

| industry |
| government |
| university |

It has become common wisdom that industry–government–university partnerships are one of the best incubators for the innovation process. These alliances capitalize on the strengths and resources of each partner:

- government fosters partnerships and provides funding for strategic areas of research;
- universities supply a steady stream of new ideas and educate tomorrow's knowledge industry leaders; and
- industries give life to these ideas in exciting new commercial opportunities.

Working together, these partners ensure that our economic, health and social systems perform well and keep pace with both domestic and international developments in S&T.

Partnerships

In Canada, industry–government–university partnerships are now more the rule than the exception, and they have been so successful in meeting the objectives listed above that the impacts of their accomplishments can now be felt throughout the economy. Such partnerships have led to productivity improvements and created a pool of leading-edge researchers. They have also created knowledge-based industries and regional R&D clusters that ensure Canada's continued contribution to the new globalized economy. And they show the world that working together achieves far more than the sum of the individual parts.

Sharing the risks in S&T

The federal government's role in ensuring Canada's success in the globalized, knowledge-based economy takes many forms. It enters into collaborative research activities. It shares the financial risk in leading-edge areas of industrial R&D. It provides, with the provinces, fiscal and financial incentives that foster R&D investment. And it supports the development of a highly skilled work force able to contribute to private-sector growth.

In addition, the federal government operates research laboratories in its science-based departments and agencies. Most of these organizations undertake research related to their sectoral mandates, but some conduct basic and applied research involving Canadian industry.

To facilitate technology transfer, many government and university labs participate in collaborative research with Canadian companies, giving the companies access to state-of-the-art facilities they might not otherwise have.

