

Water Innovation Initiative

Frank Nolan, NSERC and Twyla Legault, NRC-IRAP

The NRC-NSERC-BDC and WD are working together to help accelerate the commercialization of publicly funded research and development on the prairies. These organizations understand that Small Canadian Enterprises (SMEs) face many challenges related to technology development and commercialization and they hope to strengthen SME's ability to use and profit from publicly funded expertise, technology and facilities. Towards this goal, the NRC-NSERC-BDC-WD (Prairies Hub Committee) have undertaken an initiative to help stimulate water innovation and commercialization on the Prairies.

As part of the 'Water Innovation Initiative' an environmental scan was performed to provide an inventory of key players, stakeholders and activities that describe, examine, manage and regulate water resources. From this inventory the present priorities and themes of academic and industry research were identified while one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders provided an understanding of the issues that hinder innovation and technology development in the water industry. This presentation will outline some of the key findings and knowledge gained through this initiative.

Frank Nolan

Frank Nolan is the Communications and Promotion Officer for the NSERC Prairies Regional Office in Winnipeg, where his primary role is to promote NSERC-funded research and development partnerships in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Before joining NSERC, Frank worked for several years at the University of Manitoba, most recently as Research Promotion Manager. Frank has written extensively about research and researchers, and has many years of experience organizing special events, including press conferences and public lectures. He has also worked as a newspaper reporter and as a freelance writer and editor. Frank holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Manitoba, and a Creative Communications diploma from Red River College of Applied Arts, Science and Technology.

Twyla Legault

The National Research Council - Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC-IRAP) is a Canada-wide program working directly with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) supporting innovative research and development of new products and services. NRC-IRAP provides specific technology expertise and advisory services, and through an unrivalled network of local, national and international resources, the program puts innovative SMEs in touch with the knowledge, technology and potential financing to succeed.

As an Industrial Technology Advisor (ITA) with NRC-IRAP, Twyla Legault provides Canadian SMEs with technological expertise and IRAP program guidance. She holds a degree in Environmental Systems Engineering and has over 12 years experience in the development and evaluation of new processes and technologies designed to resolve water quality and water supply issues.