

### 9.2.9 Department of National Defence

The Department's research activities are carried out for the most part under the Chief of Research and Development Branch. Projects are varied and often have important applications in other areas as well as for defence. The present emphasis is on projects relating to the defence of Canada's frontiers, especially the North, including such problems as the adaptation of men and machines to extreme cold. Testing and standardization activities are conducted by this Branch but also other branches within DND.

**The Defence Research Board** advises the Minister of National Defence on all matters relating to scientific, technological and other research and development, affecting national defence. At present, the Board consists of the Chairman, Vice-chairman and 14 members drawn from the Department of National Defence, the National Research Council, universities, industry and other research interests. The Board's University Grants Program, with estimated expenditures of \$3 million in 1974-75, supports research in areas relevant to defence. The Program has three main objectives: to acquire new scientific knowledge to assist in the solution of technical defence problems; to develop and support a defence research capability in the scientific community; and to produce promising young scientists to work in the defence establishment. Grants are awarded on the basis of scientific quality and the relevance of the proposed project to defence needs. Projects are supported in such fields as engineering and technology, atmospheric sciences, biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics, medical sciences, oceanography, physics and solid state earth sciences. In addition the Defence Research Board advises and administers the Defence Industrial Research program which in 1974-75 is estimated at \$4.5 million.

### 9.2.10 Department of National Health and Welfare

Following the amalgamation in 1973 of the National Health Grant and the Public Health Research Grant, the enlarged contributions and awards program was in 1974 redesignated the National Health Research and Development Program (NHRDP). New terms of reference for the NHRDP were drawn up to reflect current health research interests of the Department of National Health and Welfare. Health research projects, studies, demonstrations, and other related endeavours are considered for support. It is expected that these activities will contribute to the promotion, protection, maintenance and restoration of the health of Canadians.

The terms of reference for both the NHRDP and Medical Research Council were discussed in 1974 by representatives of the two agencies. It was agreed that all research projects in the health sciences would be accepted for review by one organization or the other, except when the research in question related to another program such as the Non-medical Use of Drugs or Fitness and Amateur Sport. It was also agreed that the terms of reference for one program would not overlap that of the other. All "borderline" applications would be discussed by both Council and the Research Programs Directorate and a decision would be made as to which should accept the application for review.

All research projects, studies and demonstrations were reviewed for relevance to departmental goals and interests, significance to the fields of health care and health research, and the validity of the research methods to be employed. Relevance and significance assessments are made by departmental officials and experts in the health field, respectively. The project's validity is assessed by a committee of peers.

In the 1974-75 fiscal year, almost \$10.7 million was spent under the NHRDP in support of a range of activities in 14 categories. Significant new areas of support represent major attempts to improve the quality of health research in Canada. In recognition of the fact that many potentially important projects fail to win financial support each year because of poor research design, a new "Formulation of Proposals" category was added to the list of eligible activities. To assist health investigators while formulating a research proposal, up to \$15,000 can be made available to provide for expert assistance and talent to which the investigator may not have ready access. The marked increase in funds allocated to the NHRDP's Research Personnel Support Program in 1974-75 reflects the importance with which sound research training is regarded. Almost 20% of the NHRDP's 1974-75 budget was used to support individuals wishing to prepare for a career in health research who require either formal training