

*[W]e do not believe that an economic union can succeed without an environmental union. In a country such as Canada, where provincial and ecological boundaries do not coincide, the federal government already has a clear role to play on transboundary issues both internationally and domestically.<sup>32</sup>*

*It would appear. . . that the driving forces behind the current. . . proposal is that, one, Canada is essentially a common economic space, not, for instance, an ecological union or a common land space or a common natural space. Second, the driving principle of federalism should be efficiency in the economic or accounting sense.*

*Those are some elements, some aspects perhaps, of what federalism is about. But federalism is not about the division of powers, to see who can have the most powers or have the most political credibility, or even necessarily doing things in the most efficient way. It is about delivering good government, protecting the rights of citizens, protecting land and protecting the environment.<sup>33</sup>*

2.30 It may well be that the concern expressed by these and other witnesses has arisen because *Shaping Canada's Future Together* does not clearly reflect, in its proposals on the economic union, the basic principle of sustainable development, to which the federal and other governments in Canada are committed: that economic and environmental planning must be integrated and inseparable. For our witnesses, and for the Committee, a major objective of the political renewal envisaged by the Government should be to encourage the adoption of sustainable development patterns. We recommend, therefore, that this be made explicit in the proposals on economic union.

#### **Recommendation 6:**

The Committee recommends that the proposals for political renewal recognize explicitly that our common but varied environment unites Canada, just as our common but varied economy unites us. Economy and environment are inextricably intertwined. Specifically, the Committee recommends explicit recognition in the proposals that:

- Canada has a major responsibility to contribute to planetary survival, arising from the vast range, distinctive character, and fragility of its natural environments.
- Human activities in the contemporary economy and society generate environmental problems on all spatial scales from the very local to the global; through ecological linkages and transfer mechanisms these problems frequently increase in significance, and in some cases threaten irreversible change.
- Consequently, the adoption of sustainable development patterns is essential for both Canada's prosperity and the protection of the environment.

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<sup>32</sup> Issue 12, p. 9-10.

<sup>33</sup> Issue 16, p. 27.