

3. **The Committee recommends that "big science" projects be considered only in the context of established criteria and priorities and that funding for such projects not be at the expense of adequate support for the basic national scientific infrastructure.**

C. Stabilization of Federal Programs

Federal activities have an important impact on the level of private investments in research and development in Canada. This influence is felt directly through the financial support that the government provides and indirectly through the many services available to the research and development sector. Many private sector research activities are planned accordingly. Wide swings in the levels of federal expenditures, high turnover rates among senior officials at Industry, Science and Technology Canada and frequent changes in program criteria make it difficult for the private sector to implement long-term research plans. The Committee believes that private sector investments in research and development would benefit from a longer term perspective on federal spending plans and less frequent changes in programs and senior staff.

4. **The Committee recommends that the federal government minimize the rate of change in its programs and staff at Industry, Science and Technology Canada to provide stability for long-term planning in the research and development sector.**
5. **In order to minimize funding uncertainty in the research community, the Committee recommends that the federal government adopt a revolving five-year science expenditure plan. This plan should be published annually.**

D. Networks of Centres of Excellence Program

The Committee is concerned that the present level of funding for the Networks of Centres of Excellence program is inadequate to permit both the maintenance of successful projects already established and the formation of new, equally important centres.

6. **The Committee recommends that the government give consideration to the advisability of expanding the Networks of Centres of Excellence program to ensure that productive, established centres can be maintained and that newly proposed centres pursuing work in Canada's strategic interest will not be denied funding.**

E. Greater Public Debate on Science Issues

If Canada is to develop an effective science policy then the work of several public agencies needs to be given greater consideration by the federal government. No single