

Science Day in Canada



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Tom Jenkins, Exec Chair Open Text Corporation

Summary

Extensive Analysis



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- Many reports written on this topic

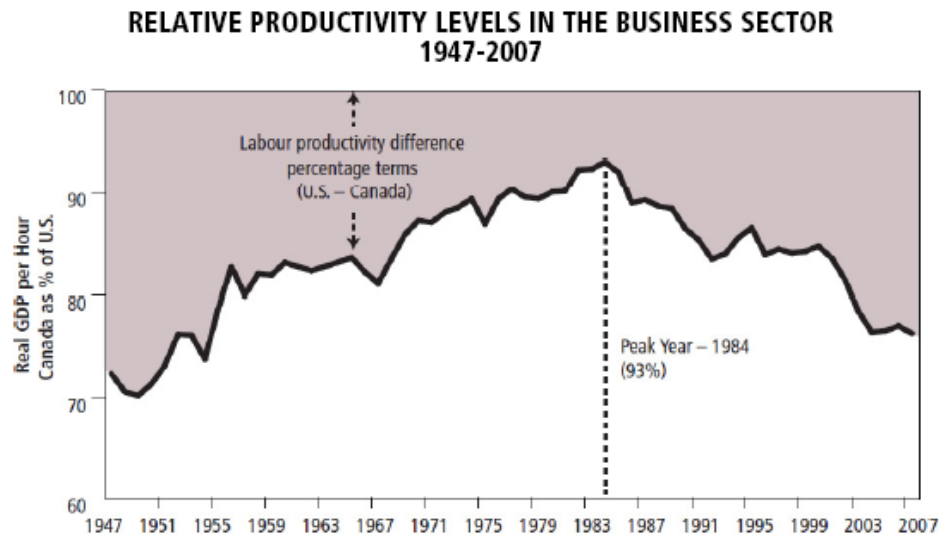


Figure 1*: Relative Productivity Levels in the Business Sector

Canada was rapidly closing the productivity gap with the U.S. until the early 1980s. The strength of U.S. productivity growth since the mid 1990s is primarily associated with the production and use of information and communication technologies.



- It is a complicated topic.....

Consensus on Science



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- There are many consistent themes
- STI – A key part of the “chain of activity” in Canada
- Key enabling factor across many dimensions in society
- Innovation driven by inter-disciplinary aspects
- Balance national relevance with curiosity based research
- Changing basis of GDP: manufacturing to service based
- Research needs must change to reflect this fact

Need for Focus



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The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked. As they went along, they passed some people who remarked, "it was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding". The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right so they changed positions. Later, they passed some people that remarked, "What a shame, he makes that little boy walk." They decided they both would walk! Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So they both rode the donkey! Now they passed some people that shamed them by saying "how awful to put such a load on a poor donkey". The boy and man said they were probably right so they decided to carry the donkey. As they crossed a bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned.

Management Lesson:

If you try to please everyone, you will eventually lose your ass.

Understand STI Chain



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- Science means many things to various groups
- STI implies a process or chain of events
- A complex chain without a consistent consensus
- Chains are different by sector complicates this
- Understand STI value chain is a key building block for policy development

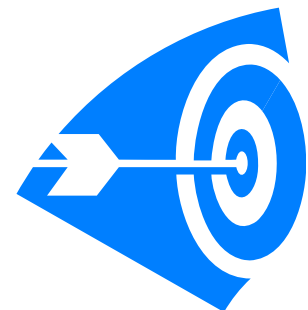


Next Steps



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- The issue now is to **ACT!**
- Understand the STI chain
- Establish national champion & describe STI Chain
- Set the macro STI agenda in transparent manner
- Policy debate to update STI mandate regularly
- Set goals – short term & long term

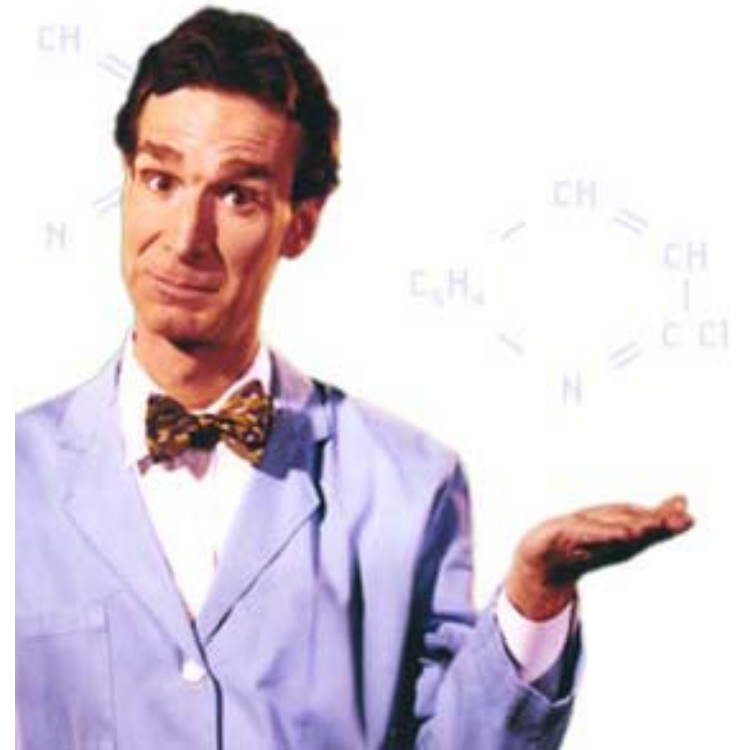


Communication



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- Increase rewards/recognition for science excellence
- Increase the understanding by the broader public
- Increase the **relevance** for the private sector
- National dialogue in both long term and short term



National Dream: Moon-shot



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- A modern “national geological survey”
- What is the ICT equivalent of this?
- Must enable all focus areas
- Will build the relationships with a common goal
- We need to define this **now**.

National STI Nomenclature



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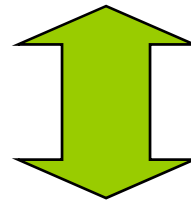
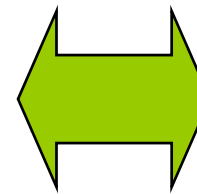
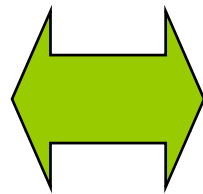
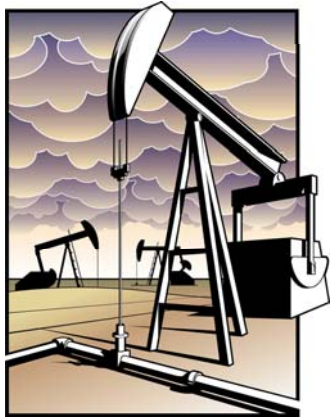
- Science means many things
- Sectors matter to this
- Understand STI value chain
- Establish a national standard
- That leads to national dialogue
- Even more collaboration between segments of the chains
- Government should improve capacity to understand the sectors to **lead** the dialogue



Collaborate



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