

assessment of the health hazards of 12 new chemical parameters and some microbiological water-borne contaminants. In addition, a Drinking Water Safety Act is proposed to create legally enforceable standards for water treatment devices, chemicals, and system components.

A National Forum on Health has been created to help shape the future of health care. Environmental determinants of health form part of the philosophical base for the work of the Forum.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) established Interim Program Priorities in May 1994. The first priority, To Address Basic Human Needs, includes primary health and family planning. Steps are being taken to strengthen health programming within each of CIDA's operational branches.

## **Human Settlements**

Since Canada's last report to the CSD, governments and other groups have taken a series of initiatives to further Agenda 21 goals related to housing and human settlements.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) recently launched the Canadian Urban Research on the Environment (CURE) database and information project to gather and disseminate information about Canadian local government initiatives to improve the environment and promote long-term urban sustainability in Canada and abroad. The CURE project investigates the environmental activities of local governments. It helps local officials to communicate with counterparts in solving common problems. To date, its *Canadian Municipal Environmental Directory* contains over 850 municipalities, 3000 environmental contacts, and over 1000 initiatives.

At an international level, CIDA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have both continued their support for developing countries on housing and settlement issues. CIDA helps fund the FCM and the Institute of Public Administration of Canada as they assist developing countries with urban government issues. These often have sustainable development impacts. CIDA funding for other NGOs, such as Rooftops Canada and OXFAM Canada, and for international organizations also helps developing countries to address urban needs.

## **Freshwater**

Since the last report to the CSD, Canada has renewed major programs to protect the Great Lakes and the St. Lawrence River and Fraser River basins. These are federal/provincial partnerships that involve consultation with all sectors of society.

The Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) adopted the National Action Plan to Encourage Municipal Water Use Efficiency in May 1994. The goal of the Action Plan is for governments to bring about more efficient use of water. Achieving