

Forestry; Human and Animal Health Care; Plant Straint Development; Nitrogen Fixation; Mineral Leaching and Metal Recovery; and Waste Treatment.

9. In Canada, the Ministry of Science and Technology through the Strategic Technologies Program, and NSERC through the Industrial Research Assistance Program are the main sources of funding of R & D and industrial innovation.
10. Canadian scientific and technical human resources, as well as R & D experimental infrastructure, are excellent. The average level of research and education in universities and higher learning institutions is very good. Canada has also the best system of telecommunications in the world, with first rate libraries, information data bases, and an agile civil administration. These factors facilitate the creation of strategic ventures among firms and collaboration among industry, university, and government.
11. The industrial applications of Canadian biotechnology is directed along those sectors with a major impact in the country's GDP. These four sectors are: Agrifood; Pharmaceuticals; Environment; and Forestry. In areas like waste treatment, forestry and forest technology, fish and seafood farming, and specific R & D biopharmaceuticals, Canada is among the most advanced countries in the world.
12. Canadian companies are very receptive to strategic alliances and more so with European partners. Half of Canadian biotech firms are engaged in joint ventures, strategic alliances, or R & D joint projects, with either American or European partners. The principal factors in selecting a foreign partner is credibility, marketing expertise, and access to technology.