

**ON AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS...**

***What will be the effects after a NAFTA of the long-range transport of common airborne pollutants, including acid rain?***

*-- Airborne pollution doesn't always rise with economic growth. In fact, evidence shows that sulphur dioxide emissions fell significantly in Canada between 1970 and 1990, from a high of 6.9 million tonnes to 3.7 million tonnes.*

*-- Canada has negotiated a strong agreement with the U.S. on acid rain. The objective is to reduce its production and thus its spread between countries.*

*-- Under the terms of the Air Quality Accord, Canada and the U.S. pledge to control air pollution that flows across the international boundary.*

*-- The U.S. is scheduled to decrease annual sulphur dioxide emissions by more than nine million tonnes -- 40 per cent less than the 1980 level -- by the year 2000. In the case of common pollutants originating in Mexico, it is highly unlikely that these would reach Canadian borders.*

*-- Southwesterly air flows are usually accompanied by rain, and common pollutants from far south would be washed out of the atmosphere before reaching us.*

*-- Mexico is also starting to substitute cleaner-burning natural gas for current consumption of high sulphur oil. This will reduce sulphur and nitrogen oxide emissions that produce acid rain.*