

## **SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

### **Major Agreements (between Mexico and Quebec)**

#### **Agreement on University Training**

### **Major Interlocutors**

#### ***Canada:***

Industry Canada

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council

#### ***Mexico:***

National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT)

### **Extent and Mechanisms of Cooperation**

In the absence of any specific agreement between Mexico and Canada on scientific and technical cooperation, most of the activity in this sphere is in the form of direct contacts between institutions of higher learning and research institutes in the two countries. The following four initiatives warrant mention:

- The Mexican Government and the Government of Quebec have concluded a University Training Agreement. Mexico's National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT) administers the Postgraduate Fellowship Program provided for in the agreement.
- CONACYT has a working relationship with the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), to seek ways of raising the numbers of Mexican students in Canadian universities through financial facilities such as the reduction and/or waiver of tuition.
- CONACYT has established fruitful contacts with Industry Canada and the Plant Biotechnology Institute of the National Research Council of Canada (NRC). The two agencies sponsored a Joint Workshop on Plant Biotechnology in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, in March 1994, which assembled 40 experts from the two countries.
- Industry Canada is seeking closer cooperation with Mexico to identify pre-competitive, long-range focuses for applied research in which the two nations can work together; to help Canadian organizations take part in trilateral (Mexico-Canada-U.S.A.) agreements on education and research; and to work with multilateral organizations such as the Organization of American States (MERCOCYT), Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.