

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, emissions of mercury from mercury cell chlor-alkali plants and emissions of asbestos from asbestos mines and mills; maintenance of a mobile motor vehicle emission testing facility and promulgation of national air quality objectives.

The environmental conservation directorate develops and implements programs to protect and conserve the environment. The environmental emergency program coordinates activities associated with environmental threats, such as oil spills, and examines the national state of preparedness to cope with such accidents.

The environmental contaminants program involves protection from adverse effects of substances produced by industry. This program is responsible for management of hazardous materials and development of codes of good practice and guidelines for identifying, transporting, storing and disposing of hazardous materials. Under the Environmental Contaminants Act the federal government may provide for control of chemicals that may be disseminated, are persistent and are harmful to human health or the environment. Under the Ocean Dumping Control Act deliberate dumping of certain substances from ships, aircraft and platforms at sea is subject to a permit. The solid waste management program's objectives are to reduce impact on the environment and increase resource recovery and energy conservation from solid wastes.

The federal activities environmental protection program deals with activities of all federal government agencies and Crown corporations, concerning both land installations and vessels. These include treatment and disposal of waste water, solid waste management, air pollution, noise pollution and other threats to environmental quality. This program is responsible for a national approach to noise management and for developing and implementing ecological protection regulations, guidelines and codes; analysis and appraisal of ecological impact studies; implementation of control measures; and enforcement and surveillance activities.

The federal government is committed to cleaning up pollution at federal facilities within a reasonable time. Clean-up projects have dealt with water, air, noise, dust and solid waste pollution problems at airports, government offices, laboratories, grain elevators, defence bases, parks, ships and harbours.

An interdepartmental committee on the environment was established in 1973. This is the primary forum for interdepartmental consultation on environmental and related resource issues and assists the fisheries and environment department in co-ordinating development and implementation of environmental policies and programs.

Federal-provincial programs

1.6.1

Responsibility for renewable resources and environmental matters is shared by federal and provincial governments. In some areas, such as fisheries, legislative jurisdiction rests with the federal government, although management and administration have been delegated to certain provinces; in other areas, such as forest resources, the provinces have legislative jurisdiction.

To develop further co-operative action, the fisheries and environment department is developing, with the provinces, federal-provincial accords for protection and enhancement of environmental quality. These are viewed as umbrella agreements under which specific agreements on environmental action may be signed. Examples of some current federal-provincial programs follow:

Assessments of potential environmental impact of major projects in which the federal government has an interest are carried out by federal departments in consultation and in co-operation with provincial and territorial governments. Procedures ensure consideration of environmental matters.

A national air pollution surveillance network established under the Clean Air Act consists, with certain exceptions, of monitoring stations operated by provincial governments using equipment loaned by the federal government.