

Finally, witnesses before the Committee have repeatedly praised two industrial research programs: the National Research Council's Industrial Research Assistance Program (IRAP) and the Unsolicited Proposals Program. Both programs have been extremely beneficial in enhancing Canada's industrial R&D efforts. IRAP is widely regarded to be one of the most successful federal assistance programs in terms of its efficiency in meeting its objectives and its job creation impact. The recently cancelled Unsolicited Proposals Program was very successful in stimulating industry to meet government procurement needs. In particular, it met the early capital requirements of new projects and was precisely the type of funding approach that encouraged inventors to commercialize their creations. Therefore:

2. **The Committee recommends that the federal government give consideration to the advisability of allocating its science and technology expenditures such that:**
 - a) **the budgets of the three granting councils be doubled over a period of three years. The adequacy of their budgets should then be reviewed by the Minister for Science, and efforts should be made to preserve their level of funding relative to the total level of federal expenditures on R&D.**
 - b) **the budget of the Science Council of Canada be restored to its former funding level of \$5 million. Subsequent budgets should at least preserve this minimum level of funding in constant dollar terms.**
 - c) **the IRAP budget be increased to \$100 million in the fiscal year 1991-92. Subsequent budgets should at least preserve this minimum level of funding in constant dollar terms.**
 - d) **the Unsolicited Proposals Program be reinstated at its prior annual level of \$25 million. Subsequent budgets should at least preserve this minimum level of funding in constant dollar terms.**

B. Big Science

In view of the current federal budget restraints, the Committee is concerned that federal support for expensive scientific mega-projects will damage Canada's overall science effort. The Committee believes that federal support for science in Canada is best achieved through a broad spectrum of small programs rather than concentrating funds in a few, large, high-profile projects. Therefore: