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## Abstracts

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## ABSTRACTS

G rard BOISMENU, Robert DALP  et Graciela DUCATENZEILER: *Le transfert technologique: importation et formes d'acc s*

Qu bec industry imports massive amounts of foreign technology. A profile of technological transfers to Qu bec presents the conditions under which they occur and the modes of access. A survey of establishments in four industrial sectors (food, paper, pharmaceutical products and aeronautics) covers several aspects of the issue: manufacturing technology, modes of payment, personnel training, machinery imports and conversion, research and development contracts and adaptation. The results indicate that industry obtains its technology from various sources and that it is capable of making the requisite adaptations. They also reveal that the modes of access and the available technology vary from one industry to another and according to the nationality by which the enterprise is headed. Finally, the conclusion is reached that the large volume of technological imports does not necessarily create a dependency.

Fernand AMESSE, Pierre LAMY et Elhaoussine TAHMI: *Les techniques  lectroniques de pointe au Canada et au Qu bec*

On the basis of 1983 data, a table of the Canadian «technocenters» can be traced. An analysis is given of their size, composition, evolution and dynamism. Montr al stands out as the second most important center of high technology in Canada, after the Toronto region. Less diversified than its counterpart and containing a greater proportion of smaller companies, the Montr al region at first sight appears to be more fragile. During that year, 68% of the businesses there had fewer than 50 employees and 59% had been created after 1972. However, from 1979 to 1983 these firms enjoyed excellent employment growth at 9.2% per year, despite the fact that nearly one third of them did not show any growth in their labour forces.

Roger MILLER: *Le d veloppement de la technologie avanc e*

The world of high technology emerges and progresses according to an institutional model. Entrepreneurs start up new businesses or innovate within existing firms. Three factors: incubation, sponsorship and model-based learning, amplify the effects of the agglomeration of societies around major urban centers. The industrial infrastructure, with a partnership guided by progress and its market-oriented approach, benefits from the politics of technology, aided by experience and capital. In short, any development should involve the creation and adoption of a veritable strategy along six axes: aiding the

creation of businesses, stimulating the effects of agglomeration, constructing the support infrastructure, orienting risk capital toward the field involved, entering federal programs and putting forward mobilizing projects.

Petr HANEL: *Les caractéristiques des exportations manufacturières, 1972-1979*

The analysis of Québec exports of manufactured goods for the period 1972-1979 shows that the result of regressions classifies the industries into two categories. There are those which are protected by Canadian import duties: the more they sell in the rest of the country, the less they export abroad. Next are those with high research and development expenditures or which make abundant use of natural resources. They have little protection in Canada, but are sensitive to protection in the United States. In short, Québec's international exports during the period did not constitute an extension of its interprovincial sales.

Yves GINGRAS et Michel TRÉPANIÉ: *Le Tokamak de Varennes et le programme canadien de fusion nucléaire: anatomie d'une décision*

A study of the decisions that led to the creation of a national nuclear fusion program in Canada and to the construction of a magnetic confinement device of the Tokamak type in Varennes suggests that the final result is not compatible with the theory of rational choice. Rather, it is the contingent product of a temporal dynamic involving actors with divergent interests who knew how to adapt themselves to a variable environment. An analysis of the strategies of the parties underlines the fact that those who attained their objectives had to adapt their discourse and assure themselves of supporters at certain key moments. From this point of view, politics, technology or any other social or economic variables constitute not only constraints, but also resources put to use by the participants to pursue their goals.

Robert DALPÉ: *Dimensions politiques des interventions publiques en technologie*

A technological policy, although normally justified by economic factors, nevertheless depends on the political dimensions of public interventions. To understand the context surrounding the development and implementation of the one of Québec, and to identify the principal constraints which affect its development, we have chosen to study the case of the purchase of microcomputers for the school system in 1984. Emphasis is placed on the role played by each of the actors: the governmental decision-makers, the school boards, France and the industry. The definition and implementation of a technological policy may be seen as a complex phenomenon which involves the coordination of a number of public institutions toward sometimes divergent objectives and the participation of businesses active on the international market.

Pierre DORAY: *A propos de la notion d'impact technologique en informatique*

A survey of the socio-professional impacts of computers in the Québec public service provides an opportunity to discuss the concept of impact in the computerization of work. Two methodological observations are emphasized: firstly, that it is not possible to limit the effects of computerization to the opinions of individuals alone; and secondly, that computerization results from a series of «socio-technical» decisions. In this sense, the analysis must take into account the strategies and implementation methods of the technology concerned.