

forests and public misgivings about its management that we have the emergence of a new federal Department of Forestry.
 — Richard C. Goulden, Assistant Deputy Minister, Department of Natural Resources, Manitoba (Issue 20:4).

Our developing perspective on tomorrow's forests, and the extent of dramatic change which has occurred in our sense of values about them, is demonstrated by the following two quotations, each of which occurred in the House of Commons during debates about a new Department of Forestry, but *almost 30 years apart*. In 1960, the Right Honourable John Diefenbaker stated that:

*The proposal to establish a Department of Forestry reflects the realization of the importance of the forest industries and the resource on which they depend for raw materials.*⁴

That Department of Forestry, established in 1960 with unanimous support in the House of Commons, did not survive its first decade, largely because it failed to establish a relevant mandate. There were many reflections of this, including inadequate financial and human resources committed to its budgets, presumably all in some resignation to the reality of provincial jurisdictions and authority for most of Canada's forests.

More recently *in 1989*, during debate of Bill C-29, *an Act to establish the Department of Forestry*, the Honourable Frank Oberle, present Minister of Forestry, outlined a much broader view :

*Those who understand global ecology understand that our planet cannot survive itself, nor can it sustain the life which we enjoy, without our forests being in good health. That is what this Bill before us is all about.*⁵

The debate on Bill C-29 has led to the creation of a federal Department of Forestry for a second time, but with its mandate so far directed only marginally beyond the focus of 1960. While Prime Minister Diefenbaker's remarks depict a department that was preoccupied with the industrial and commercial needs of the resource, Mr. Oberle speaks of the forest as an essential element of the earth's ecosystem, in addition to having important timber, wildlife and recreational values. This re-orientation of forest values is a vital key to understanding tomorrow's strategies for sustainable forestry development. The question to be examined in this Report is whether *even Bill C-29* provides an adequate role for Forestry Canada in these respects.