

"I should add that we are not at all self-satisfied with the 10-year target deadline. It is my firm belief that, with a quickening international race for answers, we will soon find promising ways to advance our schedule," he added.

Canada's production and use of CFCs represents more than two per cent of the world's total.

The new target is in response to recommendations by leading international scientists who met last October in the Netherlands. They recommended that, to stop ozone layer depletion, nations set CFC reduction targets more stringent than those agreed to under the 1987 Montreal Protocol, which came into force on January 1, 1989. Canada is among the first countries to commit itself to further reductions.

The confirmation this winter of ozone layer deterioration over the Arctic strengthens Canada's position and resolve to reduce ozone-depleting CFCs by at least 85 per cent worldwide.

Under the Montreal Protocol, Canada and 46 other countries agreed to halve CFC use by 1999. Canada played a lead role negotiating the protocol.

Domestic regulatory action is being taken under the new Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA).

Consultations with industry and interest groups on the new reduction target will begin immediately. Controls will require the recovery or recycling of CFCs and halons and the outright prohibition on new uses, unless they are proven essential. Studies are underway to assess the social, economic and other impacts of all available control options.