

## **PART IV**

# **FOLLOW-UP TO 1994**

# **CSD SECTORAL ISSUES**

### **Health**

Provinces are largely responsible for health care in Canada. The federal government, through Health Canada, works with them to determine guidelines and recommendations on health issues. Both orders of government have continued to contribute to activities in the Canadian health sector since the last report to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).

A major trend sees more formal links between health and environment officials. In Quebec, a memorandum of understanding is in place to formalize this relationship. A similar arrangement is being established in Alberta. In a related step, a task group of the Federal/Provincial Committee on Environmental and Occupational Health is developing guidelines on the role of health in environmental assessment in consultation with the Environmental Assessment administrators.

Health Canada, through its Great Lakes Health Effects Program, is a major partner in the Great Lakes 2000 initiative that is described in other sections of this report. It also works with the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec and the Quebec health network in the health component of St. Lawrence Vision 2000, also described elsewhere.

Recent research includes the collection of data on pollutants in the North and the Arctic. Dietary intake studies in northern communities of Aboriginal people are being carried out with their collaboration. This is expected to provide northerners with a picture of the risks and benefits that may be associated with the consumption of traditional foods.

Health Canada is a key contributor of information on the health effects of chemicals of interest to the International Program on Chemical Safety. It participated in the preparation of the newly created Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety and remains involved in the intersessional process.

Work is being carried out in preparation of the sixth edition of the *Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality*. This is a long-term activity, which includes the