

- A broad knowledge of the international and foreign policy area with particular emphasis upon the S&T element.
- A sound knowledge of Canada's domestic S&T scene; close contacts with the S&T community, awareness of major strengths, weaknesses, needs, capabilities and government policies.
- It should not be located within a major potential user of the "seed fund" because of the danger of a clash of interests.
- It should have a general relationship to Canada's S&T endeavour rather than being a performer in one specific field.

Possible Contenders

Three major contenders for the role of focal point exist: the International Office of the NRC, the Science, Environment and Transportation Policy Division of External Affairs and the International Division of MOSST.

NRC. Is the largest and most diverse performer of R&D in Canada with an intimate knowledge of, and influence with, the S&T community. It additionally has a long experience with international science and with the administration of funds to support international science activities. Unfortunately the NRC itself could well become one of the major users of the fund.

External Affairs. The ultimate arbiter of all Canada's international S&T activities. However, the necessarily generalist skills of the diplomat coupled with the lack of continuity engendered by the routine rotation demands of an External career tend to militate against a focal point based on External Affairs.

MOSST. Exercises a central policy role in S&T and has close contacts with the domestic S&T community on whose behalf it works. Through its International Division, MOSST has a close association with the international S&T area, presently coordinating several major bilateral and multilateral activities. Finally, it has carried out, on behalf of the interdepartmental S&T community, several major policy studies on international S&T issues. However MOSST is a