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CANADA

National Advisory Board
on Science and Technology

**MANDATE, OPERATIONS
AND MEMBERSHIP**

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AND MEMBERSHIP**

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**NATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NABST)**

MANDATE

The National Advisory Board on Science and Technology (NABST) was formed in 1987; the intention to establish it was announced in the 1986 Speech from the Throne. The mandate of the Board is to advise the Prime Minister on how science and technology can be more effectively utilized in Canada, and specifically to:

- Advise on the appropriate use of government instruments for encouraging the development of science and technology, including statutes, budget measures, and regulations;
- Propose means to sensitize people to the profound changes resulting from the technological revolution, and to help them make the necessary adjustments;
- Identify changes that may be required in the educational and training institutions;
- Develop methods by which government can assist industry in responding to the challenges of international competition;
- Advise on how best to coordinate the efforts of industry, labour, universities, and government in pursuing national goals;
- Recommend priorities for the support of scientific disciplines, strategic technologies, and national programs; and
- Respond to specific questions or tasks requested by the Prime Minister.

MEMBERSHIP

The Board consists of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Science, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Science and Technology, and twenty-one members (reduced from thirty-six in September 1991). Members are selected from the business, labour, and education communities from across the country. They are appointed by the Prime Minister for two-year terms, which are renewable. The Minister of Industry, Science and Technology is an ex officio member. Other Ministers and senior public servants are invited to attend meetings as required.

STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

The Prime Minister is the Chairperson of the Board. In the absence of the Prime Minister, the Minister for Science chairs the meeting. Meetings are held three or four times per year. The Prime Minister normally attends meetings of the Board two times per year.

Following consultations with the Prime Minister's Office and the Board's Steering Committee, the agenda is set by the Minister for Science. Reports to the Prime Minister, written or verbal, are confidential. Written reports are usually published once the Prime Minister has had an opportunity to review them.

The Board forms Working Committees to assess various issues, which are disbanded once they have reported to the Prime Minister. The Steering Committee consists of the Minister for Science as Chairperson, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Science and Technology as Secretary, two vice-chairs selected from the Board membership, and chairpersons of the Working Committees.

A Secretariat located in the Department of Industry, Science and Technology provides advisory and administrative support. It consists of an Assistant Secretary, four advisors, and three administrative and secretarial staff. The Secretariat provides operational support for plenary meetings and committee activities. In addition, it undertakes research and policy analysis at the direction of the committees.

The Board's budget varies with its activities, and it is in the range of \$ 700,000 to \$ 800,000 Canadian dollars plus salary dollars of \$ 435,000 annually.

The dynamics of the new Board

In the Fall of 1991, changes were introduced to the operation of the Board. The new Board is different from its predecessor in numerous respects:

- It is smaller (24 compared to 41) with no ex-officio members from the government bureaucracy. Already, this has resulted in more dynamic and effective discussion.
- Committees have decided to focus on practical solutions to immediate problems, though they may also wish to address broad issues.
- There will be less reliance on consultants and more on the judgement and experience of members themselves, aided by the research assistance of a more policy-oriented Secretariat.

- There will be, and already is, much more emphasis on consultations with Ministers and senior officials, as well as cooperative development of new policy directions. The Board consults with business and science leaders in Canada and abroad.
- Members are now being given access to confidential government documents to gain a better understanding of developing government policies. They have been given security clearances to facilitate this.
- In addition to the Board's published reports, there will likely be some shorter informal reports and more verbal reports.

LINKAGES AND ACTIVITIES

Canadian linkages

The Board has informal contacts with the provincial advisory councils on science and technology, and with other federal science and technology organizations: National Research Council, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Medical Research Council, (the former) Science Council of Canada, Canadian Space Agency, and Council of Science and Technology Ministers.

New international linkages

United States - New linkages have been developed with the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) to share views on issues related to competitiveness and science and technology priorities. A joint meeting of selected members of each council is being planned for Fall 1992.

Japan - The Prime Minister's Council on Science and Technology (CST) invited NABST to send a member to participate in their March 1992 meeting.

Other countries - Pursuant to approaches initiated by the Secretariat in undertaking a study of the role and policy priorities of science and technology advisory councils in other jurisdictions, a number of these councils have indicated a desire to develop closer linkages with NABST.

Work Program

Since its inception in 1987, the Board has had a direct influence on government science and technology programs and policies. New programs such as the Centres of Excellence Program (\$240 million) and the Canada Scholarships Program (\$80 million) - with an emphasis on scholarships for women - were launched in response to recommendations of the Board. In addition, increased government funding for the research granting councils and public awareness programs has been provided in response to priorities identified by the Board. The government has changed its policy on the ownership of intellectual property arising from Crown contracts, allowing for retention of ownership by industry, in response to a Board recommendation. The Board's analysis and advice on competitiveness was the genesis of the government's Prosperity Initiative. (See Publications.)

The following committees were established at the first plenary meeting of the new Board in September 1991.

Competitiveness - The committee will comment on the federal consultation document "Prosperity through Competitiveness". The group will also review proposals and identify priorities among the recommendations developed as a result of Prosperity consultations. The committee is chaired by Bill Shaw.

Competitiveness of the Resource Industries - In the view of members, competitiveness of the resource sector is a crucial element of Canada's capacity to generate new wealth. Members will apply a practical perspective to some of the substantive analysis of the resource sector now under way, with particular focus on the forestry and non-ferrous metals industries. The committee is chaired by Ben Torchinsky.

Science and Technology Priorities - Constraints on science and technology resources demand priority setting. With the objective of helping the government spend smarter, the committee, chaired by Peter Janson, will develop criteria for science and technology priorities and will examine federal science and technology programs to determine if current funds are allocated in a manner consistent with competitiveness objectives and other national priorities.

Human Resources - Concerns and debate about the availability of qualified human resources underlie the discussion of all other issues by the Board. This committee, chaired by Stella Thompson, will advise on the learning recommendations arising from the Prosperity consultations, identifying practical initiatives and priorities. In addition, the group will advise on specific issues related to public awareness; immigration of scientists, engineers and technicians; and the role of women in these fields.

Technology Acquisition/Diffusion - The previous NABST's work on competitiveness, along with other analysis, suggests that Canada's best chance for technological advancement is to develop its capacity to import and apply technologies from abroad. A committee, chaired by Guy Dufresne, will examine problems and opportunities in technology acquisition and diffusion.

Government Procurement - Jean-Paul Gourdeau will advise on specific initiatives that could be taken within the government procurement system to strengthen Canadian companies.

MEMBERS

Hon. Brian Mulroney	Prime Minister (Chair)
Hon. William Winegard	Minister for Science (Deputy Chair)
Hon. Michael Wilson	Minister of Industry, Science and Technology (Ex Officio)
Harry Rogers	Deputy Minister of Industry, Science and Technology (Secretary)

Andre Berard	President, National Bank of Canada, Montreal, Quebec
Howard C. Clark	President and Vice-Chancellor, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Brian L. Desbiens	President, Sir Sanford Fleming College, Peterborough, Ontario
Wanda M. Dorosz	President and CEO, Quorum Funding Corporation, Toronto, Ontario
Guy G. Dufresne	President and Chief Operating Officer, Kruger Inc., Montreal, Quebec
Monique Frize	Chair of Women in Electrical Engineering, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Kenneth V. Georgetti	President and CEO, BC Federation of Labour, Burnaby, British Columbia
Jean-Paul Gourdeau	Chairman of the Board, SNC Group, Montreal, Quebec
Robert E. Hallbauer	President and CEO, Cominco Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
Linda L. Inkpen	President and CEO, Cabot Institute of Applied Arts and Technology, St. John's, Newfoundland
Peter S. Janson	President and CEO, ASEA Brown Boveri Inc., Saint-Laurent, Quebec
Kevin P. Kavanagh	President and CEO, Great West Life Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba
Larry P. Milligan	Vice-President Research, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario

Peter J. Nicholson	Senior Vice-President, Bank of Nova Scotia, Toronto, Ontario (Vice Chair)
Barbara J. Rae	President, ADIA Canada Ltd., Vancouver, British Columbia
John A. Roth	President, Northern Telecom Wireless Systems, Mississauga, Ontario
William S. Shaw	Consulting Geologist, Antigonish, Nova Scotia
Monique Simard	Host for radio station CJMS, Montreal, Quebec (Vice Chair)
Stella M. Thompson	Consultant, Petroleum Products, Calgary, Alberta
Benjamin B. Torchinsky	Chairman and CEO, AGRA Industries Ltd., Toronto, Ontario
Annette Verschuren	Vice President of Imasco, on Executive Exchange to United Cigar Store Group, Toronto, Ontario

Secretariat

Margaret McCuaig-Johnston	Assistant Secretary to NABST
David Beattie	Senior Advisor
Bill Coderre	Senior Advisor
Ken Beeson	Senior Advisor
Jacqueline Payne	Advisor and Coordinator
Rachel Verdon	Administrative Officer
Marie-France René	Senior Secretary
Carole Foucault	Secretary

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PUBLICATIONS

1988

Government Committee Report on InnovAction

Government Committee Report

Industry Committee Report

University Committee Report

Government Procurement Committee Report

Participation of Women in Science and Technology Committee Report

Department of Industry, Science and Technology Committee Report

Economic Summit Proposal Committee Report

Public Awareness Committee Report

1989

Big Science Committee Report

Keeping Canada Competitive: The Innovation Imperative - a Report of the Private Sector Challenge Committee

1990

Revitalizing Science and Technology in the Government of Canada - a Report of the Committee on Federal Science and Technology Expenditures

1991

Science and Technology, Innovation and National Prosperity: The Need for Canada to Change Course

Learning to Win: Education, Training and National Prosperity, a Report of The Human Resource Development Committee

Financing of Industrial Innovation Committee Report

Statement on Competitiveness

Big Science Committee Report on the KAON Project