

The environment department's goal is a reduction of acid deposition in Central and Eastern Canada by 1990 to no more than 20 kilograms per hectare per year to protect moderately sensitive aquatic systems. This would require agreements with the provinces and the United States, and public information and consultation initiatives supported by scientific and technical knowledge.

**Forest sector.** The objective is to ensure long-term economic development of the forest sector in an environmentally sound manner. Environment Canada plans to conduct research and development, to encourage technology transfers and an increased supply of professional manpower from Canada's universities and to promote better forest management by the provinces and industry through regional development and employment creation programs.

**Water resources management** may become as significant an issue by 1990 as energy has been in recent years. Elements of concern include: growing imbalances between water supply and demand especially on the Prairies, inadequate water quality in various parts of the country, pressures for water export to the United States, proposals for major diversions in Canada and conflicts in water use plans among provinces and territories.

**Energy development.** The department proposes to ensure that environmental effects are considered in all energy-related decisions including the development and use of coal resources, frontier oil and gas activities and nuclear energy projects. Energy conservation can contribute to energy self-sufficiency and maintenance of environmental quality. Departmental research will continue into environmentally benign sources of energy including forest biomass.

**Northern development.** The area north of 60 degrees latitude requires special environmental considerations. Proposed developments include a conservation strategy for national parks and wildlife areas, protection of historical and cultural resources, contributions to the environmental assessment of major developments, leadership in the management of larger northern river systems, and participation in land-use planning initiatives.

**Land resources.** Increased demands for renewable resources including forestry and agricultural products make it necessary to maintain land productivity and the related resource base. Issues

are multiple land use, possible degradation of soil quality and loss of wildlife habitat, increasing soil erosion and water supply considerations, and land-use demands from urbanization.

**Climate change.** Carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are increasing by 3% per decade from burning fossil fuels, deforestation and other altered land use. This may cause significant warming of the earth surface, altering climates and economies. A warmer climate in Canada would expand growing and ocean transportation seasons in the North. It would increase aridity in southern Canada threatening drought, water shortages, and reduced river and lake levels. Changes elsewhere in the world could alter Canada's international trade position. A Canadian climate program plans to monitor changes in carbon dioxide and climate, predict the effects, prepare related socio-economic impact scenarios, develop adaptive strategies and provide monthly and seasonal climate predictions.

### 1.8.2 Environmental review

A federal environmental assessment review office administers a process which requires consideration of environmental consequences of proposals involving the federal government through funds or property. This includes activities initiated by federal departments and agencies which are all subject to the process. Exceptions are proprietary Crown corporations and regulatory agencies, which are invited to participate. Departments and agencies screen proposed projects for potential adverse effects. If effects are not apparent, a more detailed evaluation is made. At either of these stages, the project may be accepted, modified, or rejected. When the potential environmental effects may be significant, the project is referred to the assessment review office for a formal public review by an independent environmental assessment panel.

The panel issues guidelines for an environmental impact statement. As part of its review, the panel holds public meetings in communities near the proposed project site to hear comments about the proposal. It submits a report to the minister of the environment which describes the major potential impacts and contains recommendations on project implementation. Decisions on the recommendations are made by the minister of the environment and the minister of the initiating or sponsoring department.