

LOOKING FORWARD

From major advances in information technologies to the inclusion of ordinary citizens in information sharing, Canada has explored many options for doing a better job of building sustainable development on having the right information at the right time and using it wisely to make good decisions.

Despite success in some areas, Canada continues to face challenges in dealing with information. The following are some of these challenges.

- During the years when many governments were under fiscal restraint, core data sets and environmental monitoring systems were not maintained at satisfactory levels. It will take time to rebuild these systems.
- Information technology is advancing so quickly that the Government of Canada may not be able to continue to promise universal access.
- More must be done to standardize the way information is gathered, handled, interpreted, and applied.
- Appropriate training must be made accessible to user groups.

At the same time, advances in technology may make access to information more affordable in the future and help developing countries improve their capacity to deal with issues of sustainable development. Canada is in a good position to enter into partnerships with these countries, to mutual benefit.