

into a fast trot. "I do not have to outrun the lion. All I have to do is outrun you".

Canada's future industrial strength depends on our ability and the ability of Canadian businesses to outrun the competition world-wide.

I am privileged to speak in the House today about a number of accomplishments in support of Canada's international competitiveness as promoted by the government's flagship economic department, the Department of Industry, Science and Technology Canada or ISTC as it is known.

Recognizing the link between science, technology, and industrial development, in February 1990 this government set up the Department of Industry, Science and Technology Canada specifically to promote international competitiveness and excellence in these areas.

ISTC works in co-operation with other government departments and agencies, with business and the academic community, to develop a wide range of programs and services to help Canada improve its international competitiveness.

Since its inception, ISTC has played a key role in developing the national Prosperity Initiative. The Prosperity Initiative recognizes five key areas where Canada must improve its competitiveness if we are to sustain long-term prosperity in this country.

I would like to repeat these five areas just for the record. They are learning, research and development, investment, our internal Canadian domestic market and our ability to export.

Let us consider the concept of the learning society put forward by this government in the last Speech from the Throne. We are only too aware of the unhappy statistics about high school drop-out rates in Canada. We know that about 85 per cent of the technology we will use in the year 2000 was not even invented in 1990. In this world of rapidly changing technologies, we must encourage our children to pursue studies in mathematics, sciences, engineering and related disciplines.

We realize too that learning is a lifelong process which must continue on the job as well as in the schools. ISTC has a number of programs aimed at supporting and

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promoting the scientific education and training of young Canadians. For example, the Canada Scholarships Program provides undergraduate students with \$2,000 a year for up to four years of study in the natural sciences, engineering and related disciplines.

In 1991 there were 6,000 students benefiting from these scholarships in Canada. I would like to add that about half of the Canada Scholarships are awarded to female students. The program has recently expanded to provide scholarships for technologists and technicians.

This program is helping to ensure that Canada has a pool of technically skilled and highly qualified persons in fields critical to our industrial and technological competitiveness.

The department also leads a national public awareness campaign on science and technology aimed at Canadian youth to encourage them to place more value on, and to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology. ISTC also funds a program called Science Culture Canada which aims to develop a better public understanding of science and technology, especially among young Canadians.

National organizations and specific projects such as science fairs, exhibits, books, videos and lectures are sponsored throughout this program and such activities help to make science and technology less arcane, more accessible and more relevant to people in their daily lives.

Closely linked to the concept of a learning society is research and development. With the rapid evolution of technology, facilities are now in place to permit the almost instantaneous transmission of information and ideas. In these circumstances it is critical that our research and development performance keep stride with the pace being set by our world competitors.

Our record in this country is mixed. In high tech sectors such as electronics, aerospace and computers our research and development spending is ahead of the averages of most of the OECD countries. Yet only four Canadian manufacturing companies in 100 are doing any research at all and the top 10 companies account for almost 40 per cent of our research and development spending.