

agent in the science and technology community has all the answers to the policy problems that the country faces. However, key national agencies deserve to be taken more seriously by the federal government. Specifically, the studies of the Science Council of Canada and the reports of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology (NABST) are seen by the public at large to contain significant observations and recommendations that are worthy of consideration by the federal government. It is difficult to assess their merit since the government does not generally acknowledge them publicly.

- 7. The Committee recommends that the federal government respond publicly to Science Council of Canada reports within 90 days of their release.**
- 8. The Committee recommends that the reports of the National Advisory Board on Science and Technology be tabled in the House of Commons and referred to the appropriate House of Commons Standing Committee for consideration. The principal conclusions and recommendations of NABST reports should be widely publicized.**

F. Federal Basic Research Activities

The federal government, through its agencies and departments, is a major performer of basic research in Canada. Witnesses before the Committee expressed concern over the loss of a capacity to conduct certain types of basic research that cannot be transferred to universities or the private sector. Because some of this research may be of strategic importance for Canada's future, careful consideration must be given before support for such work is withdrawn.

- 9. The Committee recommends that the federal government maintain a primary role in those fields of basic research that cannot be fully maintained by the university community and in those fields of basic research of strategic importance to the nation.**

G. Coordination of Federal Science Activities

Federal science activities are carried out in many departments and agencies and cover a large number of fields of study. Although there is cooperation and collaboration among some departments and agencies on specific topics, the Committee senses that there is an overall lack of coordination of Canada's science and technology effort. At this time there is no central coordinating agent in the federal government.

- 10. The Committee recommends that the federal government establish a secretariat within the Privy Council Office to coordinate federal science policy and related resource allocation across departments.**