

The second imperative is the realization that our forests are the very essence of *Canada's environment*. Forests cover almost half our national landscape; they provide an abundance of recreational, cultural and even spiritual pursuits; their ecology contributes profoundly to clean water and clean air. *Canada's forests are indeed a national treasure!*

The challenge is to reconcile these often conflicting imperatives, *economic and environmental*. That is the core of *sustainable development*, and if this concept is ever going to be practised successfully in Canada, *it must begin in our forests!*

The Committee believes the mission for the new federal Department of Forestry must be to help create the circumstances for *sustainable forestry development*. *What is the way towards sustainable development in Canada's forests? Especially, what is the federal role when Canada's forest resources are primarily within provincial jurisdictions?*

We believe the mission must be one of *partnership*, one which respects the authority of provincial governments over most forest resources, while offering federal help to share in sustainable forestry development as a national and international cause. This means adoption of *stewardship* of forest resources as a guiding principle, but also recognition that *stewardship cannot effectively be practised by any party alone*.

(Please read Recommendations — 1, 2 and 3.)

The federal role must provide for creative and sharing leadership, reflecting the capabilities and expertise which the federal government can bring to the practice of forestry in Canada. To achieve this, the new Department of Forestry must be endowed with convincing strength and stature *by the federal government itself*.

Such a *mandate* will first be found *in Ottawa*. It should be expressed as a priority that parallels the importance of our forests to the nation. It should be demonstrated *in one single major department* with concentrated relevance and strong influence, a Department of Forestry with *real clout* in the halls of federal power!

Therefore, we emphasize that our recommendations to strengthen Forestry Canada are considered *pivotal* to the thrust and substance of this Report.

(Please read Recommendation — 4.)

The Committee has recommended an expanded *organizational* mandate. We also propose a new *operational mandate* for Forestry Canada, to provide improved forest management and stewardship on federally-owned lands: National Defence bases, Indian Reserve forests and Canadian Parks.

(Please read Recommendations — 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.)