

**HIGHLIGHTS**  
of  
**The North American Agreement on  
Environmental Co-operation**

**CANADA'S OBJECTIVES MET**

Canada met its far-reaching objectives. Through the Agreement, we will:

- strengthen environmental co-operation in North America;
- promote sustainable development on a continental basis;
- create an effective institution to oversee the Agreement;
- effectively enforce and enhance compliance with domestic environmental laws; and
- support the environmental goals of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

**WHAT IS IN THE AGREEMENT**

The Agreement:

- establishes the Commission for Environmental Co-operation which is made up of the Council, comprised of a cabinet-level representative from each country; a central Secretariat, and a Joint Public Advisory Committee;
- sets out a broad co-operative work program;
- details the obligations of all three countries to ensure compliance with domestic environmental laws and policies; and
- provides an effective mechanism for consultation and the resolution of disputes.

**BENEFITS FOR CANADA**

As a result of the Agreement, Canada gains:

- enhanced protection of our air, land, water, plants and animal life;
- strengthened priority attention to transboundary environmental issues;
- a workable framework for promoting sustainable development on a continental basis;
- an international commitment to continue improving environmental laws and ensure their effective enforcement;
- a strong mechanism to resolve disputes over trade-related environmental issues;
- effective recourse if our NAFTA partners fail to enforce their own environmental laws; and
- enhanced co-operation between Ottawa and the provinces on North American environmental issues.