

organizations in resource planning and integrated environmental management. In Quebec, Regional Environmental Councils created by nongovernmental organizations are facilitating consensus building among stakeholders.

This development of consultative mechanisms can also be found at the municipal level. For example, the Vision 2020 project in Hamilton-Wentworth is an example of efforts to give a voice to citizens and their organizations in shaping the economic future and well-being of their community.

Much of this intersectoral dialogue builds on the work of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, which has been discussed extensively in previous reports. The National Round Table and similar round table processes at the provincial and local levels have provided new avenues for achieving consensus on sustainable development issues. These processes have helped engage diverse sectors of society in a search for more answers.

Initiatives aimed at bringing major groups together to address key issues can also be found outside government. The Whitehorse Mining Initiative (the Canadian minerals and metals industry), the Forestry Round Table (the Canadian pulp and paper sector), and the Economic Instruments Collaborative (facilitated by the National Round Table) are all examples of this continuing trend.

Many believe that intersectoral dialogue has improved the quality of public and private decisions. It has also strengthened respect and understanding between major groups as people look beyond labels to find solutions.

Coalition Building: Developing Synergy and Concerted Action for Sustainability

There is encouraging evidence that major groups are now sharing resources and expertise and finding the means to tackle specific issues and challenges jointly. Coalitions led by environmental groups on climate change and biodiversity are building on the resources and strengths of participating group members to promote action.

Labour and business groups are also working cooperatively to address environment-related issues in the workplace. For example, the Canadian Auto Workers Union and Chrysler Canada have formed a Joint National Environmental Committee to develop educational programs about the environment for communities and to enlist broad-based support for action at the local and national levels.

Labour organizations are also reaching out to schools to promote sustainability. In Quebec, the Fondation en éducation relative à l'environnement and the Interdepartmental Committee on Environmental Education have joined forces with the departments of Education and Environment and Wildlife, RECYC-QUÉBEC, the Centrale de