

review

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

Climate change: *Where do we go from here?*

On March 27, members of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) met in Ottawa at a special plenary session to decide what action the NRTEE will take on the issue of climate change. It is expected that Canada will be asked to sign an international agreement this fall to decrease emissions of greenhouse gas by early in the next decade. Negotiations are continuing on a protocol to the 1992 Framework Convention (signed by 166 nations at the Earth Summit in Rio), with participating countries aiming to sign a protocol at the Conference of the Parties — Third Round (COP3) in Kyoto this December.

Consistent with its role of promoting discussion and awareness among all sectors of Canadian society about the principles and practices of sustainable development, the NRTEE intends to convene a Leaders' Forum on Climate Change. Opinion leaders from a broad cross-section of Canadian society will be brought together over a one- to two-year period to "define what information Canadians need to know about climate change and its implications in order to make informed decisions."

Public involvement will be an essential element of the Forum process, although the specific timing and method for engaging Canadians in the discussions have yet to be decided.

As a follow-up to the Forum, the NRTEE will produce a State of the Debate report, focusing on such issues as:



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- ◆ what Canadians need to know about climate change and what can be done by various sectors to minimize its impact
- ◆ the link between climate change and energy use, as well as the lifestyle changes that will result if energy consumption patterns are dramatically altered
- ◆ ways in which Canadians can influence developments at the global level to address the climate change challenge

- ◆ domestic and international policy implications of the decisions taken at COP3 in Kyoto

The NRTEE's Executive Committee will assign a Steering Committee to oversee the Forum. The Committee will be co-chaired by NRTEE members Dee Parkinson, President, CS Resources Limited, and Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the Sierra Club, and members will include chairs of relevant NRTEE programs, including Measuring Eco-efficiency, Environmental Technologies, Economic Instruments, Financial Services, Foreign Policy and Sustainability, and Sustainable Transportation.

Watch for updates about the Forum in future issues of *Review*. ☉

We're moving!

Effective May 30, 1997, our new mailing address will be:

NRTEE
Canada Building
344 Slater Street
Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7Y3

Our general enquiries telephone number and fax number will remain the same:

Tel.: (613) 992-7189
Fax: (613) 992-7385

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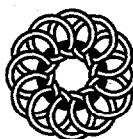
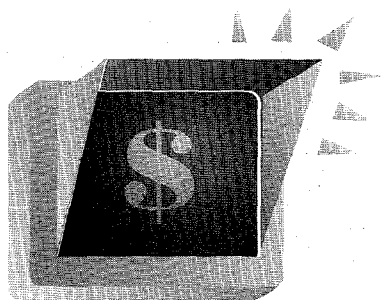


Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie
Édifice Canada, 344, rue Slater, bureau 200,
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Budget proposals get the green light

Last November, the NRTEE presented a list of environmental tax reform recommendations to the Honourable Paul Martin, Minister of Finance. Based on input from two comprehensive studies and a national stakeholders workshop, the proposals addressed two key areas of tax reform: energy efficiency and environmental restoration trust funds.



A number of the NRTEE's recommendations for "greening" the budget have been incorporated into the federal government's budget proposals for 1997.

Contributions to environmental trusts

The new budget recommends that tax exemption of contributions to environmental trust funds in the mining sector be extended to trust funds established for waste disposal sites and quarries for the extraction of aggregates and similar substances. The budget proposals in this area include direct references to the NRTEE's "Greening the Budget" workshop.

Measures to support energy efficiency

The federal government has proposed tax incentives totalling \$20 million a year over three years to support initiatives promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy investments in new and existing commercial buildings. Further details of the incentives will be developed in consultation with stakeholders and the final plan will be announced by the Minister of Natural Resources later this year.

The budget also proposes changes to expand eligibility for class 43.1 capital cost allowance treatment for certain acquisitions of used equipment, as well as a reduced qualification threshold for photovoltaic systems to permit smaller applications of solar power to qualify for tax credits. ☉

NRTEE at Rio + 5

NRTEE Executive Director, David McGuinty, made a keynote presentation to the Rio + 5 forum in Brazil this March. Hosted by the Earth Council, Rio + 5 explored lessons learned since the 1992 Earth Summit on environment and development. The Council's agenda for the 1997 forum was to produce new baseline information on key problem areas as well as timeframes for future action.

In his presentation, Mr. McGuinty summarized the results of the NRTEE's Rio + 5 Program, including findings from regional and national consultations on issues related to the role of national councils on sustainable development and to the three resource areas of forests, energy and oceans/fisheries.

On the future role of national councils

In the fall of 1996, the NRTEE convened a meeting of the Mexican, American and Canadian Councils on Sustainable Development (NCSDs) to share experiences and discuss the

role that NCSDs can play in putting sustainable development into action. All three delegations endorsed the concept of NCSDs, citing the interaction between civil society and government as one of the major benefits of this type of organization. Participants also made a number of recommendations about the structure and operations of an NCSD, including its membership, mandate, process and endorsement by heads of state.

On developments in the forestry, energy and oceans sectors

As part of its contribution to Rio + 5, the NRTEE also convened a series of workshops with civil society stakeholders in Canada's forestry, energy and oceans/fisheries sectors. The workshops provided a forum for discussion about progress, setbacks and lessons learned in each resource sector since the 1992 Earth Summit. Participants from diverse backgrounds — including industry, environmental organizations, the scientific community, local organizations and Aboriginal communities — identified environmental successes, prospects for further gains, and requirements for policy support in each sector.

The results of the NRTEE workshops and consultations will be incorporated into the Earth Council's final report summarizing the outcomes of Rio + 5. Final reports of the workshop proceedings are available online at the NRTEE Web site at <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>. ☉

Program Update

Economic Instruments

On January 23 and 24, the NRTEE and the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment co-sponsored a "Workshop on Economic Instruments in an Era of Smaller Government" in Winnipeg. The Workshop was attended by 40 participants, including representatives from industry, environmental groups, and the federal and provincial governments.

The 1997 federal budget proposals incorporated a number of the NRTEE's recommendations for tax reform. (For more information, see "Budget Proposals Get the Green Light," above.)

It is likely that a key focus area for the program in 1997/98 will be the use of economic instruments to reduce greenhouse gases leading to climate change. The draft workplan also calls for commissioning up to three background

studies in preparation for the "Workshop on Greening the Federal Budget '98," scheduled to take place this October. Work will also continue on performance agreements for energy efficiency.

Contact: David McGuinty
(613) 992-7155

Ocean Environment and Resources

On March 26, the NRTEE's Ocean Environment and Resources Program held a highly successful National Forum in Ottawa. A featured item on the agenda was a presentation by Bill Rowat, Deputy Minister of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. A report summarizing key issues will be tabled at the NRTEE's May Plenary Session in Calgary. One of the highlights of the ►

report will be a blueprint for the design and implementation of a co-management system for oceans.

Contact: *Nancy Averill*
(613) 943-0399

Private Woodlots

A second multistakeholder meeting on private woodlots was held in Moncton, New Brunswick on February 20. The purpose of the meeting was to identify what actions could be taken by various stakeholders to put private woodlot management on the road to sustainability. Recommendations for action addressed issues such as tax reform, research and development needs, cooperative initiatives, supply and demand issues, licensing and training needs, certification issues and codes of practice. A State of the Debate report is being prepared.

Contact: *Elizabeth Atkinson*
(613) 943-0394

Measuring Eco-efficiency

The NRTEE and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) co-sponsored a workshop on April 2 to further explore the requirements and possibilities for developing a core set of eco-efficiency indicators. Fifty leading practitioners and theorists attended the workshop, including representatives from industry, non-governmental organizations and government in Canada, the United States, Mexico and Columbia. Participants agreed that indicators addressing reduction of material and energy intensity, and reduction of toxic dispersion should be further developed and pilot tested. Participants also agreed on the need for further study to clarify requirements and "drivers" for eco-efficiency indicators and performance information.

Contact: *Elizabeth Atkinson*
(613) 943-0394

Foreign Policy and Sustainability

1997 is Canada's Year of the Asia Pacific. One of the highlights will be the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit, which Canada will host this November. A number of Ministers Meetings will also be held throughout the year, including a meeting of the APEC Environment Ministers. A major theme of this June meeting will be "Sustainable Cities."

As part of the APEC initiative, the NRTEE and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities co-hosted a workshop on sustainable cities, focusing on urban air quality and urban environmental management. Experts from APEC and a variety of other milieux met in Vancouver on May 5 and 6 to develop recommendations for APEC officials and ministers.

Contact: *David Morgan*
(613) 943-2054

Sustainable Transportation

This past winter, the NRTEE held a series of meetings designed to give participants a better understanding of the stakes involved in the development of sustainable transportation in Canada and to develop recommendations about a strategy for action. Approximately 60 people from across the country participated in the multistakeholder sessions held in January and February. The findings from these discussions will be included in a State of the Debate report.

Contact: *Jocelyne Beaudet*
(514) 287-8500, ext. 8953

Financial Services

The last two in a series of five multistakeholder workshops were held in Calgary (February 20) and Montreal (March 6). Almost 200 people attended the five workshops and took the opportunity to comment on the program's draft State of the Debate report, which was also reviewed at the NRTEE Plenary Meeting in early May.

Contact: *Tony Cassils*
(613) 789-1090

Education

This past March in Vancouver, the NRTEE and the Association of Professional Engineers of British Columbia co-hosted a workshop for engineers and geoscientists entitled "Engineering for Sustainability: Moving from Principles to Practice".

As part of an ongoing program to integrate business and environmental education, the Committee has been meeting with business deans and faculty from across Canada. It has also commissioned an annotated bibliography of integrated environmental and economic resources for business faculty.

Update continued on page 4

New members appointed

The following people have been appointed to the NRTEE:

Paul Antle is Chairperson, CEO and President of SCC Environmental Group Inc. (St. John's, Newfoundland), and is involved in numerous environmental organizations and committees.

Ken Ogilvie, currently Executive Director of Pollution Probe, has also served as the Executive Coordinator of the Ontario Round Table on the Environment and the Economy and as Manager of Policy Coordination for the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy.

John Wiebe is President and CEO of the Globe Foundation of Canada, a private, non-profit institution with a mission to enhance Canada's competitiveness in the Asia Pacific Region.

NRTEE reappointments

Seven NRTEE members have been re-appointed to the National Round Table:

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

Patrick Carson
Strategic Planning Advisor
Loblaw-Weston Companies

Elizabeth Crocker
Co-owner
P'lovers

Sam Hamad
Vice-President
Roche Construction

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

Cindy Kenny Gilday
Yellowknife, NWT

Elizabeth May
Executive Director
Sierra Club of Canada

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

Contact: **Carla Doucet**
(705) 749-0415

Federal Green Procurement

A background paper commissioned by the NRTEE's Task Force on Green Procurement has just been released. The paper identifies key trends for environmentally preferable products and services in foreign markets and explores the relationships between these markets and the government's role as public purchaser. *Going for Green: Meeting Foreign Demand for Environmentally Preferable Products and Services through Federal*

Procurement is intended to stimulate thought and discussion among Canadian stakeholders. As a follow-up to the background report, the NRTEE held an expert stakeholder workshop and a draft State of the Debate report on the issue will be prepared this summer. *Going for Green* is available through Renouf Publishing Co. Ltd.



Contact: **David Morgan**
(613) 943-2054

More about LEAD Canada

LEAD Canada is a training program that helps to prepare future leaders to deal with issues and choices related to sustainable development. This April, LEAD Canada's second group of Associates (known as Cohort 4) joined 150 Associates from LEAD chapters around the world for graduation ceremonies in Harare,

Zimbabwe. Chosen from a field of 100 applicants, the 15 members of LEAD Canada's newest group of Associates, Cohort 6, are set to begin the two-year training program in Ottawa this May.

Recruitment for LEAD Canada's next training cycle will begin in the fall of 1997. Applications for LEAD Canada can be obtained by contacting Rebecca Murray at (613) 995-7618. ☉

Meet us on the web

If you would like to get a more detailed description of the NRTEE's programs, publications and upcoming events, visit our World Wide Web site at:

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

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President
Philip Utilities Management Corporation

Vice-Chair

Lise Lachapelle
President & CEO
Canadian Pulp & Paper Association

Vice-Chair

Elizabeth May
Executive Director
Sierra Club of Canada

Paul G. Antle

President & CEO
SCC Environmental Group Inc.

Jean Bélanger

Ottawa, Ontario

Allan D. Bruce

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

Patrick Carson

Strategic Planning Advisor
Loblaws - Weston Companies

Elizabeth Crocker

Co-owner
P'lovers

Johanne Gélinas

Commissioner
Bureau d'audiences publiques sur
l'environnement

Sam Hamad

Vice-President
Roche Construction

Dr. Arthur J. Hanson

President & CEO
International Institute for Sustainable
Development

Michael Harcourt

Senior Associate
Sustainable Development Research
Institute, University of British Columbia

Dr. Leslie Harris

President Emeritus
Memorial University

Cindy Kenny-Gilday

Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Dr. Douglas Knott

Professor Emeritus
University of Saskatchewan

Anne Letellier de St-Just

Lawyer

Kenneth B. Ogilvie

Executive Director
Pollution Probe Foundation

H. Joseph O'Neill

Vice-President, Woodlands
Repap New Brunswick Inc.

Edythe A. (Dee) Parkinson

President
CS Resources Limited

Carol Phillips

Director
Education & International Affairs
Canadian Automobile Workers

Angus Ross

President, SOREMA Management Inc. &
CEO, SOREMA Canadian Branch

John D. Wiebe

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Globe Foundation of Canada
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