

APPENDIX E

GLOSSARY

Agenda 21: The blueprint for making development socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable that was agreed upon at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Biological Diversity (Biodiversity): The variety of different species, the genetic variability of each species, and the variety of different ecosystems that they form. (Wildlife Ministers Council of Canada)

Climate Change: A warming of the earth's atmosphere caused by increases in the atmosphere caused by increases in the atmosphere of certain gases that absorb the radiation emitted by the Earth, thereby retarding the loss of energy from the system to space.

Continuous Improvement: To continue to improve policies, programs, and performance, taking into account technical developments, scientific understanding, client needs, and community expectations.

Environmental Assessment: The systematic consideration of social, economic, and environmental factors during policy, program and project development and decision making.

Environmental Management Systems: Systems that provide a framework for monitoring and reporting on an organization's environmental performance.

Equity: Equity refers to the fair distribution of the costs and benefits of human activity between people. Its two components are intergenerational equity and current equity between people or groups of people.

Greening of Government Operations: An initiative aimed at establishing guidelines for all federal departments on how to integrate environmental considerations into the management of their operations.

Main Estimates: This annual fiscal plan sets out the spending of the Government of Canada. Part III of the Main Estimates lays out the detailed plans of a department.

Non-Renewable Resources: Those natural resources that are in fixed supply, but whose lifespan can be extended through more efficient or reduced use, re-use, or recycling (e.g. minerals, oil, coal).