

- provides guidance for ecosystem monitoring and indicator development
- advances ecosystem approaches to environmental management

A report outlining the details of the framework is to be published in early 1995.

The NRTEE has consistently supported and encouraged the development of indicators to track progress towards sustainable development. Several provincial round tables have initiated works on sustainable development indicators. For example, the British Columbia Round Table produced a state of sustainability report that provided sustainability indicators for urban environments. It also covered economic, social, and environmental factors. The Alberta Round Table, in collaboration with the Environment Council of Alberta, identified 59 indicators of sustainable development. The Ontario Round Table is spearheading an initiative, in co-operation with the NRTEE and Environment Canada, to develop a framework and indicators for sustainability related to the transportation sector and climate change.

The government of British Columbia's first SOE report, produced jointly with Environment Canada in 1993, introduced indicators to measure progress in environmental management. Work is under way to develop environmental benchmarks for British Columbia that will isolate indicators more specifically as tools for environmental reporting and management.

The Quebec government, after producing two comprehensive SOE reports, is involved in the development of sectoral indicators. For example, new indicators on the biological integrity of rivers were developed to provide more information on the impacts of human activities.

The Yukon government, in co-operation with Environment Canada, is producing a territorial SOE report. It uses some nationally developed environmental indicators as well as new ones specific to Yukon priorities such as wilderness, subsistence, and recreational use.

At the municipal level, indicators are being identified as part of the SOE reporting process. For example, Environment Canada, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Teaching Health Units and the University of Toronto, produced a report on the status and future needs of municipal SOE reporting in Canada, including indicators. The City of Toronto has also produced a selected set of healthy city indicators. The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth, in co-operation with community representatives and McMaster University, is developing a set of community-level sustainability indicators. The results of the first stage of this project are expected in May 1995.

The private sector is also engaged in indicator development. The Canadian Standards Association is leading Canada's participation in the development of international standards for environmental performance evaluation. Environmental performance indicators are