

New reforestation agreements "... remain in limbo because the federal and British Columbia governments are arguing over changes in a funding formula." (*Financial Post*, 21 August 1990). The Minister of Forestry Canada has been quoted as stating that he wants the British Columbia agreement settled before dealing with Ontario, Quebec and the Prairie Provinces. The Committee notes this impasse with concern, and we make the following recommendation.

12. Recognizing that Canada's forests are a major reservoir for atmospheric carbon and that the losses of forest stands through commercial harvesting, wildfire, insects and disease have resulted in a rate of harvesting of Canada's commercial forests and wild lands exceeding the rate of restocking, the Committee recommends that:

- (a) the federal government expedite negotiations with the provinces on federal-provincial agreements for the management of Canada's forests;
- (b) provincial governments be urged to ensure that NSR lands are adequately reforested through replanting programs or through natural regeneration of the forest cover, and in a reasonable period of time;
- (c) the losses to wildfire, insects and disease be reduced wherever possible; and
- (d) future forest resource development agreements be linked to prompt regeneration and protection of all deforested areas, whether harvested commercially or depleted naturally.

Afforestation, in the context of programs to combat global warming, involves the creation of extensive plantation forests for the specific purpose of sequestering atmospheric carbon. It has been estimated that one hectare of plantation forest on a good site in the southern United States or the Pacific Northwest will sequester about 6.24 tons of carbon annually. Using this figure, it has been estimated that 465 million hectares of plantation forests would be needed to trap the 2.9 billion tons of excess carbon produced each year. This area would be about 1.5 times the current total forested area of the United States, or about 15% of the world total of closed forests. By comparison, the most recent estimate of total industrial plantations worldwide is about 92 million hectares.

There are millions of hectares of land in Canada that could be suitable for plantation forestry, including abandoned and unimproved agricultural lands. There are also opportunities for increased tree planting as part of shelterbelt and windbreak programs in both rural and urban areas. In these latter situations, trees can provide insulation in the