



Environment
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Environment UPDATE

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The Work Goes On

A message from Hon. John Roberts, Minister of Environment Canada.

For Environment Canada, 1981 was a year of achievement:

. We promoted the principle that Canada must manage its natural resource base in order to achieve long-term economic development.

. Cabinet approved our Forest Sector Strategy for Canada, an action plan that shows how better management of our resource means healthy forests for tomorrow, jobs for Canadians and forest products for export.

. Canadians recognized our leadership in the international effort to stop acid rain. Departmental officials appeared before Congressional Committees in the United States. DOE and External Affairs launched the biggest public awareness campaign Canada has ever undertaken in the United States. As a result of our research, we can show where the problem is coming from, what we must do about it and how we can afford to eliminate it.

. We have implemented a policy for public consultation that is one of the most advanced in the federal government.

. I and the Toronto department's office have stood with the citizens of Niagara-on-the-Lake to fight for the clean-up of the Niagara River. We supported ENGOs who intervened in US Courts regarding the Hyde Park dump site.

. Grasslands National Park was opened by Parks Canada in Saskatchewan.

. I chaired the Canadian Council of Resource and Environment Ministers and successfully focussed ministers' attention on toxic chemicals.

In 1982 we face challenging responsibilities:

. We must continue to demonstrate to others how long-term economic development in Canada is possible only by better conservation and management of our natural resources.

. We must assume a stronger role within the federal government to ensure that long-term economic development is not jeopardized by short-term policies that endanger our critical natural

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Wildlife Specimens Seized

Over 260 shipments of wildlife specimens, protected by international agreement, were seized or detained by Canadian customs officers in 1980. They included 16 000 reptile-skin watch straps, 42 mounted turtles, a number of leopard, tiger, cougar, lynx and bobcat skins, and numerous wallets, belts, purses and skulls.

The seizures were in accord with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), signed by Canada in 1974. More than 70 other countries are parties to this convention, aimed at controlling a lucrative trade which threatens many plants and animals with extinction. Hardest hit have been such cats as the leopard, tiger, jaguar, ocelot and margay.

Trade in more than 2 000 species is regulated under CITES, including their parts and products made from them. These are not allowed into Canada without an export permit from the country of origin; and, for gravely endangered species like rhinos and spotted cats, an import permit is required too. Permits must be obtained before shipment is made.

In 1980 the Canadian Wildlife Service issued some 3 600 CITES permits for the export of Canadian wildlife, along with 36 scientific certificates allowing non-commercial loans, donations and exchanges by Canadian scientists and institutions. Meanwhile, 36 permits were issued for the import of endangered animals for breeding purposes in zoos, and of certain parts obtained from endangered species.

CITES is administered in Canada by John Heppes of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and his assistant, Bob McLean. The convention is enforced under the Export and Import Permits Act.

Information:

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Information

Requests for further information should be sent to the authors of the articles at:

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unless otherwise indicated.

Comments and suggestions should be sent to Henri Mauviel, Environment Update, at the above address; (819) 994-1410.

Facing Facts

The following extract is from the booklet "Forestry Facing the Future"

Canada's most valuable natural resource is its forest land. Oil, natural gas and various minerals are also economically important, but the number one resource is the forests.

The facts speak for themselves.

FACT: Forests cover more than half of the land in the 10 Canadian provinces. In total, Canada contains 3.4 million square kilometres of woodland.

FACT: Canada's forest resources support, directly and indirectly, about one million workers—one of every 10 employed Canadians.

FACT: In 1980, the output of the Canadian forest products industry was worth more than \$22 billion. Forest product exports reached \$13 billion in 1980, far exceeding the exports of any other commodity group.

FACT: Canada's multi-billion dollar tourism and outdoor recreation industries rely heavily on the nation's forests. And the aesthetic pleasure derived from these forests by millions of Canadians is inestimable.

FACT: Forests play a large and essential role in the Canadian environment. They minimize erosion, help regulate the flow of streams and rivers, extract carbon dioxide from the air and protect wildlife habitat.

The value of Canadian forests is far greater than most of us realize. Consequently, major problems that affect these

forests clearly demand national concern. Here are some of the serious problems:

FACT: Local wood shortages are emerging country-wide. Much of Canada's accessible, high-quality, "old growth" forest has been logged. Far too frequently, regeneration on these areas has been inadequate. Today, at least 15 percent of Canada's potentially productive forest land contains a non-productive crop of trees. Each year the situation gets worse: a fifth of the forest area harvested annually is added to this regeneration backlog. Even where natural regeneration is taking place, the new forest is commonly of poorer quality than the original stand. Historically, the great majority of Canada's forest land has not been managed. Even today, neglect is still widespread.

FACT: Such activities as mining, oil and gas production, road construction, urban sprawl and hydroelectric development are taking a growing toll of the nation's forest lands. In addition, airborne pollution is suspected of causing damage to forests and perhaps to forest soils.

FACT: Natural elements of the forest ecosystem compete with man for forest resources. Each year, insects and disease claim about 90 million cubic metres of commercial quality timber. In addition, vast areas of forest are destroyed by fire. Though some of these fires are the result of natural conditions, 75 percent are caused by man.

If these problems continue to be ignored, the impact will be felt, directly or indirectly, by all Canadians.

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The most intensive use of the forest - harvesting of trees for forest products - will be most affected. The national goal is to increase timber harvests by 50 percent over the next 25 years. However, further neglect of the nation's forests will block efforts to increase the harvest. Thus, without improvements in forest management

practices, this national goal will be unattainable.

This is a shocking situation for a nation that has always considered itself rich in forest resources. Fortunately, improvements in forest management practices are possible -- and have begun.

A Promising Partnership

Environment Canada's new Public Consultation Policy opens the way for a continuing dialogue between the department and the public. Officially announced last October, its purpose is to help concerned Canadians make a useful input into the department's decision making.

Under the policy, the department will hold annual meetings at which private citizens, community groups and other organizations can voice their environmental concerns, criticisms and suggestions. Moreover, the department is committed to respond to every comment and recommendation it receives.

The meetings will take place shortly before the department begins its annual planning cycle, so that the input can be used most effectively. Environment Canada will help pay the travel costs of public interest groups who qualify for such assistance, to enable their representatives to attend.

Meanwhile, the department will increase its efforts to keep Canadians well informed about its activities -- in part through such publications as Environment Update and Citizens' Bulletin. It will strive to answer, as soon as possible, every query it receives.

In particular, Environment Canada's regulatory activities will come under public scrutiny. Proposed regulations and environmental guidelines will be published in Environment Update and Canada Gazette, so that citizens' groups and individuals may comment upon them.

Through this partnership with the public, Environment Canada hopes to be more responsive to the needs of all Canadians.

Further information:
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Submissions Delay Guidelines

Federal officials are still preparing guidelines for an environmental impact statement by Dome-Esso-Gulf about

hydrocarbon development in the Beaufort Sea, following a month of hearings in Calgary and communities in the north.

John Tener, chairman of the Beaufort Sea Environmental Assessment Panel, said extensive submissions received during its tour had prompted the panel to delay its final report. "We wanted to take time to digest and study them" he explained, "to produce the best guidelines we can."

The companies propose to produce natural gas and oil and to ship them south by tanker, pipeline or both. "The people in the north believe the proposal could have a great impact on their way of life," said Dr. Tener, "on their ability to hunt and fish."

Purpose of the impact statement, required before any development proposal can be approved, is to forecast the probable environmental effects of the

project. At the same time, the companies must state what action they propose to prevent environmental damage.

The seven-member environmental assessment panel, which reports directly to the Minister of the Environment, is concerned with all effects north of the 60th parallel. It was established as part of the review process administered by the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO).

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs has so far made \$325 000 available to citizens' groups and individuals participating in the process.

Further information:

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Weather by Telidon

The Atmospheric Environment Service (AES) is using Telidon to present weather information in graphic form on a coast-to-coast daily television show. CTV's Canada AM thus becomes the first national TV show to carry the Telidon graphics.

Superior graphics are a feature of Telidon, a two-way television system providing access to computer banks, developed by the federal Department of Communications.

Maps, charts and other program materials are produced by the Toronto Weather Office and sent by telephone to the CTV studios in Agincourt, 20 km east of Toronto, together with a script or briefing.

AES has been experimenting with Telidon for the past two years, and Ontario Region is trying to

interest other networks in broadcasting high-quality TV weather programs. These might include aviation meteorological data and weather news for farmers, sailors, skiers and other special interest groups.

The networks, however, are awaiting a new technological advance expected as early as this spring. This would allow Telidon signals to be converted directly for telecast, instead of being picked up from a monitor screen.

Meanwhile, early this year, an AES project team plans to test the form and content of a proposed new weather program at the studios of TV Ontario, the province's educational network.

Further information:
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New Group Organized

Government and industry representatives from across Canada have formed a new organization to facilitate closer cooperation in dealing with environmental emergencies. The National Environment Emergency "Team" is expected to meet annually as a forum for technical and policy discussions to keep abreast of changing environmental concerns, technology and methodology.

J. Blair Seaborn, deputy minister of Environment Canada, welcomed delegates to the organization's two-day inaugural meeting last November in Ottawa. They heard presentations from several industry associations

and the federal, provincial and territorial governments on their respective roles and how they mesh together for effective efforts in environmental emergencies.

Topics discussed included guidelines for funding cleanup operations, implications of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, and Environment Canada's efforts to develop an emergency measures program for chemical hazards.

Further information:
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To Coordinate Forest Research

British Columbia and Environment Canada have signed a memorandum of understanding to coordinate forest research--the first of eight such federal-provincial agreements soon to be concluded.

The memorandum was signed December 8 by B.C. Forest Minister Tom Waterland and federal Environment Minister John Roberts. A similar accord will be signed this month with Alberta, and others by the end of March with Saskatchewan, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Newfoundland.

Federal efforts will concentrate on basic and long-term research, and on studies requiring rare expertise. The provinces and industry will assume increasing responsibility for research to serve immediate needs.

Under the British Columbia accord, the Canadian Forestry Service will develop its capability in forest protection, while

the province develops and maintains an extension program for forest managers. The province will also increase its capability in silvicultural research, supported by in-depth basic studies by CFS.

The Alberta agreement will contain similar terms, providing for increased provincial efforts in reforestation, genetics, stand development, site classification, reclamation and range management.

Environment Minister John Roberts has stressed the importance of research in doubling the value added by Canada's forest sector by the year 2 000--a goal recently adopted by the Canadian Council of Research and Environment Ministers.

Further information:
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North Sea Lessons

Canada is applying lessons learned from offshore oil and gas development in the North Sea. The area was visited last year by Canadian observers headed by Jacques Gérin, senior assistant deputy minister of Environment Canada.

Some of the lessons are reflected in Canada's national energy program. Norway and Britain favor integrated planning over regulation and control, and this has led to a less onerous regime of regulations than would otherwise have been needed.

In Norway and Britain, advanced planning has determined both national and local objectives, and ways to achieve them. Appropriately, local authorities have had a key role in the decision-making process.

Detrimental effects of development are felt locally, and local authorities therefore need time and other help in adjusting to them.

Norway heavily emphasizes environmental protection, the Canadians observed, with an impressive organization to deal with oil spills or blowouts. Contingency planning in both Norway and Britain far surpassed that on either the east or west coasts of Canada.

Copies of the report "A Canadian Perspective on the Development of North Sea Oil and Gas" are available from the Enquiry Centre, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3.

Further information:
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Pressing on with Park

The New Brunswick and federal governments have welcomed the report of a special inquiry into grievances surrounding the establishment of Kouchibouguac National Park. Although it found mistakes had been made, the report recommends continued development of the park.

The inquiry was conducted by Dr. Gerard Laforest, now a judge of the New Brunswick Supreme Court, and sociologist Muriel Roy. They recommended payment of an additional \$1.6 million compensation to former residents of the park by the federal and provincial governments.

They also urged that Parks Canada formally reject the policy of requiring vacant possession of lands to be used for national parks. Environment Minister John Roberts noted that this policy had been abandoned in 1975.

Mr. Roberts expressed the hope that all legitimate grievances now would be resolved. Premier Hatfield called on nearby communities to work together with federal and provincial authorities to ensure the greatest possible benefits from the park.

The inquiry found that former residents of the park were mainly concerned about finding new employment. Mr. Roberts said the federal government would make special efforts to assist not only them, but to benefit all the people of the region.

By March, he noted, the federal government will have spent \$32 million on the park, and the province another \$6 million.

Further information:
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Update Briefs

Public Awareness Growing

Public awareness of the acid rain problem substantially increased in 1981 -- especially in Quebec. This is the finding of two surveys taken a year apart by CROP Inc. of Montreal.

According to the earlier survey, 38 percent of Canadians felt they had followed the issue "very closely" or "somewhat closely" during the previous 12 months. By the end of last year, this had climbed to 46 percent -- an increase of 12 percentage points.

Even more striking was the 16-point increase in Quebec -- from 24 percent to 40 percent.

Last year 14 percent of Canadians remembered reading or hearing about National Environment Week, which ran from Oct. 11 to Oct. 17. It is hoped that growing participation by labor, business, professional and community groups will boost this percentage in 1982.

Park Plan Ready

Parks Canada has completed its master plan for development of Louis St. Laurent National Historic Park in Compton, Que., 25 km southeast of Sherbrooke. The park includes the family home of the former prime minister, the general store operated by his father, and a former horse stable.

Born in Compton in 1882, Louis St. Laurent entered politics after a brilliant career in law. In 1941 he joined the Mackenzie King cabinet as minister of justice, and in 1946 became minister of state for external affairs. He served as prime minister from 1948 to 1957.

Opening of the new park is scheduled for this summer.

Further information:
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Canada Hosting Foresters

The North American Forestry Commission will hold its biennial meeting in Victoria from February 16 to 19. Besides exchanging information, its purpose is to advise the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on the formulation and implementation of forestry policies.

Represented on the commission are Canada, Mexico and the United States. The host country provides the chairman.

Canada will also host the 1985 Commonwealth Conference on Forestry, in which some 100 delegates from 20 countries will participate. The conference will likely be held in Vancouver in September of that year.

Update Briefs

New Appointments

Raymond M. Robinson is the new executive chairman of the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office (FEARO). He joined Environment Canada in 1973 as director of federal-provincial and Canada-U.S. relations, and in 1978 became assistant deputy minister in charge of the Environmental Protection Service.

He is succeeded in this post, on an acting basis, by Dr. Robert Slater, former director general of Environment Canada's Ontario region. The new acting director

general, replacing Dr. Slater, is Howard L. Ferguson, former director of the Air Quality and Environmental Research Branch.

Earlier, with the Department of External Affairs, Mr. Robinson was deputy director of the United States Division, responsible for transboundary environmental matters. He was coordinator of the Canadian team that negotiated the 1972 Canada-U.S. agreement on Great Lakes water quality.

May We Help You ?

Don't miss out on other good sources of information.

Besides Environment Update, you may wish to receive other publications such as Citizens' Bulletin and our Notice of Publications. If so, you can say so on the reply card sent to you about the beginning of January.

At the same time, please help us respond to your information needs by telling us something about yourself--your occupation, your special interests and the professional and ecological organizations to which you belong. You can do this by filling out the same reply card according to the simple instructions provided.

If you haven't already done so, please complete the card and return it. It is self-addressed and post-paid.

Further information:
Michel Gagnon
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Publications – Films

Forestry Booklet

Facts about forestry and the activities of the Canadian Forestry Service are contained in a new booklet published by Environment Canada's information directorate.

Forestry: Facing the Future begins with a look at the importance of forestry and the challenges it faces. It discusses the federal role in forestry, particularly the role of the CFS in research and promoting better forest management.

Films on Acid Rain

A new film, Acid Rain: Requiem or Recovery, will be released early this year by Environment Canada. It explains the origins, range and impact of this menace and explores the interdependence of plant and animal life--along with the role of each caring citizen in protecting the environment.

Already available is Acid from Heaven, a 30-minute film lent

About Water

Good Water...a Vital Need is a new leaflet about the work of Environment Canada's Water Quality Branch. It describes the operations of each of the branch's five regional offices, as well as those at headquarters.

Through water sampling and

Publications – Films

The 14-page booklet is illustrated by color photographs and a map depicting the eight forest regions. The eight CFS establishments with their research priorities are listed at the back.

Copies are available from the Enquiry Centre, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3, or from the CFS research centre in your region.

out free of charge by the National Film Board. Using easy-to-understand layman's language, this answers fundamental questions about acid rain, dramatized by the case study of a man who lost his income because of it.

Catalogue number of the English version is 106-C 0181 581; of the French version, 106-C 0281 581.

analysis, the branch investigates pollution in Canada's lakes and rivers. Tests include measurements of dissolved oxygen concentration, temperature, transparency, electrical conductivity, pH (acidity-alkalinity), chlorinated pesticides and mercury.

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The branch recommends water quality objectives in keeping with the prudent use of this valuable resource.

Copies are available from the Enquiry Centre, Environment Canada, Ottawa, K1A 0H3.

Forests Need People

The Canadian Forestry Service is gravely concerned about the current shortage of trained forestry specialists. Without their expertise, says CFS, Canada will be unable to apply advanced technology or meet research needs in this sector.

The Forest Sector Strategy for Canada, reviewed in the last issue of Environment Update, stresses the need for more intensive forest management and research. But there is already a serious shortage of some of the required professional skills, and this will worsen as the demand for them increases.

At least 6 000 forestry graduates, and 1 500 with postgraduate degrees, will be needed in the next 10 years.

But Canada's six forestry schools now are graduating only about 335 students annually with bachelor's degrees and 70 with master's degrees or doctorates. Without additional support, says CFS, these schools will be unable to train the required personnel.

The shortage of woods labor is equally serious. High turnover rates, difficulty in recruiting workers in more isolated locations, and lack of manpower planning have lead to low productivity and high costs. The forest sector strategy calls for the creation of another 75 000 to 100 000 jobs.

At least 25 000 of the new jobs would be in forest regeneration and the tending of forest stands. These would draw heavily on native people, students and newcomers to the the labor force.

Cabinet has recommended that 300 students be provided for forestry work under the Summer Canada program and has provided \$1.2 million in funding to augment salaries and to provide funds for field work. Action on proposals for increased federal support for university training in forestry and the manufacture of forest products is anticipated early in 1982.

Further information:

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The Work Goes On

resource base or the quality of our environment.

- . We must confront the toxic chemical problems that endanger the environment.

- . We must ensure that exploration for offshore oil and gas does not damage the environment and that related production and transportation are planned to eliminate adverse environmental impact.

- . We must promote the sound

management and development of Canada's water resources, especially in the West.

- . We must continue the fight to stop acid rain.

Environment Canada's new Public Consultation Policy, through increased dialogue with concerned Canadians, will enable the department to make better decisions with respect to these many challenges.

