

Canada, and has prepared papers dealing with problems of elderly workers for the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The department has been developing policies and programs directed toward improving labour-management relations and the quality of working life.

A major vehicle for S&T in social development in the health and welfare department is the national welfare grants program. Its objective is to promote improvement in welfare services and self-help activities. Research activities are directed toward the aged, single parent families, family life, unmarried mothers and the handicapped. Support is also given to on-going research on social policies, child welfare, family violence and breakdown, industrial social work, social gerontology and welfare manpower.

NRC is engaged in a variety of research projects of social significance, particularly public safety, consumer protection and rehabilitation technology. The council supports a continuing program on improved aircraft safety and technical aspects of air accident investigation.

Activities in the citizenship program of the secretary of state department range from research into second-language learning disabilities to development of automatic translation systems and surveys on a variety of cultural topics.

Rapid growth of electronic communications and Canada's participation in space activities have resulted in new technologies and new opportunities for industry. The need has been recognized for more research capacity in both industry and the universities.

Space

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Two distinct kinds of scientific activity in this area are space technology and space research. Space technology has provided the development of satellite systems for various applications.

Canada had been involved with satellite development for two decades. Its first four satellites were part of an ionospheric research program which showed the effects of the upper atmosphere on long-distance communications. Increasing use of geostationary satellites to provide more reliable telecommunications systems resulted in development of sophisticated communications satellites. However, Canada has not restricted its satellite use to telecommunications but now has a highly diversified satellite system. Satellite technology is particularly suited to the solution of some distinct problems resulting from the severe Canadian climate, vast land and coastal area and scattered population.

One objective of the space policy is to develop and maintain a competitive space industry in Canada. There has been a deliberate effort to move the performance of government requirements for space science into industry. In 1979 the federal government reaffirmed its policy that it would be a priority of the national space program for Canadian industry to compete as a prime contractor for communications satellites. Since the inception of its space program, Canada has pursued a policy of international co-operation, developing the satellite technology itself but procuring its launch vehicle requirements through the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). International agreements with the United States and in some cases with other countries have been successful in reducing costs, in forging international scientific and technology links that provide Canada with technology not otherwise available, and creating opportunities and economic benefits for Canadian industry.

During the past decade a growing number of agencies have been using satellite systems to provide operational services. The federal departments of national defence and transport have studied satellite systems for search-and-rescue notification. The