

For its part of the solution, Canada has put in place a national acid rain control program. Announced by the Prime Minister in March 1985, the program has three objectives:

- to demonstrate Canada's commitment to solving the problem;
- to eliminate the damage Canada is doing to itself; and
- to reduce the damage Canadian emissions are causing in the northeastern United States.

The Canadian control program is founded on a scientifically-determined objective: the reduction of the annual acid fallout in eastern Canada to no more than 18 pounds per acre. This is the loading level which scientists believe most of the eastern Canadian environment can tolerate without further damage. To achieve this objective sulphur dioxide emissions in eastern Canada (i.e. east of the Saskatchewan/Manitoba border) must be reduced to no more than 2.3 million tonnes per year, a cut of 50 per cent from levels allowed in 1980, and the transboundary flow of sulphur dioxide from the United States cut from the current 3.2 million tonnes to no more than 2 million tonnes.

The Canadian control program is fully on track. Currently, eastern Canadian sulphur dioxide emissions are about 2.8 million tonnes - 35 per cent less than allowable levels in 1980 and well on the way to the 50 per cent cut. Once fully implemented, the Canadian acid rain control program will cost the private sector and provincial utilities about \$500 million annually. This is comparable on a per capita basis to the estimated costs of similar US emission reduction proposals.

The reductions being achieved through Canada's acid rain control program are in addition to the sharp cuts (approximately 40 per cent) already secured during the 1970s through Canada's clean air legislation. Canada's local air quality standards are as stringent, and in many cases more stringent, than those in the United States. Achieving these standards has cost, over the past 15 years, more than \$15 billion.

Canada has put its own house in order. What continues to elude us is progress on the 50 per cent of the transboundary acid rain problem which lies with the United States. Without real action by the United States to cut the levels of sulphur dioxide it pumps into Canadian airspace, serious damage to the Canadian environment will continue to occur.