

TECHNOLOGICAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ENGINEERING IN CANADA

ABSTRACT

This latest analysis of technological entrepreneurship in Canada is directed to anyone interested in this major factor of new wealth and job creation. It is concerned particularly with industrial innovation as the key to economic progress. It stresses also the important role that professional engineers can play in this process.

Canada's competitiveness in the global economy can only come from growth in productivity. This book explains the serious innovation gap which hampers the country's ability to compete more effectively. It calls for the development of an action program to redress the situation and suggests ways in which technical entrepreneurs and innovative firms, large and small, can make a distinct contribution.

Canada is richly endowed with natural resources. But in the New Economy the most important resource of all is the ability to acquire, develop, transfer and apply new knowledge more effectively than competitors. Hence, the pressing need for greater development of technological entrepreneurship in Canada.

This background report describes the global economic challenges that Canada must face. It explains the general traits of technical entrepreneurs and stresses the importance of innovative companies through spin-offs is also documented as well as the new forms of entrepreneurship via the Internet. The Canadian innovation environment is portrayed in some detail. Finally, it gives an overall picture of the present extent of entrepreneurship education in Canadian engineering schools.