

HOW THE HSS POWER EMPLOYMENT IN CANADA



FEDERATION FOR THE
HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES

The talent pipeline
behind every sector



The HSS are central to Canada's talent pipeline.



More than half of all postsecondary students in Canada are enrolled in humanities and social sciences programs.

This makes the HSS the **largest source of skilled workers** entering the labour market.



Bursting the HSS employment myth.



44% of HSS and other non-STEM students graduate in their original fields, compared to **37.4%** overall.

Higher graduation rates mean
**more HSS graduates entering
and staying in the workforce.**



HSS graduates are embedded across the workforce.

Postsecondary-educated workers make up nearly **one-third of Canada's working-age population.**



With strong graduation rates, **HSS graduates represent a significant share** of Canada's skilled labour force.



Diverse and durable career pathways.



HSS training supports **diverse career pathways** across government, education, community services, business, and creative sectors.

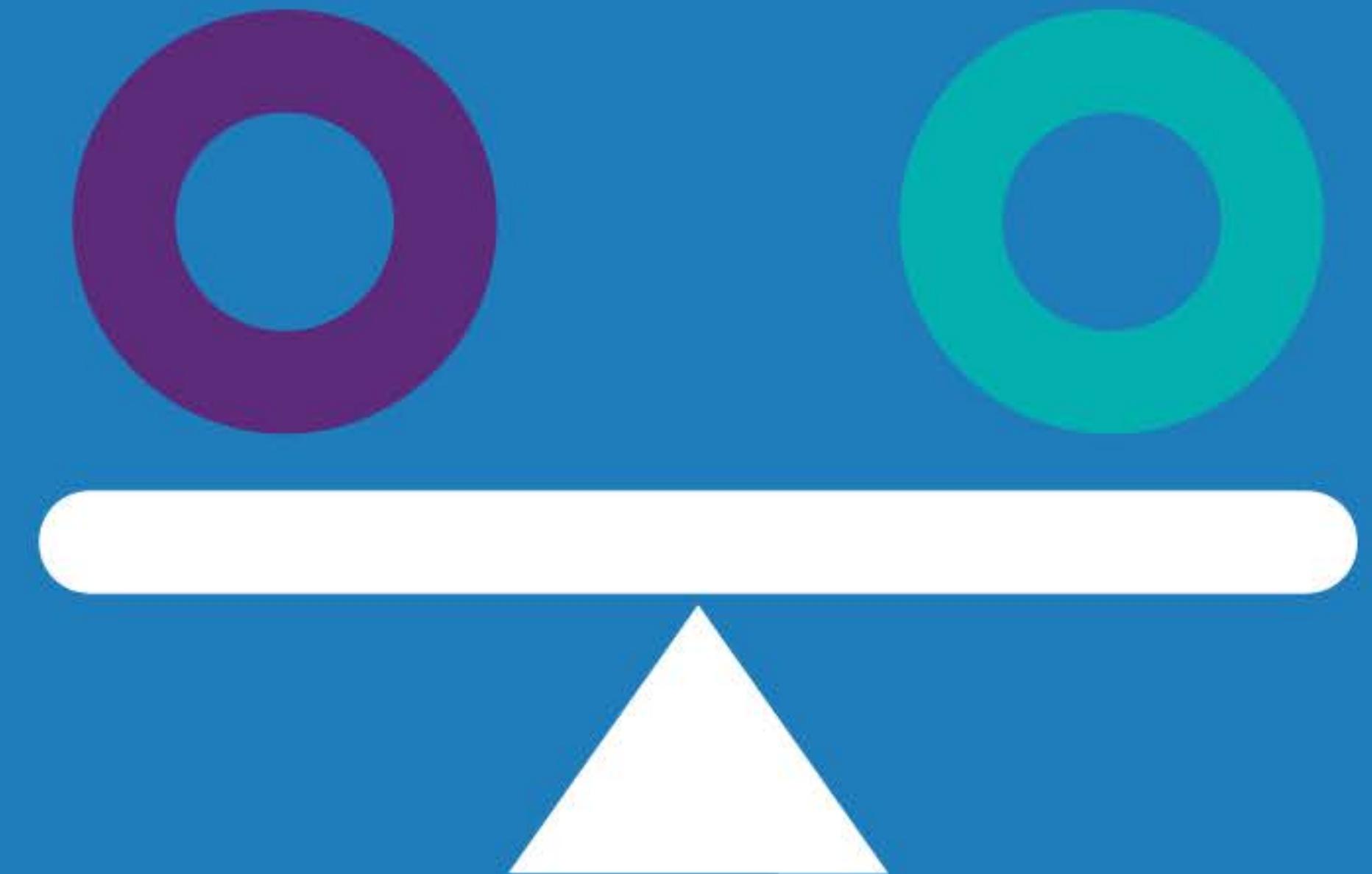
This distribution reflects **alignment** with labour-market demand.



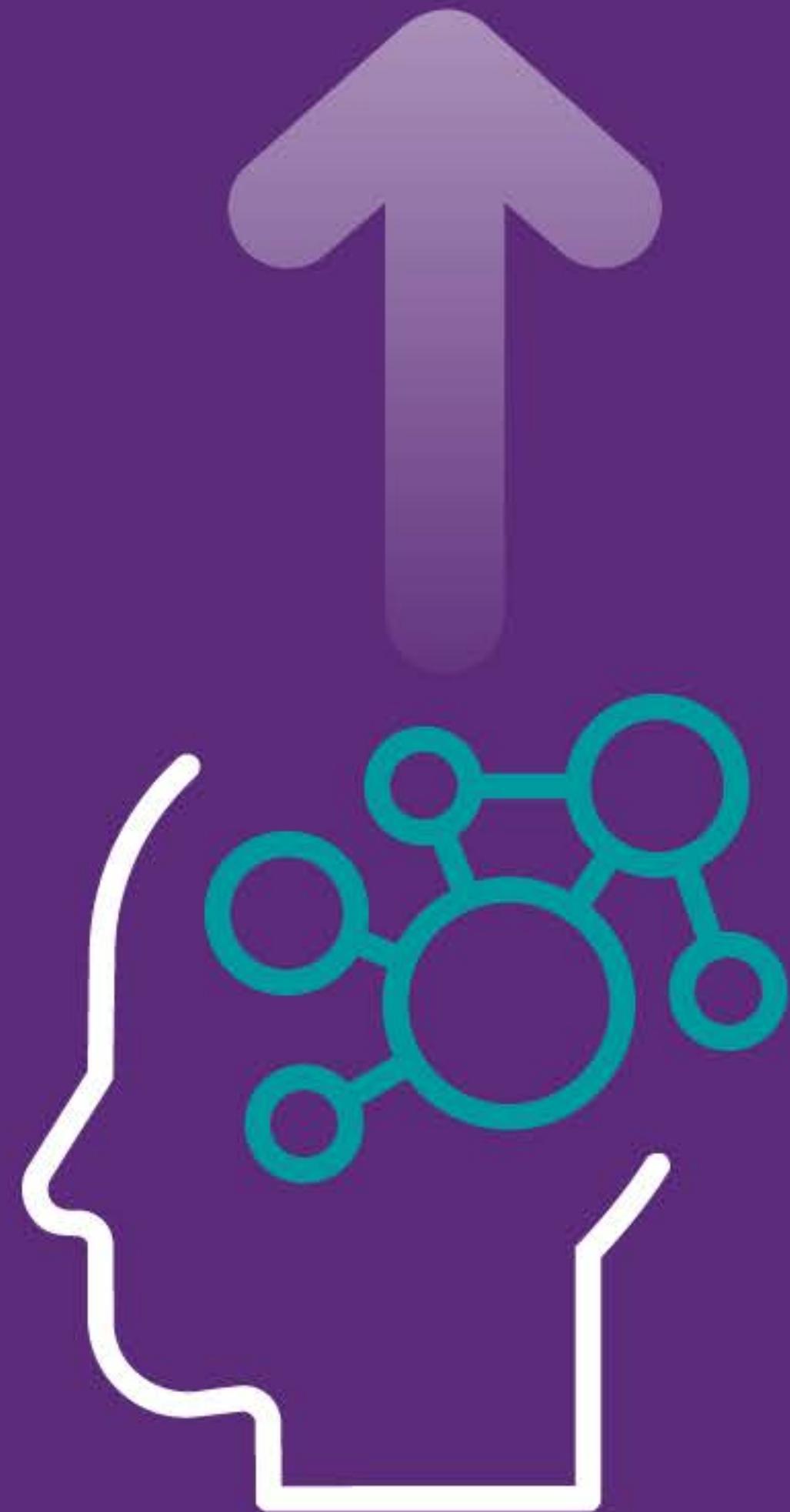
How HSS work is valued in the labour market.

Many HSS careers sit in **publicly funded and nonprofit sectors**, with standardized salary progression, benefits, and pensions that support long-term stability.

Income levels reflect **sector funding structures**.



HSS skills and the future of work.



A 2025 Statistics Canada study shows **growing employer demand for non-routine, cognitive skills** such as creativity, adaptability, and judgment skills, most often developed through HSS training.

Higher graduation rates mean **more HSS graduates entering and staying in the workforce.**



The humanities and social sciences power Canada's workforce and economy!



Think forward: Our future,
shaped by the humanities
and social sciences



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