

AND BETWEEN OUR COASTS THOUSANDS OF OUR LAKES AND TREES ARE DEAD BECAUSE OF ACID RAIN. UNTIL ACID RAIN IS CURTAILED EVEN MORE OF OUR FORESTS AND WATER WILL DIE.

ACID RAIN AND NATURAL RESOURCE DEPLETION ARE NOT PROBLEMS UNIQUE TO CANADA, NO MORE SO THAN THE DAMAGE TO THE PLANET'S ATMOSPHERE. THE COMBINED EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE, OZONE DEPLETION AND TRANSBOUNDARY AIR POLLUTION SUCH AS ACID RAIN COULD WREAK HAVOC AROUND THE WORLD.

WHILE THE PROSPECTS ARE GRIM WE CAN TAKE AT LEAST SOME COMFORT FROM THE FACT THAT THE MESSAGE OF THE WORLD COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS NOW WIDELY ACCEPTED.

MORE AND MORE NATIONS AGREE THAT ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION POSES A SERIOUS THREAT TO SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ULTIMATELY TO GLOBAL SECURITY. WITH IT HAS COME THE GROWING RECOGNITION THAT GOVERNMENTS AND MULTILATERAL ORGANIZATIONS MUST FIND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE WHOLE BIOSPHERE ON WHICH ALL LIFE DEPENDS.

WE MUST HARNESS EXPERTISE WHEREVER WE CAN.

THE OECD HAS A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY. ITS PROVEN ANALYTICAL CAPACITY SHOULD BE UTILIZED TO DEVELOP THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTO A PRACTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION.