

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON ACID RAIN

OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Acid rain poses the greatest threat to the North American environment in the recorded history of this continent. This most pervasive and feared environmental pollutant threatens to destroy thousands of freshwater lakes and rivers, and has the potential to seriously damage forests, agricultural crops and soils, and man-made materials. The atmospheric pollutants which are the forerunners of acid rain have serious effects on human health. Acid rain itself may pose a significant, if indirect, threat to human health.

The Minister of the Environment, the Honourable John Roberts, stated before an American audience that:

Acid rain is the most serious air pollution problem facing our two countries today... The situation is already intolerable. Unless we take swift action, it's going to get worse instead of better in the years ahead.

The Sub-committee on Acid Rain is unanimous in its conclusion that action must be taken now to control acid rain. The major sources of this pollutant are well-known. The technologies are available to drastically reduce the emissions of atmospheric pollutants which cause acid rain. The time for protracted study of the acid rain problem has ended. The need for immediate action is clear and unequivocal.