

were the chemical and transportation equipment groups which recorded significant declines in 1985.

Analyzing the shifting distribution of manufacturing activity across the country, the following percentages show a growing concentration in Ontario and in the two most westerly provinces. The proportions of the Canada total accounted for by the leading manufacturing provinces in 1985 were as follows (with comparable 1984 and 1983 percentages in brackets); Ontario 53.1% (52.9%, 51.1%); Quebec 24.4% (24.8%, 25.6%); British Columbia 8.0% (7.8%, 8.4%); Alberta 6.9% (6.6%, 6.8%); and Manitoba 2.2% (2.2%, 2.4%). Table 16.1 provides additional analytical detail.

16.2 Federal services to business

16.2.1 Industry, Science and Technology Canada

Industry, Science and Technology Canada, (ISTC), established in May 1988, has a mandate to act in full partnership with the private sector, the science community and other levels of government to promote international competitiveness and industrial excellence in Canada; to renew and rebuild Canada's scientific, technological, managerial and production base; and to bring together in a concerted way the talents required to guarantee Canada's place in the first rank of industrial nations. The focus of ISTC policy development, program and service delivery, and its advocacy role inside and outside government can be summed up as building competitiveness.

The department's business and industry related programs are based on a three-pronged approach that includes support for strategic technologies, industry sector competitiveness initiatives, and business information and development services.

Strategic technologies, including information technology, biotechnology and advanced industrial materials, are essential for Canada's competitiveness and future prosperity. In co-operation with the private sector and universities, the department provides support to help industry develop, acquire or apply these technologies. In particular, firms are encouraged to make alliances and create networks, thereby sharing the costs and risks of accelerating the development and application of these technologies.

Sector competitiveness initiatives are carried out in co-operation with industry and other departments. Industry, Science and Technology Canada develops individually tailored action plans to assist industry sectors to become more internationally competitive. Depending on the needs of individual sectors, initiatives could include

export promotion drives, selective investment promotion, and technology applications for new and enhanced products.

Business information and development services include: provision of information and data bases for business marketing needs and opportunities; assistance to entrepreneurs to search out, acquire and implement foreign technology which could usefully be applied to their businesses; and other services aimed at helping companies improve their competitive position.

The department's science related activities include meeting the federal responsibilities under the National Science and Technology Policy, and administering InnovAction, the Canadian Strategy for Science and Technology.

InnovAction initiatives include the federal microelectronics strategy, the Canadian Manufacturing Advanced Technology Exchange (CAN-MATE), the national network of centres for excellence, the Canada scholarships program, funding for the university research granting councils and a public awareness of science and technology programs.

Responsibilities for regional development in Atlantic and Western Canada have been given to the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Department of Western Economic Diversification, respectively. Industry, Science and Technology Canada retains responsibility for federal regional economic development programs and activities in Ontario and Quebec. These responsibilities are executed by separate offices established for this specific purpose within the department.

Underlying all its activities is the department's function as the chief advocate, within government, for Canada's business and scientific communities. The department advocates on behalf of the business and science communities in areas such as taxation and regulation.

All of the department's programs and activities are based on frequent and extensive consultation with the private sector, the science community, other levels of government, and other interested Canadians.

In order to contribute to the sound development and competitiveness of Canadian industries and sectors and foster the expansion of trade, ISTC pursues the following objectives: to promote the establishment, growth, and efficiency of manufacturing, processing, service, and tourism industries; to assist investors in the location of industries; to provide support services for industrial and trade development; to promote the application of advanced technology; to assist