

In Saskatchewan, the research council was set up in 1947 under an act of the legislature. It carries out research in natural and management sciences with the aim of improving the provincial economy. At first the council carried out its research programs at the University of Saskatchewan by means of grants to staff members and scholarships to graduate students. The 1947 act was amended in 1954 to empower the council to acquire property, employ staff and conduct its own financial affairs. Laboratory buildings were built on the university campus in 1958 and extended in 1963. The present program places emphasis on consulting and technical assistance to industry and provincial government departments, and research in metallic and industrial minerals, water, the environment, slurry pipeline transportation and selected aspects of agriculture. A large part of the program is carried out by a full-time staff of about 140 but some council research is still promoted by grants to university staff. Members of the council are representatives of the Saskatchewan government, the university and industry.

The Alberta government set up a research council in co-operation with the University of Alberta in 1921 to promote mineral development. Natural resources studies still receive considerable attention but strong emphasis is placed on research related to establishing new industries in the province, to transportation and to environmental problems. The principal areas of activity are fossil fuels development and utilization, mineral resource evaluation and research, groundwater and soils investigation, chemical product and process development, technical and economic evaluations, microbiology, technical assistance to industry, gasoline and oil testing, pipeline transportation, highway research, river engineering, environmental studies and hail research.

The council is directed by a 15-member board, representing the government, the universities and industry. Advisory committees of specialists drawn from these sectors review research projects. The council is financed by provincial government appropriations and through research contracts with private industry and government agencies. Main council laboratories and offices are on the University of Alberta campus, with a pilot plant and laboratory facility east of Edmonton and subsidiary offices and laboratories in other parts of the city. The full-time staff comprises approximately 400.

In British Columbia BC Research is a non-profit industrial research society with offices and laboratories at Vancouver. Its activities enable even the smallest firms to improve their competitive position in Canadian and world markets by the use of up-to-date scientific knowledge. The agency does contract research for clients on a confidential basis, initiates in-house research programs to promote and use the resources of the province, and provides a free technical information service in collaboration with the National Research Council of Canada. It is active in applied biology, chemistry, engineering — physics, ocean engineering, operations research, industrial engineering — and social impact and economic studies.

Sources

9.1 - 9.3 Science Statistics Centre, Education, Science and Culture Division, Statistics Canada.

9.4 Supplied by respective provincial departments and agencies.