

the transportation sector and is a step in the journey toward a more sustainable transportation system in Canada.

In response to the Kyoto Protocol and as part of a national process to develop measures to combat climate change, Canada established sixteen issue tables, including one on transportation. The issue tables brought 450 experts from industry, academia, nongovernmental organizations, municipalities, and federal, provincial, and territorial governments to the discussion. The process was open, inclusive, and comprehensive. It advanced our understanding of the issues and of potential solutions.

The Transportation Table completed an options paper in November 1999 that assessed over one hundred potential measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation. The results of the table's work fed into the *Government of Canada's Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change* and the first business plan of the National Implementation Strategy announced in October 2000.

Provinces and territories approved the business plan of the National Implementation Strategy. Some jurisdictions identified their actions for inclusion in this first integrated plan of committed and proposed federal, provincial, and territorial actions. Other jurisdictions, such as the province of Quebec, have adopted the themes and objectives, in whole or in part, and identified their own business or action plans, which are appended to the national plan. Examples of actions approved and under way include British Columbia's SkyTrain expansion, Alberta's further adoption of intelligent transportation systems (ITS) measures, Saskatchewan's short-line Railway Advisory Program, Newfoundland's Fleet Replacement and Maintenance initiative, and Nova Scotia's action to increase awareness of transportation options and encourage behavioural change. Provinces and territories are currently pursuing further work to develop longer-term action and implementation plans that will provide sustained reductions in transportation emissions. Municipalities also have their own varied and diverse action plans.

Another significant sustainable transportation challenge facing Canada is air pollution. In December 2000, Canada and the United States brought into force an agreement to significantly reduce smog-causing pollutants. The Ozone Annex to the 1991 Canada–United States Air Quality Agreement commits both governments to significantly reduce the creation of smog-causing pollutants—nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds. In Canada, new regulatory standards for vehicles and fuels, aligned with those in the United States, will be put in place

Action on Transportation

The transportation sector component of the Government of Canada's Action Plan 2000 on Climate Change is based on five elements:

- *Fuel efficiency—launch negotiations to achieve new vehicle fuel efficiency targets by 2010.*
- *New fuels—increase the supply and use of ethanol produced from biomass such as plant fibre, corn, and other grains.*
- *Fuel cell vehicles—develop refuelling infrastructure for fuel-cell vehicles that emit low or zero emissions.*
- *Freight transportation—encourage efficiencies and technologies in the aviation, rail, marine, and trucking industries.*
- *Urban transportation—demonstrate the best urban transportation technologies and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.*

Action Plan 2000 can be found at http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/whats_new/pdf/gofcdaplan_eng2.pdf.