

INNOVATION PAPER
QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY CLIENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

CONTEXT:

This Outreach exercise is in support of a key theme of the recent Speech from the Throne (SFT). In his address in reply to the SFT, the Prime Minister stated that “our objective should be no less than to be recognized as one of the most innovative countries in the world”. He further acknowledged that “achieving this will require a comprehensive approach and support and participation of all governments, businesses, educational institutions and individual Canadians”.

Increasing federal investments in R&D, as well as improving Canada’s overall ranking on this front, were set out in the SFT as targets to be achieved by 2010. The informal discussions we propose to undertake at this time would be an opportunity to seek the views of key stakeholders and provincial/territorial jurisdictions on possible measures which might be helpful in achieving the objectives laid out in the SFT.

ORGANISATION:	
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CHAMPION	
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<p>1. From your organization's perspective, what are the key challenges faced by the private sector to support innovation as the engine of economic growth? Phrased differently, you may want to identify for us the key components of a successful innovation strategy.</p>	
<p>2. The federal government has pledged to significantly increase Canada's R&D performance (from 15th to 5th). To what extent, and on what fronts, is your organization in a position to contribute to this ambitious target?</p>	
<p>3. How do we assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) to adopt and adapt innovations?</p>	

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<p>4. We have made significant progress in addressing security concerns relating to e-commerce by Canadian businesses. What is the most crucial next step for governments, in terms of encouraging citizen participation?</p>	
<p>5. What could most constructively, most expeditiously be done by the public sector, and by the private sector, to increase our performance across all facets of the “innovation diamond”: knowledge infrastructure, commercialization, human resources, and business environment?</p>	
<p>6. Which three (3) factors or conditions would contribute most to the private sector’s capacity to ensure a continuous and long-term supply of skilled labour to meet the needs of a growing economy?</p>	