

The Canadian Scene: Developing an Innovation Culture through Science & Technology Engagement (Roundtable Background Paper): 1-13.

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Note:

The development of an Innovation Culture is dependent upon improving literacy and innovative behaviour in science & technology, arts & humanities and entrepreneurship & commerce - improving science & technology literacy ensures engaged citizens and politicians who can deal with the complexity of modern society and develop public policies based on good science, also ensuring an adequate supply of scientists and engineers, and it improves the quality of life. Improving science and technology literacy and developing an innovation culture will likely lead to many outcomes, including: the development of attitudes, skills and behaviours that enable innovation across society, improved understanding of the processes, products, and value of science, technology and innovation, increased access to current science and technology research and discoveries, a greater proportion of students choosing to pursue and complete postsecondary studies in science and engineering, improved public support for research, public recognition of the value of commercializing Canadian intellectual property and increased confidence of Canadians in their ability to address and resolve the challenges of the 21st Century. Challenges that now impede the improvement of science and technology literacy and an innovation culture include: lack of national vision, goals and common definitions to drive efforts, lack of adequate funding, lack of data, jurisdictional responsibility for education makes national initiatives challenging, and belief that a culture of innovation is obtainable only by investing in post-secondary research though cultural shifts begin at a much earlier age and continue with lifelong engagement activities