

The Make-or-Buy policy now in effect in the federal government requires each department to assess any proposed expansion of its R&D program to determine whether the work should be contracted out or done within the department. Work is to be contracted out unless questions of national security, conflict of interest, maintenance of national standards, unsuitability of work for industry or maintenance or use of special facilities arise.

A certain amount of research support for Canadian industry originates in the intramural research programs of government departments and agencies. A number of National Research Council programs have industrial implications. Some broaden Canadian industrial knowledge of processes and products. Others, such as the NRC building research programs, assist in the development of construction methods and building and fire codes.

The National Research Council provides Canada, and particularly small companies, with a technical information service. One section answers technical inquiries with the aid of the National Science Library, a second section maintains a technical awareness section which keeps interested parties informed of new technological developments, and a third section specializes in industrial engineering advisory services to assist industry in improving the efficiency of its manufacturing processes (see Section 9.6).

9.5 Provincial agencies

9.5.1 Economic planning

Nova Scotia's Voluntary Planning, an organization representing non-government elements of the Nova Scotia community, was established in 1963 with the general objective of involving the private sector, on a co-ordinated and balanced basis, in a continuing program of economic and social development.

The organization comprises the following main components: sector committees representing "grass roots" elements of producers, private business, labour and government in agriculture, construction, fisheries, forestry, mining, tourism, transportation and secondary manufacturing; advisory councils in consumer affairs, education, power development and labour-management affairs; the Provincial Planning Board, which is made up of the sector and council chairmen, together with other representatives of business, labour and government; and a small professional staff which provides administrative and technical support to the volunteer groups.

Voluntary Planning provides for the effective involvement of the private sector in development planning; facilitates the identification of problems by the private sector and relates appropriate private and public resources in an attempt to resolve these problems; and involves the private sector in the analysis of government planning proposals during the process of their development, prior to final approval.

Through this planning agency government has a single contact with all major elements of the private sector and the private sector has both a forum for discussing mutual problems and a direct channel to government for submitting co-ordinated views on any aspect of development planning.

Quebec Planning and Development Bureau. In 1969, the Quebec Planning Board, created the previous year, became the Quebec Planning and Development Bureau, a corporate body administered by a Director General, who is chairman, and five other members.

The Bureau is responsible for economic, social and territorial development. It prepares economic, social and territorial development plans, programs and projects; collects data and information; co-ordinates research and formulates recommendations; advises the government on the policies and programs of governmental agencies and departments; and acts as a co-ordinating agency between government departments and organizations. The Bureau also directs and ensures the carrying out of any plan, program or project for economic and social development entrusted to it by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and acts as co-ordinator and project supervisor and administers the funds entrusted to it.

Two organizations advise the Bureau on subjects referred to them for consultation: the Interdepartmental Planning and Development Council, comprising all deputy ministers of the Quebec government, and the Quebec Planning and Development Committee which represents Quebec socio-economic organizations, major specialized councils, regional representatives and special members.