



NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY
TABLE RONDE NATIONALE SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET L'ÉCONOMIE

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review

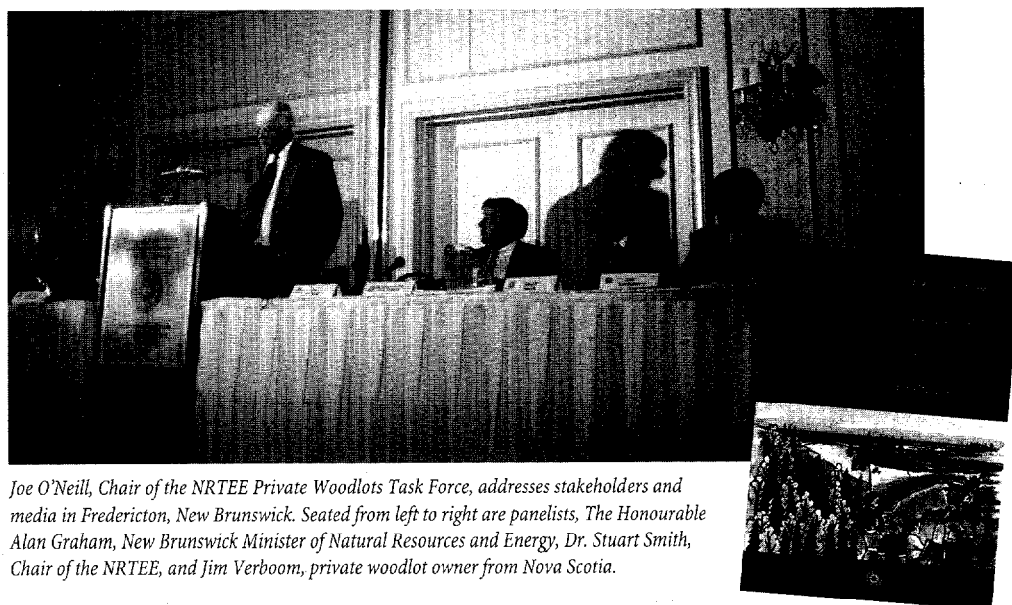
NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE ECONOMY

NRTEE launches State of the Debate report: *Private Woodlot Management in the Maritimes*

On October 7 in Fredericton, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) released its report, *State of the Debate on the Environment and the Economy: Private Woodlot Management in the Maritimes*. Joe O'Neill, VP Woodlands Division, Repap New Brunswick, a member of the NRTEE and Chair of its Private Woodlots Task Force, led a panel consisting of Dr. Stuart Smith, Chair of the NRTEE, The Honourable Alan Graham, New Brunswick Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, woodlot owners and other stakeholders, for a presentation of the report and a discussion of the vital question of sustainable woodlot management.

In his presentation to the audience of more than 200 stakeholders and media representatives, Mr. O'Neill underscored the importance of the issue. "More than anywhere else in Canada, privately owned woodlots are essential to the region's economy, social fabric and ecology. Continued unsustainable practices pose a serious threat to many Maritime communities."

Mr. O'Neill provided a brief overview of the report, outlining the overarching problems involved in private woodlot management, including: overcutting of a declining resource; lack of silviculture and other sustainable forest management practices; and lack of knowledge about, and incentives for, sustainable management practices. He also summarized the report's recommendations for achieving sustainability of an essential resource. Aimed



Joe O'Neill, Chair of the NRTEE Private Woodlots Task Force, addresses stakeholders and media in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Seated from left to right are panelists, The Honourable Alan Graham, New Brunswick Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Dr. Stuart Smith, Chair of the NRTEE, and Jim Verboom, private woodlot owner from Nova Scotia.

at key stakeholder groups, the recommendations include: federal and provincial tax reforms to encourage sustainable woodlot management practices; the establishment of an industry/woodlot-owner trust fund dedicated to sustainable forest management; recognition of research and development needs; cooperative ventures among stakeholder groups; mandatory training and licensing programs; and adherence to codes of practice.

While the issue of private woodlot management affects the Maritime region as a whole, each province faces special problems and concerns. Private woodlot owners Andrew Clark (New Brunswick) and Jim Verboom (Nova Scotia) and Ian Dennison (Chair of the

Forest Partnership Council, Prince Edward Island) addressed these issues in brief presentations to the group. Max Cater, of the New Brunswick Forest Products Association, Fredericton, outlined key concerns affecting the forest industry, while Marilyn Powell, a New Brunswick environmentalist, warned of the potential environmental impacts of continued unsustainable practices.

State of the Debate on the Environment and the Economy: Private Woodlot Management in the Maritimes is the product of extensive research and consultation among many stakeholder groups. Following the Fredericton release, briefings were also made to stakeholders and media in Halifax and Charlottetown. ●

National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy

Canada Building, 344 Slater Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1R 7Y3

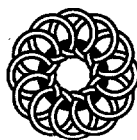


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Édifice Canada, 344, rue Slater, bureau 200
Ottawa (Ontario) Canada K1R 7Y3

Hot off the NRTEE press

Background reports summarizing key issues have been published in two program areas.

From the Financial Services Program

The NRTEE's Financial Services Program has been focused on finding solutions to the redevelopment of brownfields and other contaminated sites, and the improvement of site-specific data on the environmental condition of land. Four background papers have been released.

Contaminated Site Issues in Canada identifies broad areas of concern related to contaminated sites and sets the context for more detailed work being undertaken on site-specific information and brownfield redevelopment. The report also explores such issues as inconsistencies among the provinces and territories in allocating liability, what constitutes a "clean" site, and the role of insurance in environmental protection.

The Financial Services Sector and Brownfield Redevelopment

examines the role of the financial services sector — including banks, trust companies, insurance brokers and investment brokers — in facilitating brownfield redevelopment. The report, co-published with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, encourages the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach which includes partnerships among local and provincial governments, developers and the public.

Removing Barriers: Redeveloping Contaminated Sites for Housing

provides an overview of the factors impeding redevelopment of contaminated sites in Canada (including regulatory, technical/scientific, legal, liability, financial, urban planning and communications), examines initiatives in various Canadian and American jurisdictions which address these problems, and identifies areas requiring further research. This report was also co-published with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Improving Site-specific Data on the Environmental Condition of Land investigates current sources of site-specific information and possible strategies for improving this information, including developing a prototype for one small province or large municipality, strengthening registry requirements in one province to encompass a broader variety of sites, supporting the production of municipal contaminated site reports across the country, creating an ongoing national registry of site assessments, and establishing a self-funding program to assemble high-priority data for selected urban sites.

From the Eco-efficiency Program

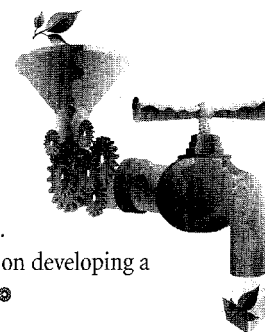
In the summer of 1996, the NRTEE set up a task force to explore the development of a core set of indicators for measuring eco-efficiency. These indicators would be designed to encourage companies to set measurable eco-efficiency targets, assist in assessing their



progress and performance against their targets and facilitate comparisons of environmental performance between companies of all types and sizes, as well as within entire sectors.

Measuring Eco-efficiency in Business

presents progress to date in developing a core set of indicators for measuring eco-efficiency in business. Based on a comprehensive review of relevant literature and consultation with major stakeholders, the backgrounder explores information needs and "drivers" (e.g., cost savings, risk reduction, improved competitiveness, credibility and sustainability), and indicators currently in use by companies to measure and report on their environmental performance. The report also identifies a core set of indicators and recommends that work go forward to develop energy efficiency and materials use indicators. Work will also continue on developing a toxic release indicator. ☉



WATCH FOR

Guide on Co-Managing Canada's Ocean Resources

Bounded on three sides by oceans, Canada has the longest combined coastline of any nation in the world. Increasingly, these oceans and coastlines are threatened by the dumping of waste, over-fishing, industrial pollution and the accumulation of greenhouse gases. A new guide from the NRTEE will examine some of the key factors contributing to the decline of Canada's oceans and explores innovative strategies for managing what have traditionally been conflicting environmental and economic interests. The report, which will be released in early 1998, also outlines the diagnosis for Canada's ocean resources, and sets out the principles behind co-management — a collaborative approach which draws together the expertise and experience of a variety of stakeholders. Also included is a synopsis of the Canadian experience with co-management.

Program Update

Eco-efficiency

NRTEE Chair Stuart Smith was a guest at an expert workshop entitled, "Fostering Eco-Efficiency: The Role of Governments," held on September 3 and 4 at OECD Headquarters in Paris. Dr. Smith made a presentation on "Developing Eco-efficiency Indicators," and participated in a panel discussion on building alliances. Ten industrial leaders have volunteered to participate in a pilot project to test the effectiveness of proposed materials and energy efficiency indicators. A workshop session on the pilot project is planned for March 17, 1998, immediately preceding the GLOBE '98 conference. A report on toxic release indicators has just been submitted and a new sub-group of the eco-efficiency program will begin work on this issue in January 1998. The NRTEE will partner with a variety of organizations on a North American workshop on Environmental Performance Measurement and Shareholder Value, to be held in early 1998.

Contact: *Elizabeth Atkinson*
(613) 943-0394

Economic Instruments

On October 22, 1997, the NRTEE hosted the "1998 Greening the Budget" workshop in Ottawa. The objective of the workshop was to identify economic instruments that encourage sustainability on private lands. Participants addressed the issues of: habitat protection for endangered species; private woodlot management; and brownfield redevelopment.

A round table workshop, entitled "Greening the Budget 1999 and 2000" was held on October 23 in Ottawa. The workshop brought together some 20 strategic managers from industry, NGOs and government to discuss economic instruments that are practical, implementable and achievable over the medium term. Issues for discussion included: what it means to have a budget that is "friendly" to sustainable development; specific economic instruments that offer promise for meeting this objective; and identification of transition barriers and ways of facilitating a shift into the "friendlier" system.

Contact: *Elizabeth Atkinson*
(613) 943-0394

Education

Following a successful pilot workshop in March, the NRTEE and the Association of Professional Engineers are implementing a "training-the-trainer" program designed to encourage ongoing education on sustainability issues. Consultations are under way with other professional associations (e.g., architects, planners and accountants) about the possibility of establishing similar programs. On the academic front, a number of Canadian business schools have expressed interest in collaborating with the NRTEE to integrate environmental issues into their existing programs. Future publications include a guidebook with case studies designed to help community groups, municipal government representatives and private-sector consultants and marketers to take environmentally responsible action. An updated round table simulation kit is also being produced.

Contact: *David McGuinty*
(613) 992-7155

Foreign Policy and Sustainability

Through the involvement of the NRTEE Committee on Foreign Policy and Sustainability in APEC issues, sustainable urbanization/sustainable cities has been identified as a key element both in the evolving APEC agenda and, more generally, for Canada's foreign policy. Building on the "Towards Sustainable Cities in APEC: Urban Air Quality and Urban Energy Management" workshop in May, and members' participation in various APEC fora, the Committee is currently exploring the means by which Canadian expertise can be marshalled to address the acute economic and environmental challenges of rapid population growth and urbanization. Over the next 12 months the Committee also plans to participate in an assessment of Canada's international environmental commitments, possibly in conjunction with activities being undertaken within the Office of the Commissioner for the Environment and Sustainable Development. Cooperation with other National Councils on Sustainable Development on an issue-by-issue basis remains an important feature of the Committee's outreach.

Contact: *David Morgan*
(613) 943-2054

Climate Change

The NRTEE will use a unique method to assist Canadians to better understand the problem of climate change. The National Forum on Climate Change will bring together a panel of citizens to hear from climate change experts and stakeholder interests, and to identify the key information Canadians need in order to make informed decisions and take appropriate actions. This method is patterned after models of citizen involvement developed simultaneously in the United States and Germany in the early 1970s, and used in the United Kingdom and Sweden since that time. The model has been used to tackle a wide variety of public policy issues, such as federal budget priorities for American health care reform, and the future of Minnesota's electricity system.

In the NRTEE process, citizen participants will be chosen from the Order of Canada membership. The group will hear about climate change issues from various perspectives, including environmental science, socioeconomic implications and technological opportunities for Canada.

The climate change issue is one of our most complex environment-economy challenges and it requires the broadest possible involvement of citizens. We are bringing accomplished Canadians to the table because we believe that the weight of their views will give the people of Canada an authentic and trustworthy voice on this issue.

David McGuinty, Executive Director
and CEO, NRTEE

The National Climate Change Forum will convene its first session early in 1998, organized under the co-chairmanship of Dee Parkinson-Marcoux, President of Gulf Heavy Oil Limited, and Elizabeth May, Executive Director of the Sierra Club of Canada. Dr. Stuart Smith, Chair of the NRTEE, will preside at the meetings.

Contact: *Nancy Averill*
(613) 943-0399

Financial Services

The NRTEE has produced a series of background documents on redeveloping brownfield areas and other contaminated sites, and improving site-specific data on the environmental condition of land. (See related article, page 2.) The program's State of the Debate report, summarizing the results of consultations on the background documents, will be published in January 1998.

Ocean Environment and Resources

The NRTEE will release a guide on co-managing Canada's ocean resources in early 1998. (See related article, page 2.)

Contact: Nancy Averill
(613) 943-0399

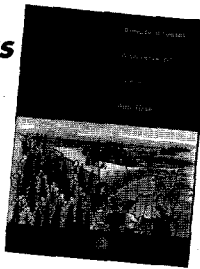
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Private Woodlots

Fredericton was the site for the October 7, 1997, launch of the NRTEE's *State of the Debate on the Environment and the Economy: Private Woodlot Management in the Maritimes*. Information sessions were held in Halifax on October 8 and in Charlottetown on October 9. (See related article, page 1.)

Contact: Elizabeth Atkinson
(613) 943-0394



Sustainable Transportation

A State of the Debate report will be published in mid-November. The report will summarize key issues in sustainable transportation, set out a strategy for action, and incorporate findings from multistakeholder sessions held across the country.

Contact: Jocelyne Beaudet
(514) 287-8584, ext. 8963

LEAD Canada

LEAD Canada is a training program aimed at enhancing environmental leadership. Each year, LEAD selects 15 promising mid-career professionals to take part in a two-year training program that explores environment and development. Participants, called Associates, undertake a self-directed course of study that is designed to complement their professional activities. At the same time, Associates are exposed to a variety of substantive issues related to sustainable development and are offered opportunities to improve their leadership skills. Recruitment for LEAD Canada's next training cycle is under way. For more information or application forms, please call the NRTEE.

Contact: Tracey White
(613) 995-7519

NRTEE MEMBERS

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Secretaries

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Carole Desjardins

Dominique Lapointe

Manon Quevillon

For more information, contact:
**The National Round Table
on the Environment and
the Economy**

Canada Building
344 Slater Street, Suite 200
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1R 7Y3
Tel: (613) 992-7189
Fax: (613) 992-7385
E-Mail: admin@nrtee-trnee.ca
Web: <http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>

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