

REVIEW

ROUND TABLES IN CANADA

Round Tables on the Environment and the Economy have been Canada's principal institutional response to the challenge of sustainable development. These innovative, multi-stakeholder organizations have taken root in all provinces and territories as well as at the national and municipal levels. While remarkably diverse in their make-up and functioning, they share the goal of promoting the principles and practices of sustainable development through consensual decision making.

In this edition of the National Round Table Review, we are pleased to publish several articles that illustrate the broad range of activities now being undertaken by Canadian Round Tables.

Ken McCready, Chair of the **Alberta Round Table** and CEO of Trans Alta Utilities, discusses how profoundly his round table experience has changed his own thinking about the relationship between environment and economy. **Anne Fougère** describes the incredible growth of round tables at the municipal level and the growing interest internationally in the Canadian Round Table experience. **Steve Thompson** describes the **Dialogue Process**, explains how the **Forest Round Table Dialogue** has achieved remarkable success against considerable odds, and includes testimonials from various participants. **David Baslaw** describes how the **Tourism Dialogue** produced a **Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism**. **The Honourable Monique Landry** challenges Canadian Round Tables to try to translate these mechanisms and experiences into the international context.

In her recent book, **Signs of Hope**, **Linda Starke** (editor of all seven editions of *The Worldwatch Institute's annual State of the World*) reviews international progress on implementing the Brundtland recommendations. She refers often to Canada's Round Tables, describing them as a remarkably innovative concept, particularly adept at promoting what she calls "new ways of thinking". A brief excerpt from her book is included in this Review.

Jean Perras describes the **Sustainable Development Education Program** that was developed by the NRT Education and Communications Committee.

Doug Miller's commentary focuses on Round Tables "going public."

A synopsis of ongoing work of each of the provincial and Territorial Round Tables is included, together with their respective addresses so that the interested reader can obtain more information directly.

Finally, we include a summary of the activities now under way by the National Round Table.

We hope you enjoy reading about the Canadian Round Table movement. If you would like more information about us, please get in touch. *Ronald L. Doering*

CHAREST TABLES BILL C-72

Delivering on a promise made last June, subsequently supported by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, the Honourable Jean Charest rose in the House of Commons on April 10, 1992, to table for first reading Bill C-72, legislation to make the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy a permanent, independent body charged with the responsibility of acting as a 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 National Round Table will be a separate departmental corporation, reporting to the Prime Minister. The proposed purposes and powers are set out below:

PURPOSE

4. The 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 by
 - (a) undertaking research and gathering information and analyses on critical issues of sustainable development;
 - (b) advising governments on ways of incorporating environmental and economic considerations into their decision-making processes and on global issues of sustainable development;
 - (c) advising those sectors and regions on ways of incorporating principles and practices of sustainable development into their activities;
 - (d) increasing public awareness of the cultural, social, economic and policy changes required to attain sustainable development; and

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BRUNDTLAND REVISITED: HAS "OUR COMMON FUTURE" MADE A DIFFERENCE

On many people's list of challenges in the nineties, the second item - right behind money - is the need for institutional change. As the Commission noted: "The integrated and interdependent nature of the new challenges and issues contrasts sharply with the nature of institutions that exist today. These institutions tend to be independent, fragmented, and working to relatively narrow mandates with closed decision processes...The real world of interlocked economic and ecological systems will not change; the policies and institutions concerned must."

This means more than just the agriculture ministry consulting with the forestry ministry before it sets targets for land to come under the plough, for example. And it means more than just four ministries jointly preparing an environmental-policy plan, as was done in the Netherlands, admirable through that process was. It means all the stake-holders, as Canadians often put it, considering the problems and the solutions together.

Canada, in fact, was one of the first to take some lateral steps on this issue. In September 1987, before *Our Common Future* was even presented to the UN General Assembly, a National Task Force on Environment and Economy published a report on the implications for Canada that has been called a historic statement. Media and public interest in this report was 'overwhelming', according to the Task Force; 50,000 copies were distributed throughout the country.

The statement was historic, in part, because of who signed it - a group that probably included more representatives of the various stakeholders than had ever collaborated on

a consensus document before. Included were the Presidents of Alcan Aluminium and the Canadian Petroleum Association, the Executive Vice-President of Inco Limited, the Chairmen of Dow Chemical Canada and of Noranda Forest Inc., a representative of the Ecology Action Centre, and the Minister of Environment for Canada and five provincial environment ministers.

The group had been set up by the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers as a direct result of the Brundtland Commission's visit to Canada the preceding year. 'Our main objective', the Task Force noted, 'is to promote environmentally sound economic growth and development, not to promote either economic growth or environmental protection in isolation'.

Of its forty recommendations, the group identified as one of the most important the suggestion for 'a new cooperative initiative to integrate economic and environmental planning through the participation and debate of senior decision makers in every province and territory and at the national level in Canada'. These 'Round Tables' should be chaired by individuals appointed by the First Ministers of each jurisdiction, the Task Force suggested, and it concluded that their implementation and success were fundamental to the achievement of environmentally sound economic development in Canada.

Thus was the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) born, in answer to the Task Force's challenge that 'in a new era...a full partnership of governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and the general

public must guide us through an integrated approach to environment and economy'. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney appointed to the NRTEE twenty-five Canadians from industry, academia, research institutions, environmental groups, and the federal and provincial government - including the Ministers of Environment, of Finance, and of Industry, Science and Technology.

The NRTEE set up a mixed bag of strategic and specific committees: decision-making, socioeconomic incentives, foreign policy, recycling, and education and communications. Following its inaugural meeting in June 1989, opened by the Prime Minister, NRTEE members planted a tree in a park in Ottawa - a symbol, they claimed, of the early stages of development, whether of nature itself or sustainable development.

As recommended in the 1987 Task Force report, Round Tables have also been set up in the ten provinces of Canada, plus in one territory, drawing on similarly diverse groups of people and aiming to bring to the same table those with traditionally competing interests. Overall, these initiatives in Canada provide one of the few examples of lateral thinking on institutions since *Our Common Future* was published. As this new form of participatory democracy is just getting under way, however, the long-term impact and staying power is difficult to judge.

*An excerpt taken from Linda Starke's book **Signs of Hope**, Oxford University Press, 1990. The book outlines the progress which has taken place since the Brundtland Report.*



UNLEASHING THE POWER OF THE MANY



As chair of the Alberta Round Table, I have been profoundly influenced in my thinking about the relationship between environment and economy. When our Round Table first gathered together, we were part of the dominant paradigm, thinking that it was possible to make progress on the environment only at the expense of the economy. Now we have been able to break away from the either/or, tradeoff mentality. Instead, we have defined sustainable development as a way of thinking that enables us to make progress on both the environment and the economy at the same time. By calling sustainable development a way of thinking we refer to it as a context for action. Contexts set the boundaries within which we act. They set the stage for innovation. In this case, the boundaries are set so that it is possible for both the environment and the economy to benefit, together. And that will require major changes in the way we do business.

We need not be frightened by the considerable change required because, in fact, we have done it before. For example, years ago people told me there was a limit to improving product and service quality, beyond which all we were

doing was increasing costs and eating up corporate profits. We have since learned that high quality and low cost can go hand in hand when innovation is stimulated through Total Quality Management. Investing in quality is also investing in productivity and that means that quality and cost performance are no longer an either/or. So I'm willing to commit to the possibility that the environment and the economy can work together.

My personal challenge is to transform my commitment through corporate action. A major interest of mine is harnessing market forces for the environment because I believe that environmental problems are essentially economic ones. I don't believe that the market has ever been engaged in working for the environment. Yet, only by paying for what is now considered "free" will we become more efficient in our use of environmental resources.

What I envision is the unleashing of the power of the many. Consider for a moment, thousands of managers working within a system which requires payment for using the carrying capacity of air, land and water. Since managers are always seeking to minimize their total cost per unit of output, they would find new ways of optimizing processes, designed to minimize

environmental charges, thereby minimizing the impact on the environment. Instead of having central planners dictate expensive "command and control measures" - in many cases after the fact, at the back end of a handful of processes - thousands of managers could minimize the impact on the environment. This results in a clear incentive for innovation in operations, process designs, and the development of new technology. And it will cost less for all of us - clearly a "win-win" situation.

Sustainable development calls for leadership to make important breakthroughs that result in progress on both the environment and economy at the same time. When you think about it, these kinds of breakthroughs have been the stuff of human progress throughout history.

Ken McCready, Chair of the Alberta Round Table on Environment and Economy and President and CEO of Trans-Alta Utilities Corporation

Secretariat Address:
c/o Environment Council
of Alberta
Suite 400, 9925 - 109 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2J8
Tel (403) 427-5792
Fax (403) 427-0388



"A shared vision is the first step in allowing people who mistrust each other to begin work together. It creates a common identity."

Peter Senge, American Professor of Business

Excerpt taken from Alberta: Working for a Sustainable Future, Report of the Alberta Round Table on the Environment and Economy, October 1991



ROUND TABLE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES - UPDATE

British Columbia Round Table On The Environment And The Economy

On January 27, 1992, the B.C. Round Table released its preliminary strategy document, entitled, "Towards a Strategy for Sustainability". This document makes several recommendations to cabinet, as well as outlining the status of the Round Tables's work towards a final sustainability strategy.

The first of several elements of the strategy, "A Sustainability Strategy for Energy", was released on March 16. This 61-page document outlines the Round Table's findings on energy and sustainable development, and makes 31 recommendations for achieving sustainability. Future elements of the strategy are currently being prepared. All elements will be reviewed by the public before the final strategy report is presented to cabinet.

The Economy Core Group recently hosted an Economy Collo-

quium in Vancouver. It was attended by experts on the economy, including economists from industry, government and the private sector. The Colloquium provided input for the development of a base-case study of the status of the B.C. economy, and trends that will lead to development of future economic options. The information will be used to prepare the Economy Strategy element of the Round Table's final sustainability strategy.

The Public Understanding and Education Core Group, along with the provincial Ministry of Education and Ministry Responsible for Multiculturalism and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, is co-ordinating a series of regional education workshops. They are being held in different locations throughout the province. The goal is to develop ways in which to intro-

duce education on sustainability into formal and informal education, including curriculum at the primary, secondary, and post-secondary school levels. Teachers, students, environmental groups, and industry are being invited and an open invitation has been extended to the general public.

The Local Round Table Task Force will be publishing a "Local Round Table Guide" in the near future. It will outline possible methods and procedures for setting up local or regional round tables.

Secretariat Address:
229 560 Johnson Street,
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 3C6
Tel (604) 387-5422
Fax (604) 356-9276



SASKATCHEWAN ROUND TABLE COMPLETING CONSERVATION STRATEGY

As with many of Canada's Round Tables, the SRTEE is in the final stages of developing a "Conservation Strategy for Sustainable Development". The Round Table intends to present the Strategy to the Premier during Environment Week, June 1 to 5.

The Round Table's Education Advisory Committee has also almost completed its "Education Strategy for Sustainable Development", which will be presented to the Round Table at the end of April.

Much public consultation went into developing the final "Conservation Strategy". In January and February, the Round Table held

eight public meetings across Saskatchewan to discuss the draft document, which was released last September. More than 480 people participated in the meetings and 32 formal submissions and presentations were made to the Round Table.

The SRTEE then invited approximately 90 high school students to a Youth Forum on February 12 to share their views on the draft Conservation Strategy and vision of a sustainable future. The forum was one of the recommendations made by the Youth Committee to the Round Table. About a dozen delegates remained to attend a two-

day Stakeholder Conference of more than 150 representatives from key industries, business, interest groups, aboriginal organizations, and individuals. The conference was the last step in the public consultation process before writing began on the final "Conservation Strategy".

Secretariat Address:
Room 218
3085 Albert Street
Regina Saskatchewan
S4S 0B1
Tel (306) 787-1348
Fax (306) 787-0197



EDUCATION - THE NEXT GENERATION! A Manitoba First: Sustainable Development via Satellite

Recipe for an eventful day: Take civil servants from various backgrounds, mix with Manitoba Round Table members appearing on a province-wide satellite communications program that also includes videos and round-the-table discussions, stir in lots of coffee, use a baking time of six hours and a one-hour lunch break, and have the group consult on sustainable development.

Space age education is now a reality in Manitoba. On October 23, 1991 nearly 1,200 people in 32 locations across the province took part in a day-long workshop on sustainable development - all of them at the same time.

The theme was "Helping You Understand Your Role in Sustaining Our Future". The meeting presented sustainable development in the context of the principles and guidelines developed by the

Manitoba Round Table on Environment and Economy.

While delegates were learning about sustainable development and how people in other departments and jurisdictions handle various issues, organizers were learning just how cost-effective a satellite conference could be.

The overall cost per person was about \$12 - a fraction of the cost of bringing everyone together in one place. In all, 945 provincial civil servants from 15 departments and 211 elected municipal officials, employees, and planning board members took part.

What did delegates think of the high-tech conference? Nearly 95 per cent said it was a quality learning experience. If the mark of a good presentation is lots of feedback and questions, the conference scored well: it resulted in nearly 300 recommendations and questions. Round Table panelists made

a commitment to respond to all of them. Survey results pointed to a high level of participation and enthusiasm, and showed that people learned a lot about sustainable development from the conference.

To ensure that future training is even more effective, Manitoba Natural Resources compiled a 135-page evaluation report of the October workshop.

For more information on the workshop or on using satellite communications, contact Donna Ghidoni, Human Resources Branch, Manitoba Natural Resources at (204) 945-6776.

*Secretariat Address:
305 - 155 Carlton Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3H8
Tel (204) 945-1124
Fax (204) 945-0090*



ONTARIO TO RELEASE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Ontario Round Table is in the final stages of completing its "Sustainable Development Strategy". Building on the work of the Round Table's Sectoral Task Forces and its soon-to-be published research papers, together with an extensive and very effective consultation process, the Ontario Round Table expects to complete its work and release its strategy later this year. The strategy is expected to suggest a continuation of the multi-sectoral consensus seeking function that the first Ontario Round Table has pioneered and will suggest tasks that a new Round Table should undertake.

The mood of the Round Table is positive and members are looking forward to seeing the final product.

The local Round Table scene is also alive and well, with new Round Tables recently established in Ottawa and Windsor. Our Guide, "Local Round Tables on Environment and Economy", is a very popular publication - please give us a call if you would like copies.

Finally, we have a new 'success-stories' report, available in 'pre-production' form. It is titled 'On the Way to Sustainable Development - Profiles of a Province in

Transition'. It is a compilation of 25 profiles of initiatives under way in the province, on all levels and across all sectors, from corporate to community, large and small. Please feel free to request a copy; we would welcome your reaction.

*Secretariat Address:
790 Bay Street
Suite 1003
Toronto, Ontario
M7A 1Y7
Tel (416) 327-2032
Fax (416) 327-2197*



YUKON

The Yukon Council is the first legislated "round table" on the economy and the environment in Canada. It is a tribute to both the Yukon government and the organizations that make up the Council that the value of stakeholders representing diverse interests and working on a consensus basis to address major economic and environmental issues is well recognized and understood.

Members of the Council have worked hard to overcome the differences that stand between them and the goal of sustainability. They have looked to the settlement of land claims in the Yukon as a powerful institutional means for furthering this objective. Members representing Yukon First Nations have been patient in communicating Indian values related to the sustainability of their economy and the environment, on which it depends, as other council members have been interested in understanding these values and the related way of life.

As a first initiative in examining the concerns of the Yukon First Nations as they relate to involvement in the global economy and the environment, the Council organized a series of Indian

economy workshops. The goals of the workshops were to carry out a public review and exploration of the Indian-based economic system and its link with the cash-based economy. They also sought to increase the general level of understanding of the Indian economy and the role it plays in the development of sustainable economies. The workshops were a first attempt to establish a link between the Indian economy and the government commitments through the Yukon Economic Strategy and the Yukon Conservation Strategy. Participants were staff members and elders from each of the Yukon First Nations.

Held August 27-29, 1991, "Indian Economy Workshop" addressed the traditional lifestyle within the context of the global environment. It examined the role that Yukon First Nations can effectively play in the development of a sustainable economy and in working with the Yukon Council.

From November 4-6, 1991, the Current State of the Indian Economy Workshop examined the current Indian economy, including subsistence, welfare state, and the wage or market economy. It also addressed the

interrelationship of the Indian and the larger economies and how they relate to the development of a sustainable economy.

The success of the two workshops on the Indian Economy, and the information they produced, has already had some impact at the national level. The Yukon's delegates to the Joint Meeting of Round Tables in Vancouver in November 1991 led a well-attended and well-received workshop on First Nations' Land Claims and Sustainable Development, based in part on the two Yukon workshops.

Excerpts from the Yukon Council's Draft Term Report.

*Secretariat Address:
Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6
Tel (403) 667-5939
Fax (403) 668-4936*



NEW BRUNSWICK

The Premier's Round Table on Environment and Economy held its most recent meeting in Fredericton on February 28, 1992. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and finalize the sustainable development strategy that it is to recommend to the Premier. The final drafting is now being completed in light of comments and suggestions put forth at the meeting, and it is anticipated that the Round Table will meet with the Premier in May to present the report to him, and to discuss its content and ramifications. The proposed strategy, which was reviewed by the public through a series of meetings in 1991, included 13 sectoral recommendations and six "integrated major recommendations". All of the recommendations were based by five principles on which

the strategy was developed. The principles, in turn, are based on an ecosystemic approach to development and are to ensure a balance between protecting the environment and economic development: Principle One states that the Province of New Brunswick "shall promote development which ensures maintenance of essential ecological processes, biological diversity, and renewable resources at sustainable levels". Principle Two says that the province "shall ensure that the decision-making process integrates economic and environmental factors". Principle Three states that "economic and environmental sustainability must be demonstrated for all major development projects". Principle Four states that "non-renewable resources must be

managed so that they contribute to the economic and environmental sustainability of future generations". Principle Five says that "where possible, we should encourage renewable resource development over non-renewable development". The NBRT's strategy is seen by the Round Table as starting point for change in the drive towards sustainable development.

*Secretariat Address:
Department of the Environment
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, N.B.
E3B 5H1
Tel (506) 453-3703
Fax (506) 457-7800*



The PEI Round Table on Environment and the Economy is chaired by the Hon. Gilbert R. Clements.

During the past year, the Round Table met four times. Much of the discussions focused on environmental education, sustainable development, and the Royal Commission on the Land. The Round Table formed two sub-committees to review position papers that came out of the Royal Commission on the Land. These papers dealt with the Arterial Highway System and the Coastal Area and the sub-committees will be reporting to the whole Round Table early in the year.

The recommendations of the sub-committee on environmental education were tabled and approved and sent to the Premier, who, in turn, forwarded them to the Minister of Education. There was a good discussion between the Round Table and the Minister and Deputy Minister of Education at the December meeting.

On April 21, 1992 PEI Environment Minister Gilbert R. Clements, tabled in the legislature a renewed conservation strategy called "Stewardship and Sustainability". This renewed conservation strategy outlines a framework for action on a broad range of environmental issues. It is based on public input and concern expressed during the "Our Island Environment" conference in 1990 and hearings for the Royal Commission on the Land and the Provincial Coast Zone Policy. The strategy was developed during the past winter by the Department of the Environment, in consultation with eight other government agencies involved in resource use and resource management.

The renewed conservation strategy identifies four critical issues: the impact on agriculture,

water quality, solid waste reduction, and public involvement. The strategy suggests that six broad goals must be reached in order to ensure the quality of our environment: reduce soil erosion, maintain and improve water quality, reduce solid waste, maintain and improve ecological diversity, maintain and improve air quality, and increase public involvement. Some 56 strategies are proposed.

More information on "Stewardship and Sustainability" can be obtained by contacting the Department of the Environment at (902) 368-5031.

Secretariat Address:
P.E.I. Department of the Environment
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, P.E.I.
CIA 7N8
Tel (902) 368-5274 Fax(902) 368-5830



P.E.I. ROUND TABLE



NFLD AND LABRADOR

The NLRTEE was appointed in November 1990, but did not hold its first meeting until April 1991. In terms of its activity, therefore, the Round Table has been functioning for only one year. Full-time secretariat support was not put in place until July 1991.

Given its relative "youth", the NLRTEE has not been as active as some other Round Tables. However, with a slightly increased budget for 1992-93, Round Table members are enthusiastic about the coming year.

The provincial government is currently developing a "Strategic Economic Plan" for the province; and the Round Table has met with the advisory committee involved in preparation of the Plan to explore means through which the Round Table might contribute. Additional meetings are planned for the future. As well, a public consultation program, first discussed by the Round Table in October 1991, has been slow to develop. However, the Round Table has recently re-visited this issue, and it appears that it may be more timely to commence such consultations within the next four to six months.

The NLRTEE has also discussed a number of issues that are

currently critical to the process of environment-economy integration in Newfoundland and Labrador and has made its views known to the government on these matters. In particular, overfishing, irresponsible use of all-terrain vehicles, and waste management have been examined.

Most recently, the Round Table has been involved in the development of draft "Principles of Sustainable Development for Newfoundland and Labrador". Once completed, these Principles will be recommended to government as a mission statement for the guidance of development in the province. As well, the Steering Committee of the Round Table has held discussions with research agencies of Memorial University of Newfoundland as a first stage in determining the feasibility of developing a "State of the Environment" (SOE) report for Newfoundland and Labrador.

All of those issues are being actively pursued by Round Table members and the secretariat.

Secretariat Address:
Confederation Building
West Block, P.O. Box 8700
St. John's Nfld.
A1B 4J6
Tel (709) 729-0027
Fax (709) 729-1930



NOVA SCOTIA

As with the majority of Canada's Round Tables, the NSRT has spent the majority of its time developing a Sustainable Development Strategy. Now in the final phase, the strategy has incorporated many of the ideas and priorities identified by Nova Scotians across the province. It reflects the responses to a survey that the NSRT distributed in December 1990. Titled Environment, Economy and You, the survey asked the public 12 questions, ranging from identifying the most important environmental issue in their community, to ranking who among government, industry, business should be taking the lead in protecting the environment. The Round Table also sought input

through a series of public workshops where the draft of the strategy was reviewed. The NSRT's primary finding was that there is overwhelming support for sustainable development education. In response, the NSRT, through its Environment and Sustainable Development Education Subcommittee, prepared a report on formal education. Copies of the first draft were forwarded to interested Nova Scotians for review. The document was then revised, based on responses received, and will soon be presented to the Minister of Education. The final report will be prepared after it is discussed at the June meeting of the Round Table.

Membership news on the NSRT: Murray Coolican has accepted the position of Deputy Minister, Native Affairs Secretariat for the Province of Ontario, and therefore has resigned his position with the Nova Scotia Round Table. Paul L. Tom, an associate professor of business administration at Acadia University, is the Round Table's newest member.

*Secretariat Address:
P.O. Box 2107
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3B7
Tel (902) 424-6346
Fax (902) 424-0501*



CHANGING COURSE: LEARNING FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Education is a commitment for the future. Decisions on the knowledge and skills needed by students are based on perceptions of the world they will inhabit. Education assumes there will be a future and the world will be habitable. Unfortunately, this can no longer be taken for granted. A program of sustainable development education will be key in promoting awareness in Canadian school systems and commitment to the proposition that future development must integrate environmental, economic, social, and cultural needs.

Generally, Canada's provincial and territorial education systems are recognized for being innovative and open to changing world realities. We need to extend this creativity to sustainable development and explore present learning practices and value systems. We must identify policy changes needed in the educational world to help us find the appropriate balance between economic, social and cultural requirements and conservation of the environment.

It was felt to be opportune and feasible to develop such a program. It would require a new form of partner-

ship, which should include education, business, environment, government and other stakeholders concerned with sustainable development.

A shared vision should emerge from conferences and workshops in each of the provinces and territories, where frameworks would be created and objectives identified. Out of this strategic thinking would evolve programs for educators and student teachers and guidelines for integration of the concepts and principles of sustainable development in curricula for elementary and secondary schools.

The Sustainable Development Education Program originated in 1990 with the Standing Committee on Education and Communication of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy. The NRTEE itself was created in response to the World Commission on Environment and Development (Brundtland Commission), whose findings were critical in establishing the concept of sustainable development. It was felt that a new organization could play an important role in defining the concept and putting its principles into action in Canada.

A board of 23 directors was created in late 1990 to bring the program into being. Jack M. MacLeod, President and CEO of Shell Canada Limited, was confirmed as chair of the board of directors. The program is affiliated with The Conference Board of Canada for managerial and administrative purposes, and in January 1992, Jean Perras was hired as its first executive director.

The philosophy of the program has been defined, a plan of action developed, and provincial and territorial departments of education visited. Meetings have been held with major industry associations to ask them to promote the program with their member companies. The consultation and research phase is expected to last for another year and will include further meetings with government departments, industry associations and private foundations to build support for funding requests.

*Jean Perras
Executive Director
Sustainable Development
Education Program, Confer-
ence Board of Canada*



LOCAL COMMUNITY ROUND TABLES A MOVE TOWARD SUSTAINABILITY



The idea of communities in a global village and the impact of these communities in promoting a further understanding of global interdependence cannot be underestimated. Most changes required to achieve sustainability are actions that are taken at the municipal and community levels: round tables can move the community to "think globally and act locally". People, whether rural or urban, are increasingly concerned about our globalized society and economy. However, the challenge is to move from concept to practice.

Since its beginnings, the National Round Table has encouraged development of municipal, local, and community round tables. In June 1990, a pamphlet, "Sustainable Development and the Municipality", highlighting the need for sustainable partnerships and the benefits of establishing municipal round tables, was launched at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) Annual Conference, "Towards Sustainable Communities". At the same time, the pamphlet was mailed to all municipalities belonging to the FCM, to other non-member municipalities with a population of more than 10,000, as well as to the Chairs of Provincial and Territorial Round Tables. Since then, more than 15,000 copies have been distributed throughout Canada.

As so clearly explained in the "Local Round Table Guide Book" from the BC Round Table, local round tables can be characterized as representing communities. "Communities" are broadly defined to encompass collections of people with some form of geographic affiliation and with common concerns. According to the guide book, a local round table may be established for a village, a town, a city, or a much wider region with a range of rural and urban populations.

As aficionados are aware, municipal, local, and community round tables have emerged throughout the country, in most of the provinces and territories. Whether they carry the round table label, many are fulfilling that role by bringing diverse groups and interests together to come to terms on the difficult issues that affect communities. Indeed, a local round table need not be newly created: there may already be community-based bodies that can take on the role of a local round table.

What is certain today is the renewed interest in community and sustainability. The following initiatives have occurred over the past couple of years and that these are now found coast to coast and at varying levels of development. In Manitoba, since 1990, 35 community round tables have been established. Round tables in Flin Flon, Churchill, Grandview, Rosburn, Manitou, Ste. Rose, and St. Pierre, to mention a few, are indicators of the desire for sustainability in communities. The Community Choices Programme, under the auspices of the Department of Rural Development, is an active approach to community development, helping the citizens of Manitoba examine their communities. Within this process, people are able to make some hard decisions on how best to manage their resources for the future, develop comprehensive strategic plans, and clarify the ways in which they can achieve their goals. The underlying principle is that there are many decision makers in every community who should be involved in charting the course for the community. As we all know, improving decision making and moving towards consensus decision-making is a fundamental goal of the community round table process.

In the Yukon, the round table process manifests itself differently. Land claims are being addressed

through the renewable resource councils, where as many as 15 communities will be discussing sustainable development and land-use issues. Essentially, this approach recognizes that communities see the need to bring together different interest groups for consensus decision-making; further evidence of changes in decision-making processes now taking place in our society.

In British Columbia, the Capital Regional District of Victoria has established a council for sustainable development. Other local round tables are also in place: the Skeena Round Table; a regional round table operating out of Smithers; and, in Penticton, a newly-created body. Port Moody, Richmond, and the Howe Sound Regional Table are currently operational. BC's "Local Round Table Guide Book", a recipe book for getting started, suggests that goals and objectives be defined, and the many activities and potential responsibilities be clarified. Monitoring the state of local sustainability, helping to resolve conflicts over land and resource use, and enhancing community self-sufficiency through networking, are among the possible activities of a community round table.

In both Alberta and Saskatchewan, local round tables have yet to emerge, although a number of municipalities have created traditional environmental advisory councils. In Quebec, the Regional Municipality of the Bas-Richelieu created a round table. Further east, in Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax established a municipal round table while Dartmouth is part of the Healthy Communities Project.

In Ontario, the list of communities is almost too long to describe: Muskoka, Nepean, Sudbury, Markham, Orillia, Etobicoke, Brantford, Peterborough, Hamilton-Wentworth,

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Kanata, Niagara, Guelph, Waterloo, Halton, Sault Ste. Marie, London, Brantford, Burlington, Stratford, and Temagami are among the many communities addressing sustainability at the community level. The Ontario Round Table has actively pursued municipally related activities and worked strategically with communities. In 1990, it commissioned a paper, "Sustainability As If We Meant It", to stimulate further activity in communities. Last February, a workshop of local and municipal round tables from 40 communities was held. In November 1991, the Ontario Round Table launched its "Local Round Tables on Environment and the Economy: A Guide", a practical guide for those who wanted to start a round table or improve theirs. It offers a checklist of possible round table activities, in-

cluding community consultation, public education, policy review, as well as suggestions about structure and organization, including size, composition, geographic range, and decision-making processes.

The promotion of a nation-wide grassroots strategy to involve Canadians in community-building through practical applications of sustainable development holds great potential. These examples indicate that we are at the threshold of increasingly better local applications of sustainable development. In "Sustainable Communities: Getting Started", a sustainable community is described as follows -

The sustainable community has a stable healthy population. It has a sense of place and history and a collective conservation ethic which includes other species. It promotes local employment, limits its income leakages from the

community and gains maximum local value from resource use. Its economy is based on the sustainable harvest and conservation of resources. It encourages local energy and food production. It uses appropriate technology. It does not export pollution or base its affluence on the draining of resources from other regions. Its land and water use patterns and transportation systems promote efficient resource and energy use, recycling of water and wastes and minimal pollution of natural systems. It provides all residents with an equal opportunity to have a good quality of life now and tomorrow. It also continues to learn about its own needs.

*Anne Fouillard
NRT Secretariat*

INTERNATIONAL INTEREST IN CANADIAN ROUND TABLES

It is often said that, the round table is a unique and successful Canadian response to the challenge of sustainable development. Also encouraging, is that the model has been picked up in the United States, where the Global Tomorrow Coalition has been promoting similar bodies. And in China recently, the China Council for International Co-operation on Environment and Development was inaugurated, an adaptation, in some ways, of the Canadian model, with representation coming from the various ministries of the government of China. An added twist is its parallel international multi-stakeholder board of senior policy, business and scientific leaders, who act as an advisory group to the Council.

References to the round table model in the Green Plan, distributed widely through UNCED channels and the Preparatory Conferences leading to the Earth Summit, have already heightened both the profile and the international interest in the

concept. Costa Rican politicians at the ministerial level have also inquired about the Canadian Round Table model, in order to establish their own. Ghana, India, Chile, Argentina, Tanzania, Hungary, Australia, and Mexico have all indicated an interest in establishing round tables.

Adding to the momentum for round tables in Canada has been the establishment of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), an international agency of local governments based in Toronto. The Council organized a worldwide competition to honour local municipalities for their achievements in sustainable development at the Earth Summit. Selection panels in participating nations evaluated how local governments and communities are providing leadership, innovation, and solutions to the global environmental problems, and assessed how the concept of sustainable development is translated into action at the local level. Last Fall, the Fed-

eration of Canadian Municipalities invited the National Round Table to be a member of the evaluation panel to select ten local Canadian government initiatives for consideration in Rio. The winning municipalities--Calgary, Matsqui, Sudbury, Kitchener, Regina, Burlington, Richmond, Sackville, Port Moody and Stratford--were, in many cases, given direction on sustainable development through their local round tables.

As this model of participation and consensus-building is potentially adaptable to all cultures, economies, and circumstances, the National Round Table has readily informed interested nations about the Canadian round table experience. Some hope round tables can be promoted as part of national action plans and of AGENDA 21, which will come out of the Brazil conference.

*Anne Fouillard
NRT Secretariat*



ROUND TABLE DIALOGUES

Purpose Of Dialogues

NRT Dialogues encourage economic sectors to build towards consensus on development that is sustainable at its inception, rather than being subject solely to regulatory and remedial measures. The NRT catalyses the process of dialogue between protagonists, but matters of content, such as specific targets and plans, come from the participants themselves.

Problem-solving sessions within sectoral Round Tables on sustainable development build towards a **common understanding** and lead to **codes of practice** or **action plans** for stakeholders and **policy options** for government and for governing bodies of business, education, and public interest groups. Choice of mechanisms to resolve conflicts lies with the sectoral round tables themselves. NRT may ask Sector Councils to reconvene, if its analysis of a widening

circle of dialogues uncovers intersectoral issues that require their participation. Each sector brings its own history and way of working to a dialogue. The Forest Sector has chosen to meet together every two months or so. The Tourism Sector has met three times in a year, with much support work in between.

Who are the Stakeholders?

- organized national or near-national groups that influence or deal with the consequences of sustainable development on the sector.
- any such group willing to **develop principles and action plans** to further sustainable development in the sector.

Principles of Sustainable Development: broadly used to apply to all stakeholders, not just industry, but specific and concrete enough to act as a clear base for action by members of each stakeholder's constitu-

ency (industry associations, unions, public interest groups, etc.) could also be called "commitments to action," "memoranda of agreement," etc.

Action Plans: targets for action e.g., buy-in within one year by 50% of each stakeholder group, in terms of action plans with budgets and target dates.

Suggested Process:

- a kick-off meeting of stakeholders to shortlist the issues for discussion;
- one or more round tables set up to deal with issues of sustainable development;
- groups meet over several months or more to hammer out plans;
- a wrap-up conference to ratify and publish results and assign implementation responsibility to stakeholders' members.

FOREST ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The NRT consulted with the main national stakeholders throughout 1990 to engage them in a dialogue with each other.

The NRT learned that the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers was planning to hold a set of consultations and, as a result, scheduled its own operations to complement them and to report progress to the Forest Strategy Congress planned for March 1992. NRT member John Houghton opened the first Forest Round Table meeting in June 1991. Some 25 stakeholders, including such groups as the Sierra Club, the Aboriginal Forestry Association, and industry and unions, represent a wide range of interests in all the values inherent in the forest. Participants have agreed on, and are working toward, three objectives:

1. Develop a vision and principles for Sustainable Development in Canada's forests. Some 19 principles

have been worked on to date, and a substantial measure of agreement has been reached.

2. Each stakeholder agency is to develop action plans for its own contribution to sustainable development. Almost all agencies have committed to this step, and some have already developed plans and/or codes of practice.

3. Make recommendations to governments and other jurisdictions with regard to policies and actions for Sustainable Development. Although the 25 groups at the table possess much executive power in their own hands, some recommendations are expected to go forward to governments and other sectors on ways in which they may support sustainable development in Canada's forests.

To date the group has met four times, and two or three more meetings are possible before the group's objectives are met. Great care has been taken

in the early meetings to build mutual confidence among stakeholders. The group has made two field trips to working forests in Alberta and British Columbia to "ground-truth" some of the principles under discussion. As one member subsequently commented, "The dramatic field trip and observations by various individuals ... have convinced me that we could play a pivotal role over the next few months".

Similar views were expressed by participants at the Forest Round Table meeting in Ottawa on March 3. The following are excerpts from speeches given by participants in the conference.

The NRT can expect to stay with the process for a few more months, in order to bring action plans to a point where the sector itself can oversee and monitor its own implementation.

Steve Thompson
NRT Secretariat



FOREST ROUND TABLE

Presentation at the National Forest Congress

March 3rd, 1992, in Ottawa

Four members of the Forest Round Table made presentations on the first phase of their work at a National Forestry Congress; here are some of their comments:

Joe O'Neill, Vice President of Woodlands for the Miramichi Pulp and Paper Co. in New Brunswick

"I'm an industry person with 30 years in the business. I live and work in the real world. I meet truck loads of logs and car loads of fisherman on the same logging road. I talked to our woodlands people and said, 'I'm invited to participate in this thing, what do you think?'. So they read down the line up: Sierra Club, Ecology Action Centre in Halifax, Habitat Canada, CPU, IWA, Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners, Canadian Nature Federation, Wildlife Federation, Parks and Wilderness, Council of Churches - I didn't know what they were doing there! The reaction of the staff was, 'Joe O'Neill, you won't last two days with that crowd'."

"The first time we went to the woods was in Hinton, Alberta. In the woods, the discussion went along and led to a knock-down drag-out fight on herbicide - probably the best exchange of views on that subject that I have seen. Everyone took off their gloves. Everyone took turns talking, and everyone took turns listening. No one moved for a hour, right there in the woods just bearing down on that subject, but at the end of this discussion you could see both sides budging just a little bit. I decided to stick with the group after that. I thought maybe we could do something that's going to make a contri-

bution. All of these people that I was told were wingnuts - not so!"

"I was put at a table with three other people and we were supposed to agree on some principles. I was put down with Elizabeth May the environmental extremist, Rod Carrow the academic, and Claire Dansereau from the IWA. We were supposed to agree on some fundamentals that would protect that health and integrity of the forest ecosystems in Canada. I never sat at a table before with a group like this. I thought the possibility of agreeing on anything was absolutely remote. But I'm really proud of these principles and what we agreed on!"

Rod Carrow, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

"I believe the Round Table approach has the best chance of achieving results which will be supported by Canadians regardless of their affiliation.

"First of all, representation: If the Round Table is properly constituted, it truly is a microcosm of society, reflecting the economic, social and environmental priorities of Canadians.

"Secondly, it has flexibility: The Round Table can achieve as much or as little as its members want to achieve, and it can be readily adapted to the national, regional or local level.

"Third, and this is the big one, self education: The Round Table is a process of self education that results in increasingly clarified understanding of the positions and views of all parties, which in turn helps greatly to overcome the conflict that results from poor understanding.

"The final product of the Round Table exercise is reached through negotiated consensus, and because of this, there's a strong pride of ownership in that final product".

Claire Dansereau, Forest and Environment Planner for the IWA

"I have sat on many such committees, and my fear when I entered the room was not that people would yell at each other. Given half a chance, most people try to get along. My fear was that we would create too many platitudes. As the planning process becomes more abstract and further away from a cut block, it's easier to write nice things! I find through this process that we've actually gone the other way. We started off being very general and we are now very specific and hard-nosed, and that was a result of the trust developed in the room.

"I spent a lot of time wondering why that trust was there, and it's real trust, it's not put on for the time we are together. I think that where the trust came from in this situation was the fact that we had to have an Action Plan. Action plans allowed the process to focus and become effective much more quickly.

"Each one of us went to the table thinking that we had something to teach. I think we all now know that we had something to learn. Most people have realized that you have to learn to listen, but now we have to learn to learn as well. We can't just hope to change other peoples' minds. We have to allow our minds to be changed by the process we're in".



Lois Corbett, former Director of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax and now chair of the Forest Caucus of the Canadian Environmental Network.

"I have to admit I already had an attitude when I went to my first meeting of the National Forest Round Table. I had to assume that this Round Table would act like any other multi-stakeholder process that I've been involved in, especially those concerning sustainable development.

"We were neither each other's critics nor lovers. We avoided the

extremes of unloving critics and uncritical lovers. We fought untruth. We didn't need to be loved by every-one. We enjoyed our greater efficiency created by putting all of our cards on the table. We looked at the facts courageously, and we avoided too many illusions. In many ways I think that here today, members of this panel are talking to the converted.

"I know if you have not been even a bit inspired by the work of the National Round Table you are at least curious and I urge to act on your natural curiosity, to be frank, open and honest, and to work for

change, all the while keeping your feet on the forest floor, and your eyes, your mind -- and most importantly -- your heart on a vision of a truly sustainable forest ecosystem".

These highlights were extracted from longer presentations made by panellists at a session on the work of the Forest Round Table, held as part of the National Forest Congress, sponsored by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers and the Canadian Forestry Association in Ottawa, March 2nd. to 4th., 1992.

Membership in the Forest Round Table

1991-1992

Moderator.....	Hamish Kimmins
Canadian Churches Task Force.....	Peter Chapman
Canadian Federation of Professional Forestry Associations	Chris Lee
Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners.....	Peter DeMarsh
Canadian Forestry Association	Glen Blouin
Canadian Nature Federation	Paul Griss
Canadian Paperworks Union	Keith Newman
Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society.....	Diana Keith
Canadian Pulp & Paper Association	David Barron
Canadian Silviculture Association	Dirk Brinkman
Canadian Wildlife Federation	Gary Blundell
Canadian Wildlife Service	Gerry Lee
Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia	Tony Shebbeare
Ecology Action Centre.....	Lois Corbett
Forest Products Branch, ISTC	Bruce Gourlay
Forestry Canada	Tom Lee
Fur Institute of Canada.....	Gerry Wilde
IWA Canada	Claire Danserau
Miramichi Pulp and Paper Inc.	Joe O'Neill
National Aboriginal Forestry Association	Harry Bombay
Ontario Forest Industries Association	Marie Rauter
Sierra Club of Canada.....	Elizabeth May
University Forestry Schools.....	Rod Carrow
Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	Don Laishley
Wildlife Habitat Canada.....	David Neave
National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.....	John Houghton Diane Griffin Josefina Gonzalez
NRTEE Secretariat	Steve Thompson



TOURISM DIALOGUE PRODUCES CODE OF ETHICS AND GUIDELINES FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Tourism, identified as the world's largest industry, and one of the fastest-growing industries in Canada, was selected by the National Round Table at its November 1990 meeting as one of its sectoral dialogues. Tourism is forecasted to become Canada's largest industry by the year 2000. It currently employs 630,000 people in 60,000 businesses, representing all sectors of Canada's 26 billion dollar tourism industry. Part of Canada's appeal has been the quality of its environment, but, increasingly, development activity is threatening this quality. The Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism seeks to bring economic development objectives in harmony with the protection of our natural, cultural, and aesthetic resources. Round Table member Diane Griffin has spearheaded NRTEE's approach; her role has been to draw input from the widest possible range of stakeholders in the sector. Diane noted that, "Many tourism businesses are already well advanced with their environmental programs. Despite this, these principles and practices will raise awareness and encourage action by all parts of the industry".

The Tourism Industry Association of Canada agreed to take a lead role with the National Round Table in providing the profile for this dialogue initiative, and together with the Round Tables of PEI and Saskatchewan, formed a Steering Committee to inaugurate the first

meeting of 21 stakeholders, which took place in Halifax, February 1991. As part of phase one, the group hammered out a set of guidelines and codes of practice for sustainable development which could be adopted by all stakeholders in the tourism sector. Commitment to these codes and guidelines will:

- » enhance Canada's image as a destination and our ability to compete in the rapidly expanding world markets for tourism;
- » ensure our capacity to provide quality tourism products and services in both the short and long term;
- » attract tourists who, increasingly, are seeking environmentally responsible tourism experiences;
- » provide a source of motivation and team spirit for staff at all levels;
- » improve the quality of life in our host communities;
- » reduce costs through more efficient practices for energy conservation, water conservation, and waste reduction.

Lou D'Amour, President of the International Institute for Peace through Tourism, was retained to co-ordinate the Dialogue process.

A Report from the Dialogue Process included:

- » a code of ethics for tourists
- » a code of ethics for the industry

- » guidelines for the industry
- » and guidelines for five key sectors

(accommodation, food service, tour operators, ministries of tourism and tourism industry associations)

These codes of ethics and guidelines for sustainable tourism were enthusiastically accepted at the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's annual meeting and the Tourism Conference in February. They also generated great interest at the Globe '92 conference, held this March in Vancouver.

With Provincial Round Tables in Saskatchewan, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and Alberta endorsing this initiative, discussions are now underway to implement the codes and guidelines as the second phase of this dialogue process. It is anticipated that phase two will be funded, in part, by the Environmental Partnership Fund under the Green Plan, for which a proposal is currently being prepared.

In order to make this important next implementation stage successful, broad participation is encouraged from all sectors within the tourism industry. Information packages on the codes and guidelines are available by contacting the Tourism Industry Association of Canada at (613) 238-3883.

David Baslaw
NRT Secretariat

GRIFFIN IN PEI



National Round Table member Diane Griffin was given recognition in PEI's *Guardian* newspaper on 26, March 1992, for speaking to the Summerside Rotary Club about "The Rails to Trails Program". Diane Griffin, who was actively involved in promoting and implementing the "Codes and Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism", feels the Province has a unique opportunity to increase tourist traffic by converting abandoned rail lines to nature trails. "Wilderness is a very marketable product in the tourism industry", she says. The program would link, Island wide, PEI's pristine landscapes and coastal areas, providing a unique tourist attraction that is both safe for the environment and filled with economic potential.



Commentary On "Going Public" by Doug Miller



Round Tables across the country are starting to focus on "going public." It is time. The Round Tables' storming, norming and performing has produced some valuable work that deserves to be shared. But more important, public understanding and political "legs" need to be put under the sustainable development idea.

The key questions for Round Tables are: "What are we going public with?" and, "Will each of our communications efforts add up to a coherent and compelling set of messages to Canadians?"

What *are* we selling? One might be tempted to sell Round Tables themselves - certainly, they are an innovative and perhaps ascendant institutional form that could help solve a number of society's problems. However, Canadians need to see the *product* before appreciating the *process* that produced it.

The social product we are selling is a clear set of principles, policies and mechanisms that can deliver a future that balances human needs with environmental imperatives. The challenge in marketing this product, given the significant structural and lifestyle changes that will be required, is to generate both understanding and action.

This is nothing short of a social megaproject requiring clear strategic thinking, unified action, and significant resources. It is not as daunting a task as it may seem. The Canadian public is clearly ready to hear the message, and the same talented individuals that mobilized Canadians around physical fitness, community crime prevention, and anti-smoking are also available to take on sustainable development. Their talents need only be pooled.

Detailed social research shows Canadians are waiting for a credible group to stand up and give a *practical* sustainable development message.

While the term "sustainable development" is itself a non-starter with them, they are already intuitively up to Brundtland in their thinking, and they are deeply troubled about the conventional future. Even in the midst of the deepest recession since the 1930s, they are unwilling to trade off environmental protection for economic benefits - convinced that both go together, and indeed, that we will not *have* an economy *unless* we protect the environment.

In this public environment, the worst thing Round Tables could be is too timid.

Just what roles should Round Tables play themselves, and which roles should be left for other players? The field is already crowded when it comes to mobilizing individual lifestyle change, but it is much more open for advocating structural change.

Round Tables should focus on what they are uniquely designed to do - developing and advocating appropriate economic instruments and institutional frameworks that will get public and private sector organizations catching up to public expectations.

This would have Round Tables focusing their communications in a highly targeted manner to build "interest constituencies" and multi-sector alliances, before attempting broad public communications aimed at mobilizing individual Canadians. This will require Round Tables to work even more closely together if real progress is to be achieved.

"Going public" is not what it used to be. But then again, neither is the public.

Doug Miller is President of Synergistics Consulting Limited in Toronto and, with Environics Research Group Ltd., produces the Environmental Monitor survey of public attitudes and behaviour.

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(e) facilitating and assisting cooperative efforts in Canada to overcome barriers to the attainment of sustainable development.

POWERS

5. In order to fulfil its purpose, the Round Table may

(a) support and recommend initiatives to incorporate principles and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of government and society throughout Canada;

(b) initiate, sponsor and support seminars, workshops, conferences and other meetings;

(c) undertake and support studies and inquiries;

(d) publish and disseminate studies, reports and other materials;

(e) organize and assist committees and other groups;

(f) expend any money provided by Parliament or any other sources, or received by the Round Table through the conduct of its operations, for the activities of the Round Table, subject to any terms on which it is provided or received;

(g) acquire any money, securities or other property by gift, bequest or otherwise and hold, expend, invest, administer or dispose of that property, subject to any terms on which it is given, bequeathed or otherwise made available to the Round Table; and

(h) do all such things as are conducive to the fulfilment of its purpose.



NRT WORK IN PROGRESS

Sustainability And Prosperity Program

The initiative entails a research program and, workshops and culminates with a symposium in the Fall of 1992 on the theme, "Sustainability: the Key to Competitiveness in the 21st Century". The objectives are to compile and present a body of knowledge on links between sustainable development, competitiveness, and human well-being; and to generate a deeper awareness of sustainable development as a contributor to Canadian competitiveness in the global marketplace and, in the overall quality of life.

1. Sustainable Development and the Financial Services Industry

A key factor in achieving the sustainability/prosperity goal is the posture of the financial services sector:

- A report on information required by the industry to assist in the management of risk has been initiated and will result in guidelines for management use in improving the assessment of these risks.

2. Lender Liability

The current uncertainty over potential liability by investors and lenders makes it difficult for some worthwhile projects to attract capital:

- A report has been commissioned to examine this issue in the context of contaminated sites, and, through a multi-stakeholder task force, recommend measures to improve the investment and competitive climate.

3. Environmental Regulation and Competitiveness

The focus on a less onerous regulatory framework as a major factor in promoting efficiencies throughout the economy has intensified as a result of recent assertions that environmental regulations can actually create competitive advantage:

- A pulp and paper study group has been formed to examine this assertions and will conduct case studies of the industry in The U.S., Finland, Sweden, Japan, and Canada.

4. Economic Instruments

The application of effective economic instruments is widely regarded as an engine for sustainable development:

- A paper outlining specific competitive issues, where these instruments would initiate sustainability and efficiency practices, is currently being finalized.

5. Infrastructure, Sustainability, and Prosperity

An information infrastructure, as well as physical infrastructures, are, increasingly recognized as important factors in developing a sustainable economy:

- A study has been commissioned to identify and report on the form of physical and information infrastructures most likely to lead to sustainable development.

6. Subsidies and Sustainable Development

The agricultural sector is widely recognized as one where incentives could impede progress toward sustainable economic practices:

- A report highlighting the relationships between incentives and sustainable development is in progress.

7. Jobs, Training, and Sustainable Development

Overlooking the environmental factor in human resource planning and industrial training may leave Canadians ill-equipped to find jobs in the emerging "sustainable economy":

- A report focusing on the development of a forward-looking policy to ensure appropriate structural adjustments is being prepared.

8. Sustainable Development, Trade, and Competitiveness

NAFTA negotiations have raised concerns about the perceived impact on competitiveness of lower environmental standards in other jurisdictions:

- The range of issues related to these concerns will be examined in a report currently underway. A consultative group will assist in reviewing the study.

9. Environmental Industries

It is becoming increasingly clear that caring for the environment can also be a business opportunity in sectors engaged in end-of-pipe/abatement equipment and design of new processes and technologies:

- A report citing examples of successful firms in both sectors is being prepared. This will complement the study on jobs and training as inter-related aspects of a sustainable economy.

10. Environmental Assessment and Competitiveness

Concerns about the environment have resulted in a proliferation of assessment processes that provide opportunities for rationalization and jurisdictional harmonization:

- An examination of this proliferation and a review of other countries' assessment processes is being conducted to determine the impact on Canada's international competitiveness.

Foreign Policy Committee

Jim MacNeill and Pierre Marc Johnson, represent the NRT as the official Canadian Delegation to UNCED. Our continuing advice has been well received.

Sectoral Dialogues

Steve Thompson has been commissioned to write a "how-to" booklet on the sectoral dialogue process for use by other sectors.



Forest Dialogue

Following a warm reception at the recent National Forest Congress, held in Ottawa, the Forest Round Table is planning its next meeting in Timmins, Ontario to finalize its principles for sustainable forest development and to work on action plans for implementation.

Tourism Dialogue

Plans are now in progress for the Tourism Industry Association to take the lead in distributing its recently developed Codes of Practice for Sustainable Development, and encouraging their adoption by individual businesses.

Task Force on Consensus Decision Making

The newly created Task Force on Consensus Decision Making will meet in early May to discuss progress and workplans. The tasks are, first, preparing a chapter on the application of consensus decision making as a tool for sustainable development, which will form a chapter in a book on "Tools for Sustainable Development." The second task is to prepare a "Guidebook for Consensus Decision Making" as a joint effort of the national, territorial, provincial, and local Round Tables in Canada. Third, the Task Force will prepare a comprehensive book on consensus decision making for sustainable development in Canada.

Economic Instruments

The NRT is working with a multi-stakeholder coalition of environmental groups, business, and government agencies on the topic of policy instruments for sustainable development. A workshop has been scheduled for May to further define the scope and timing of the coalition's work.

Biodiversity

A small Task Force has been formed to prepare and review a proposal on biodiversity for presentation at the May plenary. The NRT is also working with Ducks Unlimited on the preparation of a background paper discussing the interconnections between biodiversity, pending agreements in the GATT agricultural negotiations, and rural renewal in the agricultural areas of Canada.

Education

The urgency of changing humankind's interaction with the environment, and the hope that fundamental change will soon be visible in all sectors of society, were two themes emphasized in recent discussions on sustainable development education. During the four days of dialogue held recently in Winnipeg and Ottawa, reference was made to the **Kayfitz block effect**: that world growth in population can prevent the development that would slow such growth. Attitudinal barriers to sustainable development were also discussed, and the kind of information Canadians would need to make more sustainable choices. Canadians are prepared, however, to take unprecedented action to conserve and protect the environment, although a certain amount of confusion exists over just what to do. Lack of information was cited as one of the main reasons for not doing more. Furthermore, although sustainable development has been a powerful term for getting experts together, two years ago only 18% of a sample of Canadians knew what sustainable development was. Once the term was explained, however, 90% of the sample believed it should be a high priority. NRT members Josefina Gonzalez and Leone Pippard were joined by several provincial round table colleagues: Dorothy Inglis, Newfoundland; Louis LaPierre, New Brunswick; Jennie Hilliard, Manitoba; and Darlene Collins, British Columbia. Ex-

ternal links were also made with the Council of Ministers of Education and the Sustainable Development Education Program. David Suzuki, Digby McLaren (Royal Society), Marvi Ricker (The Richard Ivey Foundation), Alan Scarth (Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), Angus Archer (United Nations Association in Canada), and Doug Miller from Synergistics, were among the 27 educators who made presentations. An action plan outlining future NRT initiatives in education is being presented to the May plenary for approval.

Globe 92

The NRT had a very successful booth at the Globe'92 Conference in Vancouver. The high level of interest in NRT publications and overall objectives showed a growing enthusiasm for Round Tables as a new form of institutional process, not only in Canada but internationally. The fact that the NRT booth was made of corrugated cardboard and compressed wood materials, and the interactive computer program on the NRT and sustainable development, were of particular interest to participants. The booth will be at various trade and public information shows in coming months.

Handbook

The NRT and Canadian Labour Congress are co-sponsoring the production of a handbook designed to assist labour environment committees in their understanding of sustainable development as it relates to their activities. The handbook will be available this summer.

Sustainable Awareness

In its continuing efforts to promote sustainable development awareness to Canadian youth, the NRT will be producing a music video with Juno award winners Tom Cochrane, and Molly Johnson of the Infidels.



LINKING CANADIAN EXPERTISE TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES



In industrial and developing nations around the world, 1992 will likely be remembered as the year the environment and the economy converged within the framework of sustainable development.

As world leaders gather in Brazil this June at the first-ever Earth Summit, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), to discuss the globalization of these two issues, the momentum of grassroots participation in the environmental debate, in Canada and elsewhere, continues to build. It has grown beyond the domain of experts and lawmakers as few other debates ever have.

In fact, concern for the environment has had the effect of enfranchising each and every person on Earth. As our awareness of our interdependence grows, so does our sense of responsibility for one another. Environmental activism flows from the grassroots up in countries as diverse as Pakistan and Kenya, Mexico and Mali, as people everywhere campaign vigorously on behalf of the future we all share.

Agenda 21 will provide a rallying point for activists at all levels: individuals, businesses, churches, governments, and international organizations. It is expected to provide a detailed blueprint for environment and development into the next century. Central to its strategy will be greater rapprochement between North and South; in our interdependent world, the outcome of UNCED will be relevant to everyone. While specific issues, such as over-exploitation of fisheries and forests, will have special significance for Canada, their long-term effects have global implications for everyone, because they

affect security of food supply, biological diversity, soil and climate stability, and so on.

Canada's development assistance program has involved ever-closer ties between environmental considerations and development, with a strong emphasis on partnership. Drawing on Canadian capabilities in environmental management, and building on indigenous capacities in our partner countries, have become the cornerstones of CIDA's program. This general direction was reaffirmed this winter in our new "Policy for Environmental Sustainability".

This policy reflects a whole new way of understanding the nature of development -- that it is not a donor-recipient or agency-contractor relationship, but rather, a true partnership of all those concerned: governments, business, institutions, the volunteer sector and the communities themselves. This kind of synergy provides the flexibility, the broad-based bank of talent and experience, and the variety of inputs that can make the complex and multi-faceted concept of sustainable development work. It can also create a climate of co-operation between equals, in keeping with our common interests and our joint future.

Provincial Round Tables have focused much of their co-operative effort on the transfer of sustainable development models based on Canadian experience in such areas as energy, forestry, and fisheries. Much of what CIDA, the National Round Table, and the provincial Round Tables are involved in has common elements and shared goals. The challenge for the Round Tables lies in translating the domestic mechanisms, experience and dialogue coming out of the Round Table process into an international context.

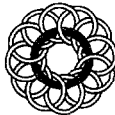
CIDA's programs and projects frequently make this link between expertise in what are typically provincial areas of jurisdiction, and the requirements of developing countries.

In the field of natural resource management and planning, for instance, CIDA and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources are helping Zimbabwe set up an Environmental Planning and Co-ordination Unit, which will enable the Zimbabwe government to undertake specialized analysis in support of sustainable development.

Conservation strategies have been developed for countries from Pakistan to Peru. In specific sectors -- forestry, transportation, water supply and irrigation, waste management, health, education, mineral and industrial development -- developing countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa have benefitted from Canadian experience and expertise.

Much remains to be done. There is an immense wealth of knowledge, goodwill, and practical application in Canada that can be adapted and shared with developing countries for everyone's benefit. Agenda 21 provides the perfect opportunity to put Canadian talent to work in the global effort to save the planet. UNCED must be the beginning of a whole new era of international co-operation, solidly based on a new awareness of our interdependence - and Canada is in a unique position to help build bridges between North and South through its development assistance program.

*Monique Landry, Minister for
External Relations and Inter-
national Development*



INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Update on Sustainable Development Business Charter

Early in 1990, the ICC recognized the need for a set of enterprise-level environmental principles of universal application, both sectorally and geographically. Drafting began with reference to various existing texts, including the ICC's own environmental "Guidelines for World Industry" (a more general "macro-economic" series originally issued in 1974). Preparations got into high gear following the important Bergen Conference in May 1990 - the main preparatory conference for UNCED so far as the ECE countries are concerned (Europe, the U.S. and Canada). Following circulation of drafts to the ICC's 60 National Committees, the text was adopted by the ICC executive Board on 27 November 1990.

The aims of the Business Charter are defined as:

1. To provide common guidance on environmental management to all types of businesses and enterprises around the world, and to aid them in developing their own policies and programs.
2. To stimulate companies to commit themselves to continued improvement in their environmental performance.
3. To demonstrate to governments and electorates that business is taking its environmental responsibilities seriously, thereby reducing the pressures on governments to over-legislate and to strengthen the business voice in debate on public policy.

Many companies see the Charter as a major response to governmental and activist pressures for environmental "codes of conduct".

The text consists of a short forward and introduction, expressing business support for sustainable development as defined in the Brundtland Report. These stress the necessity of economic growth and market forces.

At the outset, we realised the importance of obtaining the support of major corporations and business organizations. Thus, our National Committees and other associates invited companies/business organizations to express their support in writing, with a view to being included in the printed lists of supporters published regularly by the ICC. At the public launching of the Business Charter, during the Second World Industry Conference on Environmental Management (WICEM II) in April 1991, we could announce 200 supporters. This total has grown steadily and is now (late February 1992) slightly more than 700, with some 40 countries represented.

The "numbers game" however tells only part of the story. First, the practice is to list multinationals only once, normally by the parent company, although they may have hundreds of subsidiaries. Many of the multinationals listed are very large. Our claim that a majority of the world's largest companies now appear is based on a comparison of the current list of supporters with the authoritative Fortune 500 list of the world's largest industrial companies (July 1991 edition). A few days ago, support from Toyota brought the total to 51 of the top 100 companies in the Fortune list. Altogether, 123 of the full 500 now appear in the ICC list. Note that this Fortune list covers only companies with at least half their turnover in manufacturing. The ICC list also includes many very sizable corporations - for example airlines, banks, retailers, and utilities - that do not qualify.

Second, a substantial part of the ICC list comprises business organizations that represent hundreds or, indeed, thousands of enterprises. In many countries these associations are very powerful and influential, often with established roles as business

representatives to government and other parties.

Any company - large or small - can be listed. There is no obligation to be a member of the ICC or any other association, and no charge for listing.

A common comment is that lining up support for the Business Charter and its principles is all very well, but the real proof of business commitment to improved environmental management must await evidence of systematic implementation. What is the ICC doing about this?

First, it should be said that comprehensive monitoring of the Charter's implementation around the world is certainly beyond the capacity of any one organization. In reality public interest will be the monitoring mechanism. Second, overall implementation will, for most companies, be a medium and long-term operation, with incremental year-by-year improvements. It would be unrealistic to expect headline-catching developments overnight.

This said, the ICC will publish for UNCED, in 1992, a detailed book giving numerous case-studies of the practical implementation of the Charter; further such books may be published on an annual basis. We also envisage a series of short pro-active policy papers on various specific aspects - for example, environmental auditing, environmental labelling schemes, impact assessments, decommissioning procedures, claims in advertising, insurance/liability, issues related to trade and to taxation, etc.

*Nigel Blackburn, Director
International Chamber of
Commerce.*



ENGINEERS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Among all those who have contributed to discussions about sustainable development, the voice of one group, professional engineers, seems largely silent. Yet, in our technological society, virtually all applications of technology are formulated, initiated, controlled, supervised or monitored by professional engineers. If we speak of development and any number of sustainability issues, engineers are involved. Waste management, energy efficiency, pollution prevention, wildlife management, human health, urban and rural planning, forestry, agriculture, toxic agents, impact assessment and guidelines - all involve engineers. Such involvement places engineers in a unique position to act effectively in determining the nature and degree of application of technologies. But how do engineers define sustainable development? In what ways are engineers responding to the call for sustainable development?

With the support of the Association of Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. (APEGBC), a study was undertaken to begin to investigate these questions. The findings suggest reasons for both concern and for optimism. Of those engineers responding, most felt ill-prepared by training and/or experience to address issues inherent in sustainable development. (Those with a background in environmental engineering or those who have been working in resource-based industries felt somewhat more prepared.) More than 65% also indicated they were unfamiliar with the Brundtland Report or other similar reports. Nonetheless, the results of questionnaires, interviews, and focus group sessions indicate that engineers' ideas about sustainable development are not inconsistent with those provided in such reports. In addition, responses suggest that engineers believe they have responsi-

bilities in formulating sustainable development guidelines, codes, legislation and policy, increasing public awareness, and in accounting for the environmental effects of their work.

We should be concerned that many engineers feel unprepared by their training and/or experience to adequately address sustainable development issues. We should not, however, be surprised. In their own words, engineering is about "problem-solving" and engineers' training is focused on the technical. The problem-solving that occurs is generally in response to some "term of reference" that specifies and confines the problem space, and primary value is given to that which can be quantified, measured, and empirically determined. But what are engineers' obligations and responsibilities in furthering movement towards sustainable development when they do not define the problem space themselves? How are they to respond when quantification, measurement or empirical findings are inadequate or impossible?

The fact that study participants seem to have a broad and inclusive view of the meaning of sustainable development and that they believe they have responsibilities beyond the strictly technical, gives us reason to hope that engineers may continue to be the heroes of society that they have at times (often justifiably) been hailed to be. However, engineers do not speak in one voice. While a 'craft conscience' seems consistent among engineers, some believe that the social and political issues that enter the debate on sustainable development are not within the realm of their expertise or responsibility: they are not, in fact, "engineering questions". These engineers focus on "doing the thing right"; employers, managers, and politicians are seen to have the re-

sponsibility for deciding on "the right thing to do". Other engineers do not see "doing a thing right" and "doing the right thing" so easily separated. They argue that social and political issues do require the attention of the profession (if only to ensure continued self-governance), that the Code of Ethics obligates them to consider these issues, and that new information about the impact of various engineering decisions and practises blurs the boundaries, not only between people and the environment, but also between that which is and is not within the domain of engineering.

For the moment, the degree to which the engineering profession will exercise leadership in the movement toward sustainable development remains a question. Various environmental and social concerns are increasingly being incorporated into engineers' problem-solving domains and engineers continue to make technical advances that contribute to the goal of sustainable development. Engineering educators are looking for ways to incorporate social and ethical values issues into their programs. Engineering associations like the APEGBC and the Institution of Engineers Australia are formulating environmental policies and sustainable development guidelines. Yet there are no established rules (beyond those established by legislation and governmental regulation) to guide engineers' decision-making. The only guidance engineers may have is the guidance provided by their understanding of the domain to be engineered, by their Engineering Code of Ethics or by their own individual values.

The contexts (societal, professional, organizational, technical) in which engineers practise obviously include a number of practical and decision-making constraints. And,



as engineers reflect on the meaning of sustainable development and consider possible responses, strategies, and co-ordinating activities, they will be faced with the conflicts and tensions that are central to society's concerns. Given that the rate of change today often demands fairly immediate review of problems and given that these problems are often new and different in kind

from the past, it would not be surprising to find present needs exceeding or straining old structures. Opportunities exist for engineers to examine qualitative relationships, to identify and articulate problems in ways not previously considered, and to alter decision-making norms. I suggest that it is time for engineers to prepare themselves for these opportunities, to be more pro-

active in addressing the issues of sustainable development, and for the voices of engineers to be more clearly heard.

Fiona Crofton is an engineer and an organizational change and development consultant and researcher. She is currently conducting a series of studies related to engineers' role in, and training, for sustainable development.



GUIDEPOST FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE - A Perspective from Merrickville Ontario

Five years have passed since the Brundtland Commission issued its urgent report. Progress has been made, but many steps remain before our nation steers a decisive course toward a way of life that is not "...compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Some years ago, Guideposts Project conducted an inventory of the aspirations and concerns of people working for long term well being and came up with the following list. We contend that it outlines the opportunities and constraints of sustainability.

Activities are sustainable when they:

- 1 - use materials in continuous cycles;
- 2 - use continuously reliable sources of energy;
- 3 - come mainly from the potentials of being human: i.e., communication, creativity, co-ordination, appreciation, and spiritual and intellectual development.

Activities are not sustainable when they:

- 4 - require continual inputs of non-renewable resources;
- 5 - use renewable resources faster than their rate of renewal;
- 6 - cause cumulative degradation of the environment;
- 7 - require resources in quantities that could never be available for people everywhere;
- 8 - lead to the extinction of other life forms.

We have yet to find anyone who will contradict these definitions. Never-the-less there is a great deal of discussion necessary before we see the democratic mandate to wholeheartedly pursue sustainability in these terms.

For every problem we face there is abundant information available and there are solutions proposed. A fully public register of the information, examples, rational, and arguments for and against proposed solutions would focus and clarify the discussion. The collection could be organized by indexing it around the areas of concern listed above. By pulling together this knowledge and vision, and making it easily accessible to the public for inspiration and comment, sustainability would come to be seen as a stimulating challenge. Then we could shake off the paralysis of uncertainty that currently diverts us from the goal we know we must achieve.

Mike Nickerson co-ordinates the Guideposts Project and is the author of Planning for Seven Generations, and the video, Guideposts for a Sustainable Future. More information on the Project and these materials can be obtained by writing: Guideposts Project, P.O. Box 374, Merrickville, Ontario, K0G 1N0.



THE NEW ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC BASED ON TRADITION

The earth is our spiritual mother and we cannot separate ourselves from her. Any environmental threat endangers us all. We must treat Mother Earth with respect as she is the source of our spiritual and cultural well-being. The woman's role in aboriginal culture is related to the recognition of the female role in creation. Natural law gives women the responsibility of bringing forth new life into the world. Their special bond and relationship to Mother Earth is the basis of our values and belief system. The woman's role is an honourable one involving many responsibilities. The born and yet-to-be born are entitled to the gifts of Mother Earth. As a baby receives life from the mother at birth, in a real and symbolical sense, human life goes back to Mother Earth in the after-life.

The environment is viewed in a holistic manner, encompassing both the physical and spiritual realms: the two are not separate from one another and not merely limited to one's immediate surroundings. Aboriginal people speak of their role as caretakers of the land, referring to all elements that make up the environment, i.e., water, wind, air, land, and all the living beings in each.

Now faced with a common issue of survival, a new consciousness is emerging and with it is a new concept -- sustainable development.

It is a challenge to understand how limiting terms such as "environment" and "sustainable development" are, and how concepts are inextricably woven into the whole cultural fabric of aboriginal people. Aboriginal concepts lose their true meaning with the use of the English language. Many concepts have no English language equivalents. Aboriginal culture is holistic in nature, based on an oral tradition. The

difficult challenge is in trying to "explain" aboriginal values and principles without relating them to a whole way of life and a totally different way of viewing the world. The other challenge is in translating aboriginal concepts and teachings into a cultural framework based on linear thinking processes and instructional learning styles.

There is no one definition of the concept. The common element in the notion is that the environment must be taken into consideration, not as an afterthought when development takes place. The concept of sustainable development is a cultural construct of Western thinking: subjective and inherently economic, political and legalistic in nature. In fact, the concept is being defined to suit self-serving interests as circumstances arise. The concept does not incorporate aboriginal rights. Chippewa elder Fred Plain speaks of the relationship of aboriginal people to the resources of the "land" and the respect for the natural laws and nature.

"We had an economy based on sustainable development. We never touch animals that were breeding. At times, we took what we had to but we never disrupt the cycle of life."

However, the concept can also be detrimental to aboriginal people without the recognition of aboriginal rights and a commitment to environmental protection sensitive to aboriginal perspectives and approaches. The concept not only encompasses how society deals with the environment per se, it also involves how members of society relate to one another. In this way, aboriginal rights to the "land" can be recognized within a modern context and not locked in time.

Aboriginal people have the knowledge to protect the environment, using traditional know-how and values. It is possible to meld traditional and scientific knowl-

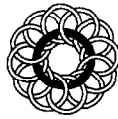
edge. Each has a contribution to make and a role to play for a better understanding of the cycle of life. Women, as lifegivers, provide the complementary balance needed to understand how we relate to our environment. Elders provide the link to understanding how we relate to one another in our environment and the spiritual wisdom to guide decisions. Clearly, ongoing dialogue with aboriginal people is essential as issues and concerns develop around sustainable development. Given the diversity of aboriginal cultures and languages, new concepts like sustainable development must be redefined by the aboriginal people themselves. Concepts cannot be taken to be understood by all as they must be translated into the aboriginal cultural framework.

Ojibway elder Art Solomon states, "There is no middle ground. There are only two roads." (Solomon: 1990: 87)

"Either we destroy the environment till it can't support life or, we face the possibility of a nuclear holocaust. We have a choice. We can race on toward extinction. Or we can choose to live by the laws of the Creator. We have to choose a course and steer by it". (Solomon: 1990: 186)

Mother Earth must be protected from further misuse and abuse. The principles of sharing, caring, and respect must continue in order for the human species to heal. We need to change greed into sharing, the primacy of the individual into collective will, and materialism into spiritualism.

Ann Brascoupe is from the Algonquin First Nation in Quebec, and manages the First Nation Drum and Dance Troup. She also has a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University.



Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans
and
Minister for the
Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency



Ministre des
Pêches et des Océans
et
Ministre de l'Agence de
promotion économique du Canada atlantique



Editor: I read the Winter 1992 edition of the National Round Table Review and I was dismayed not to see an article on Canada's campaign to eliminate overfishing on the high seas and promote the conservation and rational management of high seas living resources.

From the Canadian perspective, this is one of the most important issues before UNCED. The Prime Minister has announced that he will attend the Rio Summit in June and that he plans to press for progress in the preservation of marine resources--particularly the prevention of overfishing just outside waters subject to national jurisdiction and the recognition of coastal State rights and responsibilities.

Canada's high seas fisheries initiative at UNCED comes at a time of crisis in the Atlantic Canada fishing industry. Fisheries that have existed for centuries are being destroyed. Between 1989 and 1991, there were 38 permanent plant closures with a new job loss of approximately 5,200 in the Atlantic Canada fishing industry. In addition, during recent weeks, a moratorium has been imposed on the Canadian offshore northern cod fishery, two major plants have closed, 1,500 workers have been laid off and the offshore fleet has been tied up.

Overfishing of straddling stocks in the waters adjacent to Canada's 200-mile zone by vessels from a handful of states has been an important factor, in some instances

the leading factor. The principal states involved are Spain, Portugal, and Germany, but Korea and Panama also bear a heavy responsibility.

UNCED offers a particularly appropriate forum in which to address this overfishing problem. UNCED's Agenda 21 is intended to be a comprehensive action plan to achieve sustainable development. High seas overfishing is a serious threat to the ocean environment that must be addressed in this context.

Canada and 39 co-sponsors have submitted a proposal to UNCED aimed at developing specific principles and measures, consistent with the Law of the Sea Convention, with a view to (1) implementing fully the provisions of the Law of the Sea Convention; (2) strengthening regional organizations; and (3) ensuring the recognition of the special interest of coastal states with respect to fish stocks that migrate between their zones and the high seas. This would provide for an effective regime governing activities on the high seas.

At the UNCED Preparatory Meeting that concluded on April 3, delegations focused on this proposal. Although in our view, the proposal is moderate, a small number of delegations, led by the EC, objected to some of the language. In order to find a compromise, the U.S. chairman of a working group suggested that a conference be convened following the Rio summit to address the high seas fisheries problems. The proposal to convene such a conference was blocked because the EC, which at first was against the idea, sought new instructions

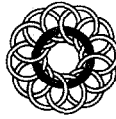
that did not arrive before the end of the meeting.

During the run-up to the Rio Summit, the Prime Minister intends to lobby strongly in favour of this initiative. As already indicated, he has said that he will make this the focus of his activities at UNCED itself. I and my colleagues will take every opportunity to pursue this matter as well.

I am optimistic that our efforts will be successful and that many of the principles and measures that we put before UNCED will be accepted, together with the proposal for a follow-up conference to deal directly and definitively with the problem of overfishing on the high seas.

I consider that a presentation on UNCED is not complete without a discussion of Canada's efforts to put an end to overfishing on the high seas.

*John C. Crosbie, Minister of
Fisheries and Oceans
and Minister for the Atlantic
Canada Opportunities Agency*



BREAKING THE LOGJAM



virtual halt last month.

While there is an urgent need for high-level diplomacy to salvage the original goals of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Canada's response has been restrained, at best.

Canadian leadership is needed now. We must build on our legacy in areas of peacekeeping, disarmament, and development, and play an active role in addressing the emerging threats to the biosphere. More than any other nation, Canada has the capacity to break the logjam by securing the co-operation of the U.S. and convincing President Bush to attend the Earth Summit.

Canadians have much to gain from ensuring that the Earth Summit is a success. Like everyone else, we need international agreements to complement domestic action that protect the planet's ecosystem. This may be most immediately evident in the East Coast fisheries crisis, but Canada also needs conventions on global threats like climate change that are likely to affect us more severely than other nations. It is also true that shifting our resource-based economy to sustainable patterns will be a more tenable goal if international environmental conventions oblige other countries to make simultaneous changes.

But a failure to negotiate strong commitments at UNCED cannot be used as an excuse to avoid domestic action. We are entering an era in

which international environmental controls are inevitable. Canada must face this future squarely by promptly initiating the conversion, with or without UNCED. This headstart will ensure not only a healthier environment, but provide Canadian industry a competitive start in developing the technological innovations we will need.

Strong domestic action will also strengthen our credibility in negotiations, particularly with the developing world, by demonstrating that at least one nation in the developed world is concerned enough about the environment to make urgent modifications.

For these reasons, the following responses are needed to break the UNCED deadlock.

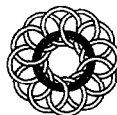
- Canada should pressure the U.S. to sign an international climate change convention with a target of stabilization of industrial country greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2000, and we should undertake an aggressive strategy to reduce our domestic emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2005, based on 1988 levels.
- Canada should work to initiate negotiations for an international convention on the conservation and sustainable development of forests, such negotiations to begin immediately following UNCED, and amend our federal-provincial Forest Resource Development Agreements to achieve sustainable forestry objectives.
- Canada should seek agreement in Agenda 21 on measures to conserve stocks of fish that straddle the 200 mile

limit; immediately ratify the Law of the Sea; and make a commitment to host a world conference on high seas overfishing once UNCED is over.

- Canada should provide substantial support for the UNCED financial package through contributions on multilateral and bilateral bases.
- Canada should lend support to technology transfer by renewing the independent status of the International Development Research Centre, supporting its objective of establishing self-supporting, 'environmentally friendly' indigenous technologies in the South, and "greening" the Export Development Corporation, with priority given to the export of environmental technologies.
- Canada should sponsor discussions at UNCED on the integration of environmental considerations and trade, and then pursue this theme in future GATT negotiations, while ensuring that a NAFTA guarantees upward harmonization of environmental standards, safeguards for legitimate conservation standards and programs, and trade sanctions for enforcement of multi-lateral environmental standards.

Paul Martin is the Federal Liberal Critic for the Environment





SUSTAINABLE (HUMAN) DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development is frequently discussed exclusively in terms of the use and misuse of natural resources. But the Brundtland Commission, which defined and popularized the concept, emphasized that sustainable development begins with a recognition of human needs. Sustainable development emerges from human development.

Viewing sustainable development from that perspective brings into focus not the axe striking the tree, but the person holding the axe. Canadians have been shamed internationally for their gluttonous use of energy and the staggering mountains of garbage they generate. Yet, in terms of sustainable human development, Canadians have every reason to be proud of their accomplishments.

Canada has just been awarded top-of-the-class honours in the United Nations Development Program's 1992 Human Development Index. The index, included in the Program's 1992 Human Development Report, measures national progress in terms of education, life expectancy and income.

The index gauges human distress and the extent to which individual nations ensure that everyone participates in the benefits and responsibilities of citizenship. Canada's ranking is partly a function of its wealth. But it also reflects a shared Canadian belief in universal access to education and health care and equal-

ity of opportunity. Poverty may not begin with ignorance and sickness, but it certainly flourishes in both those conditions.

This index reveals the extent to which poverty, homelessness, crime, and many other social ills can be addressed by reordering national priorities. Steady economic growth and national wealth alone don't necessarily mean an end to inequality of opportunity. For example, the report notes that the life expectancy of a black male in New York's Harlem district is 46 years. That is lower than the life expectancy for men in Cambodia, Bangladesh or Sudan. Similarly, the index of male/female income disparities demonstrates that Canada has some catching up to do. It ranks eighth, behind Sweden, Norway, Finland, France, Denmark, Australia, and New Zealand.

Within many nations, inequalities of opportunity are levelled out by progressive income taxes and expenditure policies. The United States, for example, "recycles around 15 per cent of its national income through the public budget - to social services, unemployment benefits and welfare payments. In Sweden, the figure is around 30 per cent, and even many developing countries have social policies that recycle between five per cent and 15 per cent of GDP".

The point in the report so clearly illustrates that social opportunities or constraints are dictated as much by

choice as they are by chance. The report's authors argue that "The issue is not only how much economic growth, but what kind of growth".

To address the global disparities in human development, the authors of the report suggest that international policies are needed to create the same kind of opportunities for the poor that national policies do. They argue that the international community should negotiate a "new global compact on human development - an agreement to put people first in national policies and in international co-operation." The compact could be a forum for discussions on reforming development assistance programs, striking a bargain on Third World debt, and liberalizing trade to ensure a better distribution of growth.

The authors are realistic enough to accept that wealth will never be equally distributed across the globe. Instead, they propose policies that would improve the distribution of knowledge and skills.

The report brims with hope and with the conviction that humans must be at the centre of concern in discussions of sustainable development.

"Growth models of developing and industrial countries must become models of sustainable human development."

Rick Boychuk is the former environmental writer for the Montreal Gazette

Book Review

Canadian Environmental Directory 1992, 2nd ed., Ann Marie Aldighieri, ed.

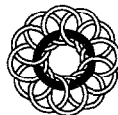
The introduction of the Canadian Environmental Directory describes the book as "authoritative, comprehensive and invaluable", words that are well deserved.

The directory is thoroughly researched and contains a wealth of information on all aspects of the environment. From chapters on the

government's involvement in the environment, to NGOs, to research laboratories, to university and college programs, to a buyer's guide to products and services, the directory is well organized and set up to accommodate a wide range of subscribers.

The Canadian Environmental Directory is a necessary tool for all concerned with environmental issues. At \$175 it is money well spent.

For more information contact the publishers at 134 Adelaide St. East, Suite 207, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 1K9, (416) 362-4088 Fax: (416) 362-4181.



CORRECTION

The NRTEE wishes to apologize for the erroneous reference to "the government closure of the Uniroyal Tire Plant" in Elmira, Ontario, made in the Manager's Handbook on Sustainable Development. The plant in question is Uniroyal Chemical Ltd., which was not closed. We sincerely regret that the brief reference in the book failed to convey a complete and accurate impression of the situation. The NRTEE and Uniroyal Chemical will be working jointly on a case study that will describe the ways the company is dealing with complex environmental problems.



Book Review

WORKPLACE GUIDE: PRACTICAL ACTION FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Harmony Foundation of Canada

"This Guide gives solid, practical tips on how to start an organization on the road to environmental excellence, with measures that will often be quick to show results and produce significant savings" : Maurice Strong Secretary, General, United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED)

The Guide is a comprehensive manual for helping businesses and other organizations to implement environmental improvements in the workplace. It was developed to provide the inspiration, motivation, and tools to help organizations assess environmental strengths and weaknesses, develop a strategic plan, and implement improved environmental practices. It features more than 500 actions, an action planner, information sources, and success stories. In addition, there are 24 pages of worksheets for target areas: energy, hazardous materials, waste, water, transportation, purchasing, property management, education and training, and community involvement.

The Harmony Foundation is a registered charity that promotes environmental co-operation and develops environmental education programs for educators and students, the public, and communities, and for the workplace. Readers of the National Round Table Review can purchase the Guide for \$21.40 (including GST). For more information on the Guide or any other publication, please call or write, The Harmony Foundation of Canada, P.O. Box 3444, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6P9 Ph: (613) 230-7353.

LEARNING MADE FUN

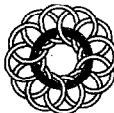
An exciting, innovative way to learn about sustainable development and the National Round Table has been created. Using a combination of moving graphics and text, an interactive computer program takes people through a series of questions and answers. Suitable for all ages, the program is both fun and educational. Anyone wishing a copy of the diskette can contact Patti Bacon at (613) 943-2105.



ECO - ED

A World Congress for Education and Communication on Environment and Development will be held in Toronto October 17th - 21st, 1992. **ECO - ED** will bring together educators, trainers, communication professionals, students, and NGOs to exchange relevant knowledge about environment and development issues with business and labour, politicians and public officials, scientists, aboriginal peoples, and interested citizens. **ECO - ED's** purpose is to stimulate informed action by improving the accuracy, quality, and delivery of education and communication relating to the environment and sustainable development.

For more information please call (416) 860-1772 or fax (416) 860-0380



CSLEM NATIONAL WORKSHOP '92

The Canadian Society for Landscape Ecology and Management is holding its third National Workshop, June 17-19, 1992, in Edmonton, Alberta. The theme of the conference is "Sustainable Landscapes".

Sub-themes include: urban landscapes, agricultural landscapes, forest landscapes, "corridor" landscapes, biodiversity and the role of information.

The workshop will include 25 speakers plus keynote speeches.

For more information, please contact John Marczyk, Chair, or Doug Kostashuk at (403) 427-3608 or fax (403) 422-9684.

REVIEW: ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT KIT

Based on issues raised in the Brundtland Report, the Environment and Development Kit produced by the Norwegian government is a series of very attractive, colourful, and informative overhead transparencies. Current and accurate information on the state of the global environment and development is depicted in a wide variety of pictures, diagrams, and charts. Topic areas include the international environment and development framework, desertification, destruction of the rainforests, the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, problems with world debt, and repercussions of the arms race. The transparency kit is user-friendly, flexible, and recommended for use by teachers and other individuals with or without environment and development issue expertise. Users should feel comfortable leading a school or community group dialogue because discussion points are listed in a side bar and suggested lesson plans are outlined in the handbook provided. The kit could be used in detailed study on any one of the topic areas, or for a general overview of global environment and development issues. Moreover, it promotes active learning and suggests ways to link lessons with local environment and development activities. For further information, contact Arne Lundby, Counsellor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy, 90 Sparks Street, Suite 532, Ottawa K1P 5B4; telephone (613) 238 6571.

LIST OF NRT PUBLICATIONS

- ☐ *Preserving our World
- ☐ *Sustainable Development: A Manager's Handbook
- ☐ *Discussions on Decision Making Practices
- ☐ *The National Waste Reduction Handbook
- ☐ *On the Road to Brazil
- ☐ Sustainable Development and the Municipality
- ☐ NRT Annual Report 1991
- ☐ Exploring Incentives: An Introduction to Incentives and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Development
- ☐ Measuring Sustainable Development: Energy Production and Use in Canada
- ☐ Toward Sustainable Communities
- ☐ A Small Business Guide to Environmental Management
- ☐ Trade and the Environment (June '92)
- ☐ NRT multi-media diskette (please indicate MacIntosh or IBM)
- ☐ Canada Japan Workshop on the Environment - A Summary of the Discussion

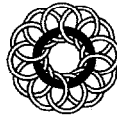
VIDEOS - Please send \$8.00 or Blank Tape

- ☐ It's Our Future
- ☐ NRT Public Service Announcements

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