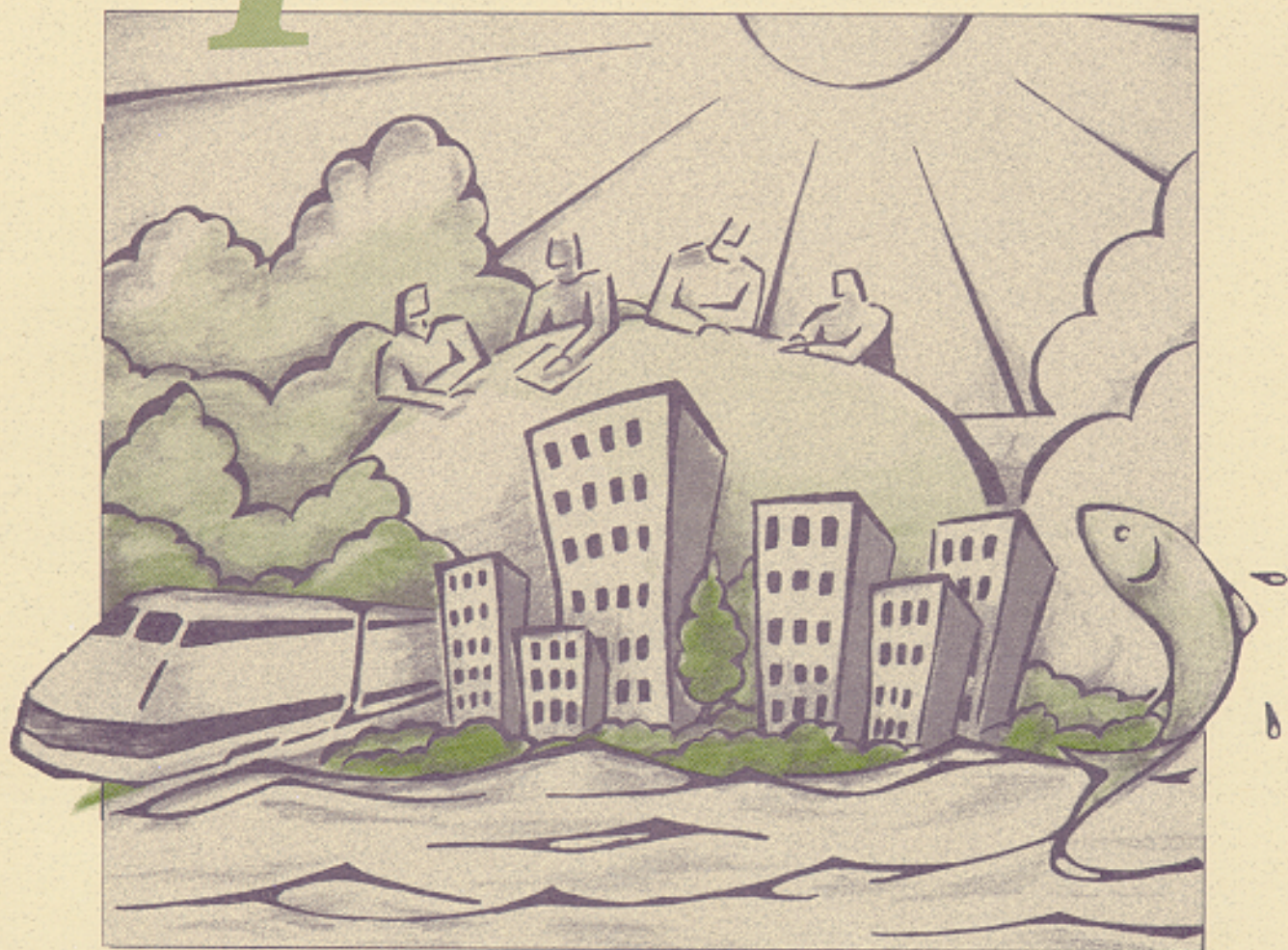


# 1995/96 National Round Table on the Annual Report and the Economy



National Round Table  
on the Environment  
and the Economy



Table ronde nationale  
sur l'environnement  
et l'économie



## **NRTEE MEMBERS (as of March 31, 1996)**

### *Chair*

Dr. Stuart Smith  
*President, Philip Utilities  
Management Corporation*

R.C. (Reg) Basken  
*Executive Vice-President  
Communications, Energy & Paperworkers  
Union of Canada*

Allan D. Bruce  
*Administrator, Operating Engineers' (local 115)  
Joint Apprenticeship and Training Plan*

Patrick Carson  
*Vice-President, Environmental Affairs,  
Loblaws Companies Ltd.*

Elizabeth Jane Crocker  
*Co-Owner, P'lovers*

G. Martin Eakins  
*Partner, KPMG Peat Marwick Thorne*

Johanne Gélinais  
*Commissioner, Bureau d'audiences publiques  
sur l'environnement*

Sam Hamad  
*Associate Director  
Groupe-Conseil Roche Ltée*

Dr. Arthur J. Hanson  
*President and CEO, International Institute  
for Sustainable Development*

Dr. Leslie Harris  
*President Emeritus, Memorial University*

Dr. R.A. (Tony) Hodge  
*Consulting Engineer*

Susan Holtz  
*Environmental Policy Consultant*

Dr. Pierre Marc Johnson  
*Counsel and Professor of Law, McGill University*

Cindy Kenny-Gilday  
*Yellowknife, NWT*

Dr. Douglas Knott  
*Professor Emeritus, University of Saskatchewan*

Lise Lachapelle  
*President and CEO, Canadian Pulp  
and Paper Association*

Anne Letellier de St-Just  
*Lawyer*

Elizabeth May  
*Executive Director, Sierra Club of Canada*

Dr. Harvey L. Mead  
*President, Union québécoise pour la conservation de la  
nature*

Karen A. Morgan  
*President, Woodnorth Holdings*

H. Joseph O'Neill  
*Vice-President, Woodlands Division, Repap New  
Brunswick Inc.*

Edythe A. (Dee) Parkinson  
*Executive Vice-President  
Suncor Inc., Oil Sands Group*

Angus Ross  
*President, Sorema Management Inc. and Chief Agent,  
Sorema Canadian Branch*

The Honourable Maurice F. Strong\*  
*Senior Advisor to the President of the World Bank*

Lori Williams  
*Lawyer, Harper Grey Easton,*

## **NRTEE SECRETARIAT**

*Corporate Secretary and Acting Executive Director*  
Eugene Nyberg

*Administrative Assistant*  
Hélène Sutton

*Director of Policy and Programs/  
Special Advisor to the Chair*  
David McGuinty

*Executive Assistant*  
Rebecca Murray

*Policy Advisors*  
Elizabeth Atkinson  
David Morgan

*Policy Consultants*  
Nancy Averill  
Tony Cassils  
Carla Doucet  
Bunli Yang

*Manager of Communications*  
Moirra Forrest

*Communications Officer*  
Wallace Beaton

*Information Services Officer*  
Edwin Smith

*Desktop Publisher*  
Kindi Chana

*Manager, Information Holdings*  
David Shields

*Office Manager and Conference/Meeting Coordinator*  
Cathy Heroux

*Manager, Finance and Administration*  
Pierrette Guitard

*Finance and Administration Officer*  
Julie Martinat

*Administrative and Finance Clerk*  
Hélène Bolduc

*Secretaries*  
Lise Bélanger  
Carole Desjardins  
Manon Quevillon

\* Resigned in November 1995





## Letter from the Chair

July 1996

Dear Prime Minister,

It is a pleasure to transmit the 1995-96 Annual Report of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE).

As you will note, the Round Table is moving rapidly to support sustainable development by illuminating the state of the debate on a number of important challenges that have both environmental and economic implications. Canadians will be able to turn to the Round Table for objective information that results from its multistakeholder approach to issues.

I look forward to conveying to you the results of several of our new programs and initiatives in the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stuart Smith", is written over the lower portion of the large circular logo.

Stuart Smith, M.D.

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National Round Table  
on the Environment  
and the Economy

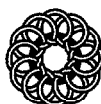


Table ronde nationale  
sur l'environnement  
et l'économie

## INTRODUCTION

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) is an independent agency of the federal government committed to providing decision makers and opinion leaders with reliable information and objective views on the current state of debate on the environment and the economy. Through the media and NRTEE communication activities, the Canadian public is kept informed of key issues.

The NRTEE's impartiality, multistakeholder mode of operation, and ability to integrate environmental and economic considerations differentiate it from other organizations and groups. The National Round Table is a major institutional expression of government support for sustainable development.

The NRTEE comprises a Chair and up to 24 distinguished Canadians who are appointed by the federal government to represent a broad range of regions and sectors. These include business, labour, academe, environmental organizations and First Nations. Members meet as a round table four times a year to review and discuss the ongoing work of the NRTEE, set priorities and initiate new programs. Members also participate in task forces and other activities that focus on specific issues or policy areas. Each task force conducts replica round tables and reports to the full National Round Table. A secretariat in Ottawa provides research, communications and administrative support to the members.

## MANDATE

The NRTEE receives its mandate from the Parliament of Canada and reports directly to the Prime Minister. The National Round Table was formally established as an independent federal agency by legislation in 1994. 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." The current Chair and membership have chosen to focus NRTEE efforts on exploring and illuminating the many dimensions of the relationship between the environment and the economy on specific issues.

At the heart of the NRTEE's work is a commitment to improve the quality of decisions made with respect to the economy and environment by providing policy makers and opinion leaders with



the information necessary to make reasoned choices on a sustainable future for Canada. As well, the NRTEE is positioning itself as the recognized first stop for Canadians to obtain reliable and current information on the nature and scope of national debate on issues that touch on the environment and the economy.

## STRATEGY

The round table and multistakeholder approach applied by the NRTEE in its work promotes an atmosphere in which all points of view can be freely expressed and debated. Stakeholders define the nature of the interface between the environment and the economy in specific areas, determine where consensus exists on resolving particular issues, and identify barriers that prevent consensus. Exposing barriers and trade-offs in policy outcomes assists decision makers by clarifying choices that must be made.

Given its broad mandate and limited resources, the National Round Table relies upon an annual strategic planning process to determine priorities and identify areas that should be pursued. The aim is to identify key opportunities for advancing sustainable development over the medium and long term.

Balancing environmental preservation with economic prosperity is not simple. Often it seems one must gain at the expense of the other. The challenge is to search for opportunities that have the potential for win-win outcomes. For the NRTEE, this entails the following:

- analysing environmental and economic facts and trends to identify changes that will enhance sustainability in Canada;
- actively seeking, in a round table setting, input from stakeholders with a vested interest in any particular issue and identifying points of consensus and divergence; and
- using the products of research, analysis and national consultations to come to a conclusion on the state of the debate on issues important to the environment and the economy.

The NRTEE's new State of the Debate reports are designed to summarize the extent of consensus and reasons for disagreement. They further review the consequences of action or inaction and recommend specific steps decision makers can take to promote sustainability.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Pulp and Paper Round Table**

The National Round Table published a final report in September 1995, that describes 18 principles governing the sustainable production of pulp and paper in Canada. These principles were developed by 25 national stakeholder groups who were brought together over two years through round table discussions managed by the NRTEE.

### **Education**

This program facilitates an understanding of environment/economy linkages and round table processes in a variety of learning settings. During 1995-96, the NRTEE continued to address both formal and informal education through its work with youth, educators, academic institutions and municipalities. The NRTEE evaluated a youth round table process to assess its impact and to develop a training package for teachers and other educators. The training module was tested among urban and rural participants in three pilot workshops in Manitoba in March 1996. The feedback obtained will be used to make the module more effective. This will help to multiply the reach of the NRTEE's highly successful and popular youth round table workshops, which have already been conducted with over 3,000 Canadian youths.

From January to March 1996, the NRTEE organized cross-country workshops on community-based social marketing aimed at assisting municipal decision makers in achieving sustainable development. The workshops were based on a successful pilot event co-sponsored with the Association of Municipal Recycling Coordinators and the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy the previous year. In addition, the NRTEE, together with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy, published a workbook on community-based social marketing, for which there has been significant demand.

To advance its education program in 1996, the NRTEE established new strategic initiatives aimed at engaging learners through "training the trainer" courses and programs. The NRTEE is

currently working with professional associations to develop a variety of educational tools to further sustainable development awareness and understanding among their membership.

### **Reporting on Sustainable Development**

This program addresses Canada's need for a system of measuring and reporting the country's progress towards sustainable development. As a follow-up to a successful colloquium co-sponsored in March 1995 with the Westminster Institute for Ethics and Human Values in London, Ontario, the National Round Table convened a workshop on human well-being in October 1995. The NRTEE also collaborated with Environment Canada and the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) in a feasibility study of a software package to facilitate community-level reporting on progress towards sustainability.

In early 1996, the National Round Table commissioned a study to assess the federal government's capacity to report on sustainable development in light of budget cuts over time.

### **Projet de société : Planning for a Sustainable Future**

The NRTEE supported this multistakeholder partnership aimed at promoting Canada's transition to a sustainable future. Comprising representatives from government, First Nations, business and non-government groups, the Projet was established in November 1992 as a follow-up to the Earth Summit. The NRTEE chaired the Projet's National Stakeholders Assembly and provided secretariat support. It sponsored a fifth and final National Stakeholders Assembly in the fall of 1995.

The Projet produced a report in May 1995, entitled "Canadian Choices for Transitions to Sustainability."

## Foreign Policy and Sustainability

The NRTEE continued to advise the government on international and national activities that have an impact on Canada's environment and economy and on global sustainable economic development. A main objective has been to prod or assist in efforts to develop coherent cooperative environmental arrangements within regions of strategic importance to Canada.

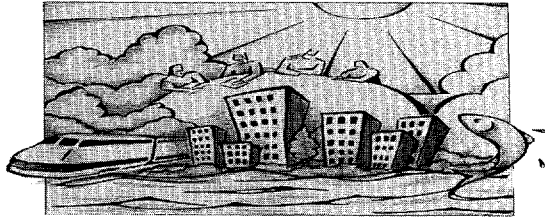
The National Round Table took advantage of Globe '96 to bring together the heads of various round tables and a selection of experts to explore integrating environmental concerns into foreign policy processes. The resulting Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) workshop in Vancouver on March 25-26, 1996, titled "The Environment and the Economy in APEC: Realizing Convergence," was the first opportunity for APEC members from environment/economy institutes to meet and discuss ways of bringing critical sustainability issues to the evolving APEC forum. The workshop generated strong interest in continued dialogue and communication between the NRTEE and like organizations in the Asia Pacific region. It will further serve as a basis for advice to relevant government officials and the Prime Minister in advance of the Philippines' environmentally focused APEC Summit to be held in November 1996.

## Georgia Basin Initiative

The NRTEE was a co-convenor of a conference in November 1995 that examined the future sustainability of the transboundary bioregion of the Georgia Basin in British Columbia. Called "Sustainability: It's Time for Action," the conference emphasized shared experiences and how working relationships can be strengthened among all stakeholders to achieve sustainability. The conference brought together 400 participants from community groups, local governments, provincial and federal agencies, First Nations, the private sector, educators and others involved in sustainability initiatives. They discussed progress and identified strategies and actions for moving the agenda forward.

## Environmental Technologies

This program assists targeted client industries and sectors in becoming more environmentally sustainable by drawing more effectively on the technology and expertise of the Canadian environment industry. The NRTEE addressed the municipal



water and wastewater sector first through a series of multistakeholder round tables in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. The sessions brought together buyers and sellers of environmental technologies and services, and participants from government and financial institutions critical to this market.

The NRTEE plans to communicate its findings to environmental firms, various levels of government, as well as financial institutions in a state of the debate report on water and wastewater. Following the completion of this report, the NRTEE will focus on electric utilities.

## Green Procurement

This program examines the challenges and economic/environmental opportunities of increasing green procurement in the federal government. The NRTEE initially conducted a major study to assess current green procurement activities and criteria used nationally and internationally. The Task Force assigned to report on this activity concluded in a report published in March 1996, that the highly decentralized nature of federal purchasing practices hinders progress in green procurement. The report offers a set of criteria that can be incorporated into government purchasing policies and guidelines.

The program is now focusing on the potential positive impact of green procurement on trade, jobs and the economy. The aim for 1996-97 is to examine the underlying concept that federal green procurement can serve as a strategy for wealth creation and competitiveness. The exercise will result in a state of the debate report outlining the costs and benefits of enhanced federal green procurement efforts.

## Sustainable Coastal Communities and Marine Ecosystems

As a joint initiative with the Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, this partnership program focused on a very specific sustainability issue: the collapse of the East Coast cod fishery and its lessons for the

future. Through a series of formal and informal meetings in various fishing communities throughout 1995, the partners gathered opinions, experiences and ideas from a broad mix of local residents. A wrap-up session took place in St. John's in June 1995. A final report was published in October 1995, which summarizes these community perspectives, identifies the historical causes of unsustainability, and provides recommendations.

"The Report of the Partnership on Sustainable Coastal Communities and Marine Ecosystems in Newfoundland and Labrador" is a compelling case study of unsustainable development and a valuable tool to increase awareness of the need to prevent similar catastrophes.

### **Greening the Budget and Economic Instruments**

This program has followed through on important issues raised from a previous federal task force on Barriers and Disincentives to Sound Environmental Practices, which presented its findings to the government in the fall of 1994. The National Round Table convened a highly successful workshop in mid-October 1995, which provided the basis for advising the Prime Minister on measures that could be taken in the 1996 budget to promote sustainability. Participants discussed studies on subsidies, tax treatment of ecologically sensitive lands, ecological tax reform and energy taxation.

The NRTEE plans to establish itself as an on-going forum for the advancement of ecological fiscal reform by holding similar workshops annually. Background studies on the use of environment trust funds and on tax policies to promote energy efficiency have been commissioned for a workshop to be held in the fall of 1996.

A major focus for 1996 is to advance the use of market-based approaches for environmental improvement in Canada. This includes such matters as tradeable permits, voluntary initiatives and performance agreements or covenants.

### **Transportation and Energy**

In the fall of 1995 the National Round Table was asked by the Minister of the Environment to help develop a set of principles for sustainable transportation to be presented and discussed at an OECD conference in March the following year. An initial consultative meeting was held with 30 stakeholders in Toronto, followed by a series of small meetings across the country. Based on this feedback and previous work by other organizations, the National Round Table issued a statement of

principles and accompanying strategies for discussion and debate at the OECD conference. The principles reflect key concerns such as the environmental impacts of transportation in the context of free trade, urban sprawl, incentives and economic policy.

The NRTEE continued to support the Ontario Round Table Collaborative on Transportation and Climate Change, aimed at gaining multistakeholder agreement on options to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from Ontario's transportation sector. Working committees examined specific issues and options in areas such as full cost pricing, sustainability indicators, the automotive sector, urban planning, economic instruments, and transportation technologies. The final meeting of the Collaborative was held in September 1995. Specific action plans and recommended strategies for sustainable transportation were laid out in a final report submitted to the Premier of Ontario and officially released in mid-November 1995.

### **LEAD Canada**

LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) Canada helps to prepare the next generation of leaders to deal with issues and choices related to sustainable development. LEAD Canada, which is administered through the NRTEE, is part of the international LEAD program that was started in 1991 through the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States. Each year LEAD chapters choose about 15 promising mid-career professionals to take part in this intensive two-year program. A new class of LEAD associates joined the program in the spring of 1995 and attended their first residential session at Carleton University, Ottawa, in mid-July. LEAD's annual international session took place in Thailand in September 1995 and was attended by 12 Canadian associates.

### **Communications**

The National Round Table examined new approaches to communications and to program evaluation in order to maximize the organization's effectiveness and keep stakeholders well informed of NRTEE activities. With its growing readership



and budget challenges, the NRTEE implemented a cost-recovery program for its publications. This includes marketing books through Renouf Publishing Co. Limited and disseminating information through a new NRTEE World Wide Web site on the Internet. The NRTEE also launched a State of the Debate series to provide decision makers with a comprehensive summary of the degree of consensus on an issue and reasons for disagreement.

The NRTEE will continue to develop new, innovative and cost-effective methods of distributing information to target audiences in the coming year.

## **NEW INITIATIVES**

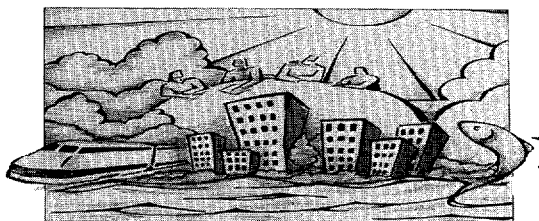
### **Oceans Environment and Resources**

This program is promoting a wide range of activities to help achieve sustainable ocean activity management. A series of stakeholder round tables and networking activities are being organized to examine such issues as co-management of ocean resources in land claims agreements, in coastal zone use, in fisheries and in conservation.

Following these regional debates and resulting identification of further issues related to co-management arrangements, a national forum will be held to focus on national and international policy implications. Through these sessions, members will explore how best to engage stakeholders to assist with the implementation of key federal initiatives including Bill C-26, the Canada Oceans Act and the new Fisheries Act. Findings will be presented to key federal and provincial policy makers and stakeholder groups.

### **Financial Services**

The NRTEE launched this new initiative to explore some practical and innovative solutions for two focused issues: brownfield sites in city cores; and risk assessment and improving site-specific information on the environmental condition of land. This program fulfills part of the National Round Table's goal to assist industry in making progress on persistent issues that hinder the integration of the environment and the economy. To place issues in context, the program will initially examine, through a broad background paper, the evolution of policy in Canada governing the contentious and complex subject of contaminated sites. Starting in the fall of 1996, the NRTEE plans to hold five multistakeholder workshops, in Moncton, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver.



### **Private Woodlots**

Concern about unsustainable private woodlot harvesting rates and practices in Maritime Canada is an issue the NRTEE is now pursuing. As this program unfolds, the NRTEE will explore issues of broad concern such as federal taxation, certification of forest products, and inter-provincial trade.

### **Eco-efficiency**

The NRTEE is laying the groundwork for a program aimed at promoting eco-efficiency. This is in response to the federal government's report on "Science and Technology for the New Century," which directs the NRTEE to assist "in establishing specific targets to help industries and other sectors become significantly more eco-efficient within a generation, and in understanding the implications of those targets for the development of new technologies."

Considering the breadth of this subject matter and the diversity of stakeholders involved, the NRTEE is exploring joint projects with key groups as a first step.

### **Transportation**

This program is designed to apply the existing but fragmented wealth of information and understanding of sustainable transportation issues towards concrete courses of action. The NRTEE plans to hold a national forum to establish the state of debate on sustainable transportation, provide resolutions and integrate commitments obtainable from various players. This activity will assist the federal government in the articulation of a sustainable transportation policy. The NRTEE is conducting this program in partnership with Transport Canada, the Transportation Association of Canada and the Centre for Sustainable Transportation.

June 20, 1996

**National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy**  
MANAGEMENT REPORT  
for the period ended March 31, 1996

We have prepared the accompanying financial statement of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy in accordance with the reporting requirements and standards of the Receiver General of Canada. The primary responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of data in this financial statement rests with the management of the Round Table. In order to assure maximum objectivity and freedom from bias, the financial data contained in this financial statement has been examined by the Executive Committee of the Round Table.

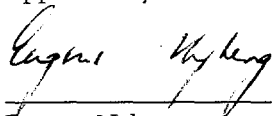
This financial statement was prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out in note 2 of the statement on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year. Some previous years' figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

The information included in the financial statement is based on management's best estimates and judgment and gives due consideration to materiality. To fulfil this reporting responsibility, the Round Table maintains a set of accounts which provides a centralized record of the Round Table's financial transactions. Financial information contained in the ministerial statements and elsewhere in the Public Accounts is consistent with this financial statement, unless indicated otherwise.

The Round Table's directorate of financial services develops and disseminates financial management and accounting policies, and issues specific directives which maintain standards of accounting and financial management. The Round Table maintains systems of financial management and internal control at appropriate cost. Transactions are executed in accordance with prescribed regulations, within parliamentary authorities, and are properly recorded to maintain accountability of government funds and safeguard the Round Table's assets. The Round Table also seeks to assure the objectivity and integrity of data in its financial statement by the careful selection, training and development of qualified staff; by organizational arrangements that provide appropriate divisions of responsibility; and by communication programs aimed at ensuring that its regulations, policies, standards and managerial authorities are understood throughout the organization.

This financial statement has been audited by the Auditor General of Canada, his role being to express an opinion as to whether the Round Table's financial statement presents fairly, in accordance with stated accounting policies, the Round Table's results of operations.

Approved by :



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Eugene Nyberg  
Corporate Secretary and  
Acting Executive Director



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Pierrette Guitard  
Manager, Finance and Administration



## AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and to the Prime Minister

I have audited the statement of operations of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy for the year ended March 31, 1996. This financial statement is the responsibility of the National Round Table's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, this financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of operations of the National Round Table for the year ended March 31, 1996 in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Dubois'.

Raymond Dubois, FCA  
Deputy Auditor General  
for the Auditor General of Canada

Ottawa, Canada  
June 20, 1996



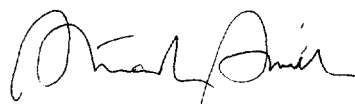
# NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

## Statement of Operations for the Period ended March 31,

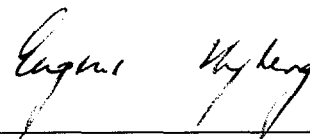
	1996 (12 months) \$	1995 (11 months) \$
Expenditure		
Operating		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,033,333	632,033
Professional and special services	1,024,537	877,656
Transportation and communications	289,040	476,247
Publications	226,332	230,324
Rentals	128,501	138,374
Utilities, materials and supplies	73,143	79,583
Acquisitions of capital assets	70,944	46,796
Repairs and maintenance	10,896	10,513
Other	11	619
	<u>2,856,737</u>	<u>2,492,145</u>
Executive Committee		
Honoraria	7,050	637
Travel and living expenses	11,464	596
	<u>18,514</u>	<u>1,233</u>
Other Committees		
Honoraria	116,204	154,157
Travel and living expenses	132,732	161,473
	<u>248,936</u>	<u>315,630</u>
Total cost of operations (Note 3)	<u>3,124,187</u>	<u>2,809,008</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

Approved by:



Stuart Smith  
Chair



Eugene Nyberg  
Corporate Secretary and  
Acting Executive Director

# **NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY**

## **Notes to the Statement of Operations for the period ended March 31, 1996**

### **1. Authority and purpose**

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (Round Table) was established as a departmental corporation under Schedule II of the Financial Administration Act in accordance with the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Act that became effective April 28, 1994. The Round Table fulfils its objective of promoting sustainable development, and the integration of environment and economy in decision-making in all sectors, by conducting studies, organizing multi-stakeholder "dialogues" on specific issues and economic sectors, providing advice, carrying out educational and communication activities, and by acting as a catalyst for change. Its operating expenditure is funded by a lapsing authority, and to a lesser extent, from cost recovery and cost sharing for specific activities.

### **2. Significant accounting policies**

The statement of operations has been prepared in accordance with the reporting requirements and standards established by the Receiver General of Canada for departmental corporations. The most significant accounting policies are as follows:

#### **a) Expenditure recognition**

All expenditures are recorded on the accrual basis with the exception of vacation pay which is recorded on the cash basis.

#### **b) Capital purchases**

Acquisitions of capital assets are charged to operating expenditure in the year of purchase.

#### **c) Services provided without charge by Government Departments**

Estimates of amounts for services provided without charge from Government Departments are included in the operating expenditure.

#### **d) Refunds of previous years' expenditures**

Refunds of previous years' expenditures are recorded as revenue when received, and are not deducted from expenditure.

#### **e) Pension plan**

Employees participate in the Public Service Superannuation Plan administered by the Government of Canada. The employees and the Round Table contribute equally to the cost of the Plan. The Round Table's contributions are recorded as expenditure in the year they are made.

### 3. Parliamentary appropriation

	1996 (12 months) \$	1995 (11 months) \$
Privy Council – Vote 28d	—	2,731,568
Privy Council – Vote 30	3,133,000	
Supplementary Vote 30b	163,178	—
	3,296,178	2,731,568
Less: amount lapsed	443,042	157,812
	2,853,136	2,573,756
Add: statutory contributions to employee benefit plans	146,000	77,000
spending of proceeds from the disposal of Crown assets surplus	51	—
Total use of appropriation	2,999,187	2,650,756
Add: services provided without charge by Government Departments	115,000	127,072
amount received from other Government Departments for cost-sharing activities	10,000	31,180
Total cost of operations	3,124,187	2,809,008

### 4. Specified Purpose Account

When the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy was created, an account was established pursuant to section 21 of the *Financial Administration Act*, to record grants and donations received from third parties, and expenses to finance various studies related to the principles of sustainable development in Canada and internationally. The unspent balance in this account is carried forward for future use.

	1996 \$	1995 \$
Balance at beginning of year	126,302	—
Receipts	197,736	245,150
	324,038	245,150
Disbursements	253,444	118,848
Balance at end of year	70,594	126,302



5. Liabilities

	1996	1995
	\$	\$
a) Accounts payable	464,402	403,984
b) Accrued salaries	39,735	182,906
	504,137	586,890
c) Other liabilities		
Accrued vacation pay	22,074	13,837

6. Related party transactions

In addition to transactions outlined in Note 1(d), the Round Table is related in terms of common ownership to all Government of Canada departments, agencies and Crown corporations.

During the period, transactions with these related entities were in the normal course of business on normal trade terms applicable to all individuals and enterprises.

7. Comparative figures

Some comparative figures have been reclassified to conform with the presentation adopted for the current year.

8. Subsequent event

Effective May 28, 1996, the Round Table began a cost-recovery program for its publications. Canadian distribution will be done through a distributor who will be entitled to a 50 per cent commission fee on the price of each publication sold.

This program will permit the Round Table to recover a portion of the costs associated with the production and printing of its publications. It will also enable the Round Table to finance and develop future reprints or new publications.

9. Capital assets and accumulated amortization

The accounting policies of the Government of Canada do not require the capitalization of capital assets. However, internal controls are maintained to safeguard assets and they are amortized over their useful lives of five years using the straight-line method.

Capital assets at costs	March 31, 1995 \$	Acquisitions \$	Disposal \$	March 31,1996 \$
Informatics Equipment	156,758	61,478	39,823	178,413
Office Furniture and Equipment	24,335	9,466	—	33,801
	181,093	70,944	39,823	212,214
Accumulated Amortization	March 31, 1995 \$	Amortization \$	Disposal \$	March 31,1996 \$
Informatics Equipment	82,717	28,988	31,294	80,411
Office Furniture and Equipment	18,271	3,131	—	21,402
	100,988	32,119	31,294	101,813