

APS1012 Management of Innovation – Final Team Projects, Winter 2011**Innovation Ranking of Nations**

This project takes a holistic approach to the analysis of innovation. It is important for countries in today's modern era to understand the basic principles of innovation, and the indicators against which their innovation will be judged. These indicators may contribute significantly towards economic interaction between countries, and in some cases they are economic indicators themselves. This report is meant to help Canada bolster its stance on the global stage of innovation.

The first step towards achieving this goal is to set the framework through which innovation is analysed. To this end, four innovation-ranking methodologies have been explained and compared. The output of this detailed comparison is a unique ranking methodology that provides a highly suitable and meaningful measure of Canada's position.

From here, three countries' levels of innovation were examined on the basis of five standard components. This qualitative analysis provides an excellent benchmark upon which several recommendations could be made for Canada to improve its approach towards innovation. The case studies help illuminate instances of that which works to improve innovation, as well as that which serves to stall it.

Throughout the final analysis, the underlying theme is that of the role engineers can play in helping to move Canada forward in the 21st century. A major recommendation is that engineers take a more active role in the development of policy and the allocation of research and development dollars. It has been shown that with their technical understanding and finely tuned analytical skills, engineers are among the most aptly prepared individuals to make such critical recommendations.

The second predominant recommendation is that Canada moves back to its trend of being a staunch proponent of accessible education. Countries such as Brazil have shown just how drastic the effects of not perpetuating a strong and educated work force can be, and so for Canada to continue its practice of allowing post-secondary education costs to spiral out of control is simply irresponsible.

Within Canada, Ontario serves as an excellent example of how policy can positively impact innovation, even in indirect ways. For this reason it is recommended that Canada draw from the best practices of not only other countries, but other regions within itself, as well. With such strong historical performance, Canada should not lose sight of its founding principles: peace, order, and *good government*. Canada has the tools; it is up to the country as a whole to use them wisely.