

of skills. Over the next 10 years nearly half of all new jobs will require up to five years of education or training beyond the high school level. Is our labour force ready? Can Canada keep pace?

Education is central in meeting this challenge. From kindergarten through university, to job training and retraining, every aspect of our educational system must work to prepare Canadians for the future. In our quest to develop a knowledge-based economy, human resources are our greatest asset and a strong educational system is the basis of that strength.

Our economy, our quality of life, our jobs, our entire future depend upon our ability to compete in the global economy. Our failure to create and develop new technology will, within the next decade, lead to a significant decline in our standard of living. The time to act is now!

Canadian attitudes must change. Across the country, Canadians must work together to create the scientific and technological foundations necessary for Canada to be competitive in the global marketplace. Only through strong alliances involving governments, educational institutions, business groups, labour organizations and communities can we hope to achieve the entrepreneurial spirit, the drive for quality, and the productivity improvements needed to seize the opportunities of the next century.

In the course of examining science and technology in Canada, Committee members received submissions and heard witnesses from across the country. Many witnesses stressed that Canada's performance of research and development is weak when compared with that of its international competitors. Dramatic efforts are needed immediately to reverse Canada's present decline and to ensure that Canadians will be able to deal with the global economic realities of the future.

Committee members believe that in the absence of such dramatic national efforts by all sectors of our economy, Canada cannot hope to reverse its present decline in global competitiveness. Future generations will be doomed to a continuing fall in our standard of living.

In light of the gravity of Canada's current position, Committee members urge both the government and private sector to make the strengthening of science and technology one of their foremost priorities.

The Committee embarked upon this examination of science and technology in Canada in order to obtain a broad understanding of the issues confronting the science community. Today, the Committee presents its principal findings and recommendations in this concise report. A detailed exposition of concerns and comments by witnesses, as originally planned, became impossible due to unforeseen circumstances.