

# FOREWORD

On February 4 and 5, 1985, the Honourable Tom Siddon, Minister of State for Science and Technology, met with the provincial and territorial ministers responsible for science and technology.

It was the first meeting of ministers responsible for science and technology since 1978 and a high degree of consensus was achieved on a number of matters of mutual concern.

Ministers jointly agreed that Canada must increase its commitment to promoting science, technology and innovation as key instruments of economic renewal, and urged that science and technology be considered as priority areas for investment and funding. They noted that investments in technology development pay significant benefits in economic growth and job creation.

As a highlight to the meeting, ministers also agreed to develop a comprehensive NATIONAL POLICY ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY designed to build upon provincial and territorial economic opportunities and priorities. The national policy will lead to a number of specific initiatives to most effectively employ finite monetary and human resources.

This paper on science and technology was prepared to aid discussion during the two-day meeting. Since that time, recently released data have been incorporated into the appendices. The text, however, remains unchanged.