

where, for the first time, the leaders of the seven major Western industrial democracies endorsed the concept of sustainable development. A week later, Toronto hosted the Conference on the Changing Atmosphere which identified the continuing CO₂ build up as a major hazard and called for collective action to curtail it.

In September of last year, my colleague, the Minister of Finance, presented the World Bank with a plan to ensure that protection of the environment is a major element in the bank's development projects. This past February, legal experts from around the world gathered in Ottawa to consider the elements of an international legal convention on the atmosphere. In March, I attended the Environmental Summit in The Hague which gave further impetus to the concept of sustainable development as a policy for all nations.

In July, the environment was at the top of all leaders' agendas at the Economic Summit in Paris. In Kuala Lumpur, in October, at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, developing countries and developed countries alike acknowledged that the environment was a collective responsibility and endorsed the concept of sustainable development.

While international cooperation is crucial, environmental protection begins at Home. That is why the Canadian government is fundamentally re-examining its approach to the environment and will be announcing a national plan early in 1990.

The major environmental challenges cannot be met in any country without the revenues generated by economic growth. But for growth not to be self-defeating, it must be environmentally sustainable. Sustainable development as conceived by the Brundtland Commission, means common sense development; it means respecting nature, not violating it; it means protecting our children's birthright, not consuming it. It means integrating environmental imperatives into economic decision-making, to prevent damage, not just cleaning up after the damage is done.

The agreements Canada and the Soviet Union concluded earlier this week will help both sides in making their economic development environmentally sustainable, including in the Arctic and other northern regions. The agreements open a new era in bilateral cooperation. They cover atmospheric pollution, and climate research, fresh water pollution and water research, nuclear safety and Arctic marine pollution. The last agreement provides for bilateral cooperation in the prevention and clean-up of oil spills in fragile northern waters. We would like to see such cooperation expanded to include other Arctic countries.