

### 1.5.3 International programs

Canada must co-operate with other countries in order to make progress toward many important environmental and resource objectives. The following are some of the international bodies concerned with environmental and resource matters in which Canada participates.

The *International Joint Commission* assists Canada and the United States in carrying out the provisions of the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909. It consists of six Commissioners, three appointed by the President of the United States and the other three by the Government of Canada. The Treaty requires that projects for the use, obstruction, and diversion of boundary waters and, in certain instances, of rivers crossing the International Boundary, must be approved by the Commission.

In addition, the Commission is requested by the governments of the two countries to investigate and report on other matters of concern along the common border. In recent years the Commission has received a number of requests to investigate and report on air and water pollution problems. Much of its work is done under the aegis of advisory boards of various types, usually charged with specific area or functional responsibilities. They report to the Commission which drafts the final reports and recommends appropriate action.

Following several years of research carried out by its advisory boards for Lake Erie and for Lake Ontario - International St. Lawrence River, the Commission issued its final report on pollution in the Lower Great Lakes and the international section of the St. Lawrence River in 1971. This report led to the conclusion of a Canada - US Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality which was signed in Ottawa in April 1972 by Prime Minister Trudeau and President Nixon. The Agreement contains a series of water quality objectives which both countries agree to attain within specified time limits, by implementing programs to control the input of pollution into the Great Lakes. Under the terms, the International Joint Commission will monitor the progress in each country toward fulfilling the Agreement. In addition, the Commission has been requested to undertake two major studies, one concerned with pollution in the Upper Great Lakes and the other with pollution of the Lakes from land sources and agriculture.

During 1972, the Commission issued its final report on transboundary air pollution in the Detroit and St. Clair River areas. Meetings between the two federal governments, the province of Ontario and the state of Michigan were held to examine and to seek ways of implementing the IJC's recommendations for the abatement of air pollution in the area.

In that same year work continued on a number of other water matters along the Canada - US boundary. As its name implies, the IJC International Great Lakes Levels Board is concerned with water levels in the Great Lakes as a whole. Its International St. Lawrence Board of Control deals with water levels in Lake Ontario and the regulation of outflow from the lake. The St. Croix Board is concerned with water levels and supervision of dam construction in the St. Croix River. The Lake of the Woods Board, the Lake Superior Board, the Rainy Lake Board, and the Kootenay Board, are concerned with water levels in these lakes and rivers. The Souris River Board is responsible for allocation of water in that river. The Niagara Board deals with water levels in Grass Island Pool, and the operation of the Lake Erie ice boom. The International Joint Commission has an interest in the measurement and apportionment of water in the St. Mary and Milk rivers. Also reporting to the International Joint Commission are international engineering boards for the Saint John, the St. Croix, the Souris, and the Red rivers. An IJC Technical Advisory Board on Air Pollution is concerned with the occurrence of air pollution anywhere along the International Boundary. There is an IJC Advisory Board for Pollution Control in the St. Croix River and another for the Red River.

Canada is a member of nine international fisheries commissions, as well as the *International Council of Exploration of the Sea*. The latter, composed of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, the USSR and the UK, encourages and co-ordinates studies of the marine environment with particular reference to the living resources of the sea, primarily in the north Atlantic area. The international fisheries commissions, established under the terms of formal Conventions, assume responsibility for the investigation of specific living marine resources in defined areas, in order to further rationalize development and conservation of fisheries of common concern to member states. These commissions are: the *International Pacific Halibut Commission*, the *International Pacific Salmon Fisheries*