

**Food safety and nutrition.** The federal health and welfare department has responsibility for public health and for safety and nutritive quality of food under the Food and Drugs Act. Activities include studies on the harmful effects of agricultural chemicals and food additives, and uniform national standards for safe temperatures to be used in the holding, transport, storage and sale of certain perishable foods.

The department develops regulations on the addition of nutrients to improve the nutritional quality of food. It implements the recommendations of a committee on diet and cardiovascular disease through activities with professionals and the public. Consumer education, information and advisory services are provided to reduce the incidence of nutrition-related diseases such as cardiovascular disease, dental caries and obesity. Nutrition education for children receives particular attention.

NRC conducts food and agricultural research for the prairie region at its Saskatoon laboratory and research on food processing and environmental quality in laboratories in Ottawa and Halifax.

### 14.1.7 Health

Various federal departments and agencies share in the goal of improving the general health of Canadians by their support of studies on basic human biology and behaviour. The following are some of the leading research activities.

The health and welfare department is the major supporter of health improvement programs. It acts as a health advisor to the environment department for the Clean Air Act. These two departments jointly implement the Environmental Contaminants Act. Research is carried out on the physical and chemical contamination of air, drinking water, and indoor and outdoor environments, and the toxicological effects are evaluated. Research is supported to provide information on the effects of smoking, alcohol and drug abuse and improper eating. On an international scale the department provides studies and advice to the World Health Organization and NATO.

The Medical Research Council supports research that advances knowledge of the functions of the human body through biochemistry, genetics, pathology, pharmacology and physiology.

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council deals in health-relevant fields (education, psychology and sociology) including how humans learn, what induces anti-social behaviour and what economic and social forces influence the use of home care or mental health services.

Several departments identify health hazards in natural and man-made environments. The departments of labour and health and welfare and the Canadian Labour Congress support a centre for occupational health and safety. Its research programs include health hazards in the workplace and factors that affect the mental health of workers. Health and welfare and the transport department co-fund a civil aviation medical unit that studies human factors in air accidents.

NRC is a major contributor in the area of health sciences; work was under way on the development of medical devices and prostheses, vaccines and computerized programs for medical education. A rehabilitation technology unit develops aids for the disabled.

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. conducts health-related scientific activities primarily to reduce exposure to radioactive emission, but also related to the production of radioactive isotopes used in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and in basic research on disease processes.

### 14.1.8 Natural resources

Evaluation, development and management of forestry and mineral resources from a national perspective are the main concerns of S&T activities on natural resources.

**Forestry resources.** Chapter 10, Renewable resources, gives a detailed account of forestry and forest resources and their role in Canada's growth. Almost all government expenditures in forestry science and technology are by the Canadian forestry service of the environment department. A description of this federal agency is given in section 10.1.3, Forest administration. Expenditures for 1980-81 were expected to be about \$32