

- Canada has a major responsibility to contribute to planetary survival, arising from the vast range, distinctive character, and fragility of its natural environments.
- Human activities in the contemporary economy and society generate environmental problems on all spatial scales from the very local to the global; through ecological linkages and transfer mechanisms these problems frequently increase in significance, and in some cases threaten irreversible change.
- Consequently, the adoption of sustainable development patterns is essential for both Canada's prosperity and the protection of the environment.

Recommendation 7:

The Committee recommends that present trends, both formal and informal, towards concurrent environmental jurisdiction be encouraged and strengthened. In particular, the Committee recommends:

- strengthened formal and informal mechanisms for consultation and cooperation among governments in Canada;
- harmonization of existing and proposed regulations and actions to protect the environment and promote sustainable development, based on high national standards and the opportunity for individual jurisdictions to adopt still more stringent measures;
- other measures to avoid unnecessary overlap and duplication, and to promote collaboration and the adoption of joint policies, programs and projects;
- development of links and consultation mechanisms with other relevant jurisdictions, including international institutions, municipal governments, and the institutions of aboriginal self-government, as the latter are established;
- action to give greater public awareness and understanding of, and access to, national and international coordination mechanisms concerned with the environment and sustainable development.

Recommendation 8:

The Committee recommends that the proposals for political renewal in regard to the recognition of areas of provincial jurisdiction, and in regard to streamlining government, include specific and unambiguous statements so as to ensure that these proposals are compatible with a strong federal commitment and capacity in regard to environment and sustainable development, and with the exercise of appropriate federal jurisdiction in all the areas identified in the Government's proposals.