

conduct a midterm evaluation of Canada's progress. In a report released to the public, the panel concluded that Canadians remain strongly committed to the strategy. It cited a number of examples demonstrating this, including the involvement of 250 organizations in ten model forest sites (discussed in detail below); requirements in most provinces for forest companies to state, before they harvest, how their activities will affect soil, wildlife, and climate on Crown lands; and increased support for developing sound forestry technologies.

An independent panel will again evaluate Canada's progress in implementing the strategy before it terminates in March 1997. Findings will then be used to develop a new strategy, which is expected to be released a few months later.

Despite solid and impressive progress, more remains to be done. At its annual meeting in October 1994, the CCFM agreed to increase efforts in four key areas of the strategy, as recommended by the panel:

- complete an ecological classification of forest lands;
- complete a network of protected areas representative of Canada's forests;
- establish forest inventories that include information on a range of forest values; and
- develop a system of national indicators to gauge forest management sustainability.

### **Initiatives in Government, Industry, and Other Sectors**

Canada's governments are revising forest policies to better reflect the principles of sustainable management. In January 1995, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* became law. Under the act, pulp and paper mill and forest industry operations are assessed for potential adverse environmental effects. A company that requires a permit for harvesting on Crown land or for a project involving the release of effluent may have to undergo an environmental assessment.

In the last few years, provincial governments have announced or implemented a number of initiatives. Ontario passed the *Crown*