

Canada, the U.S. and Mexico agreed to the creation of a North American Commission on the Environment. The additional negotiations that will resume in mid-March will further define the nature and scope of continental co-operation on the environment.

On March 16, 1990, Canada and Mexico signed an Agreement on Environmental Co-operation. Under the aegis of this broad agreement, Canada has begun to work with Mexico in the areas of waste management and water treatment. In March 1992, the Government announced a \$1-million program to help Mexico improve its environmental monitoring and enforcement practices. To date, Canada has provided more than \$1.9 million in funding for a series of environmental projects in Mexico.

Last September, Canada, the U.S. and Mexico also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Environmental Education. This will serve as a framework for promoting, co-ordinating and implementing joint environmental education and training activities and information exchanges.

Scientific exchanges and joint ventures to conserve and maintain the habitat of shared species -- such as snow geese and monarch butterflies -- have also been the basis of an important partnership.

Co-operation on labour issues

The NAFTA Preamble affirms the resolve of the NAFTA countries to protect, enhance and enforce workers' rights and to improve working conditions in each of the NAFTA countries.

At the outset of the NAFTA negotiations in June 1991, all three countries agreed that labour issues should be explored in parallel discussions.

In May 1992, Canadian Labour Minister Marcel Danis signed the Canada-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Co-operation Labour Activities, which provides a framework for co-operation between the two countries on a wide range of labour markets. The United States and Mexico had concluded a similar MOU in May 1991.

While the bilateral MOUs are contributing to our level of understanding and creating closer co-operation, Canada's position remains that more could be done by expanding our co-operative actions on a trilateral basis.