

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

*Annual***Report**
1996-1997

National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy



Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie

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SCC Environmental Group Inc.

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Ottawa, Ontario

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Administrator
Operating Engineers' (Local 115)
Joint Apprenticeship and Training Plan

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Strategic Planning Advisor
Loblaw-Weston Companies

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Partner, KPMG Inc.

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International Institute for Sustainable Development

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Sustainable Development Research Institute

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Repap New Brunswick Inc.

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CS Resources Limited

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Education and International Affairs
Canadian Automobile Workers

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

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President and CEO
GLOBE Foundation of Canada and
Executive Vice-President
Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Lori Williams*
Lawyer
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Executive Assistant and LEAD Program Administrator
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Finance and Administration Officer
Julie Martinat
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Anne Mineault
Secretaries
Lise Bélanger
Carole Desjardins
Dominique Lapointe
Manon Quevillon

* Appointment expired during 1996-97.



Letter from the Chair

July 1997

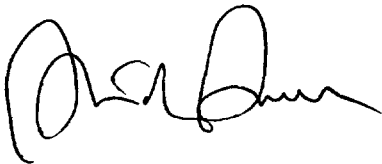
Dear Prime Minister,

I am pleased to transmit to you the 1996-97 Annual Report of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE).

Our efforts over the last year have focused on facilitating discussion of the environmental and economic elements of a number of key issues of national and international interest. Stakeholders from a wide range of sectors have contributed to important debates on such issues as economic instruments, sustainable ocean resource development, private woodlot management, sustainable transportation, and issues related to the development of contaminated sites in urban areas.

Over the next year, the NRTEE will encourage similar discussion and debate in a number of program areas, with particular emphasis on climate change, eco-efficiency and foreign policy. I look forward to continuing to provide your office with current information and advice throughout 1997-98.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Smith', with a stylized, flowing script.

Stuart Smith, M.D.

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National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy

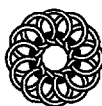


Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie

The NRTEE: *An Overview*

Who We Are

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 the debate on the environment and the economy.

The NRTEE's members are distinguished Canadians appointed by Order-in-Council. Members represent a broad range of regions and sectors — including business, labour, academia, environmental organizations and First Nations.

What We Do

The NRTEE was legislated by an Act of Parliament in 1994 to serve as a catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting the principles and practices of sustainable development. Working with stakeholders across Canada, the NRTEE carries out its mandate by identifying key issues with both environmental and economic implications, fully exploring these implications, and suggesting action designed to balance economic prosperity with environmental preservation.

Activities are organized into a series of programs, each of which is overseen by a task force made up of one or more NRTEE members and a number of volunteers from business, government and non-profit organizations.

The responsible task force commissions research, conducts national consultations, reports on areas of consensus and disagreement, and puts forward reasoned recommendations for steps to be taken that will promote sustainability. The full NRTEE reviews all reports and recommendations of the task forces prior to approving and releasing them to the public. The NRTEE meets four times each year to review progress,

establish priorities for the future and initiate new programs.

In addition to program responsibilities, the NRTEE administers the Canadian component of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), an international training program for promising individuals from various countries designed to further their understanding of, and ability to manage, issues related to sustainable development.

How We Work

A multistakeholder approach, combined with impartiality and neutrality, are the hall-marks of the NRTEE's activities. By creating an atmosphere in which all points of view can be expressed freely and debated openly, the NRTEE has established a process whereby stakeholders themselves define the environment/economy interface within issues, determine areas of consensus and identify the reasons for disagreement in other areas.

Each year, the NRTEE undertakes a strategic planning process to identify key issues to be addressed over the short and medium term. Programs are selected which address pressing issues with both environmental and economic implications and which have potential for advancing sustainable development.

Making headway in sensitive areas while maintaining balance is a challenge for stakeholders. As a catalyst in the process, the NRTEE brings a "round table" format to each issue by:

- *analyzing the environmental and economic facts and trends;*
- *actively seeking input from key stakeholders;*
- *drawing together the results of research and consultation, clarifying the "state of the debate";*
- *pinpointing the consequences of action and inaction and making recommendations.*

The round table process is a unique form of stakeholder consultation, permitting progress on diverse issues with an environmental/economic interface. The *process* itself is of value in

overcoming entrenched differences. At the same time, the products (reports) for each program emphasize broad policy development and provide specific recommendations for action.

The Year in Review: *Some Highlights*

During 1996-97, the NRTEE worked in a number of program areas. Some of these are briefly highlighted.

Economic Instruments and Green Budget Reform

The goal of this program is to advance the use of market-based approaches for environmental improvement in Canada. During 1996-97, the NRTEE presented a list of environmental tax reform initiatives to the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin. The proposals, which were based on the results of two studies and a national stakeholder workshop, addressed two specific topics: the tax treatment of energy efficiency, and environmental restoration trust funds. The Minister of Finance subsequently incorporated some of these recommendations into the 1997 budget.

The NRTEE also explored two key themes: the potential effectiveness of performance agreements for improving industrial energy efficiency, and barriers to recycling in Canada. Two multistakeholder workshops were held in December to advance the themes and to consider different approaches used by such countries as Denmark, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States.

In January, the NRTEE and the Council of Canadian Ministers of the Environment co-sponsored a workshop on the use of economic

instruments in a time of declining government resources. The workshop was attended by 40 participants, including representatives from industry, environmental groups, and the federal and provincial governments.

Measuring Eco-efficiency

The NRTEE established this new program in response to the federal government's request for information on establishing specific eco-efficiency targets for business. Through the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, the NRTEE prepared a background paper for use at a workshop jointly sponsored by the NRTEE and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSB). The workshop objective was to explore the requirements and possibilities for developing a **core set of eco-efficiency indicators**. The workshop, which took place in early April 1997, provided a forum for discussion among leading practitioners and theorists from industry, non-governmental organizations and government in Canada, the United States, Mexico and Columbia.

The next step is to conduct pilot testing of an appropriate core set of eco-efficiency indicators with Canadian and U.S. businesses of different types. The program's ultimate objective is to develop wide acceptance of those indicators, and to build commitment to their routine inclusion in corporate annual reports.

Foreign Policy and Sustainability

The Foreign Policy and Sustainability Program is charged with identifying and promoting ways for Canada's international commitments to take greater account of environmental considerations and impacts. Through stakeholder consultations and workshops, the program identified the theme of "sustainable cities" as a primary focus for its 1996/97 and 1997/98 activities.

Preparation for the November 1997 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit and related meetings shaped much of the program's 1996/97 activity. With Canada hosting the Summit and a series of related Ministerial meetings, debate was organized among stakeholders on such issues as energy, transportation and sustainable development. Much of the debate was linked to the central theme of sustainable cities.

The program also continued monitoring the NAFTA expansion and Free Trade Area of the Americas initiative, as well as Canada's progress in meeting international treaty and convention commitments. As part of the 20th World Conservation Congress, the NRTEE also hosted a landmark workshop on incorporating sustainable development into corporate planning, drawing together business leaders from the energy sector and non-industry experts to identify issues and ideas. The workshop made use of such background documents as the NRTEE discussion paper entitled *Business Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Canadian Energy Sector*.

Environmental Technologies: Waste and Wastewater

Through this program, the NRTEE tried to help selected industries or sectors become more environmentally sustainable by drawing on the expertise of firms in the Canadian environmental technology industry. As an area of focus, the

NRTEE addressed the municipal water and wastewater sector. *The State of the Debate Report on the Environment and the Economy: Water and Wastewater Services in Canada*, summarizing round table debates and discussions among stakeholders in the public and private sectors, is now available from the NRTEE. The report identifies areas of major national consensus and divergence and examines alternative modes of financing and delivering water and wastewater services through public-private partnerships.

The NRTEE employed a variety of communications activities to inform stakeholders about the report's recommendations. These included presentations to the International Symposium on Water and Wastewater and the National Meeting of the Canadian Water and Wastewater Association, a panel discussion at the Canadian Environment Industry Association Meeting, and a series of promotional ads in targeted publications. Articles about the report appeared in various professional and trade journals.

Private Woodlots

The goal of this program is to examine broad issues related to private woodlot management in the Maritimes, including stewardship, resource inventories, federal taxation, certification of forest products, interprovincial trade, forestry regimes and best practices. As part of its work in this area, the NRTEE prepared an issues paper and hosted two multistakeholder meetings during 1996-97 — in Waverly, Nova Scotia, and Moncton, New Brunswick. The results of the workshops, together with research findings, are being synthesized in a state of the debate report.

Financial Services: Brownfield Sites

This program explores the challenges and opportunities of brownfield sites and the improvement of site-specific data on the environmental condition of land. The NRTEE

organized multistakeholder meetings in Toronto, Moncton, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal, with over 200 people attending the five workshops. In addition to the program's final report, the NRTEE will publish and market the four background papers used for the program.

Ocean Environment and Resources

The NRTEE undertook this program to provide policy advice in support of federal government initiatives aimed at conservation and development of ocean resources. One of the objectives of the program is to explore co-management as a means of achieving sustainable ocean environments and resource use.

During 1996-97, this program undertook regional and national round tables and exploratory sessions with a broad range of stakeholder groups and experts. The NRTEE also participated in such major conferences as the IUCN World Conservation Congress, which was held in Montreal in October.

Sustainable Transportation

The goal of this program is to define a course of action to promote sustainable transportation that can be coordinated with the strategies and actions emerging from other levels of government in Canada and internationally. In 1996-97, the NRTEE released a background report summarizing domestic and international literature on sustainable transportation issues. According to the report, achieving sustainable transportation in Canada will require a sustained effort on a number of fronts, including regulations, economic incentives, education and information, transportation and land-use planning, and technology development. The report provided the focus for a series of workshops conducted in partnership with Transport Canada, the Transportation Association of

Canada and the Centre for Sustainable Transportation, and attended by approximately 60 stakeholders from across the country.

Education

This program promotes understanding of environment/economy linkages and round table processes in a variety of learning settings. In August, the NRTEE was invited to present a "training the trainer" workshop to teachers from across Newfoundland at a summer education institute hosted by Westviking College.

As part of its strategy to bridge business and sustainable development training at Canadian business schools, the Education Committee has been engaged in consultations with business school deans from across Canada. Meetings have focused on the integration of environment and economic themes in business curricula. In addition, an annotated bibliography of integrated environmental and economic resources for business faculties has been completed.

Working in partnership with Learning for a Sustainable Future, Forum for Young Canadians and other education organizations, the NRTEE continued to conduct workshops with educators and youth focusing on the round table process, consensus decision making and sustainable development.

Following a successful pilot workshop, the NRTEE and the Association of Professional Engineers of British Columbia co-hosted a workshop for engineers and geoscientists entitled "Engineering for Sustainability: Moving from Principles to Practice."

Federal Green Procurement

In 1996-97, the NRTEE published a background paper entitled *Going for Green: Meeting Foreign Demand for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services through Federal Procurement*. It identifies key trends for environmentally preferable products in foreign

markets and explores the relationships between these markets and the government's role as public purchaser. As a follow-up to the background report, the NRTEE hosted an expert stakeholder workshop in February.

Reporting on Sustainability

The NRTEE's Reporting Program commissioned a study of the federal government's capacity to report progress towards sustainable development and the possible erosion of this capacity due to budget cuts.

Rio + 5

NRTEE Executive Director David McGuinty made a keynote presentation to the Rio + 5 Forum in Brazil in March. Hosted by the Earth Council, Rio + 5 explored lessons learned since the 1992 Earth Summit on environment and development. In preparation for the forum, the NRTEE held a series of workshops (relating to forestry, energy and oceans/fisheries) to take stock of Canadian successes, setbacks and opportunities. The NRTEE also convened a meeting of the three North American National Councils on

Sustainable Development (NCSDs), resulting in tri-lateral endorsement of NCSDs as a tool for putting sustainable development into action.

LEAD Canada

LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) Canada is a training program that seeks to ensure future decision makers understand the challenges of sustainable development and are equipped to meet them. The Canadian chapter is funded by the International Development Research Centre and the Rockefeller Foundation. LEAD chapters around the world each choose annually about 15 promising mid-career professionals to take part in the program. Participants, called Associates, undertake a self-directed course of study that is designed to complement their professional activities. At the same time, Associates are exposed to a number of substantive issues related to sustainable development. In April of 1997, LEAD Canada's second group of Associates (known as Cohort 4) joined 150 Associates from 40 countries for graduation ceremonies in Harare, Zimbabwe. Members of Cohort 5 joined the program in April 1996 and are now midway through their training.

Communications and Publications

In 1996-97, the NRTEE completed a comprehensive communications strategy to ensure that decision makers, the media and the public recognize it as a leader in providing objective views and analytical information on the state of the debate on the environment and the economy in Canada. As part of the new strategy, the NRTEE produced the first in a series of reports

summarizing the research and debate in each program area. *The State of the Debate: Water and Wastewater Services in Canada* and various background reports were marketed and distributed on a cost-recovery basis through Renouf Publishing Co. Limited, while the NRTEE's Web Site continued to disseminate key information to stakeholders and members of the public.

The NRTEE produces a range of background reports, books and final program reports. Following is a selection of NRTEE publications produced over the year:

- *Building Consensus for a Sustainable Future: Putting Principles into Practice*
- *Business Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Canadian Energy Sector*
- *Going for Green: Meeting Foreign Demand for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services through Federal Procurement: Backgrounder*
- *State of the Debate on the Environment and the Economy: Water and Wastewater Services in Canada*
- *Sustainable Transportation in Canada: Backgrounder*

Looking Ahead

1997-98 will be an active year for the NRTEE, with the anticipated release of final reports in a variety of program areas and an increasing focus on issues related to climate change. Following are some of the initiatives planned for next year.

- Consistent with its role of promoting discussion and awareness among all sectors of Canadian society about the principles and practices of sustainable development, the NRTEE is considering undertaking a major consultation on the issue of **climate change**.
- The NRTEE's **Economic Instruments** program will convene multistakeholder workshops to develop recommendations for consideration by the Finance Minister for 1998-99 and subsequent year budgets. Members of the NRTEE task force will work with Finance Canada representatives and other partners to explore economic instruments for environmental improvement, such as tradeable emissions permits. The main focus will be on instruments designed to reduce greenhouse gases leading to climate change.
- The NRTEE's **Measuring Eco-efficiency** program will work with various large U.S. and Canadian companies to test practical measurements for eco-efficiency. The program's areas of emphasis for the upcoming year are indicators addressing material and energy intensity, and toxic dispersion. The task force will release a backgrounder on eco-efficiency based on the results of its work to date.
- As the APEC Summit approaches (November 1997), the **Foreign Policy and Sustainable Development Program** will be advising the Prime Minister on relevant issues, with emphasis on the theme of sustainable cities. The program will continue to monitor NAFTA expansion and other international issues and processes in which Canada has a commitment and/or strategic interest.
- The **Private Woodlots** program will draw to a close in the summer of 1997 with the publication of a final "state of the debate" report.
- The **Financial Services** program will release four background papers for review and discussion by key stakeholder groups (*Contaminated Site Issues in Canada, The*

Financial Services Sector and Brownfield Redevelopment, Improving Site-Specific Data on the Environmental Condition of Land and Removing Barriers: Redeveloping Contaminated Sites for Housing). A final state of the debate report, incorporating research and stakeholder input in all areas, is also planned for release.

- The **Ocean Environment and Resources** program will release *Sustainable Strategies for Oceans: A Co-Management Guide*. This document will explain the principles and outline the “how-to’s” of a co-management approach to sustainable ocean activity.

- The NRTEE’s **Sustainable Transportation** program will release a document designed to assist governments in articulating sustainable transportation policies.
- Future plans for the NRTEE’s **Green Procurement** program include the possible release of a statement to the federal government, outlining key issue areas, such as the costs and benefits of enhanced federal green procurement efforts.
- Fifteen members of **LEAD Canada’s** newest group of Associates, Cohort 6, will begin their training program in May 1997. Recruitment for LEAD Canada’s next training cycle starts in the fall of 1997.

June 27, 1997

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

MANAGEMENT REPORT

for the period ended March 31, 1997

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 for 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.

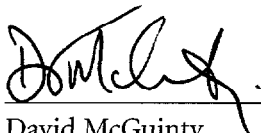
This financial statement was prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out in Note 2 of the statement on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

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.

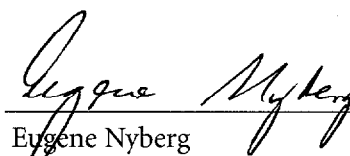
The Round Table's directorate of financial services develops and disseminates financial management and accounting policies, and issues specific directives which maintain standards of accounting and financial management. The Round Table maintains systems of financial management and internal control at 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:



David McGuinty
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer



Eugene Nyberg
Corporate Secretary and
Director of Operations



AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA

VÉRIFICATEUR GÉNÉRAL DU CANADA

Auditor's Report

To the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
and 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, 1997. This financial statement is the responsibility of the 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 Round Table for the year ended March 31, 1997 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 27, 1997

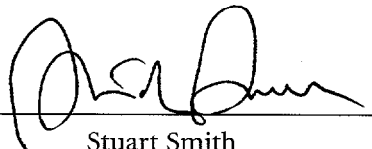
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Statement of Operations for the Period Ended March 31,

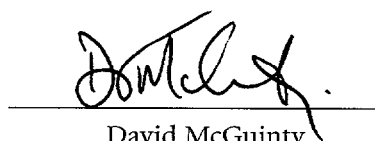
	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Expenditure		
Operating		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,051,498	1,033,333
Professional and special services	1,256,055	1,024,537
Transportation and communications	333,503	289,040
Publications	178,025	226,332
Rentals	147,908	128,501
Utilities, materials and supplies	78,258	73,143
Acquisitions of capital assets	42,493	70,944
Repairs and maintenance	4,429	10,907
	<u>3,092,169</u>	<u>2,856,737</u>
Executive Committee		
Honoraria	7,963	7,050
Travel and living expenses	9,523	11,464
	<u>17,486</u>	<u>18,514</u>
Other Committees		
Honoraria	78,615	116,204
Travel and living expenses	139,768	132,732
	<u>218,383</u>	<u>248,936</u>
	<u>3,328,038</u>	<u>3,124,187</u>
Non-tax revenue		
Sales of publications	10,777	—
Refund of previous year expenditure	7,497	—
Sales of Crown assets surplus	144	51
	<u>18,418</u>	<u>51</u>
Net cost of operations (Note 3)	<u>3,309,620</u>	<u>3,124,136</u>

The accompanying notes form an integral part of this statement.

Approved by:



Stuart Smith
Chair



David McGuinty
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Notes to the Statement of Operations for the Period Ended March 31, 1997

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 multistakeholder "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 for 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) **Revenue recognition**
Revenue is recorded on the cash receipts basis.
- c) **Capital purchases**
Acquisitions of capital assets are charged to operating expenditure in the year of purchase.
- d) **Services provided without charge by Government Departments**
Estimates of amounts for services provided without charge from Government Departments are included in the operating expenditure.
- e) **Refunds of previous years' expenditure**
Refunds of previous years' expenditure are recorded as revenue when received, and are not deducted from expenditure.
- f) **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

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Privy Council — Vote 30	3,106,000	3,133,000
Supplementary Vote 30b	189,650	163,178
	3,295,650	3,296,178
Less: amount lapsed	251,756	443,042
	3,043,894	2,853,136
Add: statutory contributions to employee benefit plans	164,000	146,000
spending of revenues from the sale of publications in accordance with Section 29.1(1) of the FAA	5,000	—
spending of proceeds from the disposal of Crown assets surplus	144	51
Total use of appropriation	3,213,038	2,999,187
Add: services provided without charge by other Government Departments	115,000	115,000
amount received from other Government Departments for cost-sharing activities	—	10,000
Less: Non-tax revenue	18,418	51
Net cost of operations	3,309,620	3,124,136

4. Specified Purpose Account

When the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy was created, a specified purpose account was established pursuant to section 21 of the *Financial Administration Act*, to record grants and donations received from third parties, and expenses incurred to do various studies related to the principles of sustainable development in Canada and internationally. These receipts and expenses are not included in the statement of operations of the Round Table. The unspent balance in this account is carried forward for future use.

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year	70,594	126,302
Receipts	353,677	197,736
	424,271	324,038
Expenses	380,314	253,444
Balance at end of year	43,957	70,594

5. Inventory of Publications Intended for Sale

Effective May 28, 1996, the Round Table began a cost-recovery program for its publications. Canadian distribution is done through a distributor who is entitled to a 50 percent commission fee on the price of each publication sold. Inventory of publications intended for sale is valued at net realizable value.

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
Inventory at beginning of year	82,348	—
Add: new publications produced during year	68,672	82,348
Less: sales	(10,777)	—
Inventory at end of year	140,243	82,348

6. 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 cost	March 31, 1996	Acquisitions	Disposal	March 31, 1997
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Informatics Equipment	178,413	38,369	8,144	208,638
Office Furniture and Equipment	33,801	4,124	6,969	30,956
	212,214	42,493	15,113	239,594
Accumulated Amortization	March 31, 1996	Amortization	Disposal	March 31, 1997
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Informatics Equipment	80,411	27,114	2,328	105,197
Office Furniture and Equipment	21,402	3,962	6,969	18,395
	101,813	31,076	9,297	123,592

7. *Liabilities*

	1997	1996
	\$	\$
a) Accounts payable	444,726	464,402
b) Accrued salaries	41,142	39,735
	485,868	504,137
c) Other liabilities		
Accrued vacation pay	27,405	22,074

8. *Related Party Transactions*

In addition to transactions outlined in Note 3, 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.