



*P*artnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE)

*P*artenariat en faveur des sciences et de la technologie (PFST)

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## **PAGSE: The Past Six Months (July-Dec 2006)**

The Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE; [www.pagse.org](http://www.pagse.org)) is a cooperative association of more than 25 national organizations in Science and Engineering, formed in June 1995, at the invitation of the Academy of Science of the Royal Society of Canada. The national organizations that comprise PAGSE represent approximately 50,000 individual members from industry, academia, and government sectors. They work together to collectively represent the Canadian science and engineering community to the Government of Canada, and to advance research and innovation for the benefit of Canadians. PAGSE is *not* a lobby group. It does not seek an audience in order to advance the cause of specific science and engineering initiatives: rather, its intent is to address the broader issues of science and engineering policy at the national level.

If PAGSE is to be truly representative of the science and engineering community in Canada, we must ensure that you, individual members of member societies and associations, are aware of the activities that we undertake in your name. While details may be found on the PAGSE website ([www.pagse.org](http://www.pagse.org)), we will also provide you with a periodic summary of activities.

### **Bacon & Eggheads:**

PAGSE, in partnership with the Science and Engineering Research Canada (NSERC), sponsors a monthly breakfast meeting held on Parliament Hill, and known as “*Bacon and Eggheads*”. The meeting informs parliamentarians about recent advances in science and engineering. After the summer recess, the fall season was cut short in November by a short recess due to the Liberal leadership convention:

### **[Managing Canada's Boreal Forests for the Future](#)**

Yves Bergeron, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue  
Thursday October 26, 2006

### **[From microwave popcorn bags to polar bears – tracking the path of fluoroalcohols through the global environment](#)**

Scott A. Mabury, University of Toronto  
Thursday September 28, 2006

### **PAGSE Monthly Meetings:**

Guests representative of science and engineering in the government and industry sectors are invited to monthly PAGSE meetings held at the University of Ottawa to discuss their views on the status of science and engineering in Canada in general and in the organisations they represent, and the potential issues and challenges that they would like to see PAGSE address. Since the summer, we have welcomed the following guests to discuss their perspectives on S&T in Canada:

October 11th: **Maureen O’Neil**, President, International Research Development Centre



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November 21st: **Peter Calamai**, Science Journalist, Toronto Star

December 20th: **Carlos Trindade**, Coordinator for External Technology and Collaboration Programs, Advanced Product Development, Bombardier Aerospace

**House of Commons Finance Committee:**

PAGSE submits a brief and an oral presentation each fall to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance (HCFC). In September, 2007, we presented a brief entitled “*Towards a National Science Policy for Canada*”, in which we recommended placing greater urgency on the development of a national Science and Technology (S&T) framework. This initiative is being led by Industry Canada in collaboration with the Department of Finance. A clearly enunciated S&T framework will reap positive rewards in terms of productivity, innovation, the attraction, training and retention of highly qualified personnel, and the quality of life of Canadians. Hence, it should be a priority for the federal government. Specifically, we proposed that the Government of Canada:

- Evaluate the return to society on public investment in S&T in Canada and the efficacy of the investment mechanisms employed
- Implement the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Commercialization
- Commission an external review of the roles, functions, assets and deficiencies related to research and development (R&D) in federal government laboratories
- Support measures that ensure the national capacity for continuous scientific monitoring, including the collection, long-term archiving and effective access to the data
- Charge Industry Canada with the funding and implementation of international S&T collaborations.

The main thrust of our brief, and the first two of our specific recommendations, were included in the Report by the HCFC with attribution to PAGSE.

**PAGSE Membership and web links:**

PAGSE membership continues to grow. Two new member societies are:

[Canadian Geotechnical Society](#)

[Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution](#)

For further information regarding PAGSE activities, please contact your PAGSE representative ([www.pagse.org/en/links.htm](http://www.pagse.org/en/links.htm))

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PAGSE Chair

January 2, 2007