

- Global environmental security;
- Environmentally responsible decision-making at all levels of society; and
- Minimizing the impact of environmental emergencies.

THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT (CEPA)

The Government of Canada proclaimed the Environmental Protection Act on June 30, 1988 (amended in 1992). "Among other things, it consolidates and strengthens initiatives to control toxic substance pollution, to reduce the release of nutrients into aquatic systems, to restrict oceanic dumping and to control sources of air pollution", (Davies, 1994). Its key elements are:

- Protection of human health and the environment from the risks associated with the production, use and disposal of toxic substances;
- Identification and regulation of the use of hazardous chemical substances from their manufacture to disposal;
- Establishment of an environmental management framework to plan, implement and evaluate the efficient and environmentally sustainable use of resources; and
- To exercise "due diligence" in ensuring that sound environmental practices are in place.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS GUIDELINES ORDER (EARPGO)

In 1984, the Environmental Assessment Review Process Guidelines Order was approved by the Governor-in-Council. The Guidelines Order compelled Government departments to consider environmental matters in decision-making. The Environmental assessment field is evolving and the EARPGO is to be replaced by the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA), which has received Royal Assent and is expected to be proclaimed this fall.

THE CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ACT (CEAA)

The Act is binding on all federal Crown entities and provides clear requirements to describe the need for a project, assess practical alternatives, cumulative effects and sustainability of resources.

Under the CEAA, federal departments are required to put procedures in place which ensure that all "projects" are screened in compliance with the process described in the Act.

Each federal department is also required to designate a co-ordinating function responsible for providing guidance and assistance in meeting its obligations under the Act and to monitor compliance. At the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Affairs, the Office of the Coordinator for Environmental Assessment and Stewardship (JEN) assumes these responsibilities.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.

In June 1990, when the CEAA was tabled, Cabinet also directed that a complementary process be put in place to review policies and programs for their environmental implications.

This decision has been reaffirmed and guidelines for the assessment of policies and programs are in place.

The guidelines set out the parameters of the application of the Cabinet directive, assigns responsibilities for various aspects of the application, and describes the basic assessment process.