

- (ii) Policy principles and criteria for funding to be established directly with the provinces by Forestry Canada, and always to be consistent with the national strategy towards sustainable forestry development;
- (iii) Effective means to be provided for third-party inclusion in some agreements; such as universities for research, woodlot owners for private forest management, professional forestry associations and other non-governmental organizations for development of codes, standards and public education programs.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 18** — The Committee recommends that the new federal Department of Forestry take the lead, in co-operation with the provinces and through the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers (CCFM), to design and implement a nation-wide program of public consultation about Canada's forests on a province-by-province basis as a means of developing a national vision for sustainable forestry development, including but not limited to the following considerations:

- (i) That each province and territory be encouraged and assisted in developing separate vision statements about its own forests;
- (ii) That the CCFM be organized and resourced as the forum for building consensus from provincial and territorial vision plans towards a national forests strategy;
- (iii) That Forestry Canada prioritize its resources and programs in the support of such a national strategy, including federal-provincial cost-sharing, science and technology, forest inventory data, public education and awareness, and management planning for federal forest lands.
- (iv) That terms and conditions for federal-provincial co-operation in the long-term strategy towards sustainable development be formally specified and confirmed in a working document, *The Canada Forests Accord*.

**RECOMMENDATION NO. 19** — The Committee recommends that, as an immediate high priority, the new Department of Forestry lead the development of a co-ordinated national forest database and inventory system, to be applicable to all forest resources, in a manner that will consolidate the best of existing provincial systems into a comprehensive national model on which future forests data technology improvements can be built.