

BACKGROUND

CANADA-MEXICO \$1-MILLION ENVIRONMENT CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT

Canada and Mexico have already completed several projects since the signing of an Environmental Co-operation Agreement in March 1990. This collaborative working relationship has allowed Environment Canada and the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology (SEDUE) to carefully evaluate needs and priorities. These have been matched with available resources under the \$1-million environmental contribution agreement announced today.

This Canada-Mexico environmental initiative has two main objectives:

- . to address SEDUE's priorities and strengthen its capabilities in the enforcement of Mexico's environmental legislation; and
- . to demonstrate Canadian public and private sector expertise in environmental technology and to open the door to future collaboration between the two countries.

The \$1-million contribution agreement is divided into six segments:

- * Compliance Monitoring
- * Hazardous Substances and Waste Management
- * Air Pollution Control
- * Environmental Impact Assessment
- * Threatened Species
- * Environmental Education

Following are just a few examples of the type of Canadian programs being offered to SEDUE.

COMPLIANCE MONITORING

Acquisition of Mobile Laboratory

Canada will provide a mobile laboratory, the first of its kind for SEDUE. This specially built, furnished and equipped camper-truck can be hooked up to a boat trailer. The mobile laboratory will allow SEDUE inspectors and technical staff to carry out on-site testing for industrial and municipal effluents at lakes and rivers throughout Mexico.

This mobile laboratory will also be used to pre-treat samples before shipping them to SEDUE laboratories. Pre-treatment of samples is a critical element in the testing process. Without this treatment, the chemical balance of the sample and the contaminants it contains can change, rendering the most sophisticated analysis meaningless.