



NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND THE ECONOMY

TABLE RONDE NATIONALE  
SUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT  
ET L'ÉCONOMIE

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# FOREST ROUND TABLE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

*A Progress Report*

March 1993

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**National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy**

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# Membership in the Forest Round Table 1991 - 1993

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Moderator .....   | Hamish Kimmins                                      |
| Canadian Council of Forest Ministers* .....                       | Tom Lee   |
| Canadian Federation of Professional Forestry Associations* .....  | Chris Lee   |
| Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners .....                       | Peter DeMarsh                                       |
| Canadian Forestry Association .....                               | Glen Blouin   |
| Canadian Nature Federation .....                                  | Paul Griss  |
| Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada .....     | Keith Newman  |
| Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society .....                         | Diana Keith   |
| Canadian Pulp and Paper Association* .....                        | David Barron  |
| Canadian Silviculture Association .....                           | Dirk Brinkman                                       |
| Canadian Wildlife Federation .....                                | Gary Blundell                                       |
| Canadian Wildlife Service .....                                   | Gerry Lee   |
| Council of Forest Industries of British Columbia .....            | Tony Shebbeare                                      |
| Forest Caucus Canadian Environmental Network .....                | Lois Corbett  |
| Forest Products Branch, ISTC .....                                | Bruce Gourlay                                       |
| Fur Institute of Canada .....                                     | Gerry Wilde   |
| IWA Canada* .....   | Claire Dansereau                                    |
| Miramichi Pulp and Paper Inc. ....                                | Joe O'Neill   |
| National Aboriginal Forestry Association .....                    | Harry Bombay  |
| Ontario Forest Industries Association .....                       | Marie Rauter  |
| Sierra Club of Canada .....                                       | Elizabeth May                                       |
| Task Force on the Churches and Corporate Responsibility .....     | Peter Chapman                                       |
| University Forestry Schools .....                                 | Rod Carrow  |
| Weldwood of Canada Ltd. ....                                      | Don Laishley  |
| Wildlife Habitat Canada* .....                                    | David Neave   |
| National Round Table on the<br>Environment and the Economy* ..... | John Houghton<br>Diane Griffin<br>Josefina Gonzalez |
| NRTEE Secretariat .....   | Steve Thompson                                      |

A Steering Committee (\*) was drawn from leaders of stakeholder groups listed above, and the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy.



# Sustainable Development in Canada's Forests

During the summer and fall of 1990, the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) consulted with the main national stakeholders in the Canadian forest sector to engage their commitment to join in a Round Table dialogue on sustainable development. At the same time the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM) was planning to hold a set of public consultations on a strategy for Canada's forests, and both bodies agreed to support each other. The Forest Round Table contribution has been to build common understanding and provide commitments to action in support of sustainable development by the main stakeholders in Canada.

The first Forest Round Table meeting took place in June 1991. John Houghton, a member of the National Round Table, and Chairman of the Quebec and Ontario Paper Company, led the NRTEE approach. The NRTEE formed a small sector steering committee, which invited professor Hamish Kimmins of the University of British Columbia to chair and moderate the meetings. Some 25 stakeholders in the Forest Round Table include the Sierra Club, the Aboriginal Forestry Association, and industry and union representatives, thus comprising one of the broadest ranges of interests assembled to represent all of the values inherent in the forest. Participants agreed on, and worked toward, three objectives for completion in 1992:

- ✳ Develop a common vision and principles for sustainable development in Canada's forests.
- ✳ Each stakeholder agency to develop action plans for its own contribution to sustainable development.
- ✳ Recommendations to governments and other jurisdictions with regard to policies and actions for sustainable development.

The Forest Round Table has met seven times to date, and has also met four field trips to working forests in Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick to ground-truth some of the principles under discussion. Great care has been taken in the early meetings to allow mutual confidence and respect to grow among stakeholders, so that the progress made is the result of full discussion. Stakeholders are now moving forward into action plans which represent their own contributions to sustainable development in Canada's forests. These action plans are available from each stakeholder organization.





# The Role of the National Round Table

The Round Table model for sector Dialogues encompasses both a catalytic phase and a managerial phase in which a portion of the planning and leadership for the process is undertaken by the NRTEE and a steering committee drawn from the sector.

Dialogues encourage economic sectors to build towards consensus on development which is sustainable at its inception, rather than being subject solely to regulatory and remedial measures. The NRTEE catalyses the process of dialogue between protagonists. Matters of content, such as specific targets and plans, come largely from the participants themselves, but the National Round Table plays a role in the process.

Problem solving sessions within sectoral “Round Tables” build a common understanding on sustainable development, including Vision and Principles, and lead to codes of practice or action plans for stakeholders, and policy options for government and for governing bodies of business, education and public interest groups. NRTEE may ask individual sector groups to meet together if a widening circle of dialogues uncovers inter-sectoral issues which require their participation.

## ***Who is a Stakeholder?***

- ✱ Organized national or near-national groups impacted by, or impacting on, the sector.
- ✱ Any such group willing to develop principles and action plans to further sustainable development in the sector.

## ***Principles of Sustainable Development***

Used in a broad sense to apply to environment-economy linkages perceived by all stakeholders in the sector. But specific enough to act as a clear base for action by members of each stakeholder's constituency - eg. industry associations, unions, public interest groups, etc.

## ***Action Plans***

Plans for action and partnerships by each stakeholder group, with targets and measuring sticks.

## ***The Process:***

- ✱ An inaugural meeting of stakeholders to shortlist the issues of sustainable development for discussion, and to adopt the “Round Table” type of process
- ✱ One or more round tables set up to deal with issues.
- ✱ Groups work over several months to hammer out plans.
- ✱ An “end of Phase 1” conference to ratify and publish results, and assign implementation responsibility to stakeholders' members.



## Introduction to Principles

Forests dominate a significant portion of Canada's land mass, and serve a number of environmental functions which give rise to values and opportunities for Canada and the world. These functions are values of the first order; without their perpetuation, other values cease to exist. Traditionally, these functions have not been valued, on the assumption they were an ecological given, an environmental unmeasurable. It is now recognized that forest functions are the environmental underpinnings that support and provide forest values as we currently understand them. To abuse them renders suspect our ability to describe and then follow a sustainable long-term path of forest resource use and enjoyment; to ignore them invites disaster.

Canada is first and foremost a forest nation. The Canadian forest epitomizes the world's perception of what Canada is all about. The Canadian forest industry is by far the largest contributor to Canada's balance of trade; counting the contributions from forest-dependent tourism, recreational and subsistence industries, that contribution grows even larger. Canada's 453 million hectares of forested land accounts for one tenth of all forests in the world. Forests are the traditional home of the majority of Canada's Indian nations, having shaped the cultural, spiritual and socio-economic aspirations and dependencies of those nations for centuries.

Forests are the outcome of natural forces at work over millennia, and predate human influence on the landscape. Forests, like grasslands, wetlands and tundra, function as fixers of atmospheric carbon for our planet. Forests function as a water source for lakes, rivers and streams, capturing precipitation from the air and controlling its release much like a sponge. It is estimated that 20% of the world's fresh water flows from Canadian forested watersheds. Forests function as habitat for wildlife, providing food, shelter, protection and breeding opportunities for a large proportion of Canada's biota. Forests function as local climate regulators, softening the blow of winter and summer extremes as well as delaying the rapid transitions from one season to the other. Forests are soil builders, contributing nutrients and humus through the annual growth cycles of their flora and fauna; indeed, much of the most productive agricultural land in Canada is forest-originated. And finally, forests function as an indicator of environmental health, alerting us to the consequences of inappropriate long-term environmental impacts arising out of direct or indirect human activity.



The values Canadians associate with these forests and the functions they serve cover a broad range, from commercial harvesting to personal inspiration and satisfaction from site-specific conservation. Forests are valued as a place to work and live. Values also include tourism benefits, benefits to and from wildlife (both plant and animal), drinkable water supplies, cultural and spiritual values, genetic diversity, and of course, the many fibre-oriented values associated with forest products.

Canadians must consider the many functions our forests perform and the larger range of values that derive from these functions. The sustainability of our forest resources - fibre and non-fibre alike - weighs heavily not only on the future well-being of Canadians but on the world itself.

Canada is now facing a challenge as it aspires to achieve sustainable development objectives and to secure viable economic and employment opportunities for all Canadians. Because Canada's forests are extensive and large-scale human intervention in them is relatively recent, we have more options than many other nations. Within this context, public aspirations both within and outside Canada as to how our forest resources should be used have undergone rapid change in the past three decades, frequently without regard to past commitments, obligations and investment. In short, the dilemma for Canada is that world-level as well as Canadian aspirations, obligations and pressures are being imposed on local forest resources by virtue of the fact that Canada is the owner of a major portion of the world's remaining forested lands.

The Forest Round Table has been fully aware of this challenge from the outset, seeking solutions, directions and accommodations that would respond to these sustainability aspirations in a positive and prompt manner. The Round Table has benefitted from the very active participation of all stakeholder sectors. The frank yet constructive articulation and discussion of stakeholder views and positions is leading in many instances to higher ground. Discussion and debate both in the field and in the meeting room have led to a clearer vision of how our forests must serve us and the world in the years to come. The guiding principles that have emerged serve as the context for the Round Table's vision for Canadian forests. The principles serve also as the foci for the action plans under development by each of the stakeholder groups participating in the Forest Round Table.



# A Vision for Canadian Forests

Our vision is of healthy forest ecosystems that meet present and future human needs while sustaining other life forms and ecological processes.

## Principles for Sustainable Development

All activities in the forest are premised on respect for this vision. Our commitment is to act now through the following principles to ensure that our practices sustain Canada's forest ecosystems.

### 1. ***Looking after the Environment***

#### 1.1 **Ecosystem integrity**

All activities on forested land should respect the intrinsic natural values of the forest environment and recognize the need to protect the integrity of forest ecosystems.

#### 1.2 **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity should be maintained within the natural range of variation that is characteristic of both the local ecosystem and the region.

#### 1.3 **Global Issues**

Canada should play a leadership role in its global responsibilities both in the way it manages its forests and in its contributions to the sustainable development of forests world-wide.





# Principles for Sustainable Development

## **2. Taking Care of People**

### **2.1 Public Awareness and Involvement**

Public involvement in the forest policy, planning and decision processes is a right, of which responsibility and accountability are inherent components. An aware, educated and informed public is essential for effective participation in these processes. To these ends the public has a right to timely access to relevant information.

### **2.2 Aboriginal Recognition**

Forest management practices and policy must recognize and make provision for the rights of aboriginal people, reflecting their distinctive position and needs within Canadian society.

### **2.3 Community and Cultural Stability**

The distinctive needs of forest-based communities and cultures are recognized as a major component in the sustainability of the forest.

### **2.4 Worker Health and Safety**

Worker health and safety must not be compromised in the sustainable development and use of forest lands.

### **2.5 Public Health and Safety**

Public Health and Safety must not be compromised in the sustainable development and use of forest lands.

### **2.6 Conflict Resolution**

Processes that recognize the inherent rights, accountability, and responsibility of the various stakeholders, and which provide opportunity for meaningful discussion within a mutually defined time frame, are vital to the resolution of conflict.



# Principles for Sustainable Development

## 3. ***Land Use***

### 3.1 **Land Use Policies**

Land use policies developed by the responsible jurisdictions are a necessary prerequisite to effective long term management of Canada's forest land base.

### 3.2 **Protected Areas**

Protected forest reserves such as ecological areas, natural areas, parks, wildlife reserves, and wilderness areas are essential components of a land use strategy.

### 3.3 **Public Land Use and Allocation**

The policies and processes for allocating use of public forests should consider:

- The productive capacity and values of the land base and the ability of the land base to satisfy user needs and aspirations over time;
- The potential for zoning forest land for multiple use, dominant use and protected areas.

### 3.4 **Economic Evaluation**

A comprehensive economic evaluation of the various options is an essential part of land use decisions.



# Principles for Sustainable Development

## 4. ***Managing Resources***

### 4.1 **Recognition of Multiple Values**

Management of the forest will recognize the potential for sustainable development of the full range of forest resources and values.

### 4.2 **Tenure**

Forest lands should be managed under that combination of tenure systems which balances rights with responsibilities, encourages stewardship, optimizes the sustained supply of various values from forest lands, and contributes to fair and sustainable markets, and healthy communities.

### 4.3 **Jurisdiction**

Interjurisdictional equivalency in legislative and regulatory controls will reduce duplication and contradiction, enhance competitiveness and promote sustainable development.

### 4.4 **Regulating Land Use on Private Forest Land**

In cases where public goals override traditional property rights of private land owners, the owners must be fully involved in planning such restrictions on land use as may be required, including the provision of incentives or compensation where appropriate.

### 4.5 **Codes of Practice**

Sustainability of forest lands and forest uses requires that those who use the forest accept their obligations for its care through the development, application and reporting of user codes of practice covering all activities in the forest.

### 4.6 **Information Base**

An adequate information base is essential to the sustainable development of forest lands, and requires current, appropriate and comparable inventories for all forest values.

### 4.7 **Research**

A significant and continuing commitment to research, development, transfer and application of results, is essential to the sustainability of forest lands and forest uses.



# Principles for Sustainable Development

## **4.8 Workforce Education**

Sustainability of forest lands and forest uses requires broadly educated and skilled work forces at the vocational, technical and professional levels with continuing life-long education and training.

## **4.9 Economic and Policy Instruments**

Economic health is integral to the sustainable development of forests. Economic and policy instruments should be consistent with the sustainability of a full range of values from forest lands.

## **4.10 Shared responsibility**

The costs of achieving sustainable development in the forest sector should be shared by all sectors of Canadian society. Compensation and new economic development strategies for dependent communities should be inherent components of sustainable forestry.

## **4.11 Competitiveness**

Markets should operate as level playing fields and reflect costs in a way which promotes competitiveness without damage to the sustainability of the world's forests.

## **4.12 Protection**

The potential impact of natural forces such as fire, insects and disease, will be managed in ways to enhance the management objectives for the areas involved, using environmentally acceptable technology.

## **4.13 Definition of Terms**

Effective communication among forest stakeholders requires a common set of definitions.

### **Glossary Items**

**Ecosystem Integrity:** Maintenance of the dynamic ecological processes which constitute the interactions and feedback mechanisms over time and space among individual species and the physical environment.

**Economic and Policy Instruments :** Economic instruments are those which allow regulated parties to consider cost and benefits in their responses to regulations. Policy instruments cover the range of laws, regulations and transfer payments used by governments.



# The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

In its 1987 report on “Our Common Future” the United Nations “Brundtland” Commission on Environment and Development expressed optimism that the world could resolve its environmental and economic problems. It even predicted a new era of economic growth based on environmentally sound and sustainable development practices.

In response to Brundtland, Canada set up Round Tables on the Environment and the Economy, reporting to First Ministers. The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) was announced by the Prime Minister of Canada in October, 1988, and held its first meeting in June of 1989.

The National Round Table acts as a catalyst for change and for the development of consensus. It seeks to achieve its goals by forging new partnerships that focus on the link between the environment and the economy. It is an independent forum, chaired by Dr. George Connell, former president of the University of Toronto, and reporting directly to the Prime Minister.

Traditionally, Canada’s institutions have been designed to bring together individuals and groups with similar interests or goals. However, the Round Table brings together the many competing interests in a forum where they can find common ground on which to take action for sustainable development.

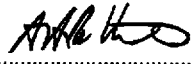
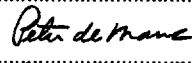
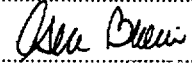
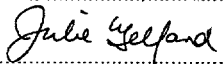
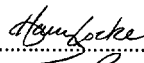
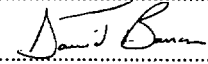
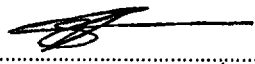


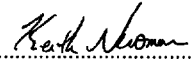

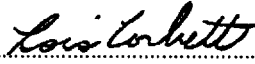
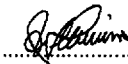
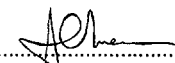
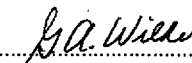
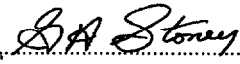


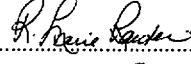
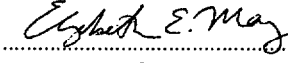

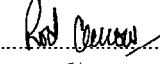
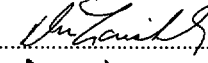
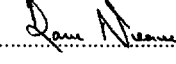
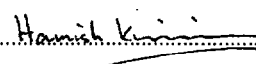
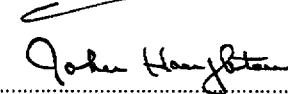


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# Forest Vision and Principles

The representatives below are pleased to sign, on behalf of the agencies named, endorsement of the Vision and Principles set out in this document. Agencies are developing individual action plans covering the contributions they will make in support of these principles.

|   |  |                     |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Canadian Federation of Professional Forestry Associations.....  |    | Tony Rotherham      |
| Canadian Federation of Woodlot Owners.....                      |    | Peter DeMarsh       |
| Canadian Forestry Association.....                              |    | Glen Blouin         |
| Canadian Nature Federation.....                                 |    | Julie Gelfand       |
| Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society.....                        |    | Harvey Locke        |
| Canadian Pulp and Paper Association.....                        |    | David Barron        |
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| Forestry Canada.....  |   | Jean-Claude Mercier |
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