Research activities in Canadian universities have advanced enormously during the last ten years and the National Research Council has contributed substantially to this progress.

The types of university support provided are: direct, consisting of support to individuals in the form of scholarships, fellowships and grants in aid of research; and indirect, consisting of support related to the promotion and encouragement of research at the universities, such as contributions to scientific organizations and functions, publication of research journals and the administrative expenses of the programme.

The Council also conducts and administers the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Science Committee's scholarship and fellowship programme for Canadians. In addition, the Council administers the Atomic Energy Control Board's grants-in-aid programme; decisions regarding its grants are made by a Committee of the Board.

Funds are provided in annual Parliamentary appropriations to the Council, and the Atomic Energy Control Board, and by NATO's Science Committee, which receives Canada's annual contribution to its activities from the Department of External Affairs.

Post-doctorate Fellowships

Since 1948, the NRC has been developing a programme of postdoctorate fellowships. These provide salaries and travel expenses to enable young scientists who have already attained their doctorates to work for a year or two at NRC or other government laboratories in Canada. There are now about 300 of these visiting scientists in Canada, from 30 countries.

International Scientific Affiliations

The National Research Council is the representative body in Canada for the International Council of Scientific Unions and most of its constituent unions, and also holds membership, on behalf of Canada, in many other international scientific associations and organizations. In addition, the Council, in conjunction with the Department of External Affairs, has responsibility for Canadian participation in the NATO Science Committee and in some of the scientific activities of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. The National Research Council supports travel of Canadian scientists to attend meetings of various international scientific organizations.

NRC maintains liaison offices in London, Paris and Washington, where liaison officers are accredited to the respective embassies as scientific attachés. In addition, an NRC representative is attached to the Permanent Delegation of Canada to OECD as First Secretary (Scientific).

The National Research Council has a scientific exchange agreement with the Soviet Academy of Sciences, which provides for visits of scientists ranging from three weeks to nine months. In addition, NRC has accepted responsibility for exchange of Canadian scientists with France under the cultural agreement between the Governments of Canada and France.