



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

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# review

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

## Moving ahead with a strong mandate

This new version of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) *Review* reflects some dynamic shifts and refinements within the organization.

With a change in leadership and membership late last year, the NRTEE has taken the opportunity to re-affirm and articulate its commitment to meet a growing need for broad, informed and dynamic discussion on the environment and the economy. Together, the members are positioning the NRTEE as the recognized first stop for Canadians to obtain reliable information on the nature and scope of the state of national debate on the environment and the economy.

The NRTEE's current Chair, Dr. Stuart Smith, notes: "Balancing environmental preservation with economic prosperity is not simple. Often it seems one must gain at the expense of the other. The challenge is to search for opportunities that have the potential for win-win outcomes."

### The NRTEE goes online

Now you can travel the world wide web to reach the NRTEE. Our web address is:

<http://www.nrtee-trnee.ca>

The NRTEE *Review* is also available on the net. If you prefer to receive the *Review* via E-Mail or our Internet world wide web site, let us know. We also welcome your feedback and suggestions on this newsletter.

Dr. Smith stresses that for the NRTEE, the search for appropriate opportunities entails the following:

- analysis of environmental and economic facts and trends to identify changes that will enhance sustainability in Canada;
- actively seeking input from stakeholders with a vested interest in any partic-

ular issue and identifying points of consensus and divergence; and

- using the products of research and analysis, especially national consultations, to come to a conclusion on the state of the debate on the environment and the economy.

The end results of stakeholder consultations on potential *cont'd on page 2*

## Miramichi Plenary features Private Woodlots



*Dr. Stuart Smith (left), Chair of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE), welcomes Premier Frank McKenna to the NRTEE Plenary in Miramichi, New Brunswick.*

The issue of over-cutting on private woodlots was one of the main features of the May 23-24 Plenary meeting in Miramichi, New Brunswick.

A further boost to the National Round Table's private woodlots program came

when New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna addressed the Plenary with a timely announcement that his government has amended forest land property tax legislation to limit the size of clearcuts on private woodlots.

*cont'd on page 2*

National Round Table  
on the Environment  
and the Economy

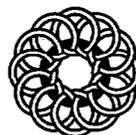


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opportunities for sustainable development will be encapsulated in the NRTEE's new State of the Debate reports. They summarize the extent of consensus and reasons for disagreement. They further review the consequences of action or inaction and recommend steps specific decision makers can take to promote sustainability.●

## Programs' progress

The National Round Table has moved forward with a number of new programs. 1996-97 offers major opportunities for substantive debate and resolutions on key sustainable development issues.

David McGuinty, Director of Policy and Programs, oversees the following upcoming program activities:

### Plenary features Private Woodlots

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The new policy will limit the size of clearcuts on private woodlots to 10% of the individual block within any one year unless there is an approved management plan indicating that a larger size clearcut is required. The Premier noted that people who choose to disregard the 10 per cent clearcut rule will face an increase in their property tax of up to four times the current rate and this will apply for a five-year period.

The Premier's announcement followed an intensive panel discussion on the numerous challenges of harvesting practices on private woodlots. NRTEE member Joe O'Neill, Vice-President of the Woodlands Division, Repap New Brunswick Inc. chaired the discussion. Panelists included Max Cater, of New Brunswick Forest Products Association; Peter de Marsh, of the Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners; Harold Hatheway, freelance journalist/media consultant; Harlen Redden, of Group Ventures Association; Jack Dunlop, of Bowater Mersey Paper Company Ltd.; and David Coon, of the New Brunswick Conservation Council.

A recent study commissioned by the

National Round Table has found that current harvesting rates on private woodlots are unsustainable in certain areas of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Numerous factors, including the tax treatment of investment in forest management, are contributing to the problem.

In developing the Private Woodlots Program, the NRTEE will likely focus on a national certification standards system and federal taxation of private woodlots.●

Contact: Elizabeth Atkinson,  
(613) 943-0394

### Foreign Policy

This program is continuing to press for non-coercive means of integrating environmental considerations into the APEC trade liberalization agenda. During 1996, the NRTEE's Committee on Foreign Policy and Sustainability (FPC) will prepare an Issues Paper and State of the Debate Report that will serve as a basis for advice to relevant government officials and the Prime Minister in advance of the Philippines' environmentally focused APEC Summit in November 1996 and Canada's hosting of the APEC Summit in November 1997.

Plans are also under way to develop a workshop on 'business and the environment' for the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Montreal on October 13-31, 1996. The event will be chaired by Dr. Pierre Marc Johnson.

While the NRTEE continues to monitor the NAFTA expansion and the Free Trade Areas of Americas initiative, including the Canada-Chilean bilateral currently being negotiated, major activities will be planned following the U.S. presidential campaign.●

Contact: David Morgan, (613) 943-2054

### Economic Instruments

The program's plan this year is to achieve concrete changes in tax policies and in market-based approaches to pollution prevention. The National Round Table is building strategic links with the policy agendas of federal departments and organizations including the CCME, the Conference Board of Canada, Pollution

Probe, and the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation. A special workshop in September on greening the 1997 federal budget will focus on tax policies affecting environmental trust funds and investments in energy efficiency. Other workshops and seminars are planned on the use of tradeable permits, voluntary initiatives, and performance agreements or covenants.●

Contact: Bunli Yang, (416) 762-6672

### Green Procurement

Recent findings on the challenges of advancing the public sector's green purchasing activities have been well received within the federal government. The Task Force assigned to report on this activity concludes that the highly decentralized nature of federal procurement hinders progress in this area. In its report, published in March, 1996, the Task Force offers a set of criteria that can be incorporated into government purchasing policies and guidelines. To order a copy of the report please see insert.

The program is now focusing on the economic impacts of green procurement. In a workshop to be convened this fall, participants will examine the underlying concept that federal green procurement can serve as a positive strategy for wealth creation and competitiveness.

The exercise will result in a State of the Debate Report outlining the costs and benefits of enhanced federal green procurement efforts.●

Contact: Gene Nyberg, (613) 995-7581  
David Morgan, (613) 943-2054

### Environmental Technologies

The NRTEE recently sponsored a series of multistakeholder round tables in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to identify problems and opportunities of advancing the Canadian environment industry in the areas of municipal water and wastewater. The sessions brought together buyers and sellers of environmental technology and services, and participants from government and financial institutions critical to this market.

An initial State of the Debate Report

on water and wastewater was presented at the Miramichi Plenary on May 23-24, giving members the opportunity to provide further suggestions and input. The NRTEE plans to communicate its findings to firms in the environment industry, various levels of government, as well as financial institutions.

Furthermore, the debates have encouraged new forms of public/private partnerships that could strengthen the demand for green products. Following the completion of the water/wastewater report, the NRTEE will focus its attention on electric utilities.●

Contact: Gene Nyberg, (613) 995-7581  
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### **Ocean Environment and Resources**

This program is promoting a wide range of activities to help achieve sustainable ocean activity management. A series of stakeholder round tables and networking activities are being organized to examine such issues as co-management of ocean resources in land claims agreements, in coastal zone use, in fisheries and in conservation.

Following these regional debates and resulting identification of further issues on co-management arrangements, a national forum will be held to focus on national and international policy implications. Through these sessions, members will explore how to best engage stakeholders to assist with the implementation of key federal initiatives including Bill C-26, the Canada Oceans Act, and the new Fisheries Act.

Findings will be presented to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans and key policy makers.●

Contact: Nancy Averill, (613) 235-8126

### **Financial Services**

The program will explore some practical and innovative solutions for two focused issues: brownfield sites in city cores; and risk assessment and improving site-specific information on the environmental condition of land. The NRTEE aims to share progress and pragmatic ideas leading to specific recommendations.

These two issues will be placed in context by a broad background paper setting out the evolution of policy in Canada governing the contentious and complex subject of contaminated sites. The paper will examine progress to date, outstanding issues, options, and the potential consequences of inaction.

Plans are under way to hold three multistakeholder workshops in some major centres in the current fiscal year starting in the fall.●

Contact: Tony Cassils, (613) 789-1090

### **Education**

This program supports three strategic initiatives in 1996-97 that involve a variety of learning settings.

The first strategy aims at bridging business and sustainable development training in centres of higher learning. This currently entails gathering best examples of sustainable development business education. In an upcoming workshop in November with key stakeholders, participants will examine these results and explore methods for integrating business and sustainable development curricula.

The second strategy focuses on education tools for professional associations and will identify gaps in information on the state of debate on the environment and the economy. The third strategy is to seek cost-effective opportunities and partnerships to present a training module on youth round table simulations for trainers and educators.●

Contact: Carla Doucet, (705) 749-0415

### **Transportation and Energy**

The NRTEE issued a statement of principles on sustainable transportation at the OECD conference on Sustainable Transportation, which was held in Vancouver last March. These guiding principles, presented by Dr. Smith, were designed to stimulate further discussion among stakeholders.

The OECD conference was an opportunity for various players to gain a fuller understanding of the problems and issues involved in moving towards sustainable transportation. However, it also underscored the fact that no major

progress has been made in promoting sustainable transportation in Canada or in taking concrete action. With this in mind, the NRTEE is pursuing its initiative of organizing a National Sustainable Transportation Forum with a view to defining courses of action to be pursued.

The Forum, which will take place over a period of about one year beginning in November, 1996, will comprise a series of multistakeholder workshops. The outcome will be a policy statement and action plan that will assist the federal government in the articulation of a sustainable transportation policy. The NRTEE is planning this event in partnership with Transport Canada, the Transportation Association of Canada and the Centre for Sustainable Transportation.●

Contact: David McGuinty, (613) 992-7155

### **Reporting on Sustainability**

The NRTEE has undertaken a study to assess the federal government's capacity to report on sustainable development in light of budget cuts over time.●

Contact: David McGuinty, (613) 992-7155

### **New horizons: eco-efficiency**

The NRTEE is laying the groundwork for a program aimed at promoting eco-efficiency. This is in direct response to the federal government's report on Science and Technology for the New Century in which the NRTEE is requested to help provide advice on achieving sustainable development through innovations in S&T. The report mentions that the federal government will seek the advice of the NRTEE "in establishing specific targets to help industries and other sectors become significantly more eco-efficient within a generation, and in understanding the implications of those targets for the development of new technologies."

Considering the breadth of this subject matter and the diversity of stakeholders involved the NRTEE is exploring possible joint projects with key groups as a first step.

## Keeping pace with growing readership

Keeping stakeholders and the public informed of all the NRTEE activities, debates and resolutions on sustainable development is critical. Doing this cost-effectively and more efficiently is the NRTEE's challenge.

Over the past four years, the NRTEE's publications program has grown rapidly. More than 100 books, reports and working papers have been produced and demand has risen to almost 20,000 requests annually. To respond to this growth and to meet the fiscal restraints facing all federally funded organizations, the NRTEE is implementing several changes to its publications program.

Effective May 28, 1996, NRTEE publications will no longer be distributed free of charge; they will be offered for sale through Renouf Publishing Co. Limited, an Ottawa-based firm that specializes in

marketing and selling publications for government and non-government agencies and institutes. (See insert)

This change will greatly improve the speed of processing orders, expand the marketing of publications to new audiences, and allow the NRTEE to recover a portion of its printing and distribution costs. In addition, copies of NRTEE pub-

lications have been distributed to a network of depository libraries across Canada to ensure continued universal access to our materials. At the same time, many older titles have been discontinued owing to their outdated content or low demand.

This Review newsletter will continue to be distributed free of charge. ●

## LEAD Canada graduates class of '96

The first group of LEAD Canada Associates graduated in April after achieving two years of intensive sustainable development studies culminating in a final session in Zimbabwe. LEAD Canada has now selected its third and newest group. The 1996-98 Associates met in Ottawa on June 3-14 for their inaugural session.

LEAD Canada, which is administered through the NRTEE, helps to prepare

the next generation of leaders to deal with issues and choices related to sustainable development. LEAD Canada is part of the international LEAD program, which was started in 1991 through the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States. Each year LEAD chapters choose about 15 promising mid career professionals to take part in this intensive two-year program.

For more information on LEAD Canada contact David McGuinty, National Program Director, at (613) 992-7155. ●

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