

## CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



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The increasing prominence of global environmental issues presents the international community with an enormous challenge. To address problems like global warming, ozone depletion and threats to biological diversity, the countries of the world must work together and work quickly. We have only a limited amount of time to establish the laws and strengthen the international institutions that are necessary to ensure our mutual environmental security.

The stakes are high. The costs to Canada's economy of failing to resolve these issues are difficult to calculate, but they would certainly have an impact on each and every Canadian. While the price of acting now is significant, it is small compared with the damage to our health and the health of the environment that could result if we fail to act.

Canada is working on two fronts; at home, we are preventing pollution and conserving resources by building partnerships between governments, businesses, interest groups and consumers and by taking initiatives like the Green Plan to encourage sustainable economic development. On the