

Defence Research Board

In 1947, research in support of Canada's military forces was transferred from the National Research Council of Canada to the newly-organized Defence Research Board. As an active nucleus, the Board took over the defence laboratories that the Council had been operating at Valcartier, Halifax, Ottawa, and elsewhere.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited

The largest wartime undertaking was the Atomic Energy Project. It began in 1942 as a secret laboratory in a wing of the University of Montreal, and was transferred to the new site at Chalk River by 1946. In the first ten years of its existence the project grew so extensively that size and commercial importance justified the establishment in 1952 of a separate Crown Corporation, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited.

Medical Research Council

The Medical Research Council, an autonomous unit responsible for policy in the field of medical research but functioning initially within the administrative framework of the National Research Council, was established in 1960. At the same time, the National Research Council disbanded its Division of Medical Research, and its Advisory Committee on Medical Research, which had previously administered Council grants in this important field. The primary aim of the Medical Research Council is the development of medical research and the support of medical research workers in the university centres of Canada.

Support for University Research

When the National Research Council was established in 1916, the nation's primary need was, as it still is, for qualified scientists and for facilities to train them. The first action of the Council, therefore, was to support research in the natural sciences in Canadian universities by awarding scholarships to graduate students and grants-in-aid to professors.

This programme has continued without interruption for 50 years. During the last decade, the number of universities and colleges holding operating grants has doubled, and annual expenditures have increased at an accelerating rate, rising from \$2.7 million in 1957-58 to a new high of \$34.4 million for 1966-67. Of this sum, an increase of \$12.5 million over 1965-66, \$28 million was used for grants in aid of research to university staff members, \$5.5 million for graduate scholarships and post-doctorate fellowships, and \$0.9 million to assist the special activities of scientific organizations at national and international levels.

Thus, during 1966-67, the Council supported the research work of more than 4,900 graduate students and over 2,741 professors, in the biological sciences, engineering, pure and applied mathematics, experimental psychology, dental research and space research.