

## NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF CANADA

(A REPORT IN SUPPORT OF THE BRIEF  
PRESENTED TO  
THE SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE POLICY)

I. STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS

Under the National Research Council Act (Appendix A), the Council has been assigned a broad responsibility "to undertake, assist or promote scientific and industrial research", and "has charge of all matters affecting scientific and industrial research in Canada that may be assigned to it by the [Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research]". In general terms the role of the Council is that of developing and nurturing a national capability in scientific and industrial research, and of deploying scientific research for national benefit.

In order to carry out these broad functions, and to ensure that the Council is responsive and adaptive to changing needs and new opportunities, a continuous and detailed monitoring of the whole of science and engineering is essential. The broadly representative character of the Council itself, as well as a strong cadre of advisory and associate committees, provide the Council with the board and detailed input necessary for decision-making and policy formulation on all aspects of scientific research in Canada. In this respect the Council also derives a special advantage from its own laboratories, whose staff represent a broad spectrum of scientific expertise and maintain close contact with industrial laboratories,