

Our forests comprise a total of 453 million hectares, or almost half of our national landscape. More than any other geographic feature, they literally constitute *the face of Canada*, and for a growing number of Canadian citizens our forests represent *the environmental spirit* of our country. Forests contribute in a wide variety of ways to the quality of our lives, and they demand our care in cautious, compatible and committed ways.

Furthermore, since Canada's forests represent 10% of the world's total forested area, our country has a responsibility for forest resources not only to its own citizens, but also to the international community. We must recognize and acknowledge the global interdependence which is imposed upon virtually all nations by such phenomenal hazards as global warming, atmospheric pollution and world deforestation. Our country clearly does have a heavy responsibility for managing the sustainable development of our forests, not just from a domestic perspective, but in the context of our world citizenship.

As a conservationist long interested in protection of forests, I believe the Houston Summit achieved a truly remarkable and historic result. The commitment by the G-7 countries to negotiate a convention on world forestry has been a long standing objective of international conservation groups. The advantages of such a convention for species protection, biological diversity, control of soil erosion and sedimentation, and for climate and rainfall are simply incalculable. — William Reilly, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Press Release, July 16, 1990.³

Canadians from all regions and from all walks of life are becoming increasingly aware of the multiple values of our forest resources, and they are also becoming deeply concerned about the need for integrated management of them. This awareness and concern is particularly driven by environmental issues, including the global perspective. It is now abundantly clear that industrial and commercial considerations alone will never again be tolerable as the *sole basis* for our forest management policies. It has become essential that forest managers demonstrate very real commitments to *integrated management* as a means of assuring Canada's citizens that *both the economic and environmental values* of our forests will remain available for future generations.

... the opinions of Canadians respecting the holistic value of our forests and their vulnerability to over-exploitation, misuse, global environmental perils and unwitting debilitation are at unprecedented levels. Rightly or wrongly, many Canadians do not perceive Canada's forests to be well managed on a sustained basis. It is against this backdrop of confirmed importance of our