

The increasing involvement of the Federal government in international S&T has over the last decade been mirrored somewhat by the provinces as international emphasis has shifted to concerns of an economic nature. Many of these latter fall within fields of exclusive or primary provincial jurisdiction; ownership of natural resources, health and education being examples. Each represents an area of substantial S&T content.

The growth of general provincial involvement in international activities is illustrated by formal representation abroad and by missions to and from foreign countries. In 1969, only six provincial offices abroad existed; currently, hardly a province remains without representation in at least one foreign country. By the mid-seventies the pace of official visits to and from abroad had also increased.

These general international activities often include an S&T element. Many of the trade missions undertaken by the provinces include representatives of high technology industries and discussions aimed at joint collaboration on research of mutual interest appear on many mission or visit itineraries. The October 1980 ten day visit to Japan by the B.C. Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Sources is a recent example.

The provinces are also entering into more formal international arrangements of a bilateral and multilateral nature. In 1974, for instance, Quebec signed an economic and technical cooperative agreement with France and is also a member in its own right of the multilateral Agence de cooperation culturelle et technique. There is also an extensive network of activities and contacts between the provinces and the states of the USA. A State Department study commissioned in 1974 revealed a total of 766 state/provincial arrangements, approximately one-third being of an S&T nature.

Provincial cooperation with the Federal government within the framework of Canadian agreements with foreign countries also forms a part of provincial government involvement in international S&T. This cooperation is directed not only toward technical assistance and the needs of developing countries, but also to the fulfillment of obligations incurred through different exchange arrangements with industrialized nations.

There are, nevertheless, problems arising from provincial participation in major bilateral and multilateral activities in which Canadian interests are involved rather than those of one or more provinces. The appearance of