

But 25 years of rapid and virtually ungoverned growth, coupled with an attitude that anything new must always be better than anything old, had produced some unexpected and disturbing results.

Concern: (to Present)

Today, eight out of 10 Canadians live in cities. For many, that choice is a happy one. But intermittent concern about the quality of the urban environment has widened into a deep anxiety about the quality of life. Canadians realize that they are living on a planet whose finite natural resources are being squandered at an ever-increasing rate. And they are asking: "How can anyone enjoy the beauty of man-made things when the environment is becoming inhospitable owing to our thoughtlessness and neglect?"

More and more, the fresh air, clean water and good soil are things of the past. Noise pollution is inescapable. Under the relentless pressures of rising population, industrial expansion, urban sprawl and wide-ranging recreational activities, irreplaceable agricultural and primeval land is being spoiled by man or consumed by the cities. The valuable architectural heritage of the past is being destroyed; social problems are accentuated.

To produce an enjoyable future that is ecologically sound, a delicate balance of judgement and action must be struck.

In Canada, planning and development is carried out by all levels of government — federal, provincial and local. Policies and legislation at any one level usually affect the action at the others, and they influence the private sector. Rising demand for increased