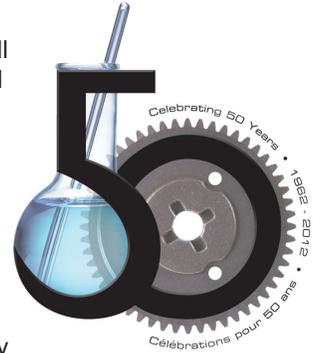


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Provincial Research Organization recognizes 50 years of service

Fredericton, April 13, 2012 - New Brunswick's provincial research organization (PRO) will be recognizing its golden anniversary in 2012. Legislation to establish the Research and Productivity Council, widely known as RPC, was assented to on April 13, 1962. RPC was created to facilitate the research and productivity needs of business. At the time, there was widespread recognition that industry needed to utilize technology and improve productivity if they were to be competitive.

Like many businesses, RPC had modest beginnings, working from 300 square feet of rented office space in a building later demolished to make room for Fredericton's King's Place. With a temporary Executive Director and one employee, RPC began to address its mandate, "to promote, stimulate and expedite continuing improvement in productive efficiency and expertise in the various sectors of the New Brunswick economy", as assigned by the Legislature.



Over the years, RPC has tackled some of the province's most significant challenges and opportunities. The spruce budworm problem, Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station development and maintenance, the acid rain issue, numerous mining and mineral extraction projects, the Saint John Frigate program, the aquaculture industry's ISAV crisis, the Agent Orange investigation, and the LNG terminal project are examples of New Brunswick projects where RPC made significant contributions with research, technology, analysis and investigations. Our past projects read like a history of the New Brunswick economy; while we are pleased to contribute to these prominent projects, our daily work is with small and emerging companies. From pizza sauce development to generating bio energy from waste, RPC researchers have helped entrepreneurs and businesses to develop products and processes to contribute to their success.

In the inaugural annual report, RPC's Chairman, the late Dr. Les Shemilt, reported: "The Council will, and must, develop facilities suitable for fulfilling its role. To an increasing extent it hopes to be a scientific, research and technical service arm for the industry of the Province". This visionary statement is an accurate description of RPC's evolution: RPC's facilities, staff, equipment and certifications have grown to the point where we now serve over 900 clients annually. Our Fredericton facilities on College Hill Road are home to 98 scientists, engineers, technologists and support staff operating from a well-equipped 13,000 square meter facility. In 2010, we opened our Moncton laboratory to better serve our clients in southeastern New Brunswick.



▲ RPC's first office was located on King Street on the present day site of the King's Place mall. Today, we operate from our 13,000 square meter facilities located on College Hill Road as well as a satellite laboratory in Moncton.

► May 1964:
Hon. Louis J. Robichaud, then Premier of New Brunswick, turns the sod at the construction site of RPC's current facilities on College Hill Road.



◀ RPC today.

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While the tools, tactics and technology have changed over the years, RPC's values remain true to our original mandate. We have talented experts who are highly committed to quality, safety and customer service. RPC has expertise in sectors that define the provincial economy, for example, aquaculture, food and beverage, environment, energy, mining, and manufacturing. Our research and technical service capabilities are developed and expanded to respond to, and anticipate, industry needs. In that regard, RPC has specialized in market-led research; research that is driven by market needs.

Fifty years after RPC's inception, and fuelled by the need for business to be globally competitive, the importance for business to effectively employ technology and applied research has never been greater. Helping business to address the challenges of global competition and shortened product life cycles is RPC's mandate in 2012, as it was in 1962. We look forward to continuing our service to our many loyal clients and always welcome new clients. For more information, visit our web site at <http://www.rpc.ca>.

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