

The Institute's head office and main laboratories are located in Pointe Claire on the western outskirts of Montreal in a recently enlarged building constructed by the Government of Canada. Space provided by the University is also occupied on the campus of McGill University by Institute staff and students involved in the graduate education program. The Institute's facilities include: organic and physical chemistry, physics and engineering laboratories; pilot plants for chemical pulping, pulp and chip refining and waste liquor pyrolysis; a greenhouse and other facilities for woodlands research; an extensive library; shops and special facilities for pulp and paper testing and for photographic and microscopic (both light and electron) studies of wood, pulp and paper. It has a staff of about 195.

The Institute's research activities comprise a basic program in pulp and paper research and in woodlands research, contract research, and technical services. The basic pulp and paper research program is supported by assessments from the Maintaining Membership (some 40 companies, representing more than 100 mills and about 95 p.c. of the total production of the Canadian industry) and by a grant from the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. The woodlands research program is supported by assessments on all member companies of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association east of the Rockies that use pulpwood and by a grant from the Association. Both programs comprise research of interest to the industry broadly, as distinct from that which is the concern of a single company only.

The projects in the basic programs range from studies of the growing seedling in the forest to the converted pulp and paper product, and fall into seven broad classifications: woodlands, mechanical pulping, chemical pulping, paper making, process control, product quality and waste utilization. The Institute is regarded as a centre for broad, long-range and uninterrupted studies of basic principles and for major engineering research and development projects which individual pulp and paper companies would find difficult to justify if the costs were not shared. Moreover, the Institute is a centre of highly specialized equipment and manpower which individual companies would not normally have.

In addition to its permanent staff, the Institute, in co-operation with McGill University, has some 40 graduate students working on fundamental projects in the background of pulp and paper technology, which also serve as their theses topics. The Head of the Institute's Wood Chemistry Division, who is also the E. B. Eddy Professor of Industrial and Cellulose Chemistry at McGill, directs graduate student work on such subjects as the behaviour of the materials of which wood is made—cellulose, lignin and hemicelluloses. The Head of the Institute's Physical Chemistry Division, also a Professor in the McGill Chemistry Department, supervises graduate student work in polymer, surface and colloid chemistry with particular reference to those aspects that pertain to the physics and chemistry of pulp and paper. An Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at McGill, who is a consultant to the Institute, directs graduate students in a variety of chemical studies. In addition, the Head of the Institute's Wood and Fibre Research Department, who holds a teaching appointment in McGill's Department of Mechanical Engineering, supervises graduate student investigations on such subjects as supercalendering of paper and frictional processes in polymeric systems. Other staff members who hold concurrent honorary positions at McGill as Research Associates assist in this student program.

The Institute also undertakes contract research projects on a cost-reimbursement basis for individual companies or groups of companies in the pulp and paper or allied fields. The larger of these co-operative contracts have been concerned with problems of particular segments of the Canadian pulp and paper industry, such as the investigation into the causes of corrosion in alkaline pulping equipment and the study of the rapid deterioration of paper machine wires.

A further function of the Institute is to provide a broad range of technical information services to the industry and, to some extent, to other industries and the public. It maintains a specialized library for this purpose which stocks bibliographies, abstracts, translations and critical reviews for the use of the scientific staff and the industry.