

Acid Rain

Multilateral efforts to control the harmful effects of acid rain have been focused, for the most part, in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE). Canada signed and ratified the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), an ECE initiative, which came into force in 1983. In March of 1984 Canada hosted a meeting of environment ministers in Ottawa at which countries, for the first time, committed themselves to reduce sulphur emissions (30% by 1993 based on 1980 levels). A Multilateral Conference on this matter was held in Munich in June of 1984. Subsequently on July 8, 1985 the ECE adopted a Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions on their transboundary fluxes which mirrors the commitments made in Ottawa. Canada signed the Protocol on July 9, 1985.