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## **Drug Regulations**

Pharmaceutical products are regulated in accordance with Canada's *Food and Drugs Act*, which is administered by the Health Protection Branch (HPB) of Health Canada.

The Drugs Program of the HPB is carried out by the Drugs Directorate. Essentially, this Directorate is responsible for protecting and improving public health by managing the risks and benefits associated with the use of drugs and cosmetics. The Directorate also develops and disseminates information that encourages the cost-effective use of drugs.

## **II. 2 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Canadian government recognizes the importance of successful research and development (R&D) for international competitiveness by funding organizations that play a vital role in pharmaceutical R&D. These include:

- ☐ **The Medical Research Council of Canada;**
- ☐ **The National Research Council of Canada; and**
- ☐ **The Networks of Centres of Excellence.**

These government organizations are committed to the development of a strong pharmaceutical industry through the development of partnerships, networks and alliances. They form an interconnecting research "portfolio" that offers an established capability to conduct any and all stages of R&D: basic research; applied research; pre-clinical testing; phases I to IV clinical trials; post-marketing studies (PMS); and studies in pharmacoeconomics.

### **Medical Research Council of Canada**

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the federal funding agency for a network of biomedical and clinical scientists in Canada. The agency promotes and supports basic, applied and clinical research in the health sciences. Further, the MRC provides research training and development to Canadian health-care researchers. Training is carried out in universities, healthcare institutes (mainly teaching hospitals) and research institutes.

In a single year, up to 10 000 highly skilled people, including scientists, technicians, nurses and support staff at universities, research institutes and teaching hospitals across Canada, are being supported by the MRC.