

York professor receives \$1 million from SSHRC

Professor Carla Lipsig-Mummé to study work in a warming world

TORONTO, February 5, 2010 – Carla Lipsig-Mummé, professor of work and labour studies in York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies and research fellow in York's [Institute for Research & Innovation in Sustainability](#) has received \$1 million over six years from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

The award will fund an international project to study the challenge climate change presents to Canadian employment and workplaces. Lipsig-Mummé will examine seven Canadian employment sectors to seek policy, training, employment and workplace solutions to effectively assist Canada's transition to a low-emission economy. By combining research, workplace education, policy recommendations and pilot projects in transnational work adaptation, her project will allow Canada to re-enter the international debate about how best to engage the work world in the struggle to slow global warming.

"We need to know more about the chain of processes that comprise work, employment and training in key Canadian industries and professions – and how their decision-makers understand and respond to the challenge that global warming poses to these processes," said Lipsig-Mummé. "Our second goal is to engage community partners active in the work world and the environmental community in research that identifies critical spaces for adaptation, drawing on their hands-on experience and linking it to the expertise of the academics."

CURA awards, among the largest awarded by SSHRC, bring postsecondary institutions and community organizations together as equal research partners to jointly develop new knowledge and capabilities, provide research training opportunities, and enhance the ability of social sciences and humanities research to build knowledge in areas that affect Canadians and their changing communities.

"This award is the latest in a series of funding successes that reflect York's leadership in national and international collaborative research projects," said Stan Shapson, vice-president Research & Innovation. "Climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century and climate research and innovation are priorities for York. Our researchers are working with industry, government at all levels, academia, and the community to find ways to address the complex issues it raises."

Lipsig-Mummé's research team includes nationally- and internationally-based climate scientists, senior labour market actors and academics from a wide range of disciplines. A total of 23 researchers, 20 partners, and 10 universities in three countries will participate, including York professors David Doorey, Dawn Bazely, Irene Henriques, Jan Kainer, John-Justin McMurtry, Stepan Wood and Steven Tufts.

Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science & Technology), announced the funding yesterday in Kitchener, Ont. Lipsig-Mummé's project is one of 20 large-scale research projects funded through SSHRC's Community-University Research Alliances (CURA) program.

"These grants highlight the excellence of our country's talented researchers and recognize the importance of fostering collaboration to keep Canada at the leading-edge of research, development and innovation in the 21st century," said Chad Gaffield, president of SSHRC.

For a complete list of CURA awards, visit SSHRC's [Web site](#).

Project Partners:
British Columbia Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives

Canadian Steel Trade and Employment Congress
Canadian Union of Postal Workers
Centre for Labour Studies
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union
Environmental Defence
Forest Products Sector Council
Learning for a Sustainable Future
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
National Union of Professional and General Employees
Ontario Centre for Engineering and Public Policy/Professional Engineers
Prism Economics and Analysis
The Clean Air Partnership
The Royal Architectural Institute of Canada
Toronto Training Board
United Food and Commercial Workers Canada Local 1000A
United Steelworkers of Canada
UNITE-HERE Canada
Wood Manufacturing Council

University Partners:

Auckland University of Technology
Institute of Land and Food Resources, University of Melbourne
Institute for Research and Innovation in Sustainability, York University
Queen's University
Ryerson University
Simon Fraser University
St. Thomas University
University of British Columbia-Okenagan
University of Manitoba
University of Toronto

SSHRC is an independent federal government agency that funds university-based research and graduate training through national peer-review competitions. SSHRC also partners with public- and private-sector organizations to focus research and aid the development of better policies and practices in key areas of Canada's social, cultural and economic life.

York University is the leading interdisciplinary research and teaching university in Canada. York offers a modern, academic experience at the undergraduate and graduate level in Toronto, Canada's most international city. The third largest university in the country, York is host to a dynamic academic community of 50,000 students and 7,000 faculty and staff, as well as 200,000 alumni worldwide. York's 10 Faculties and 28 research centres conduct ambitious, groundbreaking research that is interdisciplinary, cutting across traditional academic boundaries. This distinctive and collaborative approach is preparing students for the future and bringing fresh insights and solutions to real-world challenges. York University is an autonomous, not-for-profit corporation.

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