

Due to funding pressures, public educational institutions are having to reduce the range of courses offered to students. In the courses that remain, the challenge is to instill citizenship in students, including a sense of awareness and responsibility for the environment.

### **Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population**

In the next few decades, Canada will experience a change in the makeup of its society due to the relative growth in the number of people sixty-five years of age and over. This rapid growth is projected to continue well into the next century, peaking in the year 2031 when all of the "baby boom" generation will be seniors. While dramatic increases for all age categories over sixty-five are forecast, of particular significance for policy and program planners is the increasing number of older seniors, those seventy-five years of age and over, and their corresponding needs for housing, health, and other services, and special facilities.

### **Coping with the Consequences of the Information Highway**

The information highway has become the term that describes all the changes in computing, communications, and associated products and processes that are affecting Canadian society and the Canadian economy today. It represents a shift from an economy based on producing goods to one primarily concerned with generating and adding value to information. To maintain sustainable livelihoods, there are important unresolved issues that Canadians will have to address over the coming years relating to the changing nature of work, jobs, and careers as well as access to technology, jobs, and training.

### **Facing Financial Constraints**

All orders of Canadian government, nongovernmental organizations, and communities large and small are facing significant financial pressures. As well, the capacity of all levels of government to levy more taxes is increasingly limited. Government and nongovernmental organizations are actively seeking innovative ways to share knowledge and resources and to foster broad-based participation to promote a sustainable economy and society given this restricted financial base.

*The Northern Information Network allows users to discuss environmental and development issues through an electronic bulletin board and to find geographically referenced information in its metadata base. It has become a useful tool for industry, business, land use planning offices, communities, interest groups, government departments, northern decision makers, and research and educational institutions.*