

The Quebec Ministry of the Environment, in addition to its active participation in national waste minimization initiatives, is developing programs to maximize the reuse and recycling of hazardous wastes. As such, that government is planning to modify its hazardous waste regulations in 1994. The Government of Quebec, through its Recyc-Québec corporation, has recently established a secondary materials exchange.

The Ontario government emphasizes the reduction of hazardous waste generation through pollution prevention principles. Its Ontario Waste Management Corporation is responsible for designing, obtaining approval for, building and operating a comprehensive hazardous waste treatment facility to provide additional capacity in that province for wastes that cannot be reduced, reused or recycled.

(b) Controlling International Movement of Wastes

In November 1992, the Export and Import of Hazardous Wastes Regulations came into force. This permitted Canada to ratify the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and to implement fully the OECD decision on wastes destined for recovery operations.

Inspectors have been provided with the training necessary to monitor transboundary movements and prevent any illegal traffic.

In January 1993, representatives from the four western provinces of Canada, the western U.S. states, Canada's Department of the Environment and the United States Environmental Protection Agency met to review existing policies regarding the flow of hazardous waste in western Canada and the western United States. Their goal was to achieve a better understanding of the flow and capacities of hazardous waste to determine the needs for further infrastructure development. It is an example of an effort to find regional solutions for waste management.

Solid Wastes and Sewage-Related Issues

Governments in Canada have agreed to reduce the amount of solid waste sent for disposal to 50 percent of the 1988 level by 2000. This commitment has been a focal point of efforts by governments, communities, the private sector and interest groups. Some aspects of this activity, such as the work of environmental NGOs and the NAPP, are discussed in the section on consumption.

In addition to activities such as those listed below, quantification of the Canadian waste stream will be completed in order to track progress. Other activities include development of environmental standards for waste management practices and technologies, such as national guidelines for composting. Another is the application of evaluation methods to determine the environmental impact and costs and benefits of proposed waste reduction or waste management measures, including environmental profile case studies in the private sector.