

The Government of British Columbia passed the Commissioner on Resources and Environment Act in 1992. The commissioner deals with issues of land use and related resource and environmental management, including the development of a province-wide strategy implementing regional planning processes, community-based, participatory processes, and a dispute resolution system. It will encourage the participation of indigenous peoples in all processes affecting them that relate to the commissioner's mandate.

of action for the transition to sustainability. They agreed that to achieve the required transition, Canadians needed a consensus-seeking coalition that would explore the means to spark the required actions, encourage collaboration and define appropriate mechanisms for reporting progress.

This partnership is based on the recognition of three principles. First, the transition to sustainable development is a collective responsibility. Second, all levels and sectors of society must be engaged in identifying and implementing the changes that will be necessary. Third, partnerships and networks, collaboration, consensus building and co-operation will be essential to facilitate agreed actions.

Efforts are being directed toward bringing Canadians together to mobilize for change, to plan a sustainable future, and to learn from experience. These are seen as necessary building blocks for a national sustainable development strategy for Canada.

(b) Federal Government

The Green Plan is the federal government's policy framework and action plan for sustainable development. Launched in December 1990, it addresses many of the priorities outlined in Agenda 21 that are relevant to Canada. It recognizes that we need to factor environmental considerations into decision making throughout society and its institutions in order to achieve sustainable development. Because the Green Plan was designed to adapt to new information and experience, it has evolved to meet emerging priorities such as UNCED commitments.

(c) Provincial/Territorial Governments and Intergovernmental Co-operation

The governments of the provinces and territories are central to Canada's agenda for sustainable development because of the division of powers in our federal system. They were active participants throughout the UNCED process and have responded in many ways since that time. For example, the Government of Quebec has created an interministerial committee on sustainable development to co-ordinate its actions.

Several organizations exist to improve cooperation among governments. A number of these have encouraged a harmonized approach to Canada's UNCED responses. For example, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) prepared an assessment of Agenda 21 and the conventions to guide its priorities and work plans, to determine its role in UNCED follow-up, and to encourage governments to do the same.

(d) Urban and Local Communities

A number of Canadian municipalities were active in the development of the Common Declaration on Behalf of the World's Cities and Local Authorities, which was presented to UNCED. Following UNCED, municipalities have continued to develop local environmental and sustainable development strategies.