



CANADA - UNITED STATES

Acid Rain

Transboundary Flows of Acid Rain Pollution

Government agencies and scientists in Canada and the United States have determined that acid rain emissions originating in the United States are causing damage in Canada.

Work Groups established under the 1980 Canada/U.S. Memorandum of Intent Concerning Transboundary Air Pollution concluded in their final report in 1983 that acid deposition was causing acidification of Canadian and American waters and that pollution being carried long distances from each country was contributing to damage in the other.

In 1985, the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States appointed Special Envoys to study the acid precipitation problem. The Special Envoys concluded that "acid rain is a serious transboundary problem" and that "acidic emissions transported through the atmosphere undoubtedly are contributing to the acidification of sensitive areas in both countries." The Prime Minister and the President endorsed the conclusions of their Special Envoys.

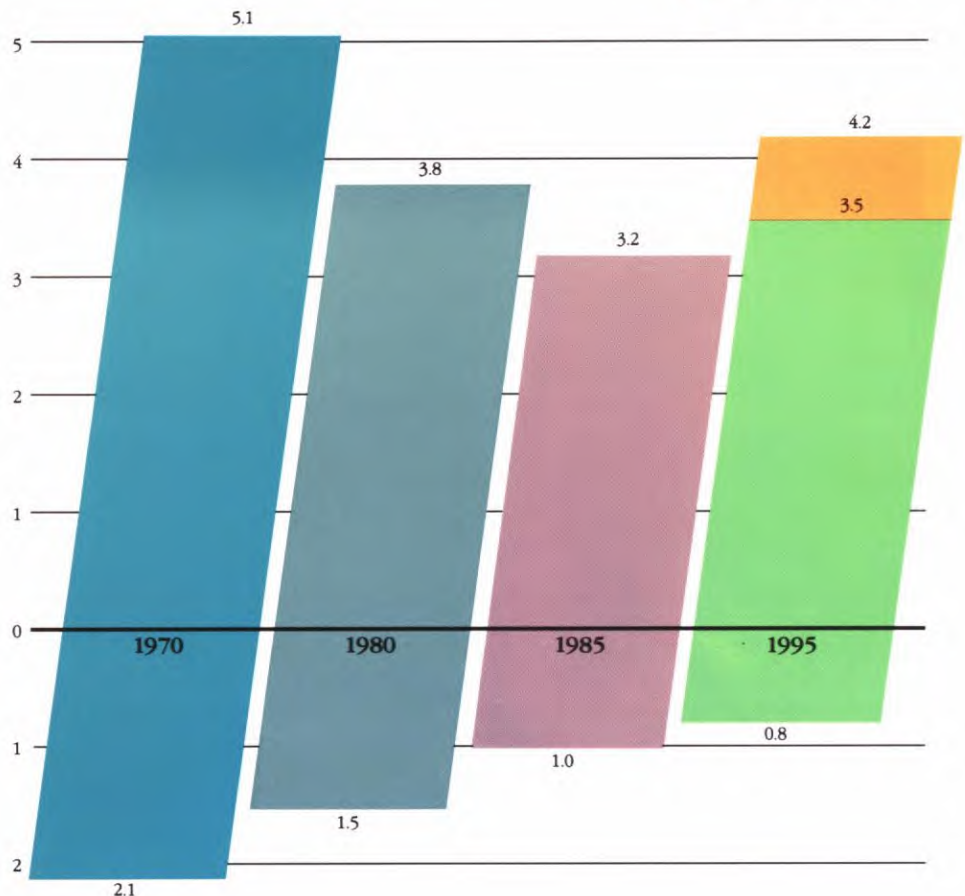
In 1987, the Joint Report of the Canada-United States Bilateral Advisory and Consultative Group reiterated the fact that the long-range transport of air pollutants is taking place over much of eastern North America.

Using sophisticated atmospheric computer models, which have been verified by field experiments such as the Canada-U.S. Cross Appalachian Trace Experiment, Canadian scientists have calculated the extent to which emissions originating in Canada and the United States cross the border.

TRANSBOUNDARY FLOWS OF SULPHUR DIOXIDE 1970-1995, In Millions of Tonnes

United States to Canada

Range based on
emission forecasts



Canada to United States

Source: Environment Canada