



Environment UPDATE

September 1981 Volume 2 Number 3



"Join the Environment Team"

This year the theme for Canadian Environment Week, October 11-17, is "Join the environment team."

As Minister of the Environment for Canada, I am asking you to join our team to preserve and enhance the quality of our natural environment. And here I recognize the importance of effective communication between the public and Environment Canada officials in the formulation of policies, programs and regulations.

In keeping with our theme, I will formally announce Environment Canada's Public Consultation Policy on October 16, when I present the Marguerite and Vernon Heaslip Awards for Environmental Stewardship at a dinner in Fredericton. This

award program was created to publicly recognize outstanding contributions by Canadians to the quality of our environment.

Working with industry, citizens' groups and individuals, the government serves in many ways as the guardian of our heritage--our precious waters, forest resources, wildlife, national parks and historic sites.

Join our team so that today's decision will make for a better Canada tomorrow.

John Roberts
Minister

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New System Improves Weather Forecasts

A new weather-observing system, launched this summer on the Pacific coast, assures improved weather forecasts for western Canada. The Pacific Area Data Systems (PADS) uses a variety of interconnected components, including satellites, drifting ocean buoys and automatic weather stations.

A satellite image receiving station recently opened in Richmond, B.C., can receive both visible and infrared pictures from the "GOES WEST" satellite, parked in geostationary orbit 35 000 km above the earth. The station will have an advanced weather information processing system, capable of receiving data from the US National Environmental Satellite Service in Wallop's Island, Va. Flat background maps and satellite position changes can be added in Vancouver, enabling the Pacific Weather Centre to produce photographic cloud views of the north Pacific. In 1982, a data analysis system will allow meteorologists to study satellite images on a TV screen. They will use colors to determine cloud heights or distinguish between fog, ice and snow; animated image sequences will show the development of weather systems and permit measurement of high altitude winds. Meteorologists can then detect and follow storm centres, weather fronts, troughs and ridges.

Drifting buoys were added to the PADS program after extensive testing in the Pacific Ocean. These low-cost weather sensors, with life spans of 1 - 2 years, send air pressure and sea temperature readings from remote Pacific locations to constantly orbiting polar satellites. Buoy signals are then picked up and processed by computer at ground receiving stations in Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg.

Three small Bristol Aerospace MAPS® (Modular Acquisition and Processing System) automatic weather stations, relying entirely on basic power sources like solar panels, have been installed on the rugged coasts of the Queen Charlotte Islands and Vancouver Island. They send hourly reports on air pressure, temperature and winds to the GOES satellite, which relays them to Wallop's Island, Washington, Toronto and eventually Vancouver. MAPS® reports are very useful in issuing severe weather warnings.

The PADS system has the big advantage of being able to expand to keep pace with advances in meteorological and satellite technology.

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New Trail for the Disabled

A new hard-surfaced trail will open up the beauty of Lake Annette, in Jasper National Park, to thousands of handicapped visitors.

The 2 km trail around the lake's edge, together with parking facilities, picnic shelters and other special services, is being built with the help of a \$90 000 grant from the Clifford E. Lee Foundation of Edmonton. Services will include a boat dock for persons in wheelchairs who are able to row, paddle or fish.

Completion of the project is slated for November.

The Clifford E. Lee Foundation gives close to a million dollars a year to social services, international relief, child care and the arts.

Environment Minister John Roberts called the Lake Annette grant "a splendid gesture in

this International Year of the Disabled."

Parks Canada has agreed to supervise and maintain the new trail in perpetuity.

Many handicapped visitors have been unable to reach the lakeside because there was nothing but a dirt track. The new trail will be easily negotiable by the handicapped, the elderly and many other persons, in wheelchairs or on foot.

Mr. Roberts said the trail would further Parks Canada's objective of making national parks accessible to all Canadians, including the disabled.

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Minister Tours Arctic

Environment Minister John Roberts' first arctic tour allowed him to meet and listen to a good cross section of northern residents.

Mr. Roberts and a small party including his parliamentary secretary, Roger Simmons, spent several days in the western Arctic in August. They visited Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Inuvik and smaller communities such as Cambridge Bay and Sachs Harbour, one of the settlements where inhabitants live successfully off the land.

In Yellowknife, Mr. Roberts held talks with members of the executive committee of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and met with leaders of two native organizations, the Dene Nation and the Métis Association of the Northwest Territories. A meeting with leaders of the Committee on Original People's Entitlement (COPE) was held in Inuvik. In the smaller communities he talked informally over

coffee with local leaders such as the president of the Hunters and Trappers Association and the chairman of the Settlement Council. Half a day was spent touring Dome Petroleum's operations in the Beaufort Sea and visiting a drill ship. A cultural highlight of the trip was a session of drum dancing by an ancient Inuk at Bathurst Inlet.

The minister was impressed by the sincerity and warmth of northerners, their deeply held concern for environmental quality, and their high expectations of the department as the federal government's environmental advocate.

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Thoughts for Environment Week --on themes proposed by the National Survival Institute

by Philip Cooper

Sunday, October 11:
STEWARDSHIP

How we use today's resources will largely decide what's left for our children. In fact they belong to our children, and their children too--so it's up to us to take good care of them.

No one has a right to pillage the forests, destroy wildlife, despoil the landscape and pollute our air and water, with no thought for tomorrow. Tomorrow may come much sooner than we think--and we will be accountable for it.

Monday, October 12 :
NATURAL HERITAGE

What better theme than Thanksgiving to be grateful for the natural wealth and beauty of this country? Few others are so richly endowed--but we cannot afford to take this heritage for granted.

Will future generations thank us for preserving it? Or will they curse and despise us for careless destroying it?

Tuesday, October 13:
LOCAL SOLUTIONS

You don't have to look far to see where action is needed. There's plenty to be done in

your own community, where you can play a most important part.

What's being done, for example, about the safe disposal of hazardous wastes? And how effective is your sewage treatment system? Don't just sit there--get involved.

Wednesday, October 14:
LEARNING

It's hard for most of us to work in the dark. And it's hard to protect our environment unless we recognize the dangers and know what to do about them.

Learn all you can about environmental problems--their causes, the hazards they present, and their possible solutions. Then join with other people in educating the public and seeking remedial action.

Thursday, October 15:

GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Many environmental problems, such as acid rain, need international or even global solutions. Without worldwide vigilance and cooperation, many forms of wildlife may vanish forever.

Our responsibility therefore goes beyond our own local

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community and our own country. Let's not forget that we all have to live on the same small planet.

Friday, October 16:

THE WORKPLACE

Everyone wants a safe place to work--free from health hazards and dangers to life and limb. Let's extend that concern beyond the workplace, to the rest of our environment.

Carelessly handled, many industrial chemicals can menace our lakes, streams and wells, or even the air we breathe. If they're dangerous to work with, they may also be too dangerous for the rest of us to live with.

Saturday, October 17:

LIFESTYLES

The way we live can have a serious impact on our environment. The kind of home we have, the form of transport we use, the recreation we enjoy--all these things make a difference.

It makes a difference, too, whether we take good care of what we have. Do we keep things in repair, or do we get rid of them at the first sign of wear? Do we recycle used materials or just throw them away?

Consultation Policy Set

Details of Environment Canada's Public Consultation and Information Availability Policy will be revealed during Canadian Environment Week, October 11-17. They will be announced by Environment Minister John Roberts during the 2nd annual Marguerite and Vernon Heaslip Awards for Environmental Stewardship dinner, to be held on October 16 in Fredericton.

With the department's policy finally adopted, its various services and regions will be developing their own particular

public consultation programs. These will, of course, fall within the guidelines set out in the general policy.

Since many people find its formal title rather long, the policy is often referred to simply as the Public Consultation Policy. However, information availability remains a key component.

Further information:
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Beaufort Sea Project Office Opened

Environment Canada has established a Beaufort Sea Project Office in Edmonton to coordinate all department activities necessary to protect the environment during oil and gas production in the Beaufort Sea.

Including transport to southern markets, this is one of the largest and most complex developments that will occur in Canada in the foreseeable future. The oil industry expects to spend \$40 billion on Beaufort Sea activity in the next 10 years alone, with actual production beginning in 1986. Shipment will be either by tanker through the Northwest Passage or by pipeline to northern Alberta.

The environmental, socioeconomic and political implications of such a project are potentially overwhelming. The project has been referred to an Environmental Assessment and Review Panel for a full public hearing.

Gerry Fitzsimmons heads the new office, which coordinates the myriad activities necessary to evaluate the environmental impacts of the project and present submissions to the Environmental Assessment and Review Panel. The office also facilitates the coordination of departmental policy development, scientific research and communications with other government departments, the oil industry and the public. If the project goes ahead, it will play a similar coordinating role to ensure environmental monitoring of the operations and enforcement of regulations. The office has already completed two major tasks: evaluating the guidelines to be used by oil companies in preparing environmental impact statements submitted to the Environmental

Assessment and Review Panel, and preparing the Environment Canada action plan.

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"We're just upstairs."

J. Blair Seaborn, deputy minister of Environment Canada speaking to the Soil Conservation Society of America on August 3 in Spokane, Washington.

Five years ago, when you in the U.S.A. were celebrating your bicentennial, we in Canada produced in honour of that occasion a book of photos and quotations called "Between Friends/Entre Amis." It's about our lands and our peoples, especially those who live close to our long border, and how similar we are, and how different. I hope some of you have seen the book.

One of the quotations in it is from an American writer who had travelled in Canada about 1950. "Canada," he wrote, "is clean, healthy, young, polite, unspoiled and, as I say, just upstairs," that I suspect, sums up the view of a lot of Americans about Canada and there is, or there has been, a lot of truth in it. We're not, I'm afraid, quite as clean and healthy as we were then; we're not quite as polite as we were once nor as unspoiled; but, for better or for worse, we're still just upstairs.

Further Restrictions of PCBs in Proposed Regulations

Two new regulations restricting polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are being developed under the Environmental Contaminants Act.

These regulations, NO 2 and 3, are concerned with equipment containing PCBs and intentional release of PCBs into the environment. Regulation NO 1, amended in July 1980, prohibits the use of PCBs in all but certain specified equipment.

The PCB Regulation NO 2 (Product) proposes to prohibit the import, manufacture, or offering for sale of certain equipment containing 50 parts per million or more of PCBs, such as new or used electrical transformers or capacitors.

The third PCB Regulation (NO 3 - Release) proposes a limit of one gram per day for the willful release of PCBs from activities such as use in the operation of a transformer and use in oil applied to road surfaces. Release from other activities not listed will be limited to a concentration of less than 50 parts per million.

New guidelines for the storage

and disposal of PCBs and wastes containing 50 parts per million or more of PCBs are being prepared. These guidelines will facilitate and help control shipments of PCB wastes across Canadian international and interprovincial borders.

Polychlorinated biphenyls, synthetic substances included in a class known as chlorinated organic compounds, are used primarily in electrical transformers and capacitors. They have been the subject of growing concern as environmental pollutants due to their persistence and wide dispersal in the environment.

Because of their threat to human health and their environmental effects, PCBs were the first substance regulated under the Environmental Contaminants Act. The first regulations came into effect on September 1, 1977. The Act is administered jointly by the departments of Environment and Health and Welfare.

Further information

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Better Forecasts Ahead

New computing facilities will improve weather forecasting and climate information issued by the Canadian Meteorological Centre of Environment Canada's Atmospheric Environment Service. Slated for installation in the fall of 1983, a new vector processor will give the centre eight times its present computing capacity.

Unique in Canada, it will be made available on a cost recovery basis to government and academic researchers. It will improve the accuracy of the present three- and five-day forecasts and extend predictions to about 10 days.

The new processor will allow

meteorologists to use more detailed and sophisticated forecasting models, integrating data recorded at fixed intervals around the world with continuous reports from satellites, automatic weather stations and instrumented drifting buoys. Thus it will let them produce seasonal outlooks, reflecting climate changes due to pollution and other environmental factors.

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Environmental Concerns of East Coast Offshore Oil & Gas Development

Offshore exploration and the development of hydrocarbon resources has become a matter of significant interest to the Atlantic provinces, dependent as they are on foreign oil imports and suffering some of the highest energy costs in Canada. With ever-increasing energy costs, energy self-sufficiency has become a high priority issue in this region.

When oil and gas exploration began off the east coast in the mid 1960s, there was a great deal of initial activity and excitement. However, this soon died down because of a lack of encouraging discoveries. Since 1976, interest in potential offshore oil and gas finds has again been mounting and extensive geophysical work and exploratory drilling are in progress.

By 1981, in the search for oil, about 170 hydrocarbon wells had been drilled offshore in the Atlantic region. A number of promising areas have been identified: Labrador, the northeast Grand Banks and Sable Island. Oil or gas may be produced on the Grand Banks by 1986, and on Sable Island by 1987.

Companies conducting drilling programs must submit plans to the federal government for approval. These plans must include background environmental data, oil spill movement models and estimates of the type and quantity of drilling waste discharged to the sea. Oil containment, clean-up and communication exercises must also be undertaken by industry, to be prepared to respond to oil spills.

Risk of Oil Spills

The possibility of a major oil spill is increased as offshore activity increases. Technology is not far enough advanced to effectively combat a large spill offshore especially in adverse weather or in sea ice. The usual approach to clean-up is to attempt to track the oil, predict its entry to sensitive resource areas, and then protect these sensitive areas.

The risk of an offshore accident is further increased by the transport of oil and fuel. Spills during the routine transfer of oil to pipelines or shuttle tankers have proved to be greater overall threats to the environment than oil well blowouts, which rarely happen. When they do occur, however, blowouts can be devastating.

Oil spills are a grave hazard to seabirds, which often seem attracted to oil slicks. When they land on these calm areas, the oil destroys the water-repellant and insulating properties of their plumage; so they drown or die from the cold. Even small amounts can be fatal, especially to diving birds and flightless young. Ingesting the oil, if it doesn't kill them, can reduce egg-laying and hatching success.

Environmental risks attend several phases of drilling and production. These include product transfer, storage and handling, well servicing, development of drilling and production platforms, drilling procedures, subsea operations, separation and processing, and construction

other than pipelines.

Drilling programs must be approved by the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR). Environment Canada plays an advisory role--for example, in approving contingency plans and granting environmental clearance for new permit acreage. The cleanup of any spill or blowout may be initiated either by EMR or by

the company involved, with operational and environmental advice from the Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada.

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Forestry Film

The coming crisis in the supply of wood for the forest industries of northwestern Ontario is the subject of a 26-minute film titled "Forest in Crisis", released by the National Film Board. The film, aimed mainly at student audiences, was made by the NFB's Ontario regional studios and co-sponsored by the Canadian Forestry Service and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources.

"Forest in Crisis" interprets the problems of Canada's communities for people who live in large urban centres. Say producer Arthur Hammond: "This film documents change,

anticipates future change ... and shows that the idea of the forest as an inexhaustible source is a dangerous myth."

A print of "Forest in Crisis" is available on loan from the Communications Branch of Environment Canada's Information Directorate, 6th floor, Place Vincent Massey Hull; telephone (819) 997-6555. Other copies have been placed in National Film Board regional offices across the country.

Further information
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Measuring Canada's Water

Canada has more surface water than any other country in the world -- and keeping track of it all is no small job. The Water Survey of Canada does this by measuring the volume of flow in our rivers, recording water levels and finally collating, analyzing, storing and publishing this information.

It keeps a continuous record of what happens in our streams and lakes, not only to determine past and present rates of supply and flow, but also to aid in predicting future water supplies. It also takes note of changing seasonal, climatic and land characteristics which may also affect our water courses.

The Water Survey of Canada collects data at more than 2700 gauging locations across the country. Water levels are recorded automatically or documented manually by gauge readers who routinely observe them. These levels are referred to fixed benchmarks for long-term comparison.

Rate of flow or discharge is determined from several measurements of depth and velocity to yield the average discharge in the selected stream crossing. Streamflow measurements are made from a bridge, while wading the stream, from a boat or from a cableway strung across the river. In winter measurements are made through the ice.

Sediment suspended in a river is also measured, along with such things as water temperatures, ice thickness and velocity. This information is widely used for engineering purposes as well as for environmental studies.

For example, water temperature and the quantity available for diluting pollutants often determine the seriousness of water pollution.

Water data are essential in environmental assessments; in estimating current and future water supplies for cities, industries and recreational uses; in designing and operating dams, reservoirs and other control structures, and water transport systems such as pipelines and canals. They are used to establish water rights important not only to farmers, fishermen and hydroelectric companies, but also to federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Technological advances are making their impact felt on the Water Survey of Canada. Field data now can be sensed on site and transmitted by satellites and telephone lines to regional offices throughout the country. Some day the same technology may be employed to transmit them directly to the various agencies who use these data.

The work of the Water Survey of Canada is financed under cooperative cost-sharing agreements between Environment Canada and each province and territory. Arrangements between Canadian and United States agencies ensure that vital data move easily from one country to the other.

Further information:
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Saving the Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon, once found almost throughout the world, is today fighting for its life as a species. Peregrines have survived centuries of depredation by game-keepers, falconers and egg collectors. But beginning some 30 years ago, this graceful bird disappeared abruptly from some regions and declined rapidly in others.

Today it is gone from most of its former haunts in North America, except the arctic and the northwest coast. But efforts of the Canadian Wildlife Service and others to save the peregrine and restore it to its former territory are beginning to show results.

Keen eyesight, fast flight and superb hunting technique make the peregrine an efficient predator, at the end of a long food chain. This has turned out to be its undoing, for it feeds on birds that contain concentrated amounts of toxic chemicals like DDT. The more it eats, the more chemicals accumulate in its body. Eventually these poisons affect the falcon's behavior; it may lay abnormal eggs or it may die.

In 1949 Montreal's "Sun Life peregrine", which had nested on the Sun Life Assurance building for 12 years, was seen eating one of her own eggs, a sure sign that she too had succumbed to the effects of toxic chemicals. She had previously had three successive mates and raised 21 young. The last year peregrines bred in Montreal was 1952 and by 1965 the species was extinct east of the Rocky Mountains.

Investigations revealed the

reason for the peregrine decline. Starting in the mid 1940s, large quantities of DDT and other chlorinated insecticides were introduced into the environment through agricultural applications. Some birds at the top of the food chain were killed outright; others carried sublethal doses capable of affecting sex hormones - thus producing aberrant breeding behavior and thin egg shells. The combined effects of increased adult deaths and breeding failure resulted in a population crash.

In 1970, the Canadian Wildlife Service launched a program to raise peregrines in captivity, for eventual release and reintroduction into the wild. In 1970, 12 immature peregrines were captured to provide the nucleus for the CWS peregrine project. More have since been added, and the CWS facility at Wainwright, Alta, now houses 34 potential breeding pairs.

Captive natural breeding was tricky to achieve. Problems included incompatibility of birds available for breeding and lack of information on diet and other factors necessary for breeding, incubation and brooding. Success came in 1972, allowing CWS scientists to concentrate on reintroducing the falcons to the wild.

Various techniques are used for this purpose. The most successful has been "fostering", or placing captive-bred eggs or young under wild peregrine parents. Another technique is "double-clutching" -- taking the first clutch of eggs from

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parents and thereby forcing them to re-lay.

Since 1974, CWS workers have been removing first clutches from wild pairs and hatching the eggs under captive birds. Captive-hatched young are then returned to the wild pair, and fledged by them along with the second brood. However, areas where peregrines no longer breed required other methods.

The favored technique is known to falconers as hacking. This involves releasing birds from a man-made enclosure where food is provided. It amounts to a gradual weaning of the birds from the food supply until they are able to hunt for themselves. The primary advantages are that the birds are able to return to the wild at their own speed, that the urban sites used are free of predators, and that the food is free of toxic chemicals. This is the sixth year that the hacking technique has been used in Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hull (two sites) and Montreal (two sites). The use of high buildings in downtown locations simulate the high, remote cliffs that are the favored nesting sites of wild peregrines.

One hundred captive-bred birds were released this year using the hacking method, including 12 at the Fontaine Building and Place Vincent Massey in Hull. The choice of office towers was endorsed by peregrines this year in Edmonton, when two wild adult birds were found building a nest on a ledge high atop a downtown building. Since the pair were still too young to mate (although they did have the parental instincts), three newly hatched birds from Wainwright were placed in the nest, and the original pair thus became foster parents. At last report the family was doing fine.

The CWS peregrine project is still experimental, with limited but encouraging success to date. A nationwide CWS survey made in 1980 indicates that peregrine populations in the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and coastal British Columbia have been stable since 1975. This is good news concerning a bird still suffering the effects of residual DDT, banned in Canada back in 1971.

Although the 1980 survey does not reveal a general recovery it does show that most of the population groups have remained stable since 1975. According to survey coordinator Richard Fyfe, some populations show every indication of a recovery. Equally encouraging is the documented nesting success of CWS captive-bred birds released into former breeding territories.

Continuing analysis of eggs taken from selected wild nests shows that DDT levels are still rising in some peregrines. This may be because these birds migrate to areas in northern South America, Central America and the Caribbean where DDT is still extensively used for malaria eradication and pest control on cotton and other crops.

The complete 1980 peregrine survey will be published in the winter issue of the Canadian Field Naturalist.

Further information:
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Focus on Water Research

Expenditures on water research across Canada now exceed \$50 million annually, according to the latest Canada Water Year Book. Subtitled the Water Research Edition, the year book is the fourth in a series dealing with Canada's freshwater resources.

The year book describes the physical processes of the hydrologic cycle, and indicates the levels of research being undertaken in the atmosphere, on land and under the ground. It gives a breakdown of research expenditures, based on preliminary estimates for 1979-80, and outlines the main programs.

These include studies of acid rain and efforts to establish water quality objectives and adequate monitoring procedures. One section reports on Waste-water treatment and disposal practices, together with the innovations being developed in

Canada to control municipal and industrial pollution. Another discusses water quantity management procedures in terms of day-to-day conflicts that managers face, and the approaches employed to resolve them.

This latest year book complements the second and the third editions, which contain national overviews on water planning and management and an overview of water data. Copies of the 1979-80 Canada Water Year Book are available in Canada through bookstores or by mail from the Canadian Government Publishing Centre, Supply and Services Canada, Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S9. Price in Canada is \$5; in other countries, \$6.

Further information:
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Key Role Seen for Canada

World economic trends will put increasing pressure on Canada's natural resources, according to a report commissioned on the initiative of Environment Canada. Copies of the report, Global 2000: Implications for Canada, will go on sale in October.

It was prepared by Gerald O. Barney and Associates, a United States group which last year produced the initial analysis under a directive from President Carter. Co-sponsors of the Canadian report include Agriculture Canada, the Department of Industry Trade and Commerce, Statistics Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency.

With continued population growth and economic expansion in the world, with reduction in energy supplies, worsening food scarcities, resource deficiencies and environmental stress, the

report envisages an increasingly important role for Canada. It predicts mounting demands on Canada for food, energy, forest products, minerals and other basic materials, which will increase, among other things, the pressure on the country's land, air and water resources.

To meet the emerging challenges, the report focuses attention upon the need for timely and concerted action for the use of Canadian resources, in accord with long-term national and global interests rather than short-term gains or political expediency. Such a course, it says, will demand some judicious hard choices and a clearly focussed responsible stewardship of our resources and our environment.

Further information:
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Calendar

Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers (CRREM) Annual Meetings, Ottawa, September 29 - October 1.

Exchange of views, discussions, agreement on cooperative action on some of the major policy issues facing Canada regarding the environment and renewable resources.

Further information:
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Canadian Spectroscopy Symposium, Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, Ontario, September 28-30. Sponsored by The Spectroscopy Society of Canada in co-operation with Environment Canada and Energy, Mines and Resources, Canada.

Topics: Applications of Spectroscopic techniques to the measurement of chemical species and to the study of chemical phenomena. Includes measurement of species of environmental concern. Special sessions on "Dioxin Analysis" and "Application in Energy Research."

Further information:
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International Hazardous Waste Symposium, Washington, D.C. October 5-9, 1981

A symposium sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, to present the findings of the eight-year NATO/CCMS Pilot Study on Hazardous Waste Disposal. Western European, Canadian, Japanese and U.S. experience in hazardous waste disposal will be summarized. The five-day conference will include a one-day field trip to waste management facilities in New Jersey.

Further information:
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Canada-Sweden Acid Rain Information Exchange, Ottawa, October 13.

Discussions between Canadian and Swedish authorities. The focus of the exchange will be on policies and strategies.

Further information:
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Calendar

Third National Conference on Waste Management in Canada, Toronto, October 14-16, 1981.

This three-day annual conference, sponsored by Environment Canada, will focus on collection problems, siting of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, management facilities, and waste management technology. The program includes visits to three collection sites.

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Hazardous Wastes Seminar, Edmonton, November 2-3, 1981.

Co-sponsored by Environment Canada and the Chemical Institute of Canada, this two-day seminar will discuss topics such as : liner materials, the molten salt process, incorporation to soil by spreading and spill response.

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"We're just upstairs."

J. Blair Seaborn, deputy minister of Environment Canada speaking to the Soil Conservation Society of America on August 3 in Spokane, Washington.

Failure to come to grips rapidly with this problem (acid deposition) will, I can assure you, place a severe strain on overall relations between our two countries. We very much need the international spirit of the Boundary Waters Treaty and of the two Great Lakes Water Quality Agreements to permeate U.S. and Canadian actions on an International Air Quality Agreement. We are moving on this problem now and we expect you to do the same. The sense

of environmental responsibility and the concern for the neighbour's backyard as well as our own must be kept clearly before us if our two countries are to have a healthy physical environment and are to ensure the continued benefits that are possible in both from our land-based resources. We can not sit idly by as our most basic resources, our soils and our waters, are degraded by an assault from the air.

Working Together

Environment Canada has signed three new accords furthering federal-provincial cooperation in environmental matters.

In Newfoundland, a 10-year agreement will allow the province to work more closely with federal officials on wildlife conservation projects. The Canadian Wildlife Service and the Newfoundland Wildlife Division will jointly study such topics as the management of caribou herds in northern Labrador, the effects of forestry practices on wildlife, and the protection of important seabird colonies.

In British Columbia, a new memorandum of understanding formally acknowledges long-standing working arrangements for dealing with spills of oil and other hazardous materials. Under this accord, to be reviewed yearly, the province and the federal government will maintain around-the-clock emergency reporting centres in Vancouver and Victoria.

The federal government will have prime responsibility for all spills from ships, into marine waters or at federal facilities, and spills that affect American waters. The Canadian Coastguard remains the lead agency responsible for dealing with oil spills from ships.

In New Brunswick the existing flood damage reduction agreement, signed in 1976, has been extended five years to March 31, 1991. Its object is to discourage or control any future development on floodplains-- areas naturally subject to flooding.

Federal and provincial agencies will withhold financial support from any building or development in an officially designated floodway, except structures for agricultural or recreational use. In the bordering "floodway fringe" they will build or assist construction only if the structures are properly flood-proofed. Future projects in designated flood risk areas will not be covered by the federal disaster assistance program.

Key to the agreement is the flood risk mapping program, which guides the control of development on flood plains. Restrictions do not apply to structures already existing in areas later designated as flood risk areas. However, municipalities are encouraged to prohibit future building in such areas.

In areas now subject to heavy flood damage, the governments will undertake feasibility studies of possible flood control projects.

