

l'enseignement du Québec, school boards, and Hydro-Québec to develop curricula and materials to increase awareness of sustainable development issues among students.

Through the Canadian Centre for Sustainable Development Research, an effort is being made to foster greater collaboration between academia, government, industry, and nongovernmental organizations.

Nonprofit organizations such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) are also playing a major role in bringing groups together to achieve a common cause. The CSA is working with representatives from many sectors of society to develop environmental quality objectives, standards, and guidelines for environmental management by industry, small- and medium-sized business, institutions, and the public sector.

Aboriginal people are increasingly involved in sustainable development initiatives with other groups. Many deal with resource management questions that involve sharing decision-making powers with provincial governments on such matters as land use, forest practices, resource use by Aboriginal people, and economic development. For example, the Porcupine Caribou Management Board in Canada's North involves representatives from Gwich'in and Inuvialuit peoples as well as three government jurisdictions. It manages issues pertaining to one of the largest caribou herds in the world through a traditional consensus process. Similarly, the agreement between the federal and Quebec governments and the Algonquins of Barrière Lake will lead to the development of an integrated forest and wildlife management plan based on the principles of sustainable development.

Organizations representing youth, women, and senior citizens are increasingly extending their networks, including those to the scientific community, health organizations, and educational institutions on a range of issues. Some of these networks are described in the section of this report on education, public awareness, and training.

Challenges and Next Steps

Many nongovernmental organizations in Canada face tight budgets at the same time as they are faced with growing demands on their resources. This trend has forced them to be more strategic in allocating resources to consultative and consensus-building efforts. They are now placing more importance on assessing the likely impact of their efforts before agreeing to take part in new activities. Many are looking for partnerships with other stakeholders to maximize their contribution. The results of these broadly based coalitions are, in some cases, very promising. In other cases, progress is less obvious. An important challenge for many organizations is to translate strategies into concrete action plans for their sectors of interest.

A key challenge for Canadian institutions is to link their commitment to environmental and sustainability goals with open and transparent accountability processes. The nature and scope of sustainability issues demand that our accountability processes be fully