

## ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

On September 14, 1993, Canada, the United States of America and Mexico signed the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. It creates an operating framework for cooperation on environmental issues and a means to ensure that each of three countries respects and enforces its environmental law. The Agreement expands on commitments to environmental sustainable growth made by the three countries in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Canada ratified both the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity on December 4, 1992. International meetings have been held in preparation for their entry into force. As of September 22, 1994, 92 States had ratified the Convention on Climate Change which entered into force in March 1994. The Convention on Biological Diversity entered into force on December 29, 1993 and preparations are underway for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 1994.

Canada also acceded on March 8, 1994 to the International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Co-operation.

Canada ratified the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer on March 16, 1994.

Canada will sign in Paris, in October 1994, the International Convention to Combat Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

Within the context of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and after several thorough negotiating sessions, work was completed on the Protocol to the 1979 Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions, which Canada signed in Oslo on June 13, 1993.

In June of 1993, the OECD Council at Ministerial Level endorsed the report of the OECD Joint Session of Trade and Environment Experts. This report concerning trade and the environment was developed after intensive