



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

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National Round Table Review

Canada's National Newsletter on Sustainable Development
Fall 1991

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE AND INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON PUBLIC POLICY LAUNCH MAJOR INITIATIVE ON SUSTAINABILITY AND PROSPERITY

In its role as an independent advisor to the Prime Minister on environment/economy integration, the National Round Table has a unique opportunity to influence the direction Canada follows as it strives to meet global economic and environmental challenges. A major strategic initiative has therefore been launched for the next twelve months in which the Round Table, in partnership with the Institute for Research on Pub-

lic Policy, is examining critically the working hypothesis that sustainable development is compatible with a thriving Canadian economy, global competitiveness, and an enhanced quality of life. Providing overall direction for this venture is a Senior Advisory Committee of distinguished individuals co-chaired by Dr. George E. Connell, Chair of the NRTEE, and the Honourable Donald S. MacDonald, Chairman of the Board of IRPP.

Based on the Round Table's conviction that Canada's prosperity, in the long run, depends on a willingness and ability to make a commitment to the principles of sustainable development, the initiative involves a series of steps designed to accomplish two major objectives - a substantive body of knowledge on the connections between those principles and prosperity, competitiveness, and human well-being; and heightening awareness among Canadians of how sustainable development contributes to competitiveness in the global marketplace and to their quality of life. An initial

program of research and analysis is being undertaken by a working group directed by David Runnalls, Director of the Environmental and Sustainable Development Program of IRPP, and Ron Doering, Executive Director of the NRTEE. Issues to be examined may include the question of shared and divergent objectives of sustainable development and economic competitiveness, the question of the balance in investment between natural and human-made capital, the questions surrounding the transition from a high-consumption lifestyle to one compatible with sustainable development, and the question of what makes communities healthy and sustainable. This research phase will be followed by a number of seminars on specific themes leading to a national conference in late Fall 1992, to examine the findings and formulate recommendations that the NRTEE will then consider.

The need here is obvious, as is the opportunity. The federal government has given priority to two

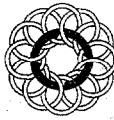
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(From Pg. 1)

related exercises - the Green Plan, its action plan on the environment; and the Prosperity Initiative to chart a new economic course towards the 21st century. The National Round Table believes that it

can make a unique, complementary contribution to the national dialogue on both these issues by linking the two and examining prosperity specifically from the perspective of sustainable development. And, given the catalytic

role and multipartite membership of the Round Table, it is an opportunity to stimulate informed debate on some of the more provocative questions that governments, by their very nature, may find difficult to address.

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TRADE, ENVIRONMENT, AND COMPETITIVENESS:

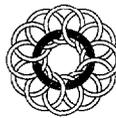
TURN IT ON, TURN IT UP, TURN IT LOOSE -

In keeping with the theme of sustainability and prosperity, the NRTEE is holding a conference on Trade, Environment, and Competitiveness from 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on November 4, 1991 in Toronto, Ontario. This conference marks the first in a series of events the NRTEE will hold linking the environment and the economy. Through a stakeholders panel discussion and set of parallel workshops, participants will address key questions surrounding the links between competitiveness and sustainable development. Topics include international green exporting, trade and environmental regulation, the potential impact of trade policy and trade liberalization efforts on the environment and sustainable development, and possible threats to traditional export industries from rising environmental consciousness. The evolving relationship between these issues and the institutions that guide world trade, such as the GATT, OECD the Canada - U.S. Free Trade Agreement and the European Community will also be explored.

Representing the diversity of interests at stake, guest speakers include Thomas d'Aquino, the Honourable Frank Oberle, David Estrin, Rosemarie Kuptana, Marcel Massé, Donald W. Campbell, André Saumier, Professor Iwan Jaya Azis, Candice Stevens, and Reg Basken.

The timeliness of this conference is evident as the world gears up for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Brazil in June 1992. The UNCED conference provides an opportunity to air a variety of views from the broader community on the converging issues of environment, economy, and equity for sustainable development. Similarly, the NRTEE recognizes the critical importance of trade, competitiveness, and sustainable development for Canada and the world, and the conference will set the stage for this evolving complex issue.

The NRTEE, the International Institute for Sustainable Development, Environment Canada, and Industry, Science and Technology Canada are sponsors of this conference on Trade, Competitiveness, and the Environment.



BIODIVERSITY: GOING...GOING...GONE?

Commercial value of rare species pits Third World people against multinational corporations

The outlook is numbing. Many scientists believe that plants and animals are becoming extinct at the rate of anywhere from one per day to one per hour. If this destruction goes unchecked, humanity will have lost a critical component of sustainable development, namely a diverse gene pool capable of adapting to the world's changing conditions.

With the richest pockets of natural biodiversity found in some of the poorest parts of the world, there's a battle brewing among conservationists, businesses, and Third World nations over who controls, and who profits from, these vanishing genetic resources.

In the conventional approach to preserving threatened ecosystems, environmental and development organizations from the North purchase areas with certain biological characteristics piecemeal from Third World governments. Choosing which areas to preserve can pit conservationists against each other. Those concerned with protecting biodiversity for solely ecological reasons have a much different preservation agenda than scientists working for private or government concerns, whose interest in genetic conservation has decidedly commercial overtones.

Third World nations and their indigenous people, who are under siege from the various conservation camps, view this onslaught with some suspicion. It is partly because just in the past few dec-

ades they were convinced by Western advisers to abandon traditional farming practices in favour of the "green revolution" techniques - such as using pesticides and hybrid seeds - that scientists worldwide now fear are to blame for the demise of genetic diversity. Omar Sattaur writes in the international development magazine **Panoscope** (March 1991) that "Without a large and diverse pool of genetic material for breeding, all the technology in the world will be unable to save the genetically uniform crops of modern agriculture from a devastating virus." Ironically, indigenous cultures that carefully sustained genetically diverse crops through traditional farming now find themselves asked to bail out scientific agriculture.

But according to Sattaur, few Third World countries have the funds or expertise needed to conserve or capitalize on their biological wealth, leaving the vast income potential of rare natural genetic strains to high-tech multinationals. (Appropriate payment for these resources is expected to be the hot topic at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil). In **Ecoforum** (November 1990), Indian ecofeminist Vandana Shiva warns of increasing pressure from northern interests-particularly pharmaceutical and agribusiness corporations and their home governments-for inter-

national institutions to designate Third World genetic resources a "universal heritage". This would strip local governments and indigenous peoples of their right to payment for raw genetic materials taken from their countries. Corporations might gain exclusive rights to license, patent, and sell the materials for use in drugs, food, and other products. This would mean that they could then sell back these items at a high profit to the country of the materials' origin.

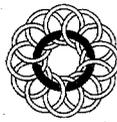
Time is running out on the ethical debate, so the environmental community is welcoming the introduction of the Rapid Assessment Program (RAP), a new initiative that evaluates the biodiversity potential of ecosystems in just two weeks. As great swatches of the world's wilderness are destroyed almost overnight, this program provides a quick way of identifying those most critical to save. In **Science** (March 29, 1991) Ted Parker, creator of RAP, says, "We know we will make mistakes. Look at the conservation movement 100 or 50 years ago and some of the decisions they made. But if it weren't for Teddy Roosevelt and just a few others, we wouldn't have anything left in this country".

Mary Morse, Utne Reader July/August 1991



"The old adversarial relationship between industry and environmentalists can't continue"

Bert Weichel, past president of the Saskatchewan Environmental Society.



A PROTECTED AREAS VISION FOR CANADA

Canadians must act quickly and co-operatively to protect unique and representative portions of the country's natural land and seascapes, according to the Canadian Environmental Advisory Council. The Council's arguments are laid out in a report titled *A Protected Areas Vision for Canada*, tabled in the House of Commons by Federal Environment Minister Jean Charest on September 18, 1991.

The Council calls for a nationwide effort to protect representative and unique wilderness ecosystems and natural areas. It proposes a "two-pronged approach" to sustainable development, whereby Canada would set aside more protected areas and apply conservation practices to the vast majority of lands and waters that lie outside protected areas.

The report complements and reinforces other recent initiatives on this issue. They include World Wildlife Fund Canada's Endangered Spaces Campaign and the *Canadian Wilderness Charter*, which have been endorsed by more than 350,000 citizens and 225 organizations; Wildlife Habi-

tat Canada's report *The Status of Wildlife Habitat in Canada: Realities and Visions*; and *Canada's Green Plan*, which calls for the protection of at least 12 percent of Canada's total territory.

The Council hopes that implementing the report's recommendations would result in seven principal outcomes:

Greater urgency and efficiency in protecting Canada's unique and representative natural areas, landscapes, and seascapes, and the reaffirmation of pride in these areas as the natural heritage of the nation and its people;

Enhanced quality of stewardship and management of protected areas, ensuring the long-term preservation of their ecological values;

A significant shift in focus within the agencies responsible for planning, establishing, and managing protected areas, toward greater leadership, partnerships, flexibility, and accountability;

Assumption by the federal government of the role of catalyst and facilitator in co-operation with the provinces and territories as they contribute to and expand upon the

implementation of a shared national vision;

Enhanced opportunities for the public to explore and understand the nation's wilderness heritage;

Fulfilment by Canada of its commitments to international conventions and global conservation imperatives, including the exchange of information and the sharing of experiences among people around the globe, thereby demonstrating environmental leadership through example; and

A higher quality of life for all Canadians resulting from sharing the recreational, educational, cultural, emotional, and economic benefits of protected areas.

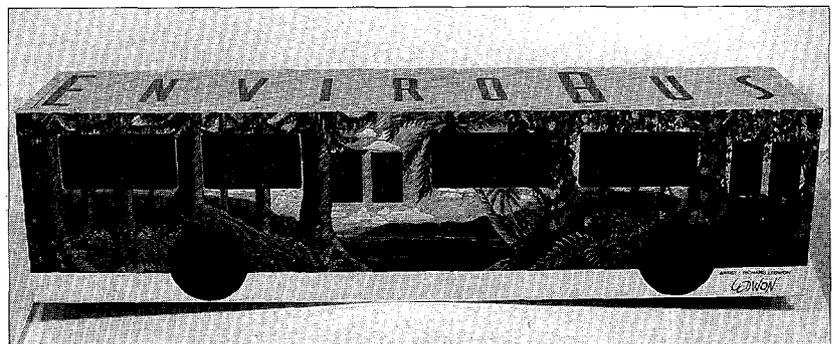
The Council considers protected areas to be among the best investments that Canada can make for the future. The report is dedicated to encouraging all Canadians to make personal commitments to taking action to implement the protected areas vision while the opportunity and the will exist.

Canadian Environmental Advisory Council. 1991. *A Protected Areas Vision for Canada*. CEAC, Ottawa. Available without charge in English and in French.



Sustainable Energy is Competitive

Canadian Pacific Hotels and Resorts has learned that compact fluorescent bulbs, which greatly reduce electrical costs, are now available for use in incandescent fixtures. For example, a 13-W compact fluorescent bulb gives the same light as a 60-W incandescent, lasts about 10 times longer, and uses 70%-80% less energy than its incandescent alternative.



The **ENVIROBUS** is the first project of *Third From the Sun*, a new Ottawa environmental educational organization. The **ENVIROBUS**, donated by OC Transpo, is painted with colours and scenes from the forests of North, South, and Central America by local artists and volunteers. The **ENVIROBUS** is aimed at raising public awareness about the vital role our forests play in our environment.



COAL ASSOCIATION TALKS TO CANADIAN YOUNGSTERS

The Canadian coal industry has launched a national information and education campaign to help Canadians better understand coal and its relationship to both the economy and the environment.

The first of its kind undertaken by the coal industry, the campaign was developed in response to research indicating that Canadians lack basic knowledge about coal. Its objective is to provide specific audiences, junior high school teachers in particular, with user-friendly information about coal.

"When we started talking to Canadians, we didn't expect them to know a lot about coal or the coal industry," says Jim Wood, director of public relations for The Coal Association of Canada. "Still, we were surprised by the misconceptions we heard. At the same time, we were encouraged by the requests for more information on coal."

An information package, developed and written in response to the needs determined in the research, is being distributed to audiences which include educators, media, environmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

Teachers at the junior high school level are also being offered an educational kit that includes a video, coal samples, and suggestions for student activities, all of which complement the core information package.

"Our industry, like many others, is facing a multitude of challenges. We share Canadians' concerns about the environment, the economy, and the future evolution of our energy industry," says Wood. "We hope the information we're providing will answer some questions about coal and provide another perspective on the use of fossil fuels in Canada."

The campaign has been jointly funded by The Coal Association of Canada and the Department of Western Economic Diversification.

The Coal Association of Canada is an association of companies engaged in the exploration, development, production, and use of Canadian coal. It provides a forum to discuss and co-ordinate the views of its members on matters of common interest; serves as a voice for the industry; and promotes the clean use of coal through technology development and communication with government, customers, employees, and the public.

An information package consisting of 15 fact sheets on virtually every facet of coal and the Canadian coal industry are available from the association free of charge (for single orders). Please give Susan Howes a call at (403) 262-1544. *UPDATE, Vol 1 Issue 5*

Canadian Association of Round Tables (CARTS) Conference Will Tackle Key Issues

The Canadian Association Of Round Tables will meet in Vancouver from November 21 to 24, 1991. The meeting is being organized by the British Columbia Round Table. Agenda items include concurrent workshops on sustainable energy, sustainable communities, sustainable land and water use, dispute resolution, economic incentives, and environmental assessment. There will also be workshops on native economic development in the North, presented by the Yukon Round Table, a workshop on the National Education Strategy for Sustainable Development, and a workshop on UNCED, led by the National Round Table. This conference also provides an opportunity for members of all round tables, provincial, territorial and national, to meet and discuss the different sustainable development strategies on which they have been working for the past year.



*If every classroom in an average Alberta school turned off the lights for 1.5 hours every teaching day, (or during lunch hour and recess), it would generate savings to the school of approximately \$374 annually. This would be equivalent to saving 3.7 tonnes of coal or enough to fill a dump truck to overflowing.
(UPDATE, Vol 1 Issue 5)*



Canadian Environmental Network - The Green List

A Guide to Canadian Environmental Organizations and Agencies.

The CEN is a non-profit, national network of more than 1,800 environmental organizations providing a co-operative forum for groups to share knowledge and expertise. Reflecting this priority, *The Green List* is intended to assist both organizations and individuals to become better informed, more active, and more effective in their efforts at environmental protection.

The Green List provides comprehensive and easily accessible information about who is working on specific environmental issues and where, thereby linking people to environmental groups and activists across Canada.

Order from: The Canadian Environmental Network, P.O. Box 1289, Stn. B, Ottawa, Ont. K1P 5R3. The cost includes postage and handling, but please add 7% GST. \$50.00 retail / \$35.00 special discount price for bookstores, school and public libraries, and voluntary, non-profit organizations.

The Canadian Environmental Education Catalogue is for schools and community educators who need quick access to complete information about educational resources. The 2 year subscription rate of \$42.80 includes the main volume with 3 supplementary volumes of new resources. The main volume alone is \$21.40. Prices include GST. Order from The Pembina Institute, P.O. Box 7558, Drayton Valley, Alberta, T0E 0M0, Ph: (403) 542-6272, Fax: (403) 542-6464.

BOOK REVIEW

Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment:

Perspectives on Planning for a Common Future

Peter Jacobs and Barry Sadler

Canadian Environmental Assessment Research Council

1990

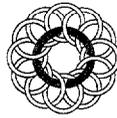
Inherent to the development of a society that embraces the concept of sustainable development is a mechanism for regulating and planning development which encompasses environmental concerns. This process, referred to as "environmental impact assessment" (EIA), is currently being practised in Canada in an ad hoc manner on projects such as James Bay II, the Rafferty Dam, and the P.E.I. Fixed Link. There is a need, however, for a more comprehensive process that clearly defines the concept of sustainable development and its link to "environmental impact assessment".

The book, *Sustainable Development and Environmental Assessment: Perspectives on Planning for a Common Future* (edited by Peter Jacobs and Barry Sadler), is a collection of essays by leading figures in the environmental movement which explores this link in order to stimulate further discussion on the subject and to identify directions for applied research in the area of sustainable development and EIA. The book is successful in that regard, because it presents a number of diverse views on the role of EIA in promoting sustainable development. Particularly effective is Julia E. Gardner's essay, which points out the difficulty in applying one form of EIA to a subject as complicated as sustainable development. The book also illustrates a number of projects in which EIA has been used effectively. Finally, the essays, either directly or indirectly, raise a number of critical philosophical questions. For example, should EIA be used as a regulatory tool or as a vehicle for planning future development? What roles do the public and private sectors play in any form of EIA?

These and many other questions must be answered if Canada is to become a society that practises sustainable development. This book is recommended as an excellent tool for focusing discussion on a number of theoretical problems that must be addressed before Canada can become a society where sustainable development is no longer a concept but, rather, an active component of the daily lives of Canadians. *Peter McGrath*

"Sustainable development requires the integration of environment and economy within the centres of decision-making in government, industry, the home, and in the community. It requires a commitment to fairness and equity and to environmental stewardship. The foundation upon which it will be achieved is the global concern for health and livelihood."

Ref to: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)



WECAN - CAN WE?

Can we keep history from repeating itself?

In the late 70's, some sixty representatives of various recycling and non-profit groups from across the country gathered in Quebec to discuss the possible formation of a Secondary Resources Development Council that would promote recycling and other resource and energy conservation strategies on a national basis. There was general agreement on the need for a national body that would serve as a national clearinghouse for information, promote technology and information transfer, advocate appropriate federal policies, and develop public education programs.

The Secondary Resources Development Council, however, failed to materialize. This was attributed to a combination of factors, among which were bureaucratic inertia and the "narrow interest special interest and relative weakness of provincial bodies".

More than ten years later, March 1991 to be exact, a similar meeting was held in Toronto. The participants were far fewer but represented a much broader political constituency - they came from the ten provinces and two territories representing provincial recycling councils, regional and provincial environmental coalitions,

urban and rural-based recycling groups. Three industry associations, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the Canadian Association of Recycling Industries, and the Canadian Construction Association, were also represented.

The participants at this two-day meeting went beyond reaffirming the need for a national organization. They defined the mission statement and the objectives of such an organization. The mission statement: "to eliminate waste through a national partnership which promotes the environmentally sustainable practices of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, including composting", would have seemed ambitious ten years ago but now seems to lie within the realm of the possible. The participants agreed that for the organization to carry out this mission effectively, it must undertake action in three areas: (a) public information and education (b) national policy formulation and (c) fundraising. A small working group met in Quebec to work out organizational structure and a plan for implementation.

In May 21, 1991, the birth of **WASTE ELIMINATION: Canada or WECan** was communicated to the Waste Reduction Committee of the NRTEE. The founding meeting in Toronto had

been an outcome of ongoing discussions in 1990 between the Waste Reduction Committee of the National Round Table and the Recycling Council of Ontario. The discussion revolved around who would be the appropriate stakeholders to bring together; what process was necessary to bring about an effective dialogue; who would manage the process; and how the Waste Reduction Committee could best catalyze the process. In effect this was a partnership initiative between the NRTEE and a highly credible environmental organization to catalyze a broader partnership.

The founding of **WECan** seemed to be, until recently, an unqualified success story. At press time, however, we learned that the formal launching of the organization, originally scheduled for October 8, at the twelfth Annual Conference of the Recycling Council of Ontario, is now postponed. **WECan**, we were told, is an impasse because of "lack of funding".

The Waste Reduction Committee is in the process of discussing with the Recycling Council of Ontario, how we can break the paralysis. Are we going to see a replay of history? Can we prevent it?

Nonita Yap



Efficiency Fact:

According to Energy User News, "the installation of 134 energy-efficient electric motors at the Hyatt Regency Chicago used primarily for HVAC systems paid for itself in 14 months, four months sooner than expected."

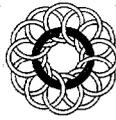
In 1988, the Sun Life Centre in Toronto saved \$30,000 in garbage pickup costs by having their wastepaper picked up for recycling.

"To start a recycling program, contact your local or provincial recycling council for names of paper brokers."



"If we were able to collect all the solar energy which strikes the earth's surface in a 15-minute period, we would have an amount equivalent to all the electrical energy used throughout the world in a full year."

UPDATE, Vol 1 Issue 5



MAKING THE RIGHT DECISION THE FIRST TIME

Teaming up with the Prince Edward Island Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, the National Round Table sponsored a day and-a-half workshop in August on Consensus Decision Making. The workshop brought together several of Canada's leading theoreticians and practitioners of the art and science of getting divergent interests to agree on an optimal decision.

More than 50 people attended, many from the Atlantic Provinces, along with members and associates of the National Round Table and a few experts and veterans of consensus decision making from across Canada. They were led through a series of information sessions and small group workshops emphasizing both the theory and practice of Consensus Decision Making (CDM). The goals of the Skills Workshop were:

- to clarify how consensus decision making can be applied to the issues of sustainable development;
- to examine some practical examples from real life;
- to draw from the participants some of their experiences;
- to engage the participants in a case study exercise; and
- to develop the skills necessary to apply the principles of CDM in their work.

One of the most important ideas behind CDM is that, as the workbook from the CDM workshop says, conflict is an essential ingredient in a dynamic society. It is through conflict that issues are raised, consensus emerges, and justice is achieved. However, without some practical mechanisms for addressing the issues, conflict can be sterile and even destructive.

In addition to an acceptance and tolerance of conflict as a legitimate means of social interaction, a society, organization, or family must also have procedures and skills for settling disputes. Two components are needed to resolve conflict successfully: a means of disputing, and means of reaching agreements.

Sustainable Development Requires Sustainable Decisions

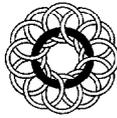
The tough choices demanded by sustainable development do not fit well within conventional frameworks for resolving conflict. Fundamentally, this occurs because one of the underlying requirements for more sustainable forms of development is to anticipate and prevent problems. As decisions become more complex, more information is necessary, more people and interests are involved, and the more complex the decision-making process becomes. To prevent paralysis, new techniques are required to constructively involve a wider group of people in making decisions about the environment and economy.

New scientific discoveries and the information revolution constantly remind us how closely inter-related are the issues of environment, economy, and equity. Actions have cascading effects that spill over into unexpected areas, sometimes with serious consequences. Many of today's administrative and legal disputes are based on decisions that were made in relative isolation by institutions with compartmentalized responsibilities. As we struggle to improve the process of decision making, an anonymous quotation from the workshop package is timely:

"Too often, negotiations proceed in a manner analogous to Columbus' 'discovery' of America: he didn't know where he was going; had no idea of how to get there; and was unaware of where he was when he arrived. And, it might be noted, he did it all on government funds."

The growing demand for wider and more meaningful involvement in public policy decisions is being met with an array of new initiatives and techniques for bringing disparate interests together to resolve their conflict in a structured and agreed upon process. (Elsewhere in this newsletter, an example of these new forms of consensus-based decision making is described.) The process used to develop the Clean Air Strategy for Alberta is surely one of the most interesting case studies in decision making now underway in Canada.

Mike Kelly



TREE-MENDOUS

In late 1990, the National Round Table decided to add to the initiatives of its five existing committees by inviting stakeholders in selected sectors of the Canadian economy to develop their own action plans for sustainable development. Three sectors were approached in the first round: **forests, tourism, and energy.**

Solid progress has been made over several months of hard work by stakeholders in the forest sector. Representatives of about 25 major national interest groups and associations have met 3 times to establish a common set of principles that would encompass all values for sustainable forests in Canada. From there, they plan to move on to develop a common vision of how forests in the future can be used, then on to **action plans**, under which each group will make its own special contribution to that vision.

The people at the forest "Round Table" come from groups as diverse as the Sierra Club, the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Canadian churches, universities, unions, and governments. Some see the aims of the group as ambitious. They point to the confrontations of recent years, and regard being able to sit down together and listen to one another's point of view as an achievement in itself. John Houghton, the NRTEE's convener of the forest group, says that the process devised by the National Round Table is not foolproof. Progress comes in **narrowing** the gap between different views. Success is measured by how far opposing viewpoints move to support each other, rather than how wide the gap remains.

Magic of an unsung kind is being woven in the group. They spent a day looking at several sites in a working forest in Al-

berta last month in order to "ground-truth" some of the principles under discussion. Deep in the woods, a spontaneous debate broke out on whether or not to use herbicides and on what sites. The matter was not resolved; the debate was not finished; but its participants had built enough confidence to listen to and consider each other's positions.

The Round Table work complements a sister initiative under way by the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM). The CCFM has held a series of consultations with the public across the country to update a national strategy for Canada's forests. The Forest Round Table is working to support this through the principles it is developing, and through the action plans of each stakeholder. The Forest Round Table will participate in the Forest Congress meeting to be held by the CCFM in March of 1992, when some 750 participants will be able to review progress on both the strategy and the action plans.

The membership of the Forest Round Table is designed to look outward from the sector, and take into consideration the impact of the sector on others, and the impact of others on the sector. For example, a link has been set up with the 20 or so stakeholders working in the **tourism** area. Diane Griffin, of PEI's Island Nature Trust, is the Round Table contact with that group, which is working on a statement of ethics for sustainable development, as well as codes of practice for the major elements of the sector, such as the food and beverage trade. Finally, the group is proposing a code of practice for the guidance of Canadian tourists abroad, and for tourists in this country.

The **energy** sector is vast by comparison, and some careful

planning is under way to ensure that a proper start is made on the problems surrounding energy supply and energy demand. Jack MacLeod, CEO of Shell Canada, is the Round Table's leader in this area.

Steve Thompson

FLUSH WITH SUCCESS: EDMONTON INVENTOR BUILDS A BETTER TOILET



An Edmonton businessman, utilizing an idea he picked up on in Saudi Arabia, has invented an inexpensive water-saving device for toilets called the Econo-Flush. Roy Jomha claims his simple plastic tube, a \$30 investment, which fits on to existing toilet parts, can reduce the amount of water needed to flush a toilet by up to 68%. The Econo-Flush accomplishes this by closing the flush valve of a toilet prematurely, and using concentrated pressure, reduces the amount of water in a standard flushing toilet from 5 to 6 gallons to just 2 1/2 gallons.

"Jomha claims that the Econo-Flush will pay for itself in water-billing savings in 3 to 4 months. He adds that 43% of the water used in an average home in Alberta is sucked down toilets, so that, if every one of the 450 million North American toilet owners used the Econo-Flush, the savings in two years would be enough to pay off the United States deficit!"

The Financial Post August 1991



GREENLIGHTS CUT THROUGH SMOG!

Southern California knows smog when it sees it, which is every day. According to *IRT: Energy Newsbrief*, the State claims it will save nearly 2 million pounds of sulphur dioxide, 6.5 million pounds of nitrogen oxide, and more than 2 billion pounds of carbon dioxide (IRT: August 1991). And it will save millions of dollars in the bargain. A bonus is the sizable chunk of business to manufacturers and retailers.

Too Good to Be True?

California expects to prevent these smog-inducing and greenhouse gas emissions through an increase in electrical energy efficiency in state-owned or controlled facilities. California has subscribed to a program initiated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called Greenlights. Under the program, corporate subscribers sign a memorandum of understanding to conduct lighting audits of their facilities and to install or retrofit all energy saving lighting that is cost effective.

The bright light behind the program is Bob Kwartin, who designed it to bring together private sector partners on both the supply and demand sides of electrical energy. Manufacturers of lighting products, sellers, energy service companies, and utilities were teamed up, mostly with large, corporate lighting users.

It Works Like This

After a lighting-energy audit, costs and savings from alternative lighting, installation, and maintenance are calculated. The corporate partner then implements all cost effective retrofits that provide equal or better lighting quality.

The supplier "allies" in the program provide their best price and the bargain is struck. Some service companies will provide all the up-front capital needed for the retrofit in exchange for a payback based on the savings in monthly electrical bills to the corporate client. Just pick up the phone and dial for some money.

Everybody Wins

The corporation gets the latest technology in lighting, improved lighting quality, and substantial cost savings. The service companies get a good return on their investment. The manufacturers and retailers get a substantial boost in sales. The utilities are able to reduce their load forecasts and slow the growth of expensive new generating facilities. The consumer saves money on reduced costs for efficient lighting (due to greater overall sales volumes). The impact on the environment is reduced in a variety of ways, depending on the mix of planned electrical generating sources. Greenhouse gases, smog precursors, nuclear waste, land use, water use or degradation, and other effects of electrical generation, transmission, and use are reduced. What's more, one can calculate, and take credit for, the reductions.

It's little wonder that U.S. politicians decided this might be good for their state.

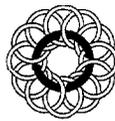
Mike Kelly



"Transportation consumes fully one-quarter of all the energy consumed, worldwide! Of this, cars consume the largest portion. In Canada, emissions by the automobile make-up almost 30 per cent of the total air pollution from all sources."

UPDATE, Vol 1 Issue 5





Dr. Arthur J. Hanson has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of the International Institute For Sustainable Development (IISD).

A Canadian with extensive international experience, Hanson is currently a professor with the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He served as Director of the School from 1978 to 1987. He is also affiliated with the Pearson Institute for International Development on campus and teaches in the field of resource ecology and management.

Dr. Hanson received his B.C. and M.Sc. in Zoology from the University of British Columbia and a PhD from the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.

"Recycling the Fridge"

A pilot recycling project, put in place by the City of Winnipeg, the Manitoba government and its hydro utility, is encouraging residents to return their old appliances to a scrap metal yard. The project's goal is to reduce the amount of ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons that are released by old freezers and refrigerators.

People in the pilot areas who return their old appliances receive a \$45 credit on their next hydro bill, or a \$30 credit if a city works crew came to haul away an old fridge. The results of the pilot project will be used to determine if the recycling program and the associated credit will be made available to all Manitobians.

Winnipeg Free Press, July 1991.

CANADA'S LARGEST HOTEL CHAIN GOES GREEN!

Efforts to improve the environment recently got a boost from the hospitality industry. The employees of Canadian Pacific Hotels and Resorts gave their management a strong mandate to develop and implement a company-wide green program. What makes this so unique is that it represents the first of its kind from the hospitality industry.

The genesis of this green program can be traced to the fall of 1990, when Canadian Pacific undertook to develop an environmental program to implement "the highest possible standards of environmental responsibility" throughout the chain. In order to complete this, environmental committees were formed at every hotel, to ensure that all hotels and resorts actively participated in the implementation of the program. Each of the committees reviewed the operations of its own hotel, with the goal of determining which environmental issues existed for each specific hotel.

Once the issues were identified, the employees of the hotels were audited to determine their interest

level, and if they would support the implementation of a green program. Of those that responded, 92.2% felt "that it would be worthwhile for Canadian Pacific to become more environmentally responsible", with 82.3% saying that they "would be willing to commit extra time and effort without compensation to support on-the-job environmental improvements". With this strong mandate, the committees analyzed the employees' responses to establish an environmental action plan for the chain.

Some of the environmental issues identified by the employees included the varying degree of success in currently established recycling programs; recommendations for environmentally benign cleaning products; and the varying energy and water conservation practices in place in some of the hotels.

As a part of the audit, employees were asked to contribute suggestions to implement the new green program. Many of their responses were incorporated into

the chain-wide environmental action plan.

The action plan, with objectives to be met over the next two years by all Canadian Pacific Hotels and Resorts, involves four main areas. These include: **waste management** (50% landfill waste reduction, chain-wide recycling programs, hazardous waste disposal procedures, removal of non-recyclable and non-reusable goods, and other items), **energy** (lighting, showerheads, and temperature improvements and standards), **purchasing** ("Environmental Choice", standards as a minimum and "environmentally friendly" products, where possible), and **water** (a policy for toilet tank flushes).

The action plan represents measurable objectives for Canadian Pacific. It is hoped that the leadership displayed by the chain to implement an environmentally friendly program at its hotels and resorts will serve as an example for all other hospitality industry members. *Patti Bacon*



JUST WHAT IS CLEAN AIR, ANYWAY?

The question may sound provocative, but agreeing on a definition of clean air was an essential step in the process of developing **The Clean Air Strategy for Alberta**. The consultation program for the Clean Air Strategy for Alberta (CASA) was launched on March 15, 1990 by two Alberta Government Ministers: the Minister of Energy (Hon. Rick Orman) and the Minister of the Environment (Hon. Ralph Klein).

CASA is proving to be one of Canada's most innovative and practical examples of public involvement in an important policy debate. Alberta has long history of public participation in environmental policy debates, not always with consensus as the outcome. CASA represents a slightly different approach, providing more in-depth participation from the beginning, and a gradual narrowing of focus and building of consensus around specific solutions to specific problems. Lessons from the experience could apply in other significant policy areas.

The Process

After a preliminary scoping exercise with 30 organizations, a broadly-based Advisory Group of stakeholders was formed. Their mandate is to provide advice on the scope and process; to ensure that goals are consistent; to ensure time-lines are met; to ensure communication with stakeholders is effective; to ensure information materials are accurate, objective, and thorough; and to provide recommendations to the government. They have met regularly throughout the process and are now working on the Final Report.

The Clean Air Strategy for Alberta has completed three of the four phases under the plan. Phase One included an **Issues and Options Workshop** to help identify the various issues facing the province, and the information requirements to complete CASA. Eight Background Project Reports were completed, including one on a definition of clean air.

Phase Two included a baker's dozen of clearly written "fact sheets" explaining air emissions, their causes, effects, amounts, and control mechanisms. In addition to collecting written submissions, eight Regional Sessions were conducted across Alberta. These were moderated by the former Chair of the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), Vern Millard.

Phase Three culminated in a **Summary Workshop** held September 5-7, 1991 involving more than 100 people. The Workshop was based on a Framework Document representing a first-cut at a draft Strategy. Ministers Orman and Klein opened the workshop and both attended the comprehensive reporting sessions by the small groups on the third day. The Framework Document included a useful background to the issues of air quality, a description of alternative responses, a detailed management system for air quality in Alberta, and an extensive set of possible goals and actions to address the identified problems.

The fourth phase includes preparation of the **Final Report** based on the findings, conclusions, and recommendations from the previous three phases. This report will be presented by the Advisory Committee to the ministers for consideration by Cabinet.

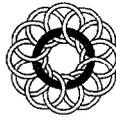
The Substance

The Advisory Committee is now preparing the final report of CASA. The structure of the Framework Document was widely supported at the workshop. This document begins with an overall vision of air quality for Alberta, followed by a mission statement for the strategy. Guiding beliefs and values are described and supported by a set of principles on which to base planning and actions. A flexible management system with a continuing role for stakeholders is outlined. It defines, in generic terms, the steps needed to implement CASA. After these fundamentals are established, goals and actions to reach the goals were attached. The goals were developed, based on specific problems defined through the many public meetings, submissions, and advisory group meetings.

Each component of the Framework Document was meticulously examined and debated at the workshop. All of the components were scrutinized for consistency and fit, and a great many suggestions for improvement were made. The final product is now in the hands of the Advisory Group. Final agreement may not be easy; priorities must still be set, and additional information gathered. The unequivocal commitment to the process by the ministers of Energy and Environment, combined with the obvious enthusiasm and expertise of Albertans at the Summary Workshop should, however, ensure quick action on the Final Report, due in late October.

The Clean Air Strategy for Alberta represents a notable milestone along the path toward wider participation in setting the rules that govern Canadians. Albertans seem to prefer being masters of their own destiny. The fact that CASA is the Spanish word for home may not be entirely coincidental. Developing consensus to resolve controversial issues is a time-consuming and messy process, full of uncertainty with no one in direct control. It also may be the only workable process for resolving complex, multifaceted problems with competing interests, and diffuse sources of knowledge. Round tables are designed to embody consensus decision making; their success in widening the decision making process may be their most lasting legacy.

Mike Kelly



THE BAY OF FUNDY:

A Case For Community Action Project Focus

The Bay of Fundy Project has been undertaken by the Conservation Council of New Brunswick and the Huntsman Marine Science Centre to address the growing concern that the ecological health of the Bay of Fundy is slowly but surely being undermined. Left unchecked, pollution, inappropriate development, and destruction of marine and coastal habitat could result in the loss of historically self-reliant communities and a vitally important marine ecosystem, unique in the world.

The premise of the Bay of Fundy Project is that the people of communities whose history, culture, and livelihoods have been shaped by their contact with the Bay are best positioned to address these problems. The Project will focus on the New Brunswick shore to the Bay.

GOALS

To foster a sense of stewardship of the Bay on the part of the people who live in Bay of Fundy communities;

To foster local support for effective coastal zone and marine management to ensure the long-term health and productivity of the Bay of Fundy, and therefore of its communities;

To encourage community-based initiatives that protect and improve the coastal and marine environment, strengthen cultural ties to the Bay, and sustain livelihoods dependent on the Bay.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

To support existing or planned activities by community groups in the Bay of Fundy that relate to project objectives;

To develop participatory programs for both adult and youth audiences that will increase awareness of the unique characteristics of the Bay, threats to its health, and strategies for addressing these threats;

To facilitate citizen involvement in the development of government policies and programs that relate to the Bay of Fundy and the marine environment in general. These include such groups and issues as the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment, the marine related aspects of the federal Green Plan, and the provincial Sustainable Development Strategy;

To demonstrate international community connections by linking the Bay of Fundy Project with community-based environmental projects in Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and by representing coastal issues in citizens' organizations as they prepare for the 1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

PHASE ONE ACTIVITIES

A variety of activities will be undertaken over the three year time frame of the Bay of Fundy Project. The first phase of activities is designed to highlight the Fundy region's natural and cultural heritage, identify the range of issues facing Fundy communities, and facilitate citizen discussions about priorities for action. Activities include:

Faces of Fundy, a published collection of impressions of the changing character of the Bay and its coastal communities as told by the people who live and work there;

Coastal Convergence: A Citizen's Conference on the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine to bring people from the Maritimes and New England together to develop an action plan for protecting their shared marine region;

Voices of the Bay, a report of nine community-based meetings to identify issues and initial recommendations for action;

Coastal Atlas Project, a youth-oriented activity that graphically documents the natural features of community coastlines, threats such as erosion and pollution sources, development activity and types of use. All community atlases will be compiled into a bigger picture of the Bay, will heighten awareness of the coastal area, and foster protective actions on the part of youth.

Co-operation with Shore Watch, a community group based in Chance Harbour, NB in their 1991 Coastal Care Project.

FUNDING

Core funding for the Bay of Fundy Project has been provided for a three year period by the Donner Canadian Foundation. Additional funds for specific activities such as **Faces of Fundy**, **Coastal Convergence**, and the **Coastal Atlas Project** will be sought from a variety of public and private sources.

The Conservation Council of New Brunswick and the Huntsman Marine Science Centre are registered charitable organizations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Round Table Round-Up

Since the inception of the NRTEE, round tables have been created in each of Canada's ten provinces and two territories. With the common goal of promoting sustainable development, each Round Table is an expression of the diversity of Canada's regions. The issues they choose to focus on are a reflection of the unique geographic, cultural, social, and economic characteristics of each territory or province.

British Columbia

A report highlighting the Round Table's activities is scheduled for release by the end of 1991. Based on a recent public forum series, the report will focus on a sustainable development strategy. In October, the Round Table will host a sustainable development and education workshop in Vancouver for experts in related fields from all over the province. A youth forum will be held in November, in Vancouver, for high school students from different areas of British Columbia.

Alberta

The September meeting of the Round Table will provide the basis for the ARTEE's first report, to be released in November 1991. Seven working groups were formed at that meeting to focus on education, individuals and families, business and industry, and to examine future options. The next ARTEE meeting will be held in December 1991.

Saskatchewan

The Round Table is planning eight public consultations to discuss its draft Conservation Strategy, released on September 3, 1991. A final Conservation Strategy will be completed in early 1992. To encourage youth involvement a Youth Committee was formed in August 1991. Earlier in the summer, the SRT presented its first Environmental Awards. Several advisory groups presented reports last March.

Manitoba

The Round Table has formulated a set of principles and guidelines on which future sustainable development projects will be based. A Cabinet Committee

has been formed to integrate environment-economic concerns within government. The Environmental Initiatives Fund is in its second year of providing financial assistance to future sustainable development projects.

Ontario

In mid-November, the Sectoral Task Force will present its findings and recommendations to the Round Table. This report will be available for public review. A brochure on establishing local round tables has been produced, as part of the seminar to be held on October 25 and 26, 1991, called "Deciding Our Common Future: Communities and Sustainable Development". In late 1991 and early 1992, several research and policy briefing papers will be made available.

Quebec

The Round Table met twice this year, on January 30 and June 17. Three committees were established to analyze natural resources, regional planning, and urban communities. The next meeting will be held on October 11, 1991, to evaluate the impact of action plans that are being developed.

New Brunswick

The primary focus of the NBRT has been the formation of a draft Sustainable Development Strategy. An action plan is being developed to accompany the document, which will be presented to the Premier in early 1992. The involvement of local communities in the decision-making process is a goal of the Strategy.

P.E.I.

Recent appointments to the Round Table on Environment and the Economy were made in June 1991. The Prince Edward Island Round Table has appointed a sub-committee on education to comment on the implementation of recommendations related to environmental education made in a report by a private consultation firm. The Education committee presented its report to the premier and is currently being studied by the Ministry of Education.

Recent work of the NSRT has centred on the preparation of a Sustainable Development Strategy. After reviewing two drafts, the Round Table released the document on September 19, 1991. The report will be discussed at public workshops throughout Nova Scotia between October 7 and October 30. The final document is scheduled to be presented to government in early December 1991.

Newfoundland and Labrador

The Round Table held its first meeting in April 1991. An "issues approach" was adopted at the second meeting in July 1991, with a preliminary set of issues being developed. An Outreach Committee was established to promote awareness and understanding. The Department of Environment and Lands, which serves as the Round Table secretariat, recruited a Director of Policy and Planning in July 1991. The next meeting is scheduled for October 1991.

Yukon

The Yukon Council will hold two conferences in October and November: the first dealing with youth and the second concerning energy consumption. The Council is preparing the groundwork for consultations with Yukon communities to better integrate their concerns into the Council, as well as focusing on the inter-relationship of the native economy.

Northwest Territories

The next Round Table meeting will be held in conjunction with the upcoming Joint Meeting of Round Tables. Here, NWTRT members will review a draft Sustainable Development Action Plan prepared by their government. They will also receive briefs on the Arctic Environment Strategy as it relates to the NWT; the results will be incorporated into the NWT Round Table's workplan.



12 STEPS TO GLOBAL CONSCIOUSNESS

This Program will show you the rigours of Third World life.

While there is much to be admired and preserved in the cultures of Third World people, current economic, political, and social conditions prevent millions of people from truly enjoying their cultures. Instead, they practice survival.

It is generally very difficult for North Americans - surrounded by the detritus of decades of industrial production - to comprehend the realities of daily life for the billion-plus people who constitute the poorest of the poor. To get you in touch with the reality of life in much of the Southern hemisphere, try, - or at least imagine - following this 12-step program.

- First, take the furniture out of your home. Leave a few old blankets, a kitchen table, maybe a wooden chair. You've never had a bed, remember?
- Second, throw out your clothes. Each person in the family may keep the oldest suit or dress, a shirt or blouse. The head of the family has the only pair of shoes.
- Third, all kitchen appliances have vanished. Keep

a box of matches, a small bag of flour, some sugar and salt, a handful of onions, a dish of dried beans. Rescue those moldy potatoes from the garbage can: They are tonight's meal.

- Fourth, dismantle the bathroom, shut off the running water, take out the wiring and the lights and everything that runs by electricity.
- Fifth, take away the house and move the family to the toolshed.
- Sixth, by now all the other houses in the neighbourhood have disappeared; instead, there are shanties - for the fortunate ones.
- Seventh, cancel all the newspapers and magazines. Throw out the books. You won't miss them - you are now illiterate. One radio is left for the whole shantytown.
- Eighth, no more mail carriers, firefighters, government services. The two-classroom school is three miles away, but only two of your seven children

attend anyway, and they walk.

- Ninth, no hospital, no doctor. The nearest clinic is now 10 miles away with a midwife in charge. You get there by bus or by bicycle, if you're lucky enough to have one.
- Tenth, throw out your bankbooks, stock certificates, pension plans, insurance policies. You now have a net worth of \$5.
- Eleventh, get out and start cultivating your three acres. Try hard to raise \$300 in cash crops because your landlord wants one-third and your moneylender wants 10 percent.
- Twelfth, find some way for your children to bring in a little extra money so you have something to eat most days. But it won't be enough to keep bodies healthy - so lop off 25 to 30 years of your life.

In Context

LIST OF NRT PUBLICATIONS

1. The National Waste Reduction Handbook: An Introduction to Source Reduction and Recycling for Municipal Decision-Makers
2. Exploring Incentives: An Introduction to Incentives and Economic Instruments for Sustainable Development
3. Pamphlet: The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
4. National Round Table Objectives for Sustainable Development
5. Preserving our World - NRT/Warner Troyer/CP Hotels
6. Sustainable Development and the Municipality
7. Symposium on Decision Making Practices for Sustainable Development
8. The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy: A Report to Canadians
9. Managers' Handbook on Sustainable Development

The above publications are available free of charge, by contacting Liza Campbell at (613) 943-2055 or Patricia Larkin at (613) 943-0394.



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