

Global concerns are even more disturbing. Environmental tragedies, such as the destruction of tropical forests and the long range transport of air pollutants, are now intensified by such threats as ozone depletion and global warming. Factors like these gave rise and prominence during the latter years of the 1980s to *the United Nations' Commission on Environment and Development*, the Brundtland Commission, and its report, "*Our Common Future*". It has been from those deliberations that the powerful new concept, *sustainable development*, has emerged and been articulated throughout the world.

It is in that context, both national and global, that Canadians have come to ponder deeply their traditional forest values, and to debate vigorously a series of penetrating questions. How will forest land use accommodate major shifts in social goals? In what manner will we reach consensus about forestry decisions? Can we embrace sustainable development without a vision of our forests? Let us put these questions even more succinctly: *What is the destiny for Canada's forest legacy?*

The debate on these pressing forest issues has motivated the federal government to move in major ways. A Ministry of State for Forestry was created in 1984, almost twenty years after the demise of the original department. Full status was restored to the department with Bill C-29 in February of this year. About that same time, the Commons' Sub-committee on Forestry was authorized to examine the mandate and terms of reference for a *new Forestry Canada*, and to recommend upon its future role and relevance.

As this Report strongly states, *the federal government must seize the forest imperative*. Otherwise, the mission towards sustainable forestry development will fail. The time has come to demonstrate the federal forestry commitment, both in the halls of power at Parliament and on the ground in the forests of Canada.

While revealing no pretence upon the authority or jurisdiction held by the provinces over most crown lands, this Report describes well *the partnerships that must prevail*. Stewardship cannot be practised by any one party alone. The responsibilities must be shared—between governments, with industry, and among the broad range of professional, environmental and individual interests which pertain to our forest resources.

There is not a contest to win, but rather *a consensus to build*. That is surely the message from the great majority of Canadians who recognize the multiple values of our forest lands, and who want to see an end to prolonged conflicts about their use. Given visionary *leadership* by both federal and provincial forest ministers across Canada, and in *partnership* with stakeholders throughout the private sector, *a Canada Forests Accord* can be crafted to express the interdependence which must eventually be realized from the process of consultation, consensus and commitment.