



# Canada's Public Scientific Capacity: What Future?

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# Presentation Outline

- Developments in Canada
  - Higher Education
  - Business Enterprise
  - Government



# Canada's Renewal of Higher Education

- Concern in 1990s over Canada's innovation record
- Focus on expanded research capacity in higher education
- Effort to create world-class universities and higher education research in the 1990s (Lynch 2010)



# Impacts

- Canada leads much of the OECD in higher education research as a share of GDP (STIC 2009)
- A world leader in creating a highly-educated workforce



# Business Innovation

- An attempt to accelerate business-sector innovation through market-oriented policies (Sharpe 2010)
- Macro and microeconomic policies designed to intensify competitive forces
  - Monetary and fiscal policy
  - Free trade agreements and easing the movement of goods and people
  - Privatization of federal Crown corporations



# Impacts

- Canada's ranking on international indices of economic freedom has been climbing since the 1970s and is very high
- Canada also becoming less restrictive in terms of industry and product market regulation



# Impacts

- Canada's low level of business R&D and innovation continues to be a problem (Expert Panel on Business Innovation 2009)
- Canada still lags behind the G-7 and much of the OECD



# Government R&D

- Declining as a share of R&D performed in Canada
- Funding not keeping pace with GDP growth or G-7 comparators (STIC 2009)





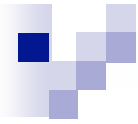
# Impacts

- Concerns over the erosion of scientific capacity in the federal government
  - Departmental mandates
  - International obligations
- Concerns over the effects of diminished role for regulatory scientists
  - Safety compliance



# **Scientific Capacity and Public Service Renewal**

- Aging workforce
- Retention needs
- Recruitment challenges



# Conclusion

- Public science part of the solution to innovation needs
- Public services part of the solution to productivity challenge