

# MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

As Canadians, we live in a country that has been specially blessed. We have more fresh water, more forests and more natural resources than most countries do. These have brought us many benefits, including one of the highest standards of living in the world. At the same time, however, we are responsible for managing these resources well — in the clear knowledge that while many are renewable, all are fragile.

Our responsibility is not just to ourselves but to everyone, everywhere. We live in a world in which environmental problems that occur in one country have an effect on many others. We just need to look at the impact of acid rain — or global warming — to realize that shared responsibility means we must work together to solve global environmental problems.

This booklet looks at international environmental issues and sketches out the role that we have been playing so far. It also looks to the future — at new areas of problems ahead where international action is essential.

Dealing with global environmental problems may be difficult, but it is imperative and it must remain an integral part of Canadian foreign policy. I hope that this booklet will contribute to an understanding of the challenges and opportunities for changes that lie ahead.

The Honourable Barbara McDougall  
Secretary of State for External Affairs

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