

Over the past few years more and more roads, pipelines and power lines have criss-crossed the country, opening up remote areas. However, these wilderness lands have fragile ecosystems. Hydro-electric dams can now hold almost 800 million m<sup>3</sup> of water, and the harmful effects of creating huge flood plains extend far beyond the immediate area. Thus, large public works projects are now subject to environmental evaluations on an unprecedented scale.

Governments are now ensuring that planning processes include detailed environmental impact surveys. The Canadian Land Inventory, one of the most exhaustive studies on the subject in the world, has helped to rationalize land use in all areas of the country.