

6. Canada's Science and Technology Counsellor in United States

Situation at the Post

As a member of the International Business Development Section at the Embassy, the S&T Counsellor tracks major US S&T policy matters, which are naturally concentrated in Washington, DC. The Washington post is also staffed with a number of sectorially specialized commercial officers.

The US is Canada's principal trading partner, and the need for joint technology development and product-oriented R&D collaboration is paramount. There are 13 Canadian Consulates and Trade Offices across the US in addition to the Embassy in Washington, staffed with officers engaged in technology development to varying degrees. With this distribution of regional offices, the Counsellor is rarely required to travel within the country.

The Counsellor's job is focussed on maintaining an up to date intelligence scan of US S&T policy, and conducting research on specific S&T developments of importance to Canada.

Monitored Institutions (prominent federal/national)

National Science Foundation (NSF), American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), National Academies of Science (NAS), US National Research Council (NRC/US), Department of Commerce (DOC), Department of Energy (DOE), Department of State (DOS), US Congress, White House Office of Science & Technology Policy (OSTP), National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Aeronautics & Space Administration (NASA), National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM), various Think Tanks.

S&TC's priorities and main contacts

- U.S. federal S&T policies including e-commerce, education, academic / workforce, research performed by universities and government labs, funding mechanisms and commercialization practices. Contacts: DOC, DOS, DOE, NSF, SBRI, OSTP, AAAS, NAS, NRC/US
- Biotechnology - advances and alliances, particularly genomics (human, plant & animal). Contacts: NIH, NRC, HC, CIHR, Genome Canada, universities
- Nuclear technology - advocacy, treaties, fusion (Iter), Nuclear R&D, future generation reactors and clean and secure energy, e.g. fuel cells. Contacts: DOE, IterCanada, AECL
- Space - a) advocacy, treaties, border issues and Radarsat programs, b) industry, electronics, space materials, GPS III. Contacts: NASA, CSA
- Nanotechnology, lasers, photonics. Contacts: DOE, DOC-NIST, DOD, NSF, NRC, DND, hospitals, universities