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

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Report of Proceedings

of the

National Stakeholders Meeting

November 5 and 6, 1992

IDRC Headquarters, 250 Albert Street, 14th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario

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NRTEE

Approved by

National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group
on December 4, 1992

Executive Summary

On November 5 and 6, 1992, individuals representing the Federal Government, Provincial Governments, Parliamentarians, the Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment, the International Development Research Centre, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, non-governmental organizations (environment, development, women, youth, public policy and peace), indigenous peoples, business and labour met to discuss how Canadians plan to follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) and to explore inclusive, open and transparent collaborative mechanisms that will ensure action at all levels -- municipal, provincial, territorial and national.

There was a shared conviction that it is important to carry on collectively in the advancement of the cause of sustainability in Canada related to our international commitments that follow on from UNCED. It was recommended that this be given expression in a plan and planning process for sustainability in Canada. It was generally agreed that the basic elements of a widespread national agreement and coalition are in place -- what is required is a clear process which will involve open, inclusive, transparent and accountable participation at the grassroots, municipal, provincial, territorial and federal levels. Some measure of coordination and collective thinking is required to create that framework/vision of the future; the plan and the planning process; the participation; the inclusion; and the accountability -- i.e. the overarching elements that make this a reality for the national and the global community.

The following additional recommendations were made:

- Need to include in the process notably absent constituencies such as municipalities; Federal Ministers from Finance, Energy Mines & Resources, Export, External Affairs etc.; and media/mass communications.

- Collaborative multi-stakeholder work should focus on i) a long-term vision and process; and ii) short term priorities such as high seas overfishing and the lack of indigenous involvement in the Humane Trap Regulations process.

- Need to keep in mind international dimensions and perspectives.

- The "Sustainability Plan for Canada" needs to include and reflect Canada's UNCED commitments -- both the official international commitments of Agenda 21 and the Conventions, as well as its repeated support and commitments to NGOs, to women, and to involvement and participation at all levels and in all constituencies.

- Develop an evaluative/audit process to examine what Canada has achieved since the Brundtland Commission, and to develop recommendations for the future. The "audit" should be separable from the planning process, but would be an essential element of planning and implementing the Sustainability Plan for Canada.

- Specific tasks and responsibilities need to be assigned, the question of resources (time, effort, energy and financial) needs to be addressed, and some means of communication needs to be established to ensure effective continuation of the national multi-stakeholder process.

- There should be a smaller representative "Steering Committee" group who would undertake the next steps including defining the goals, the priorities, the tools, the sequences of steps, the ways and means, and the preparations for a second National Stakeholder Meeting in approximately six months time.

It was generally agreed that the National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group should meet to discuss how a smaller representational group would be constituted; and to arrange the first meeting of this representational group. The National Round Table on the Environment and Economy (NRTEE) offered to be a platform for coordination for this interim process.

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It should be noted that the following report is not a set of "minutes" in the true sense of the word, but rather a reporting of some of the key comments made that have been organized in a ordered outline which does not necessarily follow the exact flow and/or timing of the conversation(s).

Objective

The main focus of the National Stakeholder Meeting was to discuss how Canadians plan to follow-up on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED -- which occurred in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil during June'92) and to explore inclusive, open and transparent collaborative mechanisms that will ensure action at all levels -- municipal, provincial, territorial and national involving various stakeholders as well as individual Canadians.

Background

Environment Minister Jean Charest first introduced the idea of a meeting of the "four sustainable development institutions in Canada" at the National Round Table's June'92 meeting in the Yukon. The four were identified as the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the National Round Table on Environment and Economy (NRTEE), and the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME). Subsequently, the idea of including members from other key stakeholders such as government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), indigenous peoples, business etc. was presented and accepted. For the selection of actual participants, members of the core Canadian Delegation at UNCED were invited and additional sector representatives were self-selected by each respective constituency. Further to Minister Charest's request, an informal National Stakeholders Advisory Working Group was formed to develop an agenda and to prepare a background discussion paper for the National Stakeholder Meeting (see Appendix IV).

November 5, 1992

5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

The Hon. Jean Charest opened the meeting with a warm welcome to each of the constituents. He emphasized that the important products out of Rio include:

a) the official commitments made by Canada and other international governments -- Agenda 21; two legally-binding Conventions on Climate Change and Biodiversity; a non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Forest Principles; a non-legally binding Rio Declaration; and an agreement to an international High Seas Fisheries Conference in 1993; and
b) the establishment and implementation of a new decision-making process in Canada that is inclusive, transparent, and accountable.

Charest strongly supports the new "Rio-Way" process. Charest outlined his personal objectives for the National Stakeholder meeting as first to define and identify the commitments made in Rio; second to identify what stakeholders are doing and what they should be doing to meet these commitments; and thirdly to set priorities for and in the future.

Constituency Presentations

Each constituency was asked to present a 10 minute activity report focussing on their sectors "strategic response to Rio". Each of the reports summarized some of the key UNCED-related activities undertaken by their respective constituency, and some reports also addressed preferred outcomes for the National Stakeholder Meeting and/or visions for a sustainable future. Summaries of each activity report are outlined below in order of presentation.

NRTEE -- Spokesperson: Jack MacLeod

The driving force of the work of the NRTEE, which has not been UNCED-driven, has been to identify, by consensus of its members, those initiatives that the NRTEE might undertake within its mandate and resources that could lead to a signification contribution to a sustainable future. Some of the key initiatives undertaken by NRTEE relating to UNCED and/or UNCED issues include:

- the work of its' foreign policy committee which established consensus on recommendations to the Prime Minister regarding Canada's positions at UNCED on institutional reform, technology cooperation and financial resources.
- sectoral dialogues (or roundtables) on forests, tourism and pulp & paper.
- broad scope activities transcending most/all sectors of society relating to: i) sustainability, competitiveness and prosperity; ii) biodiversity; and iii) education relating both to increasing general public awareness of sustainability and to implementing sustainability concepts in formal education curricula.
- tool kit for sustainable development focussing on consensus-building as well as sustainable development incentives, indicators and reporting.

The NRTEE is also involved in other activities relating to rural renewal; activating youth roundtables; atmosphere and energy; sustainable agriculture; wetlands; and trade.

Federal Government -- Spokesperson: Hon. Jean Charest

The Hon. Charest summarized the Prime Minister's UNCED statement regarding a Canadian five-point plan which was the basis for the Canadian Delegation's work at the Conference. In addition, he noted two additional elements that Canada also focussed on at Rio. The seven priorities at Rio were:

- No country will do more for the citizen's of another country than it will do for its own. This position included Canada's lobbying for all nations to develop national plans/reports;
- Canada would sign; ratify before the 1992 year end; and implement as soon as possible the two conventions;
- Canada presented a proposed package of measures to assist developing countries make the transition to sustainable development touching on the three elements of overseas development assistance (ODA), trade and debt. Subsequently Canada has stated that, in the area of financial assistance, it is critical to deal with all three elements simultaneously;
- Canada supported the creation of the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and promoted NGO participation within the Commission. This position is continuing during the current UN General Assembly (UNGA) discussions on the CSD;
- Canada called for a renewed effort to agree on an Earth Charter by 1995 (50th anniversary of the United Nations);
- Canada called for action on overfishing on the high seas which successfully led to the agreement for a High Seas Fisheries Conference. At the currently ongoing UNGA, Canada is calling for the Conference to be scheduled for early 1993 and for its work to be completed within two years; and
- Canada called for action on forest issues which did not result in the desired Forest Convention, but which did contribute to the agreement on an Authoritative Statement of Forest Principles.

Post-UNCED, Canada will not be restricted to the priority areas outlined above, but will also be addressing other Agenda 21 issues. Within the Federal Government, the focal points for coordination of UNCED follow-up will be the Cabinet Committee on Environment, in cooperation with the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Policy & Defence and the Cabinet Committee on Economic & Trade Policy. The Federal Government will be working on the following:

- updating Canada's Green Plan to reflect UNCED commitments. Charest stressed that the Green Plan will <u>not</u> be <u>the</u> Canadian answer to sustainable development but rather only part of the answer. He noted however, that for Government it is the main element of the answer and therefore, will be the Government's primary response to UNCED.
- developing workplans for each Agenda 21 issue that requires a response.
- developing a de-centralized monitoring of the workplans and ensuring that UNCED commitments are built into the operations and workplans of all affected government departments and agencies.
- developing a common and transparent internal government information base as well as the ability to expand and include the involvement of other sectors.
- a progress report on the Federal Governments commitment to action (to be released in December 1992).

NGOs -- Spokespeople: Shauna Sylvester and Tim Draimin

NGOs are a diverse multi-sectoral group with strong ties to popular participation, education and public outreach. Because they are organizing themselves within sectors, across sectors, across national boundaries and within communities and because of their commitment to fundamental change, NGOs have essential knowledge and expertise that must be valued and

fully incorporated into any post-UNCED planning and follow-up processes. From an NGO point of view, one of the most successful outcomes from Rio was the NGO treaties which achieved consensus on some of the most difficult issues raised at UNCED. NGOs have two over-riding perspectives: i) the recognition that to become fully sustainable implies significant fundamental change (institutional and policy-related) in how activities and resources are managed; and ii) the recognition that the key to building sustainability is an open, participatory, consensus-building process.

The NGOs present have five key agenda items for this meeting:

- Process: need to develop a sustainability plan; to look at a trusteeship for the plan and to move from talking to taking action.
- Institutional change within all sectors: within the Canadian Government, NGOs are concerned with the dissolution of key UNCED-related coordinating structures and the departure of key personnel; within Canadian institutions, NGOs would like to see linkages between domestic and international agendas; and within the NGO community, NGOs are currently looking at building appropriate cooperative structures.
- Public empowerment: need broad public participation; need to link international and domestic levels and interests.
- International level: need for reform of all multi-lateral institutions (not just the UN) including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); need to accelerate the component of sustainability in Canada's overseas development assistance (ODA); and need to look at financial trade issues. NGOs are also monitoring and involved in the UNGA discussions on the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) and are particularly interested in and committed to ensuring that there is NGO participation on the CSD.
- Missing links: need to build a concrete sense of what sustainability means and where we want to go; need to re-integrate demilitarization back into the environment-development agenda to obtain sustainability; and need to look at "green-economic" alternatives.

CCME -- Spokespeople: Hon. Gilbert Clements, Hon. Walter Carter, Hon. Patt Cowan, and Hon. Glen Cummings

CCME, which views follow-up and implementation of UNCED products as a high priority, has developed the following three point action plan:

- endorse, ratify and implement Biodiversity and Climate Change Conventions;
- monitor assessments of and report on Canada's progress in implementing UNCED products; and
- revise and integrate sustainable development strategies.

CCME has created an UNCED Follow-Up Task Force which has identified post-UNCED initiatives including:

- discuss ratification of the two conventions at the next CCME meeting;
- consider seconding a provincial official to the national biodiversity office;
- commission an assessment of the impact of UNCED on CCME;
- examine how provincial sustainable development strategies should be revised to reflect UNCED and how to integrate these strategies nationally; and
- review and identify high priorities from Agenda 21. The Task Force has identified possible priorities (to be approved by the Ministers at its next meeting) as integration of environment and economy; decision-making methods; atmosphere issues; and biodiversity.

In addition, CCME is prepared to work cooperatively with other sectors on the proposed June '93 Canadian status report.

Environment Ministers from the Atlantic provinces, while acknowledging Canada's role in achieving the international agreement to have a High Seas Fisheries Conference in 1993, made a strong plea for the Federal Government and all other Canadian sectors to continue to place a strong priority and commitment on the over-fishing issue and on the upcoming Conference. They urged participants to promote and support work towards an international legally-binding High Seas Convention focussing on overfishing and reform of high seas management.

Indigenous -- Spokespeople: Chief Ovide Mercredi and Dan Smith

The indigenous presentation included strong examples of how several centuries of "sustainable development" have devastated entire indigenous communities -- their way of life, their culture, their economy, as well as access to and protection of their resources. The presentation also included examples of how these practices continue since and despite UNCED; and a statement that emphasized how the Canadian Government, which contributes over 1 billion dollars to developing countries, does not allocate equivalent funds to indigenous communities, the majority of which are in an equivalent state of impoverishment.

Most indigenous individuals chose not to participate at UNCED as they were unable to represent themselves -- their own self-government and own way(s) were not recognized. Those individuals who did participate did so for educational reasons, with the hope that knowledge would flow both ways between indigenous and non-indigenous participants. In Rio, indigenous peoples from around the world met for a week at the Kari-Oca Conference where they developed and agreed to 109 recommendations demonstrating how all indigenous peoples share the same philosophies and principles of sustainable development; of sustainable harvest; and of looking after Mother Earth.

Indigenous peoples feel that the UNCED and post-UNCED process towards sustainable development is simply a rationalization of proceeding with new forms and perhaps new directions of development which do not address indigenous needs or support their rights. Rather that "sustainable development", as discussed by non-indigenous peoples around the world, will protect non-indigenous rights and the non-indigenous environment for non-indigenous peoples.

IDRC -- Spokesperson: Dr. Keith Bezanson

The Prime Minister announced at UNCED that IDRC's mandate would be expanded so that it would become a key global organization in making sustainability a reality. IDRC's main objective is to develop quickly an action plan to sustain the momentum of Rio, its agenda and to add to the Rio process. IDRC will be looking at the following five broad questions:

- What is IDRC's role? Why is research necessary?: IDRC believes that UNCED would not have occurred without the recent acceleration of research on sustainable development which yielded broad scientific consensus on issues such as biodiversity and global warming. Scientific consensus coupled with rising public awareness galvanized the political will to support and participate in a global sustainability conference. Continued research is essential to shift the scientific and research agenda to the policy and application agenda. IDRC, with 22 years of work in research, is well positioned to quickly respond to UNCED and to lead post-UNCED research.
- What process(es) should be adopted and/or promoted?: To help guide IDRC's internal revisions to meet its expanded mandate, IDRC has made a chapter by chapter review of

Agenda 21; has established consultative roundtables in several Southern countries to examine Agenda 21, Northern perceptions and plans; has consulted with NGOs; and has established a Commission of Social Scientists to examine global changes and action plans.

- What partnerships should be developed?: Some of IDRC's key partnerships for Agenda 21 follow-up include Southern countries; NGOs; government departments such as CIDA; other sustainable development institutions such as IISD; and others.
- What immediate answers are available that could be shared?: IDRC is identifying its processes and programmes that were in place before Rio, or that are in a position to be implemented quickly to ensure that the momentum of UNCED is maintained.
- What new (post-Rio) initiatives could be suggested/undertaken?: IDRC is looking at new initiatives that could further the UNCED agenda.

IDRC has been involved with projects relating to many of the Agenda 21 issues, and will continue to promote these and other UNCED-related programmes. The current focus is to determine how to direct such projects to reflect UNCED commitments; how to involve a wide spectrum of groups in order to be open, consultative, and participatory; and how to convert the idea(s) of UNCED into words and concepts that encompass a vision understandable by all.

IISD -- Spokesperson: Dr. Arthur Hanson

IISD's mandate focuses on the promotion of sustainable development in decision-making, both nationally and globally, and deals with knowledge generation regarding sustainable development as well as communications. It has equal interest in the outputs of both UNCED and the Global Forum, and will be focussing post-Rio on capacity-building and partnerships. Some of the specific UNCED follow-up activities in which IISD is involved are: supporting "real-time" information bulletins with a global distribution such as the Earth Negotiations Bulletin; involvement in the evolution of the Earth Council; and developing a source book on sustainable development that can be accessed and amended through the APC (web) electronic communications network.

Four broad IISD programme areas were outlined:

- Business and Government: IISD will be working with the private sector not only with regards to accountability, but also entrepreneurship and creativity. It will also be looking at government budget patterns that affect sustainable development.
- Communications/Partnerships: Two separate principles crosscut all programme areas -- the need to involve all sectors and the establishment of links between international and domestic activities.
- Trade-Investment Linkages: As direct funding alone is insufficient to ever realize sustainable development, IISD will be researching and promoting trade practices that support sustainability.
- Poverty and Empowerment: Recognizing the challenge(s) involved, IISD feels that this is a critical area for North-South dialogue and achieving equity within countries.

Business -- Spokespeople: John Dillon, Dr. George Miller, Patrick McGuiness; David Barron and Doug Bruchet

The business community stated that it has been, and will continue to be, very involved in the UNCED process. Its' ability to respond and restructure is strongly linked to the difficult current economic climate, provincial agendas, available natural resources and voluntary agendas. Several examples of business initiatives were given including the proposal to EMR Ministers to undertake an analysis and consensus-building process which would develop a common vision of where society should be in a decade; formation of non-profit organizations

to promote dialogue and maintain consciousness on environmental issues (i.e. SONAR); and workshops and studies on UNCED-related issues (i.e. energy efficiency and greenhouse gases).

Business prefers clear, measurable, enforceable directives such as a set of principles, rules and regulations on high seas fisheries and a strong forest convention. Business advocated an audit process to assess the current situation in Canada and reminded participants that UNCED is only one chapter in the ongoing sustainable development agenda. It urged that, in order to link and assess the sustainability process over time, an audit of Canada's current situation should be compared to both a survey undertaken after the Brundtland report (to see how far we've come) and with the UNCED commitments (to see how far we need to go).

Others

1. Labour -- Spokesperson: Lucien Royer

The labour community will be focussing on individual, workplace and community courses of action and is prepared to develop a common and parallel process to UNCED. It is interested in identifying commonalities with other sectors; in determining which sector(s) they would like to work with on which issue(s); and will be looking to develop and/or strengthen relationships with NGOs, youth and business. The Canadian Labour Congress is currently organizing regional meetings across Canada to develop economic action plans which will lead to a national labour conference, date as yet undetermined.

2. Ambassador Arthur Campeau

Amb. Campeau outlined the preparatory challenges of UNCED; the role of all stakeholders, including media, to review and pursue the UNCED agenda; the need to work individually and collectively to develop an agenda(s) and a process(es) to achieve sustainability; the need to set a standard for the public to see; and the need to learn from and follow the holistic vision and spirit of indigenous peoples.

3. House of Commons Standing Committee on the Environment -- Spokesperson: Hon. David MacDonald

The Standing Committee starts its deliberations on November 16 and its intentions are to focus on the two conventions; to hold parallel sets of hearings on biodiversity and climate change; and to produce a workbook on how the two conventions relate to Canada by year-end.

David MacDonald also reported briefly on an informal multi-sectoral sustainability "think tank" (November 4-5) which was open-ended and the first in a continuing process. The think tank identified and focussed on three things:

- how to develop a green viable future;
- the notion of green economics: how to move away from economic growth and consumption; and
- a green process: how change within (institutional and governmental) policies is required to move forward to a sustainable future.

November 6, 1992

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

General Discussion Re: Collaborative Post-UNCED Action

Two guiding questions were outlined as foci for the general discussions:

- In what way should Canadians work together to devise a work plan for post-Rio action?
- What are the priorities?

There was an open plenary discussion during the morning in which a wide range of comments/suggestions regarding post-UNCED collaboration, consensus-building, action and strategizing were made. The key comments made have been organized below under general categories and do not necessarily reflect the actual flow of conversation.

Concept of Sustainability:

- It was noted that sustainable development is only one stream towards obtaining true global sustainability -- social, economic and other factors must be included. A new terminology should be used to reflect this fact -- perhaps just sustainability, or achieving a sustainable society.

- Need to define a sustainable society and find measurable parameters that could apply to all nations -- i.e. outline a realistic attainable vision and then develop a clear, articulate process.

Possible Mechanisms to Ensure Open, Inclusive and Transparent Participation In and Broad Outreach From a Collaborative Post-UNCED Process:

- Examine and evaluate the concept and organization of existing roundtables and then expand the participatory roundtable concept to an effective and fixed part of the Canadian society at community, provincial and national levels.

- The creation of a Commission to work on involving local communities, perhaps by deepening and broadening the NRTEE to community "collaboratives" (based on the multi-sectoral roundtable idea, but in a new structure/format).

- Need to bring other government federal departments to the table such as Finance; External Affairs; Export; and Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR). As well, other notably absent stakeholders such as media should be actively involved in collaborative post-UNCED strategizing.

- Need to involve women as they have been involved at the heart of environmental and grassroots movements.

- Need to develop mechanisms and resources to ensure the involvement of indigenous communities.

- Need to activate the media to focus the public's shifting interests.

Specific Activities That Could Be Undertaken In A Collaborative Post-UNCED Process:

- A Sustainability Plan for Canada that would include the values, realities, priorities and aspirations for the future; would address national and community level goals; and would provide a framework for partnerships and contributions.

- An "audit" to examine what Canada has achieved since the Brundtland Commission, and to develop recommendations for the future. The interpretation and concept of the audit was not elaborated upon, i.e. what is audited, who is audited, by whom, for whom, when, how etc.

- A focus on processes that can be done collaboratively, especially those that can not be done effectively as separate organizations/constituencies. Four possible opportunities/areas would be first to share information; second to cooperate/coordinate work being done individually in order to minimize duplication(s); third to develop a joint strategy; and four to develop joint actions.

Other Suggestions and/or Comments Regarding the Development and Implementation of a Collaborative Post-UNCED Process:

- Need to remember that some of the key concepts and lessons of UNCED were to promote North-South dialogue; to move away from the Northern centric way of thinking; to stop talking about developing the South; to involve all aspects of society including the impoverished, both in the South and the North, in participation, research and review; and to accept the responsibility to make changes ourselves rather than just imposing changes on others.

- Need to ensure that Canada's policies and programmes reflect its strong positions at UNCED. An example provided was the Government's recent statement regarding upgrading the Canadian highway infrastructure which does not incorporate relevant Agenda 21 commitments.

- In order to build effective partnerships, need to build appreciation, respect and trust through working and interacting face to face at all levels of society.

- Each individual, as an individual, needs to accept and undertake the personal responsibilities required to ensure environmental protection and not to rely on Government or other institutions for help.

- Need to agree to agree, not agree to disagree.

- Need to address and respect the concerns, knowledge and ways of indigenous peoples; to recognize and support their involvement as separate governments in national and international fora (e.g. in national institutions, UN proceedings, the 1995 implementation of the international Humane Trap Regulations on fur trapping, etc.); and commit resources to address and relieve the third world levels of impoverishment in indigenous communities across Canada.

- Need to focus on preparations for the High Seas Fisheries Conference in 1993, and to identify benchmarks for what Canadians want/need to result from the High Seas Fisheries Conference process.

- If Government expects all sectors of society to become involved in and actively undertake the work perceived to date as the responsibility of government, then there should be a

parallel drop in taxes in order to enable participation and activities of non-government groups.

- Need to respect, consult and integrate the Québec issue(s).

- Need to build into any post-UNCED process(es) appropriate mechanisms to ensure involvement and action regarding upcoming major UN events such as the UN Human Rights Conference in 1993; the UN Population & Development Conference in 1994; the UN Women Conference in 1995; the 10th Anniversary of the UN's International Youth Year (1985); and the UN International Year for the World's Indigenous People (1993).

- Need to develop activities and local roundtables based on natural environmental watersheds and other natural bio-regions rather than continue to pursue work based upon artificial boundaries.

- Need to follow in the footsteps of Bill Clinton's statement to convert the US economy from military to social spending.

- Need to take the catch-phrase "think globally, act locally" and add "act globally, think locally".

Working Group Reports

The plenary broke into Working Groups between noon and 2:15 p.m. with active participation of both participants and observers. Four Working Groups were established to discuss the following topics:

Working Groups I and II	What are the elements, components and priorities that are required to develop a Sustainability Plan for Canada (examine both short and long-term)?
Working Group III	What are the tools for developing a Sustainability Plan for Canada? (i.e. information exchange, compendiums, audit etc.)
Working Group IV	What kind of process and structure are required? How are we to inter-relate and ensure open, inclusive, accountable participation at the community, provincial and national levels?

In each group, it was urged that the topic be considered in local, national and international contexts. The Hon. Charest noted that, internationally, post-UNCED work is regarded and assessed as relating to Agenda 21 and requested that the Working Groups stay relevant to Agenda 21 and other international and domestic obligations flowing from Rio.

Working Group I -- Chairperson: Nicholas Sonntag, Rapporteur: Peter Padbury

Working Group I (WGI) agreed with the Hon. Charest that any follow-up process needs to be open, inclusive and transparent. WGI identified the following four broad priorities for the process: i) engagement; ii) empowerment; iii) groups and sectors taking responsibility for putting sustainability on the agenda; and iv) promoting understanding among the Canadian population that still is uninformed. The group also stressed that each constituency must bring forward a plan and be accountable for its delivery; that sustainable development is a relearning

global process; and that new stakeholders who wish to be included in the process should be asked what added value they bring to the process.

Outcomes:
- credible plans at the sector and community level that help people to understand how to integrate job, health, education and capacity-building within their sector/community to become sustainable;
- a clear vision; and
- a plan and process that people can buy into at the planning level and that, thereby, will develop broad participation.

Process:
- must be open, inclusive, transparent, participatory and include the informing and involvement of all stakeholders (government, indigenous, NGOs, business, institutions etc.);
- must be seen to be a win-win process where people can see the value to be added from coming together, i.e. the process must be effective and strategic;
- need to have indicators of policies and potential institutional change that are clearly identified and measurable;
- need to identify impediments to sustainability and offer solutions; and
- need to share experiences.

What Next?:
- need to develop a plan for the process;
- need to develop a structure/coalition to caretake the process; and
- need the participants of this meeting to return to their respective constituencies and ask whether this is an appropriate vision; whether they wish to continue to be involved; and, if interested, return to a follow-up meeting with ideas on how to participate etc.

Working Group II -- Chairperson: Dr. Anne Whyte, Rapporteur: John Lark

Working Group II came to consensus on each of the following points:

- require new qualitative measures of performance not predicated on flawed understanding and sector-narrow adversarial bases. This is also needed by the UN when it ranks nations, assigns distributions of funds and develops priorities for solutions.

- need a new non-partisan mechanism to plan and assess performance which identifies clear milestones, and which utilizes an independent review of performance. The results of this meeting must be nationally based and not perceived as a PC, Liberal or NDP plan, but rather a Canadian plan with broad multi-sectoral support and involvement.

- must stop the compartmentalization of sustainability issues as it reduces the ability to act and the effectiveness of sustainable development. For example, within the Federal Government, Ministers other than Environment must be involved and multi-tasked.

- need to assess the financial aspects of a Sustainability Plan for Canada and provide i) initial and prompt indicators; ii) evaluations in terms of benefits that might be provided; and iii) costs of developing, promoting and implementing the plan. The main focus should not be simply to provide funding for the plan, but rather to guide existing current financial flows so that all funds spent are spent on sustainable activities or in ways that promote sustainability. It was urged that Canada should start now with all expenditures, including recession-combatting expenditures. It was suggested that funding for the Plan could possibly be obtained through diversions from military expenditures.

- need multi-structure(s) that can explicitly articulate the problems and the milestones, and that can then assess the achievement of these milestones. This multistructure(s) could be, unlike current institutional systems, based on ecosystems and bio-regions rather than artificial boundaries.

- require imaginative implementation of current commitments in order to maximize the achievements of sustainable development.

- the Sustainability Plan for Canada must be national and relevant to federal, provincial, municipal, indigenous and business plans.

- recommends that a first meeting of a Ministers Conference on Sustainable Development be convened as soon as possible to begin checking against achievements made to date.

- most importantly, the development of a Sustainability Plan for Canada must not be an excuse to delay action. For example, certain critical issues such as the high seas overfishing require immediate strong positions, action and support.

Working Group II concluded by noting the benefits of having the perspectives and involvement of a wide range of constituencies (government, institutions, indigenous, business, women, youth, NGO etc.) and having gender, regional and cultural balance.

Working Group III -- Chairperson: Les Cooke, Rapporteur: Bob Page

Working Group III (WGIII) identified four broad classifications of tools for developing a Sustainability Plan for Canada:

Education:
- must expand the concept and definition of education to include flow of information (formal and informal); media projection of consumer and social habits etc.;
- needs to happen at a large scale through mechanisms such as media and consumer information; and as well at a micro level of one-to-one;
- must be careful of mass education becoming propaganda;
- need a process that is both top-down and bottom-up;
- inadequate research from universities; and
- require educational systems that are interactive with feedback from those affected/involved.

Information Exchange:
- must emphasize success stories;
- must define sustainability -- what is it and how can it be applied?;
- need to establish new partnerships with commitments to long-term goals;
- need to address the question of varying values and to ensure that the process by which the information is being conveyed looks at and respects philosophies and values to ensure that false impressions, false nuances and/or hasty generalizations are not portrayed; and
- need to ensure that the process controls the pace of exposure and impact.

Behavioural Change:
- it was generally agreed that the levels of knowledge and conviction still are inadequate for behavioural change and for action that flows from such change.

Audit & Process:

- an "audit" raises many questions that need to be resolved -- who is audited; for whom; by whom; for what purpose; what are the criteria; what are the indicators; what is the process; to what is it to be compared; how is it funded etc.
- an audit process must have clear goals and a clear methodology that has multi-stakeholder involvement, control and management; that extends onward of existing processes (i.e. environmental reporting); that is critical and analytical; that is linked to Agenda 21 and other UNCED commitments; that has a "loop" built into the process allowing feedback and input into the process; and that addresses issues such as barriers to sustainability and why have the necessary changes not been made since Brundtland.
- need to address the question of legitamacy -- who can make an impartial judgement; who has the necessary background knowledge; is it realistically feasable, i.e. are there financial and human resources; etc.

In each of the above categories, there is a need to renew emphasis on national and international perspectives; to ensure equalization of power, empowerment and accountability; and the need to respect the knowledge and abilities of different organizations/peoples.

WGIII suggests that, as a minimum, there be a agreement to commit to a National Stakeholder process which would continue to work together to develop a mechanism to carry sustainability in Canada forward; that the participants meet twice a year; and that the participation be expanded to include stakeholders such as the federal deparments of energy and finance who are critical to achieving sustainability. It is important that this process be flexible, wide-based and legitimate. WGIII also suggested that a list of names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers of the stakeholders be developed and included in the National Stakeholder report.

Working Group IV -- Chairpeople: Hon. Glen Cummings and Susan Tanner, Rapporteur: Susan Tanner

Working Group IV came to five points of agreement:

- need a "wide, inclusive, empowering, community-based implementation process" that has direct relationships through workshops and/or roundtables as well as a mechanism relating directly to aboriginal organizations, communities and self-government institutions; municipalities; sectors etc. This process needs to be linked to decision-makers, i.e. the Canadian Government, and there was concern i) that the Government's UNCED coordinating body has dissolved and ii) that there needs to be better coordination within and between government departments such as environment, finance and EMR.

- need a national coalition for a sustainable future such as is represented at this National Stakeholders meeting. There was i) hesitancy to use the word "Commission"; ii) agreement not to have another bureaucratic structure; iii) agreement not to duplicate existing structures; and iv) a wish to continue the National Stakeholder network.

- need a national trust for a sustainable future and a mechanism for funding to ensure that all sectors can participate.

- need a structure to link to the international level, not just through Government mechanisms, but rather all sectors need international links and networks that could be utilized.

- need diffused and shared accountability and responsibility.

Final Constituency Interventions

Each constituency was asked to break away and take a few minutes to assess the National Stakeholder meeting and to prepare a brief final presentation addressing the following two questions:

1. Has the meeting produced goals, mutual understanding and processes to which you can tentatively endorse/commit?
2. Are you willing to entrust to a smaller representative group (still to be defined) the next steps which will include defining the goals, the priorities, the tools, the sequences of steps, the ways and means, and the preparation for a National Stakeholder Meeting II?

In order of presentation:

NRTEE -- Spokesperson: Jack MacLeod

NRTEE began its presentation with the following points:

- NRTEE believes that the four Working Groups brought forward valuable proposals.
- NRTEE hopes that the Hon. Charest will not be disappointed with the proposals as they do not explicitly respond to his request to address possible mechanisms that would assist the Government in proceeding to fulfill international and domestic obligations flowing from Rio. NRTEE feels, however, that such assistance is implicit within the proposals.
- Need to determine if groups are willing to proceed; how to proceed; how frequently to meet; and who would carry it forward.

NRTEE closed by stating that its answer to both of the two questions is yes; suggested that the smaller representative group contain one representative from each constituency; and offered the NRTEE as a platform for coordination of the representative group.

NGOs -- Spokesperson: Tim Draimin

NGOs present generally support continuing to be involved in this high-level multi-stakeholder process. Some of the positive motivations for involvement included several specific proposals that had been raised in the Working Groups such as:

- development of national and regional plans, especially within the context of the Working Group proposals.
- a process which has the responsibility to shift the sustainability agenda within Government from the Environment Minister, who currently carries that responsibility alone, to include other federal departments. NGOs see it being lodged with the First Ministers.
- a Minister's Conference on Sustainable Development. NGOs further suggest that the upcoming Ministers Conference on Economy be transformed into a Conference on Sustainability.
- acceptance of the principles of inclusion, openness, and transparency.

NGOs agree that there needs to be a follow-up committee to take responsibility for the interim steps which would include the production and distribution of the report of this meeting and planning follow-up activities. With respect to NRTEE's proposal for one person/constituency on the smaller representative group, due to breadth, depth and diversity of the NGO sector, NGOs advocate that they should have one-third of the seats. NGOs would support the NRTEE as coordinator of the follow-up committee.

Federal Government -- Spokesperson: Len Good

The verdict of success for Rio will depend on what multi-stakeholder groups undertake post-UNCED. The most important outcomes from this meeting are the positive attitudes and the agreement to continue. The Federal Government would urge that the next meeting of the full group be within six months just prior to the one-year anniversary of UNCED, and that it should consider producing a report on the process which could be made available nationally and internationally.

CCME -- Spokesperson: Hon. Patt Cowan

The CCME indicated that it would like to continue to be involved in the multi-stakeholder process. The Hon. Cowan, on behalf of the Atlantic provinces, made a strong appeal to participants to i) use and highlight the high seas fisheries crisis as an illustration of what unsustainable practices can do; ii) focus on preparations for the High Seas Fisheries Conference in 1993; and iii) identify benchmarks for what Canadians want/need to result from the High Seas Fisheries Conference process.

Note: The participants AGREED that the follow-up smaller representational group should deal with short term issues such as high seas overfishing and the indigenous issue(s).

IDRC -- Spokesperson: Dr. Anne Whyte

IDRC indicated its desire to continue to participate in a multi-stakeholder process involved in developing a Sustainability Plan for Canada. IDRC also noted that sustainability plans will require collaborative research plans. IDRC sees its expertise that will benefit the post-UNCED process as including:

- expertise in research;
- knowledge of international aspects, both in relation to what other countries are developing by way of post-UNCED sustainability plans as well as international institutional processes; and
- identifying Canada's obligations, particularly with regards to Southern countries and in areas of research and capacity building, under the agreements reached in Agenda 21 and the Conventions.

IDRC emphasized that it would like to see specific tasks assigned to the members of the group as a whole and, as well, to constituencies.

Indigenous -- Spokespeople: Dan Smith and Cindy Gilday

Indigenous representatives did not give a direct answer to the two questions posed, but seemed generally optimistic about the potential of a multi-stakeholder process if their concern(s) regarding broad indigenous participation and access to resources were addressed. Specific needs identified included:

- enhance access to (human and financial) resources to allow indigenous participation;
- ensure invitations to and participation from all indigenous communities, both on and off reservations;
- support for the establishment of indigenous institutions for self-government;
- commitment by non-indigenous organizations to action on the Agenda 21 chapter on recognizing and strengthening the roles of indigenous peoples and their local communities;

- incorporate traditional/ecological knowledge, but not to integrate or overwhelm this knowledge with science and technology;
- participants and the follow-up representational group should strongly promote indigenous participation in any implementation process(es) for the 1995 Humane Trap Regulations, particularly in the only currently established process which is chaired by Canada in which there is no indigenous involvement;
- ensure that there is at least one indigenous representative who is involved with harvesting off the land in the follow-up representational group, as well in other multi-stakeholder activities; and
- Canadian international institutions which provide funds to impoverished Southern countries should also accept applications from Canadian indigenous peoples, who live in third world conditions, for funding for research to build their own institutions.

Note: Representatives from both IDRC and IISD stated that they would take to their respective boards the indigenous request regarding accepting funding applications from impoverished indigenous communities.

The participants AGREED that the follow-up smaller representational group should deal with short term issues such as high seas overfishing and the indigenous issue(s).

IISD -- Spokesperson: Dr. Arthur Hanson

IISD also showed its interest in continuing to participate in a national stakeholder process, but stressed that municipal governments and media/mass communications need to be included. IISD supported IDRC's comment regarding the importance of assigning responsibilities. IISD also made the following suggestions:

- need to identify constituency and personal skills;
- need to keep the international perspective and to learn from other nations how they perceive/assess Canada's performance(s);
- formalize electronic communications between stakeholder participants and start a conference on web focussing on the National Stakeholder process; and
- consider convening smaller meetings between constituencies to further discuss follow-up and agenda(s).

IISD reminded participants that some of its key interests include the avoidance/reduction of impoverishment; the seeking of innovative empowerment tools and processes; and the need to link prosperity and sustainability.

Business -- Spokesperson: Patrick McGuiness

Business representatives indicated their openness to participate in the process, but voiced their concern that this new process may present a confusing message to the business community at large and may undermine or divert the attention of the business community from what positive developments have already been accomplished. Specifically the business community is already developing plans responding to the requirement and commitments of the Green Plan; is working within its constituency to get businesses to accept and follow these commitments; and is starting to adjust to Agenda 21 and the Conventions.

Labour -- Spokesperson: Lucien Royer

It was urged that individuals not assume that nothing happens until meetings are finished. It was also pointed out that there is already massive restructuring of the economy, but in a process of chaos. Labour is interested in continuing in the national stakeholder process, but would like to see more clarity on how the process would actually work and how the economic restructuring could be better organized and planned. Labour outlined the following suggested requirements for the process:

- need a financial base to ensure meaningful involvement;
- need concrete ways to measure successes;
- need to support NGOs;
- need to include absent government federal departments -- External Affairs, Export, Energy, Finance etc.;
- need "one sector to one sector" meetings to determine positions, requirements and commonalities before the next full multi-stakeholder meeting; and
- need the process to lead to community planning and action.

With regard to the proposed audit process, Labour feels that an audit is not required within its own sector, and would prefer to see the process focus on implementation and planning.

Youth -- Spokespeople: Zonny Woods and Erin Hannah

Youth stressed that, while many constituencies present may be taking a risk to be involved (profits, institutional structures etc.), for youth, their only bargaining chip is their future and, therefore, they can not afford not to be involved. Change is often motivated by youth, who represent and indeed are the closest link to the future. It was urged that individuals stop talking about implementing sustainable development "for" the future generations, but start talking "with" future generations. Youth concluded with the request that individuals empower themselves to work with young people, within family and institutions, to ensure that they do not learn the same bad habits.

Summary -- presented by the Chairperson, Dr. George Connell

There is a shared conviction that it is important to carry on collectively in the advancement of the cause of sustainability in Canada related to our international commitments that follow on from Rio and Agenda 21 and that this can be given expression in a plan and planning process for sustainability in Canada. The basic elements of a widespread national agreement and coalition are in place -- what is required is firm and clear expression in a process which will involve participation at the grassroots, municipal, provincial and territorial levels. Some measure of coordination and collective thinking is required to create that framework/vision of the future, the plan and the planning process, the participation, the inclusion and the accountability -- i.e. the overarching elements that make this a reality for the national and the global community.

This meeting has suggested several responsibilities for future collaborative work that need to be addressed and included in the work of the smaller follow-up representative group. They include:

1. Attention to the values of the "Rio-Way" process, i.e. open, inclusive, transparent, democratic and accountable. Noted absent constituencies at the table (i.e. as participants) include municipalities; representatives at the ministerial level from other federal departments

i.e. Finance, EMR, CIDA, Export, External Affairs etc.; and media/mass communications. Representation from indigenous communities/organizations and youth should be ensured.

2. Need to create a framework for planning; to define priorities; and to establish a process for envisioning a sustainable future for Canada, taking into account that no one individual/constituency has a complete picture, and that accomplished work and established processes should not be disregarded.

3. Need to keep in mind the short term priorities identified and illustrated by CCME and the indigenous constituencies regarding high seas overfishing, indigenous impoverishment and lack of indigenous involvement in the Humane Trap Regulations process.

4. Need to keep in mind the international dimensions and perspectives.

5. Importance of grassroots contributions to sustainability and the development of a Sustainability Plan for Canada.

6. The evaluative/audit process, however structured, must be critical. The audit process is separable from the planning process, but it will be an essential element of planning and implementing the Sustainability Plan for Canada.

   Dr. Connell suggested that the smaller representative group consider spinning off a separate sub-group who would be responsible for exploring and, perhaps, recommending an audit process.

7. In developing the Sustainability Plan's framework, there needs to be a good grasp of Canada's UNCED commitments -- both the official international commitments of Agenda 21 and the Conventions, as well as its repeated support and commitments to NGOs, to women, and to involvement and participation at all levels and in all constituencies.

8. Need to take responsibility for the specific assignment of tasks and responsibilities.

9. Need to conceive a plan for the next National Stakeholder meeting which would meet in approximately six months time. The Federal Government has suggested that the meeting be before the anniversary of UNCED.

10. Need to address the question of resources (time, effort, energy and financial). Dr. Connell assumes that all parties, to the extent that they are able to do so, will provide some contribution to the process either in cash or in kind.

11. Need to establish some means of communications.

While there will be no specific communiqué or press release from this meeting, as stipulated by the National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group, the report of proceedings of the meeting will be made available to participants, observers, the Minister Charest, the Prime Minister and to all other interested individuals in Canada and beyond.

It was AGREED that the National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group should meet to prepare the report of proceedings; to discuss how the follow-up representational group should be constituted; and to arrange the first meeting of the follow-up representational group.

Broughton
11-16-92

APPENDIX I

National Stakeholder Meeting (November 5-6, 1992)

List of Participants and Observers

There were two official levels of participation at the National Stakeholder meeting -- participants and observers. Participants had seats at the table and were able to actively participate in the plenary discussions. Observers were seated around the table and, with the exception of participation in the working groups on November 6, were unable to participate in the discussions.

The following list of participants and observers is based upon the list of those individuals who registered. My apologies to any individuals that may have been omitted, and my appreciation to the National UNCED Secretariat staff for collecting and providing the relevant information, where possible.

The following list of participants and observers has been formatted such that interested individuals can photocopy the pages onto standard self-adhesive address labels that are 1 7/16" by 2 13/16" (21 per sheet).

Explanation of How the List of Participants and Observers has been Organized

First, the list has been organized into the following broad classifications:

- Confirmed Participants (pages 1-5)
- Confirmed Observers (pages 6-11)

Second, under both of the above classifications, the list has been organized into the following categories:

- Government:
  - Federal Representatives
  - Provincial Representatives
  - Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
  - Parliamentarians
  - Municipal Representatives
  - Other
- "Sustainable Development" Institutions:
  - International Development Research Centre
  - International Institute for Sustainable Development
  - National Round Table on the Environment & Economy
- Other Institutions
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Indigenous Peoples
- Business
- Labour

Third, within each category, individuals are listed alphabetically.

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APPENDIX II

NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING
IDRC HEADQUARTERS, 250 ALBERT STREET, OTTAWA,
November 5 & 6, 1992
AGENDA

DAY 1, November 5, 1992

16:40 - 17:00	ARRIVAL
17:00 - 17:10	WELCOME: The Hon. Jean Charest, Minister of the Environment
17:10 - 19:00	CONSTITUENCY ACTIVITY REPORTS, 10 MIN. EACH: Dr. Connell, Chair

Each constituency spokesperson to present: Strategic response to Rio.

- NRTEE
- IDRC
- BUSINESS
- NGOs
- FEDERAL GOV'T
- INDIGENOUS
- CCME
- IISD
- OTHERS

19:00 - 20:00	RECEPTION

DAY 2, November 6, 1992

8:30 - 9:00	Coffee, juice and muffins
9:00 - 9:10	PLENARY SESSION, OPENING REMARKS: Dr. Connell, Chair
9:10 - 11:30	PLENARY SESSION, ROUND TABLE DISSCUSSION - In what way should Canadians work together to devise a work plan for post-Rio action? - What are the priorities? - Identify topics for Working Groups
11:30 - 13:30	LUNCHEON AND WORKING GROUPS
13:30 - 15:00	ROUND TABLE, WORKING GROUP REPORTS AND DISCUSSION
15:00 - 15:45	NEXT STEPS: Dr. Connell, Chair
15:45 - 16:00	WRAP UP: Dr. Connell, Chair