

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTERS

Citizens of Canada and the world face a major challenge as the new century approaches, to conserve and manage resources in such a way that options are not taken away from future generations. This is the essence of sustainable development: that generations to come will be as able as the current generation to benefit from the endowment of natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and from the variety, richness and complexity of life that exists within nature.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is committed to turning sustainable development thinking into action. Working together with other public and private sector stakeholders, we will ensure that sustainable development considerations are factored into our decision-making, policies, programs and operations.

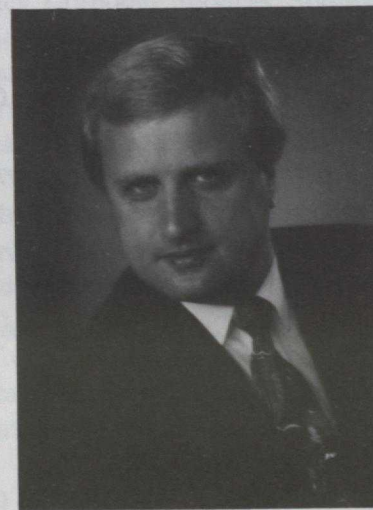
Agenda 2000 is the first sustainable development strategy of this Department. It ensures that we face the new century confident that our goals are set in a future where the three values of sustainable development are in balance - those of economic security and well-being, social development, and protection of the environment.

In international terms, the Department represents Canada on such sustainable development issues as climate change, acid rain, the management of forests and high-seas fisheries, poverty, gender equality, basic human needs, good governance, and political stability. Key to the Strategy are bilateral and multilateral negotiations and agreements on these and other related issues.

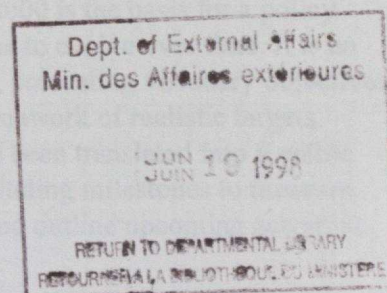
The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade is the principal, but not the only, Canadian department representing Canada's international interests. We recognize that sustainable development must be integrated into the way the government defines its business and makes its decisions, and we will actively promote and support the integration and application of sustainable development in our relations with other government departments and agencies, as well as in the international forum.



Minister of Foreign Affairs:
The Honourable Lloyd Axworthy



Minister for International Trade:
The Honourable Sergio Marchi



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