resources and facilities, as well as financial, marketing or management services that may otherwise be out of their reach. NRC offers access to one of the world's largest collections of S&T information via its **Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)**. **Web site: www.nrc.ca**

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)

AAFC promotes the development, adaptation and competitiveness of Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector. World-famous for the breakthrough science that gave the world hardier agricultural products now used in many countries, the Department's research now focuses on the life sciences. Specifically, its goal is to enhance the security of the food-production system, advance the health of the environment and encourage innovation and growth. The department has 19 research centres across Canada, linked electronically and pursuing collaborative research projects under a variety of programs funded by government, industry partnerships and the private sector. Through these programs and through their own department-based work, the department's scientists contribute to many international initiatives. **Web site: www.agr.ca**

Environment Canada (EC)

Environment Canada is one of the largest science-based departments in the federal government. Its mandate is to preserve and enhance the quality of the environment and its renewable resources, including water resources and wildlife. It also carries out meteorology and enforces the rules of the Canada–U.S. International Joint Commission (IJC). The Department's S&T is the basis for its policies, programs and services. Its S&T is integral to giving Canadians the tools needed to achieve sustainable development. Environment Canada's research is focused on freshwater, meteorology and atmospheric science, wildlife, and technology for the prevention and remediation of environmental pollution. S&T activities are carried out across Canada by approximately 3,000 scientific and technical personnel in various laboratories, research institutes and offices. **Web site: www.ec.gc.ca**

Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)

DFO is responsible for policies and programs in support of Canada's economic, ecological and scientific interest in the oceans and freshwater habitat: for the conservation and sustainable utilization of Canada's fisheries resources in marine and inland waters; and for safe, effective and environmentally sound marine services responsive to the needs of Canadians in a global economy. The departmental science and technology endeavours support the priorities of managing and protecting fisheries resources, protecting the marine and freshwater environment, understanding the oceans and aquatic resources, maintaining marine safety and facilitating maritime commerce and oceans development. Internationally, DFO collaborates with foreign governments in scientific research in sustainable fisheries management and in the study of the ocean's role in climate change. **Web site: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca**

Health Canada (HC)

Health Canada provides national leadership in developing Canada's health policy, enforcing health regulations, promoting disease prevention, enhancing healthy living in Canada and responding to the changing nature of health issues in Canada and around the world. The department's S&T activities concentrate mainly on health protection and promotion; and anticipating, preventing and responding to new threats from emerging and re-emerging diseases. Looking to the future, the department is investigating the extensive use of information technology to enhance the sharing of health knowledge and expertise through the "Canada Health Infoway." **Web site: www.hc-sc.gc.ca**

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

NRCan specializes in leading-edge science and technology, providing information and expertise in energy, minerals and metals, forests and earth sciences (geoscience and geomatics) as well as policies and regulations that enhance the natural resources sector's contribution to sustainable development and the quality of life of Canadians. Through partnerships and research networks with governments, industry and academia in Canada and internationally, NRCan focuses on knowledge and technology solutions to advance natural resources sector innovation, resource stewardship and environmental performance, including increased energy efficiency. NRCan is working with Canadians to make wise use of our resources, providing information and tools to support balanced decisions on Canada's landmass and resources. In addition, NRCan works with international agencies and other nations to participate in international S&T initiatives, promote Canada's international interests and encourage access to global markets for Canadian products, services and technology. **Web site: www.nrcan.gc.ca**

Partnership produces Canadian first with Winnipeg's Level 4 labs

The recently opened Level 4 biocontainment laboratories marked a Canadian first, and almost a world first (there are only a few in the world). Built through a partnership between Health Canada and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, the Level 4 laboratories are part of the Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health, a $172-million state-of-the-art federal laboratories complex. The Centre, located in Winnipeg, Manitoba, also houses laboratories classified at Levels 2 and 3. Jointly operated by Health Canada and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, the Centre strengthens Canada's capacity to protect the public from infectious disease and reinforces Canada's established reputation for world-class laboratory science.