

SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

The following priorities are suggested as a basis for discussion:

1. INCREASING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN INNOVATION

Consideration could be given to the following:

- focus existing tax incentives in order to maximize benefits to innovative businesses
- simplify grant programs so that they better serve intended clients
- utilize Government procurement policies to support Canadian innovation
- update the Patent Act to encourage Canadian innovation
- promote the application of venture capital to innovative endeavours
- encourage foreign-owned firms to seek greater parent-subsidiary technology transfers and world product mandates

2. ACCELERATING THE RATE OF DIFFUSION OF TECHNOLOGY/INFORMATION

Possible areas to be addressed are:

- co-ordinate Provincial, Territorial and Federal activities within existing innovation centres
- co-ordinate the activities of these innovation centres with local universities
- modify NRC's Technical Information Service (TIS) and coordinate it with the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI) to increase their accessibility and relevance to businesses of all sizes across Canada
- encourage the Patent Office to decrease its response time and increase public awareness of its value as a source of current technological information
- recognize the importance of the Trade Commissioner and Science Counsellor Network