

## 1.5 The environment

The Department of the Environment was created in June 1971 to spearhead the attack on pollution and ensure the management and development of Canada's renewable natural resources. It has the responsibility to initiate government-wide programs and to coordinate efforts related to environmental protection. It also provides specialist advisory services to other departments in the formulation of programs and in the development of regulations under Federal Acts assigned to other ministers.

The Environmental Protection Service of the department is responsible for developing and enforcing environmental protection regulations and other instruments used in implementing federal laws relating to the environment. It also serves as an information source for other federal departments.

The water pollution control program's main objectives are: the reduction of existing pollution and the prevention of new problems; achievement of regional water quality objectives; and the development of new technologies to solve water pollution control problems more economically. Water pollution control regulations and guidelines are being developed for all major industrial sectors. Regulations already exist governing the pulp and paper industry, mercury from the chlor-alkali industry and the petroleum refinery industry. These regulations, promulgated under the Fisheries Act, restrict the amount of effluents an industry can discharge into waters inhabited by aquatic life. Other programs include water pollution surveys in shellfish growing areas; phosphorus concentration control regulations; analytical and advisory services to other federal departments and agencies; inventories of water pollution problems in Canada and annual assessments of pollution control costs and studies on the treatment of municipal and industrial waste waters.

The broad objectives of the air pollution control program are to preserve, restore, or enhance the quality of the ambient air in Canada. Programs include: collection and evaluation of information regarding air pollution sources in Canada; development of abatement and compliance programs for stationary and mobile air pollution sources; preparation of regulations controlling the amount of lead in leaded gases and defining the limits of lead and phosphorus in "unleaded" grades of gasoline as well as regulations defining national emission standards for secondary lead smelters; maintenance of a mobile motor vehicle emission testing facility and promulgation of national air quality objectives.

The Environmental Conservation Directorate is developing and implementing programs designed to protect and conserve the environment. The environmental emergency program involves activities associated with environmental threats, such as oil spills. The program examines the national state of preparedness to cope with such accidents, and coordinates the development of improved preparedness. It also acts as the focal point through which the expertise and resources of the department can deal with an environmental accident.

The environmental contaminants program involves protection from the adverse effects of identifiable substances produced by industrial activities. This program is responsible for the management of hazardous materials, and development of codes of good practice and guidelines for the identification, transportation, storage and disposal of environmentally hazardous materials. Two acts developed under this program are: the Environmental Contaminants Act, by which the federal government may provide for the control of chemicals that may be disseminated in the environment, are persistent and are harmful to human health or the environment; the Ocean Dumping Control Act, by which deliberate dumping of certain substances from ships, aircraft and platforms at sea is subject to a permit issued by the Environmental Protection Service. The solid waste management program's objectives are to reduce the impact on the environment and increase resource recovery and energy conservation from solid wastes.

The federal activities environmental protection program deals with facilities and activities of all federal government agencies and Crown corporations,