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There have been attempts to establish a Green Party in Canada, an enterprise which has met with a low level of success. Tully explains: "In West Germany, the Green Party was built on 12 years of local green movements: stopping airports, squatting in buildings and cleaning up

direct action groups influenced by New Ecological thought. Both groups are cast in the mould of Greenpeace, a group which became known for interposing themselves between ships and whales, attempting to stop the seal hunt, and most recently, for interrupting French nuclear testing in the Pacific. The French government responded to their activism by sending agents to New Zealand to blow up the Rainbow Warrior, Greenpeace's ship.



pollution in the Black Forest. The party rose on a solid base of local activist groups, but in Canada we tried to establish a Green Party without this base."

Paul Watson, one of the founders of Greenpeace, has run as a Green in elections in British Columbia. He thinks the Green Party has not done well in Canada because, unlike West Germany, Canada does not have proportional representation. "It's winner take all and you have the tyranny of the majority," he says.

Watson is well-known for his activities with Sea Shepherd and Earth First, two

Watson, a founding member of Greenpeace, has mixed feelings about the organization. "Greenpeace was founded in the early '70s, but by 1978 it was bogged down in bureaucracy."

But he is quick to criticize the mainstream environmental movement for its hierarchy and its bureaucracy, stressing that groups like Earth First are "in business" to put ourselves out of business." Earth First is not an organization, says Watson. "It's a movement. It's many different groups. The only real link between them is the newspaper."

Although Watson is critical of the mainstream environmental movement, he acknowledges that their work has value. "We complement the activism of other groups. I'll give you an example. In Texas there was some deforestation going on, and there was not time for the Sierra Club to stop it legally. But through our direct action and delaying tactics, we gave the Sierra Club enough time to stop the deforestation."

Watson says his group's work "Makes it easier for other groups to get results. They can go talk to these people and say, 'look, you better listen to us or we'll turn the crazies on you.' We're basically the shock troops of the environmental movement," says Watson.

The other group Watson works with, the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society, is an anti-whaling outfit which recently sent two Icelandic whaling ships to the bottoms by unscrewing panels in their hulls. This received major press coverage, but there was much less coverage of a summer expedition of Sea Shepherd to halt whaling in the Pharo Islands, located some 200 miles north of Scotland. During their stay, the ship and crew were attacked with tear gas bullets and canisters by local police.

The Green Party is based on four basic principles: ecology, social responsibility, grass roots democracy and non-violence.



"I've noticed when violence is directed against us, there usually isn't a lot of coverage, but when we destroy property, then everyone gets furious. I think this is because people have been taught to believe

that property is more sacrosanct than life. As for me, I'll send every whaling ship on the planet to the bottom of the sea before I'll let them kill a Finn whale, which is one of the most beautiful creatures on the planet. To me, the life of one Finn whale is worth more than all the whaling ships in the world," says Watson.

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Whether they agree with Watson and his techniques for social reform, the philosophy of the New Ecological movement is something all environmentalists will have to ponder. Jonathan Porritt, author of *Seeing Green*, puts it in a pragmatic perspective: "It's obvious to us that within the next generation, all politicians and all parties will have to become more ecological in their outlook. If they don't, it's doubtful whether the trappings of democracy will be around for anyone to enjoy anyway."

Tully shares Porritt's vision. "I think the evidence coming in on the rate at which we are destroying our environment is going to play an important role in raising people's consciousness. I think more and more people are becoming aware that there is a real possibility of ecological collapse and that we can't just export our pollution to the Third World. I think in the short-term that forces of the New Right are going to do quite well, unfortunately, but in the longer run I believe the New Ecology will make a difference."

Living in the shadow of the Chernobyls, the Bhopals and Hiroshima, the New Ecology poses questions none of us can afford to ignore.

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