

# INTRODUCTION

This third Report of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) summarizes our progress, lessons learned, and challenges in achieving the goals of sustainable development. It concentrates on the chapters and themes in Agenda 21 that will be discussed at the 1996 session of the CSD. Rather than simply listing actions, it attempts to isolate the major trends and themes in Canadian responses to each of those chapters. It also includes short summaries of recent development in topics related to the sectoral chapters discussed during the April 1995 session of the CSD.

In this report, Canada uses the definition of sustainable development offered by the World Commission on Environment and Development (also known as the Brundtland Commission): "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

Canada recognizes that all individuals, major groups, and orders of government are responsible for integrating the principle of sustainable development into their activities. Accordingly, this report draws on examples from the diversity of Canadian responses to Agenda 21. Where those responses involve expenditures, amounts are expressed in Canadian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

The Government of Canada has prepared this report, using the guidelines provided by the CSD as a general framework. It has consulted with other governments in Canada and with representatives of major groups. However, it has not been possible to include every example generated by these consultations. Nonetheless, the Government has drawn from these examples to provide a representative indication of the extent of activities that are under way across the country.