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## Julia M. Wright – Vision Statement

The original Royal Society's motto, "nullius in verba" ("take no one's word for it"), resonates in difficult ways in our historical moment, marked by fake news about "fake news," predatory academic journals that are more interested in our money than our credibility, and some government leaders who trade in incendiary slogans rather than evidence and policy. It sometimes seems difficult to take anyone's word for anything. It is especially critical in this environment to be both accountable and rigorous in our assessments, aware that the title of "Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada" is not only a profound honour but also an imprimatur that validates expertise. To meet this weighty charge effectively, we must be alert to new as well as traditional modes of assessing research records and ensure we evaluate them carefully. Impact factors are, as many have recently noted, highly dubious, especially for Arts and Humanities scholarship. We publish in books and journals that are largely missed by the data collection that informs such "metrics." At the same time, the importance of community engagement and knowledge mobilization is rightly recognized by SSHRC and other bodies, and such work requires a different record than a bibliographical reference. What a proper record might be, and how it should be weighted, is not yet fixed by broad consensus, and we must continue to contribute to the larger academic project of finding ways of rigorously assessing and acknowledging new forms of scholarly contributions—and respecting Indigenous ways of knowing.

This task is not just a matter of fair and accurate assessment, but also one of encouraging nominations of scholars who have done such work and who can help us all to meet the new Strategic Plan's objectives in relation especially to public engagement and to using scholarly expertise to support evidence-based decision-making across all sectors. We need not only to "Get Science Right," but also to "Get History Right," "Get Cultural Context Right," "Get Ethics Right," and "Get Inclusion Right."

The Arts and Humanities are already deeply embedded in the daily lives of Canadians. Tablets and other devices proliferating in Canadians' homes are little more than expensive bricks without literary and non-fiction writing, film, television, music, and so on; libraries and other cultural public spaces continue to thrive. Our work and subject matter are everywhere, but the labour and expertise that produce them remain largely invisible—to the public as well as to governments and other groups that might benefit further from them. We contribute in meaningful ways to the public discourse on which civil society depends and the new Strategic Plan charts important routes towards doing so more visibly as well as more effectively.

