



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

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# Report of Proceedings

of a Meeting of the

## Projet de Société

(National Stakeholders)

**NRT-1993014**  
**Lynn Broughton**  
**NRTEE Corporate**

June 3 and 4, 1993

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

**Chair: National Round Table on Environment and Economy**

June 3: Susan Holtz, June 4: Dr. George Connell

Prepared by

Lynn Broughton

## Summary

The *Projet de Société* (also known as the National Stakeholders) held their second assembly on June 3 and 4, 1993 in Ottawa to review the Progress Report prepared by the National Stakeholders Working Group; to decide whether the *Projet* should continue for an additional six months (Phase II) with a third assembly in December 1993; to review the recommendations for Phase II activities outlined within the Progress Report; and to provide advice and generate new ideas for activities, resources and structuring of the proposed Phase II. Approximately forty stakeholders and forty observers participated at the meeting.

Following a presentation of the Progress Report, the stakeholders endorsed the continuation of the *Projet* through Phase II, and the proposed framework for a national Sustainability Plan. The stakeholders also approved the recommendations outlined within the Progress Report, including the completion of the assessment of Canada's commitments at, and response to, UNCED; the enhancement and maintenance of the IISD's database; the substantiating and promoting of the framework and process of the Sustainability Plan; broadening outreach to other sustainability stakeholders and the public at large; revisiting the current infrastructure and resources of the *Projet*; and ensuring the *Projet* process continue to be flexible, inclusive and adaptive.

The stakeholders were then asked to participate in one of six working groups focussing on possible foci for Phase II, including a Canadian research agenda on sustainable development; a sustainability tool kit(s); streamlining the inter-jurisdictional patchwork; increasing public awareness and participation; developing capacities to take advantage of economic opportunities stemming from the transition to sustainability; and identifying and promoting high-priority issues.

A variety of excellent concrete ideas above and beyond those recommended in the Progress Report were developed through the six working groups, including:

- encourage and support the development of a Canadian research agenda.
- develop a creative popularized "how to" kit for the Sustainability Plan.
- develop a mentor programme through a "sustainable creativity team".
- establish a task group to explore streamlining the inter-jurisdictional patchwork, and in particular to focus on compiling effective attempts to integrate environmental and economic responsibilities within government departments; examining CCME's efforts to promote federal-provincial-territorial harmonization and consider how other stakeholders can contribute; and examining one particular industry and identify problems created by fragmented jurisdiction.
- establish an outreach task group focussing on public awareness, education, communication and participation. Specific ideas included the development of a communications strategy, including the support and endorsement of existing sustainability initiatives as well as the development of a media campaign; and explore the feasibility of a "Youth Service for a Sustainable Future".
- develop a focussed pilot project identifying the economic opportunities stemming from the transition to sustainability related to the field of CFC reduction.
- focus during Phase II on the oceans and indigenous issues.

It was agreed that, during Phase II:

- the tasks initiated during Phase I be completed (i.e. the assessment document, the IISD database, and substantiating the framework for preparing sustainability plans).
- the ideas and input developed through the six working groups be explored providing resources (human, financial, in kind contributions, interest etc.) is found.
- if only limited resources and interest is available, a steering committee (perhaps the National Stakeholder Working Group) will need to prioritize and choose from amongst the ideas presented.

It was also agreed that the *Projet* should be a facilitator for, a catalyst for, and a link between existing work and initiatives within Canada.

## **Introduction**

Susan Holtz warmly welcomed participants and observers to the meeting, and noted that the original national stakeholders group has been expanded to include 10 new stakeholders representing new sectors/organizations. These new representatives include: Canadian Arctic Resource Committee, Canadian Environmental Industries Association, Canadian Federation of Agriculture, Canadian Healthy Communities Network, Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Seniors for Social Responsibility, National Anti-Poverty Organization, Oceans Institute of Canada, Toronto Board of Education, and the United Church of Canada.

### **Canada in the International Context: Arthur Campeau**

To ensure and direct domestic UNCED follow-up, many countries have established various mechanisms such as inter-ministerial councils, national commissions, public hearings, advisory cells to educate NGOs, and consultations focussed on specific issues. Canada is the only country known to have established a national multi-stakeholder process focussed on developing a broad national sustainable development strategy and, as such, is at "the forefront of consensus-building models with its national stakeholder meetings" (Centre for Our Common Future).

### **The Projet de Société Process: Barry Sadler, Director of the Projet**

The crux of sustainable development is to maintain development opportunities while linking the development to social, economic and environmental values. To date, unsustainable development has been exemplified by the current trends and rates of drawing down of national capital. Fundamental change is necessary, and will only be achieved through an organic flexible approach involving all sectors of society. As such, there is an important opportunity for a national, broad-based, multi-stakeholder, consensus-building process such as the Projet de Société (Projet). The challenge is not to be different, but to make a difference.

Key characteristics of the Projet include:

- a) being the national multistakeholder process for planning for a sustainable future through reporting on Canada's commitments at and progress since UNCED as well as providing a framework for future sustainability work;
- b) being based upon the conviction that the transition to a sustainable future must be through a multistakeholder process
- c) exemplifying a collaborative, transparent, inclusive and accountable response to problem solving which links shared visions and provides common purpose to individual work
- d) linking the Canadian dialogue to global sustainability

Since the first meeting of the Projet (November 1992), the National Stakeholders Working Group has invented a process of working together through a tremendously high level of voluntary work. The Working Group developed three sub-committees to focus on specific tasks which are essential building blocks for developing a Canadian sustainable development strategy. The work accomplished to date by these sub-committees is summarized in a Progress Report that was distributed to participants in advance of the June 3-4 meeting. In its summary, the report recommends that:

- a) the Projet continue into a Phase II (June - December 1993) with a third meeting of the national stakeholders to be held around December 1993.

- b) the assessment of Canada's commitments at, and response to, UNCED be completed.
- c) the IISD's database be enhanced, maintained and updated.
- d) the framework and process of the Sustainability Plan be substantiated.
- e) outreach be broadened to include other stakeholders and the public at large.
- f) the current infrastructure and resources of the Projet be revisited to maximize the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the Projet during the proposed Phase II.
- g) the process continue to be flexible, inclusive and adaptive.

## Report of the National Stakeholders Working Group

Two of the sub-committees of the National Stakeholders Working Group -- the Document and Information Committee (DISC) and the Vision and Process Committee (VAP) -- each provided a presentation on a) the work undertaken since the first meeting of the Projet and b) recommendations for Phase II to complete and/or substantiate the work in progress. Both presentations summarized the information outlined in the Working Group's Progress Report. [Note: The DISC presentation concluded with ideas which were not outlined within the Progress Report. See Appendix I.]

During a brief discussion on the presentations and the Working Group's Progress Report, it was generally **AGREED** that:

- the Progress Report was an excellent document outlining the constructive work undertaken by the Working Group.
- the Progress Report lays the foundation for future work of the Projet.
- specific practical priority goals need to be determined in order for the Projet to effectively move forward in Phase II.
- there needs to be continued and expanded attempts to ensure that the Projet better reflects Canadian society by including other stakeholders not at the table, e.g. increased indigenous representation; other cultural participants; independent business; disabled etc. For those stakeholders who were invited, but who were unable or not interested in participating, incentives must be provided to encourage future participation.
- outreach to other sectors, constituencies and the public are essential.
- **the Projet should continue into Phase II.** As such it was **AGREED** that the meeting would move into discussions through working groups to discuss specific tasks for the Projet in Phase II. Both participants and observers actively participated within the six working groups.

## Working Group Reports

Six working groups were established to discuss specific tasks recommended by the National Stakeholder Working Group for Phase II of the Projet. Taking into account the limited resources and the current structure of the Projet, each working group was asked to answer the following two questions:

1. Is it a reasonable and appropriate task for the Projet to undertake?
2. If the task is appropriate, how would the work best be undertaken? Any specific focus?

## Working Group I

Task: To establish a Canadian research agenda on sustainability, and coordinate work on options and strategies within the existing sustainability research network.

Chairperson: Theodora Carroll-Foster, Rapporteur: Gordon Clifford

Recognizing that the development of a research agenda is a key tool in the move towards sustainable development, the working group noted that a Canadian research agenda must be multi-sectoral; practical; implementable; available; accessible; and that information must not only be available, but be usable in a manner consistent with sustainable development. The working group felt that the role of the Projet was to be a catalyst, promoting research at all levels of society and providing links between existing research agendas. The working group supported the VAP's diagram on page 61 of the Progress Report.

The working group identified the following as mandatory preliminary steps to the Projet's role as catalyst of the Canadian research agenda:

- identify the roadblocks and constraints to sustainability to which research should be applied.
- identify information on what already has been done, and what is currently being done in Canada and abroad and to catalogue this information.
- identify gaps and problems with what is being done, or is not being done.
- from the gaps and problems identified, extrapolate what needs to be done and set priorities.
- develop specific research plans into the areas which have been identified as priorities.
- formulate a means to develop an ongoing monitoring process to ensure that the results of research are implemented

In addition to the Agenda 21 issues, the working group also noted the need for research in other sustainable development fields such as energy, ethical rules for research, and demilitarism. The working group did not identify one or two specific issues to which the Projet could focus during Phase II. The working group did feel, however, that the role of the Projet as a catalyst and how that role would be carried out needs to be defined.

### Plenary Discussions:

The plenary reiterated and expanded upon the ideas of the working group with regards to:

- the Projet should not be a research organization, but should connect, support and catalyze established and emerging research agendas.
- expanding on the VAP's diagram and addressing implementation mechanisms is essential.
- any supportive research agenda mechanism should be dynamic and flexible.

## Working Group II

Task: To develop a sustainability tool kit(s)

Chairperson: Beatrice Olivastri, Rapporteur: Stephen Jewczyk

### Presentation:

The working group initially identified the need to discuss whether a sustainability tool kit is macro or micro-oriented; conceptual or practical; short term or long term; what the sectoral needs to which the kit could be oriented are; and what the cost considerations are. The working group chose to discuss what should be ongoing, and what could be accomplished in six months (Phase II), in the medium term, and in the long term.

*Ongoing:* The first priority will be to develop and distribute a general overarching plan to focus, prepare and distribute sustainability tool kit(s). Factors to be incorporated into the plan include a financial strategy, a marketing and distribution strategy, an institutional basis for the work to be accomplished, and whether or not there is a clearinghouse function. Once a plan is in place, a public awareness programme must be developed which addresses, incorporates and broadens networking, partnerships, and general outreach approaches.

*Short term (six months/Phase II):* The working group identified the following priorities:

- complete the Assessment initiated by the Document and Information Committee and publish the information.
- develop and substantiate the elements of the Sustainability Plan initiated by the Vision and Process Committee, i.e. develop a broad road map, identify the common elements and develop a framework.
- develop a "how to" kit for the Sustainability Plan, i.e. how do you do it; how do you start; how do you implement it; who do you involve; how do you monitor; how do you overcome roadblocks. The kit should use existing initiatives/approaches as examples, and should include a monitoring-feedback process. There would be one common tool kit, containing basic information, which could be customized to include selective information for specific interests so that the package becomes a practical, not overwhelming, tool which communities could effectively use. In order to develop the "how to" kit, the following initiatives should be considered:
  - undertake an information/research scan to see what is currently available
  - develop a publication or catalogue of existing projects
  - develop/find videos and/or reports on sustainability stories, both what was successful and what was not successful
  - identify gaps
  - identify and develop what is needed, e.g. identify information and elements presently not available to substantiate the Sustainability Plan
- evaluate and appraise.

*Medium term:* The working group identified the following programmes:

- develop a mentor programme through a "sustainable creativity team". This team would not be located in a central office, but rather be a network individuals across Canada who have gone through the "sustainability process".
- develop an awards programme recognizing sustainable plans within all sectors at all levels.
- evaluate and appraise.

*Long term:* The working group identified the following programmes:

- using work to date as building blocks, broaden the base to catalyze and effect societal transformation to sustainable practices.
- continue and continually broaden the ongoing public awareness programme.
- develop a sensitivity and enthusiasm programme to celebrate accomplishments.
- evaluate and appraise.

#### Plenary Discussions:

It was generally **AGREED** that:

- the presentation outlines a comprehensive approach. It was suggested that the approach could be started through a selected pilot project rather than through an immediate systemic all-encompassing process.

- the "how to" tool kit was a tangible goal that could stimulate a lot of progress; that has value to the public; that could be a fundamental thrust in an outreach programme; and that promotes the Projet as a catalyst for sustainability in Canada.
- the approach should not become a giant central information-collecting bureaucracy.
- marketing, mentoring and outreach is key.
- need to be selective and creative in collecting, popularizing and presenting information by including tools other than just paper reports which are identifiable to the public, e.g. skills, videos.

### Working Group III

Task: Develop a short term action plan to streamline the inter-jurisdictional patchwork of environmental regulations, processes and institutions

Chairperson and Rapporteur: John Dillon

#### Presentation:

The working group looked at two aspects of the issue:

- a) Furthering the integration of economic and environmental responsibilities within government (i.e. policies related to environment, finance, trade, energy, resources). This is intended to capture the broadest sense of departmental jurisdiction -- across all disciplines within a government, as well as between governments.
- b) Greater harmonization of environmental regulations and policies on a federal-provincial-territorial basis. For the Projet to have influence on this issue, it is critical that a role for the provinces be found within the Projet. Also, the working group recognized the need for industry and other players to effectively coordinate their input to the policy development process. Alternative to regulation within this framework must also be considered, namely market-based instruments and voluntary pollution prevention programmes.

To deal with the two issues, the working group recommended that a multi-stakeholder working group be established to:

- compile the best examples of attempts to integrate economic and environmental responsibilities within government departments both in Canada and internationally (e.g. Ontario Ministry of Environment and Economy, Québec Interdepartmental Committee on Sustainable Development). The group could look at how successful/comprehensive these attempts have been and what kinds of constraints there are on such integration.
- examine the efforts already underway within CCME to promote federal-provincial-territorial harmonization, and consider how other stakeholders can contribute to that effort. Non-government stakeholders should be encouraged to explore areas of consensus and determine ways to leverage their influence toward greater harmonization.
- examine one particular industry in Canada (e.g. mining, forest products etc.) and provide an analysis of the problems created by fragmented jurisdiction, as well as opportunities for better coordination. Also, a second case study should be undertaken that demonstrates a more successful integration in support of sustainable development.

### Plenary Discussions:

It was generally AGREED that:

- municipal government should be included, as well as other regulatory sectors such as health.
- the work, while directed through a multi-stakeholder approach, will require input and analysis from experts.
- while harmonization of regulations is required, options to effect change other than the threat of regulations are also required.
- a working group to further explore and define the results presented as well as to develop a timeframe and workplan would be supported by the Projet.

### Working Group IV

Task: Develop a short term action plan to increase public awareness and participation to act in ways that further sustainability

Chairperson: Miriam Wyman, Rapporteur: Chuck Hopkins and Shauna Sylvester

### Presentation:

Working Group IV recommended that the Projet strike an outreach committee/task group, which would focus on public awareness, education and communication. The mandate of the outreach committee would be to promote public awareness and participation among Canadians towards a sustainable future; to build alliances with other countries vis-a-vis outreach; and to develop a communications strategy. The committee would operate under the following guiding principles:

- seek and provide synergy for both existing programmes and new proposals.
- identify needs/gaps in both the quality and quantity of sustainable development information, and to instigate support to fill such needs/gaps.
- focus on practical examples with a high element of transferability, bring the strategy to increasing numbers of people and seek ideas on how to move such examples.
- link various committees within the Projet together and improve communications between committees, between sectors and within sectors.

Two activities were recommended for the Projet, through its outreach committee, to undertake:

- a) develop a communications strategy which advances the vision of the Projet (i.e. the Sustainability Plan). The strategy should be diverse, flexible and creative.
  - endorse and/or support existing initiatives such as the NRTEE's proposal for a "participation" campaign on sustainable development, "healthy communities", IISD's media roundtables educating top-level media individuals etc.
  - develop a multi-media campaign to mobilize Canadians to undertake/create sustainability plans. The campaign should include mainstream public relations, public educational TV etc.; should be aimed both high and broad; should consider target groups and key areas where decisions are made, e.g. judges, magistrates, municipal labour organizations, churches, women's groups etc.; should show/find resource people/models that demonstrate concrete examples of sustainable livelihoods; and should redirect people to the community. The campaign could include workshops for writers, producers, media artists; could provide or use in situ resources for town hall meetings; could include credible speakers going to formal educational institutions, local businesses etc.

- b) develop and promote a "Youth Service for a Sustainable Future" with the objectives of both involving youth as a catalyst for achieving sustainability, and engaging youth and Canadian society in intersectoral, intergenerational action for sustainability. The proposed youth service would be a +/- two year programme of service within communities, with mentoring by NGOs, seniors, business, industry, community agencies etc. and a reward/recognition for service. Working Group IV recommended that a working group be convened to develop a feasibility study and more comprehensive workplan for both a youth service and a similar senior corps.

### Plenary Discussions:

It was **AGREED** that:

- the outreach committee's mandate should include "to share and learn from the international community".
- attaching the name of the Projet to existing initiatives such as cooperative education and participation through endorsement and support could lead to the Projet developing a high profile quality label. It was noted however, that the name of the Projet should not be the focus of its work, but rather to support and mobilize sustainable work.
- a programme such as the Youth Service for a Sustainable Future would be particularly effective in addressing one of the roadblocks to sustainability, i.e. the difficulty in thinking in inter-disciplinary ways.
- the feasibility of a Youth Service for a Sustainable Future, and how the Projet could either promote and/or initiate such a programme, should be explored.

Participants were particularly excited with and **ENDORSED** exploring the feasibilities of sustained action campaigns such as the participation programme, and the Youth Service for a Sustainable Future.

### Working Group V

**Task:** To develop short term action plans to develop Canadian capacity to take advantage of the economic opportunities stemming from the transition to sustainability

**Chairperson and Rapporteur:** George Kowalski

### Presentation

The presentation first outlined why an action plan focussing on green economic opportunities should be of interest to the Projet, and identified the following four points:

- will demonstrate win-win situations which integrate economic and environment issues.
- Canada is in danger of missing the window of opportunity.
- opportunity to educate economic departments within all levels of government which do not recognize the opportunities of green economics, and persist in perceiving the two as trade-offs.
- need to showcase the potential of green economics, i.e. job creation etc.

The working group noted that the key sectors which need to be targeted include the natural resource industries, businesses where jobs are created when paying attention to the greening of consumer demand, and the industries which produce environmental products and services. The working group agreed that environmental industries be the focus for Phase II as the sector is well defined, manageable, and most likely to produce measurable results.

The working group noted that the aspects of capital, markets, technology, training and environmental policy should be dealt simultaneously in an integrative approach through a multi-sectoral participatory action plan. The working group recommended that the Project develop a focussed pilot project identifying the opportunities related to CFC reduction, a high profile issue of interest to the public and politicians,. The pilot project could be used as a demonstration of the opportunities of economic-environment integration.

### Plenary Discussions

Participants noted that the action plan needs to investigate initiatives currently underway, and to build on the areas where environmental industries require assistance (coordination with governments, bank financing, timely government decision-making etc.). It was **AGREED** that the practical demonstration project identifying the green economic opportunities related to CFC reduction was an excellent initiative for the Project to undertake during Phase II.

### Working Group VI

Task: To identify high-priority environmental goals that are instrumental to making the transition to sustainability

Chairperson: Judith Berlyn, Rapporteur: John Lark

The working group recommended that the Project be a resource (a docking station) for all sustainable development initiatives of Canadians who come together in allegiance to work. Two priority issues were chosen for Phase II -- the oceans and indigenous issues. These two issues were Canadian priorities during UNCED; were identified at the November '92 meeting of the Project as priority issues; and have relevance in current international work, with the upcoming UN Conference on High Seas Fisheries and with 1993 being the UN Year of Indigenous People.

It was also recommended that specific measurable objectives need to be established in order to gauge the effectiveness of the Project. Suggested goals include:

- make Project meaningful to the indigenous communities (measurable by increased indigenous participation)
- look at B.C.'s "Rediscovery Programme" linking youth and elders through learning
- support and commit to specific objectives (ideally to be taken to the UN Conference on High Seas Fisheries) such as:
  - reduce land-based sources of marine pollution by 50% by the year 2005
  - establish permanent moratorium on nuclear dumping in oceans
  - stop the demise of the St. Lawrence beluga population
  - end high seas drift netting
  - establish minimum standards for high seas with regards to conservation
  - apply precautionary principle in management decisions
  - empower coastal communities and states
  - call for clear and evident international cooperation on the high seas
- prepare a public awareness newsletter

### Plenary Discussions

There was general support for the "docking station" approach, but there was also concern regarding the structural implications; maintaining synergy etc.

It was **AGREED** that the indigenous and oceans issues are good priority themes for follow-up and Phase II. A suggestion was made that the Projet encourage the release of the Canadian Oceans Act to which the Projet could respond.

## Plenary Discussion on Phase II of the Projet de Société

The recommendations for priority work outlined in the Progress Report (see page three of these minutes, or page 71<sup>1</sup> of the Report) were **APPROVED**.

It was **AGREED** that all of the ideas emerging from the six working groups were excellent, and should be explored by interested individuals, possibly through the establishment of various task-specific sub-committees. Possible committees include:

- a Steering Committee which will facilitate and coordinate the work of the various task-oriented groups. This committee could be a re-vamped, scaled down model of the National Stakeholder Working Group, or a re-vamped, expanded Ways and Means Committee.
- the Document and Information Committee which will continue and complete its work started during Phase I.
- a single public awareness committee, which will focus on public awareness, educations, communication and participation. This committee could include exploring outreach strategies such as a sustainable development participation campaign, a media campaign and a Youth Service for a Sustainable Future, or there could be several task-specific committees focussing on such strategies.
- either a single committee which will look at sustainable development priorities for the Projet, or separate committees to explore each of the four issues of interest identified by the working groups: oceans, indigenous, interjurisdictional, and green economics.

It was **AGREED** that undertaking and initiating the new ideas generated by the six working groups will depend upon the availability of resources, both financial and human participation. It was suggested that the Projet needs to focus on one or two specific tasks which could provide an early measurable success through a multi-tasked approach. However, in discussing a specific task or issue to focus on, the broad range of interests and expertise of the stakeholders became evident. It was suggested that an inclusive pilot project which incorporates several of the themes discussed (e.g. oceans, indigenous, public participation, generations) be developed. Given the time constraints, the choice of direction(s) for Phase II were **DEFERRED** to the National Stakeholder Working Group. It was understood that prioritization will depend upon resources, and the interest and participation of stakeholders in relevant committees.

It was **AGREED** that a prevalent theme that emerged from each of the working groups was that the Projet be a facilitator, a catalyst, an organic model which creatively stitches together and provides a road map allowing sectors to sign on and meet their own priorities within a sustainable context and that the Projet itself not undertake the work.

There was general concern regarding how the Projet will actually undertake and accomplish many of the ideas and recommendations tabled, especially with regards to: how to informally institutionalize the Projet; how to structure the Projet and its committees; how to obtain and invest further resources, including direct financing, in kind contributions, human participation etc.; how to maximize the results; and how to promote the Projet to both the public and to

prospective stakeholders representing new constituencies. Given the unclear structure for Phase II, there was also concern that the Project could become stymied by questions of direction, prioritization and bureaucracy.

It was **AGREED** that one of the strengths of the Project which should be promoted, especially to ensure high level involvement from stakeholder organizations as well as to seek new sector involvement, was the development of partnerships.

It was **AGREED** that the NGO-indigenous seat on the Ways and Means Committee be split into two separate seats, one for indigenous representation and one for NGOs.

In conclusion, notes of appreciation were given to the NRTEE for their logistical support during Phase I and the meeting, and to George Connell for chairing.

Broughton  
93-06-28

## APPENDIX I

### Information Included in the Document and Information Committee (DISC)'s Presentation to the National Stakeholders Which Was Not Included in the June '93 Progress Report

The DISC presentation concluded with ideas which were not outlined within the Progress Report. This additional information outlined possible windows of opportunity for using the DISC's assessment document to move from "paper to action". The ideas presented included using the document:

- as input into the Project framework for a Sustainability Plan of Action
- as a qualitative benchmark for identifying and moving forward a Sustainability Plan of Action
- to identify key constructive, practical research and action areas, both what is happening and what is needed
- to identify roadblocks and constraints that equal opportunity
- to identify lessons learned and best practices
- to provide linkages between Agenda 21, local communities, sectors etc. and feedback loops
- as input into inter-departmental meetings on and into the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD), the Earth Council, Round Tables and other sustainable development processes
- provide examples of what disparate people and sectors are doing to affect change and move beyond "conflict resolution" to models of consensus-building for new directions and paradigm shifts
- as input into international fora, e.g. population, desertification, women, small island states etc.
- to brief new and existing MPs, MPPs, local politicians and decision-makers, possibly with the goal of influencing the November elections

The DISC presentation also outlined a sample timeframe for completing the document and information analysis by December 1993. It was felt that such a goal would be reachable if appropriate, adequate and timely resources were provided. Such resources would include more writers, editors, visioners, translators, reviewers etc.; more funds from different sources; in kind contributions etc.

# SECOND NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ASSEMBLY

## AGENDA

Thursday, June 3, 1993.

- |      |   |                                     |
|------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1:30 | Welcome and Introduction  | (Holtz)                             |
| 1:40 | Canada in the International Context   | (Campeau)                           |
| 1:50 | Introduction of Progress Report   | (Sadler)                            |
| 2:00 | Documentation and Information Report  | (Olivastri, Carroll-Foster)         |
| 2:45 | Vision and Process Report   | (Tanner, Padbury, Dillon, Kowalski) |
| 3:30 | Review of Consolidated Recommendations<br>Set out tasks for Work Groups (* See below) | (Doering)                           |
| 3:45 | Work Group Discussions  |                                     |
| 6:00 | Reception   |                                     |

Friday, June 4, 1993.

- |       |  |           |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 9:00  | Work Groups reconvene to review draft rapporteur report.                               |           |
| 10:15 | Break  |           |
| 10:30 | Plenary consideration of Work Group reports  | (Connell) |
| 12:15 | Lunch  |           |
| 1:15  | Plenary reconvenes for consideration of group reports and other organizational issues. |           |
| 3:00  | Concluding Considerations.   |           |

## WORK GROUPS

### 1) RESEARCH AGENDA

• *establish a Canadian research agenda on sustainability to identify key needs and gaps, and coordinate work on options and strategies within the existing sustainability research network.*

### 2) COMPILE SUSTAINABILITY TOOL KIT

• *develop a sustainability tool kit of best practices, including leading examples of conservation strategies, sector and community plans, sustainability indicators, consensus decision-making, etc.*

### 3) DEMONSTRATE THE POTENTIAL OF THE PROJÉT BY CONVENING AN IMMEDIATE FORUM TO DEVELOP SHORT TERM ACTION PLANS ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- (a) streamline the inter-jurisdictional patchwork of environmental regulations, processes and institutions;*
- (b) increase public awareness and participation, particularly among Canadian youth and their parents, to act in ways that further sustainability;*
- (c) develop Canadian capacity to take advantage of the economic opportunities stemming from the transition to sustainability, including environmental industries, greening of consumer demand, and education and training needs to enable the Canadian workforce to participate in new sustainable jobs and industries.*

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## **APPENDIX III**

### **Key to Acronyms**

CCME	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency (federal department)
CSD	United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development
EMR	Energy, Mines and Resources (federal department)
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRTEE	National Round Table on Environment and Economy
ODA	Overseas Development Assistance
SONAR	Save Our Northwest Atlantic Resources
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (popularly known as the Earth Summit) which was held in June 1992 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group**

The following individuals were involved in the informal ad hoc National Stakeholder Advisory Working Group which developed the agenda for the National Stakeholder Meeting (see Appendix II) and prepared a background discussion paper (see next page).

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# CANADA, CANADIANS AND RIO NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING DISCUSSION PAPER

## ***Background:***

In June 1992 the Earth Summit set out a framework for sustainable development action. It is a framework meant not only for global action but also for guiding the relationship between environment and economy within nations. Canada was among the leaders in the UNCED negotiations, and we aspire to be an exemplary nation in adopting sustainable development practices. In this post-Rio period the task we face is to translate Agenda 21, the principles of the Conventions and other concepts arising from both UNCED and the Global Forum into actions which make sense within the daily lives of Canadians, and in the policies which govern private and public sector initiatives. Implied in this task is action at all levels - municipal, provincial, territorial and national, involving the various sectors, peoples and stakeholder groups, and individual Canadians. We need to explore the means to catalyze these actions, to assist in their collaboration, and to define appropriate mechanisms for reporting progress to audiences within Canada - and to the World.

Further to Minister Charest's request, an informal Working Group came together to prepare this note and our agenda. Some preliminary directions and questions emerged:

- o In what way should Canadians work together to devise a work plan for post-Rio action?
- o As a first step, it may be useful to produce a "catalogue", or compendium of sector specific activities for follow-up on Agenda 21 (under-way or planned) which could be used for reporting in June 1993 on the first anniversary of the Earth Summit. Is there a consensus that this should be done? How could it be done?
- o As a second step, it has been suggested that we must monitor and report on our progress or lack thereof at all levels of our society and that such analysis be added to the catalogue described above. Is there a consensus that this should be done? How could it be done?

## ***Possible Outcomes of Stakeholders' Meeting:***

There is little precedent for this kind of consensus building at the national level. The process at Rio and the multi-stakeholder experience of Canadian Round Tables provide some guidance: the process must be as consensus-based, open, inclusive and transparent as possible. But serious obstacles remain. Participation and accountability were two difficult issues leading into this meeting and will have to be carefully considered in any process that emerges from it.

While other directions might emerge during the course of the day, the Working Group has identified four possible outcomes of the meeting:

1. **Agree to meet again.** At best, a partial set of reports on Rio follow-up is provided with some understanding of a process to try to make limited progress on some issues.
2. **Agree to create a factual compendium as comprehensive as possible of all activities of all stakeholders.** This option could also include some outline of a strategy for working together to keep some process intact. This could be tabled in June 1993.
3. **Agree to create a compendium that includes an analysis of progress towards sustainable development.** Stakeholders would agree to a process to create an additional chapter that includes "gap analysis" and critique, setting out recommendations for priority actions and areas for cooperation.
4. **Agree to a compendium with analysis and make a commitment to develop a coherent set of actions plans to act on the analysis and recommendations.**

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(Revised)

**COMMONPLACES AND HERESIES  
ABOUT THE HUMAN-ECOSYSTEM INTERFACE**

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