

23. The Committee recommends that the federal government create a Council on Procurement to support enabling technology development by indigenous firms in areas of preferential Canadian technological strength where government purchasing could foster the development of world-class Canadian products.
24. The Committee further recommends that the operational departments be encouraged to develop ten to fifteen-year plans in consultation with industry for mission-oriented research and development necessary to meet their operational procurement needs.

### **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND DIFFUSION**

Research and development are essential if Canada is to compete in a knowledge-based global market. However, the benefits of R&D are lost if the resultant technology is not commercialized and made widely available throughout the country. The rate of technology diffusion is an important determinant of the rate of growth in productivity. Those regions slow to adopt new technology will experience lower productivity and hence reduced income levels.

25. The Committee recommends that the federal government facilitate technology transfer throughout the country by such means as a National Technology Information Network; enhanced technological personnel exchange among government, industry and the universities; government-industry sponsored technology centres; etc.

### **COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

The rate of technology diffusion in Canada greatly depends on the ability of individual communities to adopt new technology. A number of factors affects the ability of communities to select, use, create, market, and manage new technologies. A joint study of the Science Council, the Canadian Advanced Technology Association and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce, entitled "Firing Up the Technology Engine", outlines elements of an effective community innovation-management system. This type of participation by local communities must be encouraged by all levels of government.

26. The Committee recommends that the federal government encourage efforts to develop community economic development strategies designed to enhance the application of science and technology by local business and industry.