

## CHAPTER FOUR

The detailed and operational implications of sustainable development have been firmly established for over ten years, including the well-known 1987 report of the UN Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future*. It is therefore curious to wonder why the Canadian government has identified the significance of current environmental problems and the likely economic impacts, both positive and negative, and that recognized and ordered set of environmental priorities have been identified.

Each year Environment Canada publishes a comprehensive report on the State of Canada's Environment. In the 1992 Report, for example, Chapter 11, "Energy: A Balance of Power", begins by stating that Canada is one of the most energy-intensive countries

### **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT :**

#### **A Realistic Response to the Environmental Challenges**

Internationally, the OECD, the United Nations, the International Chamber of Commerce and many other organizations each year publish detailed reports on environmental problems, as well as cost-effective, demand and supply side energy efficiency solutions.

Clearly, enough information exists for government and industry to respond. Equally, the precise definitions of sustainable development have been established for years. In the 1987 Brundtland Report, there is a clear recommendation that "sustainable energy pathways are crucial to sustainable development." Clearly, the use of sustainable non-renewable energy sources like oil are different from renewable sources, inasmuch as an exhaustible source of energy is defined as non-sustainable forever. Accordingly, the question becomes a question of what is done with the net proceeds of economic energy extraction. If all proceeds are spent on short-term consumption, then non-renewable resources are not sustainable. But, if funds are

#### *Liberal Dissenting Opinion*

*David Kilgour, M.P.*

Canada has already committed itself to reducing energy consumption by the year 2000. Is that not a priority? You ask out loud, "How do we achieve energy savings through such measures?" The answer is through efficiency standards, the rational use of products to conserve energy, and the development of energy-efficient technologies. The public and private sectors have been talking about energy conservation for years.

As outlined in the "Agreement on Energy Efficiency" in the 1992 report, relevant information about implementing energy efficiency standards is Chapter Four's sub-heading "The Energy Efficiency Challenge." The report also discusses the history between a variety of energy efficiency programs in Canada.

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