

Committee on Forest Fire Control which provides a forum where representatives from the federal and provincial forestry services and universities are able to discuss common problems, co-operate in research programs and exchange information.

A fifth type of Committee is set up to act as a Canadian touch-point for membership in an international organization. Instances in which this type of Committee has been transformed into a national organization outside the NRC framework include the Associate Committees on Radio Science and the Associate Committee on Culture Collections and Micro-organisms.

Associate Committees participate in international scientific programs such as the Hydrological Decade and the International Biological Program. They also co-operate with the laboratory divisions of NRC. Examples are the Associate Committees on the National Building Code and National Fire Codes, under the Division of Building Research.

9.2.1.2 Program B: Scholarships and grants in aid of research

This program will continue to be administered by NRC until the proposed Natural Sciences Research Council is established. The objective of the program is to promote and support the development and maintenance of research in Canadian universities and the provision of highly qualified manpower in the natural sciences and engineering. The program has three principal sub-objectives: to support excellence in research for the creation of new knowledge in the natural sciences and engineering; to promote and support the development of research in selected fields of regional and national importance, and to assist in the provision and development of highly qualified manpower. The program includes peer-adjudicated grants, developmental grants, highly qualified manpower training and development, and national and international activities.

Peer-adjudicated grants. The majority of grants for university research, which cover research expenses and equipment costs, are awarded to selected individuals or groups on the basis of peer adjudication, that is, on the basis of the merit of their research proposal and their proven excellence in research, be it fundamental or applied, as judged by a committee of their peers. During the last year, some 5,300 individual scientists and engineers were supported through these peer-adjudicated grants which form the backbone of NRC support to university research.

Developmental grants are negotiated with institutions, groups (including multidisciplinary groups) and individual scientists, having as their objective the creation of research programs, special research projects and major research installations, and the regional development of research capabilities.

Grants negotiated with a university or university consortium are designed to support, for a limited period, a group of researchers working in a given field with an integrated program of research directed toward a specific goal. The objective may be to achieve a better disciplinary or regional balance of the Canadian research effort, to consolidate the Canadian effort in a field which is too fragmented, to promote multidisciplinary research and accelerated effort in areas which are important to the economic, social or scientific development of Canada, or to encourage university research of interest to, and carried out in collaboration with, local industry. The emphasis in all such cases is on programs of research toward the accomplishment of very specific goals.

Grants for Project Research Applicable in Industry (PRAI), announced in 1972, are intended to facilitate the transfer of research results from the university laboratory to Canadian industry. PRAI grants complement other types of NRC grants by providing short-term additional support to university staff whose research has led to the identification of a specific and novel technique, process or product which promises to be of value to Canadian industry. A PRAI grant enables the staff member to undertake the research required to advance the technique, process or product to the point at which industry can judge adequately its commercial feasibility and the results can be transferred appropriately to industry. Projects must be undertaken in collaboration with an interested company or companies in Canada.

In 1971 the National Research Council created a new program of grants to universities designed chiefly to improve the infrastructure for research in selected Canadian universities where special circumstances were preventing existing research capabilities from making adequate scientific and technological contributions to society.

The program is aimed at helping university staff members to develop their potential to enable them to apply more successfully and in greater numbers for regular NRC grants. In