

resource management. Manitoba's *Sustainable Development: Provincial Mineral Policies and Their Application* (1995) outlines concepts for a sustainable mineral management strategy. Nova Scotia's 1996 *Minerals Policy* states that the exploration and development of the province's mineral resources must be conducted in an environmentally sustainable manner.

Major new projects in Newfoundland and Labrador (nickel-copper-cobalt) and Alberta (coal), as well as in the Northwest Territories (diamonds), are involving substantial consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. As well, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) is required for each new project, and that process takes into account the principles of sustainable development. These consultations and the EIA are important to achieve society's economic, social, and environmental objectives. Stakeholder input can improve the certainty with which environmentally responsible projects can proceed, an important factor for continued investment in the Canadian minerals industry.

Industry's Commitment to Sustainable Development

The Canadian minerals industry is addressing sustainable development, particularly environmental issues. The Mining Association of Canada was the first mining association in the world to adopt a guide for environmental practice. In addition to complying with legislative requirements, member companies have agreed to advance protection of the environment throughout exploration, mining, processing, manufacturing, and closure.

A major example is industry's commitment to the Accelerated Reduction/Elimination of Toxics program. The program was established as a consensus-oriented, multistakeholder group using good science to voluntarily achieve environmental goals. In 1996, thirty-one mining companies representing 92 percent of the value of base-metal production and all smelters in Canada announced reductions in releases (that is, all sources, not just air emissions) of twelve major substances of 68 percent since 1988. These companies, five years ahead of earlier targets, have indicated that they plan further reductions of 19 percent by