

The Canadian Government has taken a number of initiatives to bolster the strategic sectors in which Canada has lagged behind and to enhance those which are its strong points. These initiatives include a microelectronics strategy, a technology dissemination policy, increased funding for university research grant councils and the creation of a network of Centres of Excellence on a national scale.

A national science and technology policy has been formulated and a Ministers Council was created to supervise its implementation. A National Advisory Board for Science and Technology, chaired by the Prime Minister, has also been established.

Since the Commission's last meeting, Canada's international science and technology relations have been primarily oriented towards activities that could be of economic benefits and help Canadian business become more competitive in the world marketplace.

The Government of Canada has looked for ways to increase levels of co-operation between provincial governments, research organizations and the private sector from an international perspective.

In order to do so, the financial resources made available within the framework of the Technological Inflow Program (TIP) have been increased, and at the same time, new technological development officer positions have been created within Canadian missions abroad.

As for bilateral co-operative activities, Canada is seeking to increase the number of exchanges of experts and facilitate the communication of scientific and technical information. However, Canada prefers that a solid foundation for such co-operation exists before signing any new framework agreements.

Moreover, in order to encourage Canadian businesses to participate in EUREKA projects, a program has been established to seek out technological possibilities in Europe.

Finally, multilateral Canadian activities are being vigorously pursued in political forums (i.e.; the United Nations, the OECD, economic summits, etc.), as well as in organizations which are responsible for various programs (i.e.; the International Energy Agency, EURATOM, the European Space Agency, etc.).