

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RPC Recognizes 54th Anniversary

April 12, 2016, Fredericton, NB - On April 13, 1962, New Brunswick established the New Brunswick Research and Productivity Council (RPC) as its provincial research organization (PRO). RPC became the sixth PRO in Canada. In 1921, the Alberta Research Council had become Canada's first PRO.

Since our inception, RPC has grown to 97 employees with locations in Fredericton and Moncton. We serve 1000 clients annually, over half from New Brunswick, and the remainder from up to 30 countries. Our applied research services include design, demonstration and testing of technologies for industries such as aquaculture, mining, manufacturing, energy, food and beverage, and forestry. Our technical services include a wide scope of accredited analyses for environmental chemistry, food chemistry, air quality, medical marijuana, fish health, etc. RPC works to anticipate and respond to industry needs. To remain relevant, we are continually investing in training, method development, new accreditations, equipment and facilities. We employ various disciplines of scientists, engineers and technologists.

RPC's mandate to assist industry to develop and apply innovative technology and to provide specialized laboratory services is as relevant in 2016 as it was in 1962. Innovation is widely seen as critical to economic success, especially in a global economy.

RPC's CEO, Eric Cook, notes, "Innovation is a key component of economic development initiatives. It is important to recognize that innovation includes not only a novel idea, but also social or economic benefit". Cook has contributed to a number of innovation policy and review efforts and refers to the following expression to help clarify the meaning of innovation: "Invention is the translation of money into ideas; innovation is the translation of ideas into money".

RPC is currently in a period of growth. RPC's board of directors has endorsed a renewal plan that will see capital investments of \$1 million annually over the next 5 years, and a revitalization plan that will see a significant expansion of RPC's facilities and capabilities in the near future.

Further information about RPC's services is available from www.rpc.ca.

About PROs

Provincial Research Organizations (PROs) are Canadian provincial government initiatives to promote research and development and adoption of technology. Most, including RPC, are provincial crown corporations.

About RTOs

PROs are special types of research and technology organizations (RTOs) established with a mandate to focus on market-driven research and development. Research efforts tend to be applied, with strong commercial potential. This complements the discovery of research conducted at academic institutions. EARTO, the European Association of Research and Technology Organizations describes the core mission of Research and Technology Organizations as: "to harness science and technology in the service of innovation, to improve quality of life and build economic competitiveness". RTOs, including RPC, are not for profit organizations.

RTOs have a prominent role in the European innovation eco system. Both governments and industry have invested heavily in RTOs, resulting in some prominent organizations such as Fraunhofer. In Canada, Innoventures Canada (I-CAN) is a national network of RTOs working to promote the benefits of RTOs. If you would like to know more about RPC, I-CAN or RTOs, contact RPC today.

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