of institutional investors' responsible investing strategies and, as a result, investors hope to ensure long-term shareholder value for future beneficiaries.

There are 32 partners in this work, including Harvard University, Oxford University and the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment, as well as Canadian partners from the investment sector such as the Caisse de Depot and Desjardins. Housed at 3ci, the initiative will provide institutional investors with concrete, web-based access to new research and tools to implement their responsible investing policies and programs.

The SSHRC Grant reviewing committee found “the project significant and considered that it could produce innovative research in the field of social investing. Partners and stakeholders will also gain from the project.”

Dr. Tessa Hebb, Principle Investigator:

Dr. Hebb is the director of the Carleton Centre for Community Innovation, Carleton University, Canada. Her research focusing on responsible investment and impact investment is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, Government of Canada. The centre is a leading knowledge producer on responsible investment tools and instruments. Dr. Hebb is also an adjunct professor with the School of Public Policy and Administration, Sprott School of Business and Department of Geography at Carleton. She received her doctorate from Oxford University. She has published many articles on responsible investing and social finance policies and is the co-editor of the volume *Working Capital the Power of Labor's Pensions*. Her book *No Small Change: Pension Fund Corporate Engagement* was published by Cornell University Press in 2008. She is currently editing a volume for Springer Publishing, *The Next Generation of Responsible Investing*.

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