

NORTH AMERICAN ENVIRONMENT, WHERE WE IMPACT SO DIRECTLY ON EACH OTHER.

LIKE MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AND MANY OTHERS, CANADA FACES THE PROBLEMS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS - WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT THEIR USE, THEIR INADVERTANT RELEASE TO THE ENVIRONMENT, THEIR PERSISTENCE, THEIR THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH, THEIR ULTIMATE DISPOSAL. DURING THE LAST FOUR DECADES, CHEMICALS HAVE MADE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION IN AGRICULTURE, IN FORESTRY, IN INDUSTRY, IN CONSUMER GOODS. YET WE HAVE ONLY LIMITED INSIGHT INTO THEIR NEGATIVE ASPECTS. IT WILL REQUIRE AN ENORMOUS INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM IN A RATIONAL AND COHERENT MANNER.

LIKE MANY OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES - AND BECAUSE LIKE THEIRS THE CANADIAN ECONOMY IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON A NATURAL RESOURCE BASE - CANADA FACES PROBLEMS OF INADEQUATE REPLACEMENT OF OUR FOREST RESOURCES; OF SOIL EROSION AND DECREASED SOIL FERTILITY FOR AGRICULTURE; OF WATER SUPPLY WHICH, DESPITE ITS ABUNDANCE, IS POTENTIALLY INADEQUATE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY TO MEET THE MANY DEMANDS FROM MANY POTENTIAL USERS. AND LIKE ALL COUNTRIES, WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MAN-MADE IMPACTS ON OUR CLIMATE, BE IT THE CO₂ BUILD-UP OR THE DEPLETION OF THE OZONE LAYER.