

The Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) of the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is the lead agency in remote sensing in Canada. The Centre is an acknowledged international centre of expertise in this field.

The National Research Council, through its Space Division, and also through the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics, is a major actor in Canada's Space Program. NRC's Space Division currently manages Canada's Space Science Program, the Canadian Astronaut Program, and Canada's major space project, the development of the Mobile Servicing System (MSS) for the U.S. Space Station Project. This includes the User Development Program which is being designed to maximize the economic benefits from Space Station.

Other departments with a role in space activities are the Departments of Regional Industrial Expansion (DRIE), Environment (Atmospheric Environment Service), and Fisheries and Oceans.

The Ministry of State for Science and Technology (MOSST) is the department responsible for space R&D policy, for coordinating Space Program activities, and for resource-allocation recommendations. The Interdepartmental Committee on Space (ICS), whose Chairperson is from MOSST, has an important coordinating role in the Federal Government's space activities. The ICS draws its membership from those federal departments and agencies with an interest in space. In the Speech from the Throne on October 1, 1986, the Federal Government stated its intention to establish, through legislation, a Canadian Space Agency. The Agency will act to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use of space and will work with Canadian industry, universities and provinces, "to ensure that the benefits of Canada's role in space will be shared by all Canadians."²

⁽²⁾ Speech from the Throne, October 1, 1986.