

*The Learning Partnership, a nonprofit organization of business people, educators, and community leaders, is helping students to understand the importance of education in relation to the workplace through its "Take our kids to work" initiative. On 8 November 1995, Grade 9 students (around fourteen years of age) throughout Ontario were invited to go to work for the day with a parent, a guardian, relative, family friend, or volunteer host. The initiative is province-wide and will likely be undertaken in other parts of Canada.*

To ensure that all jurisdictions work together to promote environmental education in Canada, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment established an Environmental Education Task Group in 1993 that also works in collaboration with the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada.

At the postsecondary level, the government of New Brunswick has established two Chairs in Sustainable Development to study and promote this concept. One is at the French language Université de Moncton, the other at the English language University of New Brunswick. These have received funding for the first five years from both the government and industry.

Many environmental nongovernmental organizations, industry associations, and governments have developed programs related to sustainable development education. For example, the Learning for a Sustainable Future program promotes sustainability education in the formal school system nationwide. The Evergreen Foundation supports the "naturalization" of school grounds, and the Harmony Foundation conducts summer workshops for educators on environmental values. The Canadian Forestry Association has conducted national workshops for teachers on sustainable forests and compiled an exhaustive catalogue of forest education materials.

### **Public Awareness**

In schools and the community, young people are often central to actions in support of sustainable development. Students have set up environmental groups and organized conferences to educate other students, their institutions, and the community.

In 1994, young people and partners from governments, nongovernmental organizations, education associations, and individuals helped develop the Canadian Youth Action Guide for Agenda 21. The guide will be distributed to all schools and select community groups in printed form. It will also be available in electronic form on SchoolNet, a government-sponsored network available through the Internet. Young people in Canada's 16,000 schools will have an opportunity to exchange information on sustainable development projects undertaken by their own communities and to find ways to develop a personal Agenda 21.

Girl Guides of Canada/Guides du Canada, in partnership with Environment Canada, has implemented the Water for Tomorrow program for more than 250,000 members and leaders. The program encourages Guides to sustain water resources through wise and efficient water use in their homes, schools, and communities. The World Council of Girl Guides has recognized the success of this program. Various components have been adopted in other countries.

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy has produced a guide for educators and facilitators to the round table process and sustainable development. This tool has been the basis of workshops with more than 2000 high school students in Canada.