

Environment Canada is now publishing environmental indicators regularly through its *Environmental Indicator Bulletin* series. By the end of March 1995, it will have published 14 bulletins related to specific issue areas with accompanying technical supplements. The bulletins present environmental indicators and incorporate related economic and social indicators. Environment Canada, in co-operation with provincial government and academic partners, has also begun a project to develop a sustainable development indicator framework. It will test the implementation of these preliminary indicators, using the Fraser River basin in British Columbia. The first stage will be completed by the end of April 1995.

The IISD has a two-year project on measuring sustainable development performance. The goals include the definition of a measurable set of indicators, and the proposition of measurement techniques and levels of application as an empirical guide for planners and decision makers. The first stage, identification of recent Canadian work on this subject, is complete. It should contribute to a database of national and international indicator initiatives. A later stage of this project will analyse how indicators can be combined to measure sustainable development performance.

The International Joint Commission (IJC), a long-established joint Canada-United States body, has proposed a list of program performance indicators to evaluate progress under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA). This builds on previous work to monitor lake ecosystem objectives, develop lake-wide management plans for toxic loadings, and control phosphorous and persistent toxic substances.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is developing agri-environmental indicators. These will measure and track changes in the state of environmental resources used or affected by agriculture, and in farming activities that affect the state of those resources. Twelve indicators have been identified for development. These will help to measure progress towards the goal of environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture. Periodic reports and bulletins are planned, while the full results of the project will be reported following the 1996 Census of Agriculture.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), in co-operation with York University, produced a report in 1992 presenting a series of "quality of life" indicators. The CMHC is now working with Environment Canada to promote development of urban sustainability indicators.

The CCME State of the Environment Task Group has identified a core set of environmental indicators. Current work is focusing on commonalities in definition, data collection, manipulation, and analysis among jurisdictions. Results of this work and recommendations for achieving greater harmonization should be available in early 1995.

The CCME Water Quality Guidelines Task Group has produced a generic ecosystem-based framework for environmental management. It outlines a process for developing ecosystem goals, objectives, and indicators. The framework

- provides a methodology for evaluating ecosystem health
- demonstrates the value of community involvement in decision making