

INTRODUCTION

Ozone depletion, loss of biodiversity, global warming, pollution of the oceans; at times the litany of environmental degradation can seem daunting. Equally daunting are the steps necessary to effectively begin the process of addressing environmental concerns. At the same time, global economic development, that is, the progress of industrialization in the developing world and the characteristics of industrially based economies in the developed world, indicates an ongoing commitment to economic growth. The challenge, therefore, becomes finding a balance between sound environmental policies and economic policies that will allow future generations to enjoy a strong global economy in a healthy global environment.

It is clear that solutions to problems such as air and water pollution, waste reduction, energy use, and the disposal of toxic wastes require technological innovation. Global cooperation between industry and science is imperative if environmental protection is to be possible.

While it is clear that solutions to environmental problems must involve technological innovation, it is equally clear that technology alone is not sufficient to fully address these

problems. Sound economic and political policies, lifestyle changes, cooperation between industry and science, and governmental commitment are all necessary. In order to adequately address issues related to both the protection and restoration of the environment and economic development, there must be action based upon informed discussion, research, planning, and cooperation across all sectors of society. This will require a reevaluation of how we, in Canada, and indeed globally, conduct our business and form our public policy. It would be a positive step if, while evaluating existing decision-making processes, the importance of consensus-building to address concerns across all sectors of society was more widely recognized.

Environmental issues cannot be addressed without consideration of economic issues. Further, as the scope of environmental problems becomes increasingly global, no country can hope to act effectively in isolation. There is a growing realization that it is not reasonable for any country to assume that its environmental policies have anything less than a fully global impact. Similarly, it is not reasonable to assume that any country can significantly address environmental problems without