Benefit-Cost Analysis of Selected R&D Support Programs

John Lester December 2011

SR&ED and IRAP: Subsidy Payments and Number of Clients						
	Subsidy		Average			
	Payments (\$ millions)	Number of Clients	Subsidy (\$000)			
SR&ED (2007)	3256	21980	148.1			
Regular Credit	1958	3909	500.9			
Large firms	1822	2599	701.0			
SMEs	136	1310	103.8			
Refundable Credit ^{1,2}	1298	18071	71.8			
IRAP (2006)	65	1373	47.3			
1. Available to small and medium-sized Canadian-controlled private corporations.						
2. Excludes 1735 claims by farmers resulting from contributions to research co-operatives.						

The Net Benefit Framework

Net Welfare Gain= Spillover Benefit

+ Resource Reallocation Effect

- Financing Cost

Administration Expenses

Compliance Costs

Base Case Parameter Values					
	SR8				
	Regular Credit	Refundable Credit	IRAP		
Spillover Rate	56%	56%	76%		
Price Elasticity	-1	-1	-1		
Marginal Excess Burden of Taxation (Cents per \$ of revenue raised)	0.28	0.28	0.28		
Admin Expenses (% of subsidy)	1.2%	2.5%	24.6%		
Compliance Costs (% of subsidy)	4.7%	14.2%	11.6%		
Effective Subsidy Rate	16.0%	33.3%	23.9%		

Benefit-Cost Base Case Results (millions of \$, except as noted)						
	SR&ED		IRAP			
	Regular Credit	Refundable Credit				
Spillover Benefit	932.2	525.3	54.9			
Resource Reallocation Effect	-170.3	-222.3	-20.3			
Marginal Excess Burden of Taxation	498.5	350.1	30.0			
Administration Expenses	15.5	21.4	15.4			
Compliance Costs	60.7	121.6	3.8			
Net Benefit	187.1	-190.2	-14.5			
As a % of program spending	9.4%	-14.3%	-12.5%			
As a % of induced R&D	11.2%	-20.3%	-20.1%			

E C











IRAP-- Sensitivity Analysis



Benefit-Cost Base Case Results and Illustrative Extensions (millions of \$, except as noted)					
	SR8	SR&ED			
	Large firms	Small firms			
Net Benefit	187.1	-190.2	-14.5		
As a % of program spending	9.4%	-14.3%	-12.5%		
As a % of induced R&D	11.2%	-20.3%	-20.1%		
Additional Elements:					
Transfers to and from foreigners					
Lower export prices	-50.7	-33.6	-2.4		
Profit outflows	-86.2	0.0	0.0		
Royalty and licensing income	34.2	26.7	1.9		
Acting on other market failures					
Pollution Abatement	17.9	11.8	0.9		
Others?					
Improved capacity to absorb R&D					
Impact on productivity growth					
Sum of quantified elements	-84.9	5.0	0.4		