



# National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

## Performance Report

For the period ending  
March 31, 1999

Canada

## **Improved Reporting to Parliament Pilot Document**

The Estimates of the Government of Canada are structured in several parts. Beginning with an overview of total government spending in Part I, the documents become increasingly more specific. Part II outlines spending according to departments, agencies and programs and contains the proposed wording of the conditions governing spending which Parliament will be asked to approve.

The *Report on Plans and Priorities* provides additional detail on each department and its programs primarily in terms of more strategically oriented planning and results information with a focus on outcomes.

The *Departmental Performance Report* provides a focus on results-based accountability by reporting on accomplishments achieved against the performance expectations and results commitments as set out in the spring *Report on Plans and Priorities*.

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## Foreword

On April 24, 1997, the House of Commons passed a motion dividing on a pilot basis what was known as the annual *Part III of the Estimates* document for each department or agency into two documents, a *Report on Plans and Priorities* and a *Departmental Performance Report*.

This initiative is intended to fulfil the government's commitments to improve the expenditure management information provided to Parliament. This involves sharpening the focus on results, increasing the transparency of information and modernizing its preparation.

This year, the Fall Performance Package is comprised of 82 Departmental Performance Reports and the government's report *Managing for Result* - Volume 1 et 2.

This *Departmental Performance Report*, covering the period ending March 31, 1999, provides a focus on results-based accountability by reporting on accomplishments achieved against the performance expectations and results commitments as set out in the department's pilot *Report on Plans and Priorities* for 1998-99. The key result commitments for all departments and agencies are also included in Volume 2 of *Managing for Results*.

Results-based management emphasizes specifying expected program results, developing meaningful indicators to demonstrate performance, perfecting the capacity to generate information and reporting on achievements in a balanced manner. Accounting and managing for results involve sustained work across government.

The government continues to refine and develop both managing for and reporting of results. The refinement comes from acquired experience as users make their information needs more precisely known. The performance reports and their use will continue to be monitored to make sure that they respond to Parliament's ongoing and evolving needs.

This report is accessible electronically from the Treasury Board Secretariat Internet site:  
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# **National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy**

## **Performance Report**

**For the period ending  
March 31, 1999**

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The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien  
Prime Minister of Canada

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## Chart of Key Results Commitments

**National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE)  
has a budget of \$3,255,000**

<b>To provide Canadians with:</b>	<b>to be demonstrated by:</b>	<b>achievement reported in:</b>
Objective views and information regarding the state of the debate on the environment and the economy for specific (sustainable development) issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Useful and credible information and advice provided to opinion leaders and decision makers</li> <li>• Programs and activities that are relevant, effective and efficient, and that involve appropriate stakeholders</li> <li>• Policy makers, opinion leaders and the media viewing the NRTEE as a reliable and impartial source of information and advice on the state of the debate on the environment and the economy for specific issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3</li> <li>• Section 3.2.3</li> <li>• Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3</li> </ul>

## **Section I: Message from the Chair and the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer**

We are pleased to submit the 1999 Performance Report of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) to Parliament.

The 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro was an important milestone in international efforts to promote sustainable development. One of the key results of this conference was the decision, by participating governments, to create National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs) that would work within their respective countries to put sustainable development theory into practice. The NRTEE, which had been established as part of Environment Canada in 1988, was recreated as an independent departmental corporation in 1994, largely as Canada's fulfillment of this obligation.

Over the five years since its establishment as an independent agency of the federal government, the NRTEE has worked very hard to conduct programs and activities that raise the awareness and understanding of complex sustainable development issues among decision makers, opinion leaders and the Canadian public. We have also developed extensive networks and contacts among the groups and individuals with shared interests in these issues, and established effective administrative processes and structures to support our goals.

We have now reached a stage of maturity where we are recognized as a credible source of impartial information on issues relating to the environment and the economy, and where our work has an increasing influence on the decision makers of the country. This is evident in the outcomes of a number of key NRTEE programs in 1998-99:

- The National Forum on Climate Change, a major NRTEE initiative during this period, was endorsed by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. The Declaration that emerged from the Forum was used by the Honourable Ralph Goodale, Minister of Natural Resources (and the Minister responsible for developing a national implementation plan in response to the Kyoto Protocol), to brief the government caucus on the issue of climate change; it has also been widely distributed to the public.
- In March 1998 the Prime Minister announced that he had asked the Honourable Sergio Marchi, Minister for International Trade, to take the lead in developing a coordinated government response to the opportunities raised in the NRTEE's *Sustainable Cities Initiative Final Report and Recommendations*. Further, Industry Canada will be continuing the work initiated by the NRTEE, by organizing a pilot project for an international sustainable cities initiative in three cities. The success of this project will determine the practical feasibility of the initiative as a long-term program.

- As in previous years, the NRTEE was asked by the Minister of Finance to provide suggestions on how the upcoming budget could incorporate environmental incentives. Because the environment is likely to be a major focus of the 2000 budget, this represents a very important opportunity to further sustainable development within Canada. The NRTEE was also successful during this reporting period in proposing a 1998-99 budget recommendation related to the tax treatment for the operation of private woodlots. As well, it organized an international conference on the design of domestic greenhouse gas emission trading systems to mark the release of studies on the subject. The event and the studies were acknowledged by Finance Canada as having considerably advanced understanding of issues in this area.

In closing, we welcome this opportunity to say that we look forward to continuing to serve Canadians in support of the goal of sustainable development. The NRTEE provides a “safe place” in which the diverse and often conflicting views of stakeholders can be freely expressed and discussed. In so doing, we make an important contribution to the identification and promotion of practical actions and strategies to address issues relating to the environment and economy; in effect, to turn sustainable development theory into practice.

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Stuart L. Smith, M.D.  
Chair

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David J. McGuinty  
Executive Director and  
Chief Executive Officer



## **Section II: Departmental Overview**

### **2.1 Mandate, Vision and Mission**

The formal mandate of the NRTEE is derived from the *National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Act*. The stated purpose of the Round Table is “...to play the role of catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting, in all sectors of Canadian society and in all regions of Canada, principles and practices of sustainable development.”

At the heart of the NRTEE’s work is a commitment to improve the quality of economic and environmental policy development by providing decision makers and opinion leaders with the information necessary to make reasoned choices on a sustainable future for Canada.

The NRTEE actively promotes a round table and multistakeholder approach to analyzing sustainable development issues and acts as a forum in which all points of view can be freely expressed and debated. NRTEE members and the stakeholders involved in its programs strive to define the relationship between the environment and the economy, to determine where consensus exists on resolving particular issues, and to identify clearly the nature of the issues that remain unresolved.

Having people at the Round Table from a variety of regions and sectors - business, labour, academe, First Nations and environmental groups - provides a significant opportunity to investigate sustainable development issues from a national perspective.

### **2.2 Operating Environment**

The major challenges faced by the NRTEE stem from the intrinsic nature of sustainable development issues, which are typically complex or multidimensional and of concern to a broad range of stakeholders with competing points of view. As a result it requires considerable intellectual rigour and careful organization to convene stakeholders to determine how to balance protection of the environment and the economy in specific problem areas.

The NRTEE involves relevant stakeholders in a number of ways: through the composition of the Round Table itself, which includes 24 opinion leaders from a variety of regions and sectors of Canadian society; through membership on its task forces and committees; and through the participation of stakeholders in program activities.

The NRTEE's co-delivery partners vary from one program area to another, but include business, labour, academe, non-governmental organizations and all levels of government. Within the federal government, the NRTEE has collaborated closely over the last year with the departments of Finance, Environment, Natural Resources, Industry, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Fisheries and Oceans, as well as with the Climate Change Secretariat.

The problems and issues that are addressed by the NRTEE are vital to all Canadians. However, as a small organization with a limited budget, it cannot usually communicate directly with the general public. Rather, the NRTEE targets its efforts and messages at decision makers and opinion leaders, including the media. In so doing, the NRTEE promotes open and participatory processes, creates alliances between traditionally adversarial or disconnected social groups, and educates the wider public audience.

NRTEE activities are guided by the strategic priorities of:

- ***Improving Economic Policy from an Environmental Perspective and vice versa*** - by promoting better integration of the environment and the economy in decision making, by influencing policy development within the federal and other levels of government, and by developing tools to advance sustainable development in government policy and other sectors.
- ***Ensuring Program Effectiveness and Efficiency*** - by monitoring management systems to ensure that the activities conducted by the NRTEE contribute to the achievement of its mandate and program objectives, and are carried out as efficiently as possible.
- ***Improving Strategic Communications*** - by raising the profile of the NRTEE, positioning the organization as a recognized and credible first stop for policy makers, opinion leaders and the media to obtain reliable information on the state of the debate on the environment and the economy.

### **2.3 Departmental Organization**

The Round Table is a multistakeholder body comprising a chair and 24 members, each of whom is a distinguished Canadian appointed by Order-in-Council for a term of up to three years, which can be renewed. Members represent a broad range of regions and sectors, including business, labour, academe, non-governmental organizations and First Nations.

An executive director, also appointed by Governor-in-Council, serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the NRTEE. The Executive Director supervises and directs the work and staff of the Round Table. The secretariat in Ottawa provides analytical, communications and administrative support to the Round Table members.

The Round Table reports to the Prime Minister.

The NRTEE consists of one business line: “The provision of objective views and information regarding the state of the debate on the environment and the economy,” referred to as the NRTEE business line.

NRTEE activities are organized in a series of programs, each of which is overseen by a task force made up of one or more NRTEE members and selected representatives from relevant stakeholder groups. The responsible task force commissions research, conducts national consultations, reports on areas of agreement and disagreement, and puts forward reasoned recommendations for steps to be taken that will promote sustainable development. The full Round Table then reviews these reports and recommendations prior to approving and releasing them to the public.

The members of the Round Table meet in plenary session four times a year to review the progress of programs under way, to approve the publication of findings, conclusions and recommendations emanating from programs, to establish priorities for the future, and to initiate new programs.

## Section III: Departmental Performance

### 3.1 Performance Expectations

The NRTEE is a policy advisory organization. At the broadest level, its goal is to promote a *sustainable future for Canada*, an outcome that is clearly difficult to measure, and one for which attribution is even more problematic. Similarly, the ability of the NRTEE to *improve policy development* is dependent on a wide array of factors over which the organization has little control. For these reasons, the NRTEE's performance expectations and results focus primarily on the intermediate objective of providing useful information and advice to decision makers and opinion leaders. Where possible, the achievement of this objective is linked to results related to the broader goals of the agency.

Part III of the NRTEE's 1998-99 Estimates lists a number of specific outcomes it hoped to achieve during the year. These performance expectations are categorized according to specific program areas.

<b>National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy</b>	
<b>PLAN</b> <i>to provide Canadians with:</i>	<b>STRATEGIES</b> <i>to be demonstrated by:</i>
A better understanding of the climate change issue and its implications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• convening the National Forum on Climate Change, which will result in a Declaration to Canadians that provides an objective and unbiased statement of the climate change challenge</li> </ul>
The elements of a Canadian strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from urban transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• establishing partnerships with lead agencies in the area</li> <li>• conducting a series of regional workshops with the transportation community, leading to a diagnosis</li> <li>• identifying feasible design approaches to alternative courses of action</li> </ul>
Assistance in the design of Canadian emissions trading systems for greenhouse gases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• obtaining expert economic and environmental analysis of the issue</li> <li>• forging partnerships with key stakeholder organizations</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• convening a round table group, involving all appropriate stakeholders</li> </ul>
Improved eco-efficiency monitoring and performance by Canadian companies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• developing cost-effective, credible benchmarks of eco-efficiency</li> <li>• obtaining industry commitment to routinely include this information in corporate reports</li> </ul>
Increased trade by Canadian business in the area of sustainable cities solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making recommendations to decision makers on how to enhance coordination of the various centres of Canadian expertise to increase trade in this area</li> </ul>
Greater integration of sustainability into Canadian fiscal policy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing advice on Greening the Budget for the consideration of the Minister of Finance for the 1999-2000 and subsequent budgets</li> <li>• identifying alternative approaches to taxation and incentives for achieving environmental objectives</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Performance Accomplishments

The NRTEE actively monitors program timelines and budgets, and conducts a more formal evaluation of one program area annually. In addition, many of the NRTEE's internal policies and practices support the ongoing, or formative, assessment of its programs. The initial planning and design of programs focus very strongly on "results" - on identifying the outcomes and impacts each program hopes to achieve. Task force and committee deliberations and regular plenary sessions provide continuous feedback from members on the progress and value of work undertaken, and programs are routinely revised or readjusted in response to this input.

The 1998-99 performance accomplishments for the NRTEE are presented below. Although the NRTEE has only one business line, its activities are organized around a number of specific program areas. Section 3.2.2 presents some of the high-level impacts achieved by the organization in 1998-99; specific outcomes associated with each of the program areas are summarized in Section 3.2.3.

### 3.2.1 Financial Information

<b>National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy</b>	
Planned Spending	\$3,255
<i>Total Authorities</i>	\$3,393
<b>1998-99 Actual</b>	<b>\$3,307</b>

### 3.2.2 Departmental Performance Accomplishments

In March 1999, the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C. commissioned a report entitled *National Councils for Sustainable Development: Do They Matter?*<sup>1</sup> While Canada was not one of the case studies included in this assessment, some of the observations made and accomplishments identified apply equally to the NRTEE. Namely, the study concluded that:

- National Councils for Sustainable Development (NCSDs) have proven effective in promoting more open and participatory processes, in creating alliances between traditionally adversarial or disconnected sectors or groups, and in educating wider public audiences. However, councils have experienced only sporadic success in moving toward the larger purpose for which they were created: redirecting their societies and economies toward more sustainable paths.
- NCSDs are more effective when they engage a broad base of stakeholders in their work. Such engagement helps generate a sense of ownership and commitment among important social and economic groups for the concept of sustainable development.
- High-level political support and the opportunity to inform, engage, or change mainstream decision-making processes appear to be the key to influencing the direction of national development. Without these elements in place, few NCSDs can hope to fulfill their long-term goals of national change.

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1 Maurer, Crescencia. (Draft) *National Councils for Sustainable Development: Do They Matter?* World Resources Institute, Washington, D.C., March 1999.

It is often difficult to attribute broader public policy outcomes to the activities of NCSDs and the NRTEE is no exception. Instead, specific evidence of the NRTEE's impact on public policy making is demonstrated primarily through formal recognition and responses by ministers and other decision makers to the conduct and outcomes of NRTEE programs. During 1998-99 this influence was evident in a number of program areas:

- The National Forum on Climate Change was endorsed by the Prime Minister, and the resulting Declaration presented to the ministers of the Environment and Natural Resources. The Honourable Ralph Goodale has subsequently used this Declaration to inform caucus members on the climate change issue, and it has been distributed widely.
- The NRTEE's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program has released *Canada's Options for a Domestic Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program*, which examines the strengths and weaknesses of five potential options for a domestic emissions trading program for greenhouse gases. The report is intended to help inform public debate on emissions trading and also provide valuable input for the national process examining implementation of the Kyoto Protocol when it begins to address domestic emissions trading in detail. Finance Canada has acknowledged that the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program played a key catalytic role in raising the profile of the issue and in preparing the ground for the federal government to collaborate with provincial governments, industry and environmental groups to further pursue specific policy measures.
- The Minister of Finance is seeking the advice and input of the NRTEE in the preparation of the 2000 budget. This request is particularly significant as the environment is expected to be a major theme of the upcoming budget. The NRTEE has established a coalition of business, environmental and government organizations, which is now working in close collaboration with the departments of Finance, Environment, Natural Resources and Industry to identify environmental issues that could be addressed in that budget.
- Following the release of the *NRTEE's Sustainable Cities Initiative Final Report and Recommendations*, the Prime Minister appointed then International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to take the lead in developing a coordinated government response to the opportunities raised in this report. As a first step, Industry Canada is developing a pilot project for an international sustainable cities initiative in three cities.
- As a result of the work the NRTEE has done on oceans over the last few years, the Executive Director and CEO was invited, in 1998-99, to join Canada's official delegation to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). His role, with

the other delegates, was to advise the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans in strategy meetings prior to and during the delegates' dialogue, and to be available to answer questions on co-management posed by the Minister or other country delegates during the high-level segment on oceans.

In addition to these and other program results, the NRTEE had a number of important operational accomplishments in 1998-99. Primary amongst these was the conversion of the NRTEE accounting system to activity-based costing. This conversion has allowed the NRTEE to more clearly link financial and non-financial performance information and will improve its internal management and reporting capabilities.

The NRTEE also consolidated and updated its stakeholder database during the past fiscal year; this database is an essential tool for developing and fostering networks of those interested in issues addressed by the NRTEE.

### **3.2.3 Program Performance Accomplishments**

The NRTEE's accomplishments in the specific program areas outlined in the *1998-99 Report on Plans and Priorities* are presented below:

#### **Climate Change**

As planned, the NRTEE convened the National Forum on Climate Change during the 1998-99 fiscal year. The objective of this forum, which comprised a citizens' panel of 25 respected, objective Order of Canada recipients, was to assist Canadians in better understanding the climate change issue and its implications. The panel was provided with a full range of expert opinion and knowledge through a series of three day-long meetings.

The National Forum on Climate Change was, by all accounts, a very successful program. The major output of the Forum was a Declaration outlining the climate change challenge facing Canadians. This Declaration sets out members' understanding of climate change and its potential impact on the environment and economy, and on the health of Canadians. It was formally presented to the ministers of the Environment and Natural Resources and has subsequently been used by Minister Goodale to brief caucus on the issue of climate change.

An internal evaluation of the Forum concluded that participants definitely felt they had a better understanding of the issue, and several have remained active in promoting it to others. Although financial constraints limited the amount of follow-up and communications activities that could be undertaken, the Forum sessions received extensive media coverage at the time, and plans are currently under way to include the Declaration in some of the householders distributed by members of Parliament. In addition, the NRTEE, Pollution Probe and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce have submitted a joint proposal to the Climate Change Action Fund to continue discussing and disseminating climate change information with the Canadian public through a series of



town hall meetings and media briefings. The Declaration of the National Forum will be used to introduce the issue at these sessions.

### **Sustainable Transportation**

In November 1997, the Sustainable Transportation Committee released a State of the Debate Report exploring priority issues in sustainable transportation in Canada. As a follow-up to that report, studies were to be commissioned in 1998 to review the role of urban transportation in greenhouse gas emissions and to review existing and proposed strategies for achieving reductions. However, the increasing profile of this issue - a situation to which the NRTEE's previous work certainly contributed - resulted in the establishment of the Climate Change Secretariat and Issues Tables, with a mandate and scope of work that essentially subsumed the NRTEE's planned activities. Thus the decision was made to have the chair of the NRTEE task force participate on the Issues Tables, while the remaining resources assigned to this program area were diverted to other priority areas, where they could have a greater impact.

### **Emissions Trading**

To achieve its targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, Canada will need, in addition to other tools, an emissions trading system. The NRTEE's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program undertook a large and diverse number of activities in support of this goal during 1998-99. These included:

- commissioning a series of technical papers;
- convening a multistakeholder expert group in September 1998 to assess options for a domestic emissions trading program;
- producing a final report analyzing and assessing the alternative trading approaches and discussing the requirements for implementation; and
- hosting an International Workshop on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Programs in Toronto in March 1999. Participants from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway and the United States, among others, presented information on trading program designs being examined in their countries.

The success of the NRTEE in compiling and summarizing information on emissions trading programs was an incentive for the government to establish a coordinating group, under the Climate Change Secretariat and led by the Finance Department, to explore this issue further. In addition, the NRTEE has been invited to present a half-day session on emissions trading systems at Globe 2000 in Vancouver.

## **Eco-efficiency**

The NRTEE has been working with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development and eight leading North American companies to explore the feasibility of indicators in two areas: material and energy intensity, and pollutant dispersion/toxic release. The NRTEE report *Measuring Eco-efficiency in Business: Feasibility of a Core Set of Indicators* released in 1998, summarizes the results of this two-year study. The report focuses on indicators for energy and material intensity, and has many practical lessons and insights of value to those who develop and implement eco-efficiency indicators. Feedback from the participating companies has been very positive; several have indicated they will include this information in their annual reports. As well, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) featured this report at an international conference on the subject in New Zealand.

## **Foreign Policy**

The primary focus of the Foreign Policy Committee over the last 18 months has been on exploring how Canada might better meet the growing foreign demand for sustainable cities solutions. This work, undertaken in consultation with government departments (Industry Canada, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Environment Canada), major suppliers of infrastructure, engineering services, non-profit organizations, World Bank officials, academics and municipal representatives, culminated in the *Sustainable Cities Initiative Final Report and Recommendations*, released early in 1999. This report describes how Canadian companies, the public sector and not-for-profit organizations can work together to build better urban environments abroad and compete in the \$850 billion global urban infrastructure market.

The government's response to this report has been expansive and swift: the Prime Minister sent a letter to the NRTEE expressing his interest in this area, issued a related press release, and appointed then International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi to take the lead in developing a coordinated government response to the opportunities raised in the report; and, as mentioned above, Industry Canada has launched a pilot project for an international sustainable cities initiative in three cities.

These results, in addition to furthering the goals of the NRTEE, provide an excellent example of how a small organization such as the Round Table can operate as a catalyst to mobilize substantial resources in support of broad sustainable development objectives.

## **Economic Instruments**

A variety of work has been done by the NRTEE over this reporting period to help integrate sustainability into Canadian fiscal policy. In particular, the NRTEE Economic Instruments Committee was successful in advancing one of the recommendations made in

the State of the Debate Report on Private Woodlots. A *Draft Interpretation Bulletin* issued by Revenue Canada now affords the operation of a private woodlot the same tax treatment as that afforded to other commercial farms. Also, the NRTEE made its annual Greening the Budget submission to Finance Minister Paul Martin in December 1998.

### **Aboriginal Issues**

The NRTEE completed scoping of a new program area on Aboriginal issues in 1998 that would examine legal and regulatory regimes governing resource development in the North to ascertain whether they meet the needs of local communities and larger environmental and economic objectives.

### **Education**

The mandate of the Education Committee is to develop, facilitate and deliver programs and materials to encourage awareness of environment and economy linkages in learning settings. During 1998 the NRTEE pursued this goal primarily through the hosting of a training workshop for professional engineers and the development of an annotated bibliography for business and management schools. The workshop, held in Quebec City, was part of the 1998 Environmental Colloquium, an event that was co-sponsored by the regional chapter of the Quebec Order of Engineers and the province's environment ministry. The bibliography, entitled *Bridging Business and Sustainable Development Education at Centres of Higher Learning in Canada*, describes a wide variety of teaching resources, reports, books, journals, electronic resources and case studies pertaining to the incorporation of environmental concerns into business practices, with a focus on Canadian resources.

### **LEAD Canada (Leadership for Environment and Development)**

The NRTEE administers the Canadian component of this international program, which is funded by the International Development Research Centre. The objective of this program is to give future Canadian decision makers from a variety of sectors the opportunity to increase their understanding of, and ability to deal with, issues and choices related to sustainable development.

1998-99 saw the graduation of another cohort of participants, and applications for the next training cycle were accepted commencing in January 1999. LEAD Canada also participated in the Regional Session of the Americas by hosting a week-long training session in August on regional integration challenges and sustainable development. Fifty delegates, from Brazil, Mexico and Canada, participated in this session.

## **Other NRTEE Accomplishments**

In addition to the specific program results described above, the NRTEE is involved, on an ongoing basis, in communicating program findings and information on sustainable development issues to a broad spectrum of audiences. During 1998-99, these activities, to name just a few, included:

- the distribution, on a cost-recovery basis managed through a private sector publisher, of approximately 2700 NRTEE publications;
- the production and distribution of a report, *Sustainable Strategies for Oceans: A Co-Management Guide*, and related poster in commemoration of the Year of the Oceans;
- the inclusion of the NRTEE's CEO on Canada's official delegation to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD);
- the production and distribution of four issues of the newsletter *NRTEE Review*, which has a circulation of 12,000; and
- the provision of workshops and participation of NRTEE members and staff as keynote speakers or presenters at numerous conferences, association meetings and other fora.

## **Section IV: Consolidating Reporting**

### **4.1 Year 2000 Readiness**

The NRTEE invested over \$100,000 in computer technology in 1998-99 to upgrade and replace existing hardware, install new software and provide staff training. The new system has been extensively, and successfully, tested for Y2K compliance.

## Section V: Financial Performance

### 5.1 Financial Performance Overview

The difference between planned and total authorized expenditures is the result of routine adjustments such as a carry forward of unspent funds from the previous year and a transfer between operating and salary budgets.

### 5.2 Financial Summary Tables

Table 1: Summary of Voted Appropriations

Table 2: Comparison of Total Planned Spending to Actual Spending

Table 3: Historical Comparison of Total Planned Spending to Actual Spending by Business Line

Table 7: Revenues Credited to the General Government Revenues

### Financial Table 1

#### Summary of Voted Appropriations

##### Financial Requirements by Authority (\$ thousands)

Vote	1998-99		
	Planned Spending	Total Authorities	Actual
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy			
30 Operating expenditures	3,018	3,140	3,053
(S) Contributions to employee benefits plans	237	237	237
<b>Total Department</b>	<b>3,255</b>	<b>3,377</b>	<b>3,290</b>

Note: Total authorities are main estimates, plus supplementary estimates, plus other authorities.  
Revenues (\$16) are not included.  
Costs of services provided by other departments (\$190) are not included.

## Financial Table 2

### Comparison of Total Planned Spending to Actual Spending

#### Departmental Planned versus Actual Spending (\$ thousands)

NRTEE	1998-99		
	Planned	Total Authorities	Actual
FTEs	22	22	21
Operating	3,255	3,393	3,307
Capital	--	--	--
Voted Grants & Contributions	--	--	--
Subtotal: Gross Voted Expenditures	3,255	3,393	3,307
Statutory Grants and Contributions	--	--	--
Total Gross Expenditures	3,255	3,393	3,307
Other Revenues and Expenditures			
Non-Respendable Revenues	(15)	(16)	(16)
Cost of services provided by other departments	190	190	190
<b>Net Cost of the Program</b>	<b>3,430</b>	<b>3,567</b>	<b>3,481</b>

## Financial Table 3

### Historical Comparison of Total Planned Spending to Actual Spending

#### Historical Comparison of Total Planned to Actual Spending by Business Line (\$ thousands)

	Actual 1996-97	Actual 1997-98	1998-99		
			Planned Spending	Total Authorities	Actual
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy	3,213	3,465	3,255 <sup>1</sup>	3,393 <sup>2</sup>	3,307
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,213</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>3,255<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3,393<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>3,307</b>

1. Represents main estimates only.

2. Represents main estimates, plus supplementary estimates, plus other authorities.

## Financial Table 4

### Crosswalk between Old Resource Allocation and New Allocation

Not applicable

## Financial Table 5

### Resource Requirements by Organization and Business Line

Not applicable

## Financial Table 6

### Respendable Revenues

Not applicable

## Financial Table 7

### Non-Respendable Revenues

#### Non-respendable Revenues (\$ thousands)

	1998-99				
	Actual 1996-97	Actual 1997-98	Planned Revenues	Total Authorities	Actual
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy	11	13	15	16	16
<b>Total Non-respendable Revenues</b>	11	13	15	16	16

## Financial Table 8

### Statutory Payments (\$ thousands)

Not applicable



## **Section VI: Other Information**

### **6.1 Contacts for Further Information and Departmental Web Sites**

The Web site address for the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy is:

<http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>

Requests for additional information should be directed to:

Mr. Gene Nyberg  
Corporate Secretary and Director of Operations  
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy  
344 Slater Street, Suite 200  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1R 7Y3

Telephone: (613) 995-7581  
E-mail: [gnyberg@nrtee-trnee.ca](mailto:gnyberg@nrtee-trnee.ca)

### **6.2 Legislation and Associated Regulations Administered**

The Minister has sole responsibility to Parliament for the following Acts:

*National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Act* S.C., 1993, c.31

### **6.3 Statutory Annual Reports and Other Departmental Reports**

Not applicable