

and in industries; for investigating industrial products or materials at the request of any of the industries of Canada; and for conducting research on the use of industrial wastes.

Organization

The Council itself -- the governing body of NRC -- is composed of 21 members selected for their scientific attainments, most of whom are scientific administrators in universities, in industry or in government laboratories. Four members are full-time salaried officers of the Council. These are the president and three vice-presidents (two scientific, the other administrative). The rest of the Council undergoes fairly frequent changes; two or three members are retired each year and are replaced by new appointees, who serve for a term of three years.

The Council as a whole is responsible for policy, major decisions and the maintenance of a high professional level within the organization. The salaried officers are responsible, in addition, for the work of the research and administrative divisions operated by the Council.

The NRC reports not to a departmental minister as such but to a member of the Cabinet who acts as chairman of the Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research. This Committee is made up of nine ministers whose departments support research programmes and who, as a group, have general responsibility for the scientific policy and activities of the Canadian Government. The NRC is thus a government agency, not a government department. It is largely self-regulating; for instance, it is free to hire, promote or discharge its own professional staff without recourse to the Civil Service Commission, which controls appointees to the Canadian public service in general.

National Research Laboratories

In the late 1920's, the National Research Council began to develop laboratories and research staff; but it did not acquire a building of its own until 1932. By the outbreak of the Second World War, however, the Council's facilities were able to provide the nucleus in Canada for remarkable growth in scientific work, which came during and after the war. Beginning with three research divisions, in chemistry, physics and biology, NRC has expanded to comprise ten research divisions in science and engineering at Ottawa and two regional laboratories at outside locations. The entire staff of NRC numbers some 2,600, about 680 of whom are professionally engaged in scientific research. The yearly budget is now approaching \$70 million.⁽¹⁾

(1) The scope of scientific investigation carried out by NRC and the degree of specialization within its divisions are indicated by the detailed list of sections in Appendix A.