

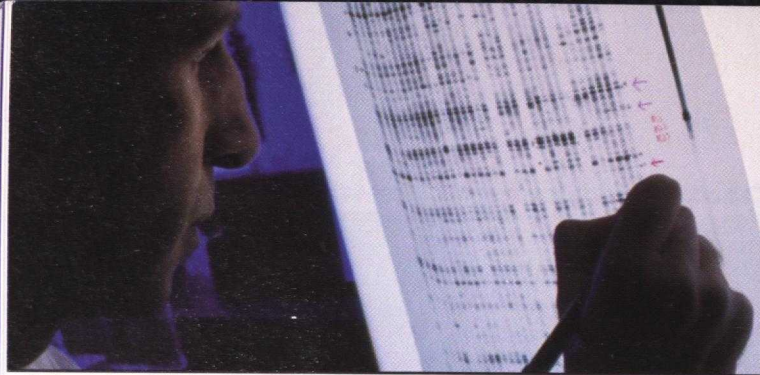


Photo courtesy of National Research Council Canada

| science |
| technology |
| innovation |

Canada's S&T structure

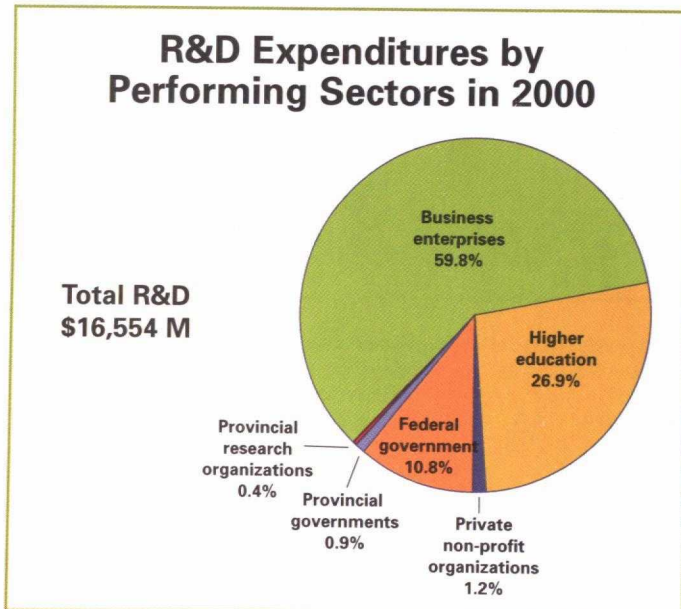
Canadian science and technology is organized around key players such as: industry, governments (both federal and provincial), and universities and colleges. Figure 5 shows R&D expenditures by performing sectors in 2000.

Canada's R&D

The S&T climate: zest for innovation, excellence

Soon after World War I, Canada's federal government began to make significant investments to promote research and excellence. The impacts of these early and continuing investments are now obvious at both the federal and provincial levels in every province. Today, government investment accounts for about 25 % of the total R&D investment in Canada, with over 360 research establishments now supported by federal and provincial governments.

Figure 5



Source: Statistics Canada, 2001

Industry

Knowledge-intensive companies involved in R&D are essential partners in Canada's S&T system, accounting for about 62 percent of R&D performed and over 50 percent of its funding. The success of the Canadian innovation system lies in our capacity to put scientific discoveries developed through partnerships to industrial use quickly. Canadian-based companies work with customers, partners and governments to power the knowledge economy.

Federal role

The federal government plays four roles: funder, facilitator, performer and regulator. At last count, there were 48 federal organizations performing and/or funding R&D and 120 federal research laboratories. National Research Council Canada alone, for example, has 16 research institutes and four innovation centres. Other federal science-based departments and agencies (SBDAs), such as Environment Canada, Natural Resources Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Fisheries and Oceans, and Health Canada also support research centres across Canada. These institutions and laboratories fulfill the government's role of research performer to support policy, regulation and economic development.

Three other federal organizations—the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—fund research performed at universities. In addition, they also foster research partnerships among academia, government institutions and the private sector, and train the next generation of highly qualified people.