

have a healthy economy if it is based on a degraded environment; at the same time, environmental programs cannot be funded without a strong economy. The economic climate of the 1990s is competitive, and a key element in maintaining a competitive edge is the ability to participate in the growing market in environmental technologies and services, one of the fastest-growing sectors of the Canadian economy. Indeed, the environmental industry is valued at \$250 billion a year worldwide. For industry and workers, protecting the environment is as much an economic opportunity as a challenge.

To enhance the partnership between government and business, the Green Plan includes the Science and Technology Action Plan, which is designed to further research and development in environmental technology. One initiative under this plan is the Environmental Technology Commercialization Program, under which the Canadian government will offer up to 50-per-cent funding to attract private venture capital for demonstration projects.

Efforts to involve as many interest groups as possible in improving the environment do not stop at Canada's borders. The Green Plan seeks to build stronger international partnerships and bilateral relationships. It promises to increase funding to international environmental institutions, such as the United Nations Environmental Program, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Maritime Organization. The plan also establishes a national secretariat to help Canadians participate in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.

Green Plan Initiatives Announced

The government has already announced new programs under the Green Plan to clean up some of Canada's most vital waterways. An initial \$25 million will be provided for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Pollution Prevention Initiative. Other systems, such as the Fraser River in British Columbia, the Red River and Assiniboine River basins in Manitoba and Saskatchewan and the Athabasca River basin in northern Alberta, will benefit from action plans and studies under the Green Plan.

This is just the beginning: the Government of Canada intends to announce more than 100 Green Plan initiatives. In addition to the \$1.3 billion the government spends annually on the environment, the Green Plan will add another \$3 billion in new money over the next six years.

Long-Term Green Plan Goals

One very important goal of the plan is to reduce smog-causing emissions by 40 per cent by the year 2000. To speed things

whereby Forestry Canada, in partnership with landowners and managers, will establish eight demonstration projects across the country. These models will be "living laboratories of sustainable development at its best." In addition, a community-participation program to plant 325 million trees across Canada over five years will help absorb carbon dioxide.

The Green Plan promises a new National Energy Efficiency Act, a potent tool to fight global warming, while adding to the competitiveness of Canada's industrial base. A



In addressing pollution in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, the government will work in partnership with industry, municipalities, business and individuals. These groups will be involved from the beginning in mapping out prevention strategies for their respective sectors.

Canada's Atlantic coast will benefit from a series of initiatives for specific contaminated sites in the four Atlantic provinces. Here again, the government expects a high degree of local participation, in the form of multi-stakeholder steering committees at each of the sites. Green Plan funding in the amount of \$10 million will be supplemented by funds from other partners in the projects.

up even further, the Green Plan will set up an "emission credit trading" program, which will reward companies that reduce emissions ahead of schedule, while punishing those that lag behind.

The centrepiece of the Green Plan for land is waste management. The National Waste Reduction Plan, developed through co-operative efforts of federal and provincial governments, industry and environmental groups, will achieve a 50-per-cent reduction in solid waste by the year 2000.

Central to Canada's plan for the environment is to sustain the country's abundant natural resources. Sustainable forestry, for instance, will be supported by a program

target of eliminating ozone-depleting chlorofluorocarbons by 1997, and a national cap on the sulphur dioxide emissions that cause acid rain (at no more than 3.2 million tonnes annually by the year 2000) are other key Green Plan goals.

Dr. Mostafa Tolba, Director of the United Nations Environmental Program, has stated that Canada's Green Plan is a model for the whole world to study. Canada has certainly committed itself, through this ambitious plan for the preservation of the environment, to become a truly "environmentally friendly" country. 🍁