

Du Pont Canada and Shell Canada, for example, sponsor scholarships in environmental engineering; Merck Frosst, scholarships in chemistry and biochemistry; and SCIEX, scholarships in instrumentation design. Others help scholars to promote high school students' interest in science and engineering. One goal of the Program is to convince young people that science and engineering provide exciting and lucrative careers.

The nuclear industry has one of the highest stakes in promoting a new generation of scientists and engineers. I encourage you to consider the Canada Scholarships Program as a way to expand your activities while helping to train the highly qualified people you will need in the coming years.

Together, we are working to change Canadians' attitudes about the role that science and technology must play in Canada's prosperity. Canadians must embrace science and technology as one of the keys to our economic future. We cannot ignore it. We cannot be afraid of it. We will see the benefits when Canada expands upon its reputation for providing quality nuclear services to clients around the world. We will see it when more nations of the world open their doors to our technologies thanks to the market penetration of Canadian nuclear technology. And we will see it in the contributions that future generations of scientists and engineers, working in the nuclear industry, will make to Canada's science and technology excellence.

The Government of Canada is looking forward to working with you to make sure that your industry remains one of the driving forces of Canadian science and technology. We will be your partner in ensuring that your industry -- and Canada as a whole -- can compete.

We are doing more than simply wishing we were more competitive -- we are planning to be more competitive. That is what the Prosperity Initiative is all about, and that is why I urge each and every one of you to get involved with the consultations. We have much to take pride in from your achievements. But every Canadian has a stake in ensuring a competitive, and thereby prosperous, future for the country. That is why it is so important for every Canadian to be involved in planning to meet the competitive and learning challenges we all face together.

Having watched the success of your industry over the last 40 years, I am confident that we have what it takes to meet those challenges. If we are to do so, we will not achieve it by the unco-ordinated actions of a few; we must depend on the commitment of and concerted action by every Canadian. That is why the Prosperity Initiative is so important for the future of Canada and therefore important for you.

I am convinced that if we work together now toward this common goal, we will be able to pass on a united, prosperous, caring country to the next generation.

Thank you.