

better water conservation will save money and energy as well as reduce the need for new or expanded water and wastewater systems.

Governments are beginning to revise water policies to better meet a range of sustainability criteria. For example, the federal government is developing a strategy to modernize the Canada Water Act to reflect current priorities, in particular those related to sustainable development. British Columbia and Alberta are also reviewing their water policies and legislation. The federal government has integrated its weather and water information services. This will enable provincial agencies to issue more effective flood warnings.

The Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) is an association of professionals and managers in this sector. It promotes the adoption of sustainability management principles by water agencies and aims to stimulate public understanding of water issues. In June 1994, the CWRA released a voluntary policy on water resource management.

Canada promotes the development and sharing of innovative water technologies internationally. A recent example is the water information system developed by Canadians and adapted by Mexico's national water agency for use in its water monitoring and interpretation programs. Other examples include various build-operate-transfer projects undertaken by Canada's Wastewater Technology Centre.

Canada contributes to capacity building and the strengthening of institutional and human resource development in developing countries. Examples include involvement in a water manager network under La Francophonie and the management of the UN's Global Water Quality Monitoring Programme (GEMS/WATER). These initiatives foster information exchange among water managers and have provided training in integrated river basin management, efficient water monitoring techniques, and environmental information systems in Africa, Latin America, and the Mekong River region.

## **Toxic Chemicals and Radioactive, Hazardous, and Non-hazardous Wastes**

Canada remains fully committed to the safe management of all wastes in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. Since last year's report, Canada has taken additional initiatives to improve its management of all wastes. The following describes some key examples.

### **Toxic Chemicals**

The federal government manages and regulates toxic substances in all stages of their life cycle through the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). The release of a second CEPA Priority Substances List of substances on which the federal government will conduct environmental and health assessments is anticipated in 1995. A full review of CEPA is scheduled for completion by a Parliamentary committee in June 1995, with the

*As a follow-up to a 1994 CSD proposal, Canada and the Philippines will host a meeting of world experts in the field of persistent organic pollutants in Vancouver in the spring of 1995. Two results are expected. One is a common knowledge base to help developing and developed countries work together on these issues. The second is an exploration of alternatives to these substances. The meeting is an example of the way Canada will implement its proposed toxic substances policy.*