

To Ensure a Sustainable Future

The international debate about a "sustainable future" is just beginning. Canada has already held a number of regional conferences to educate people about the emerging ideas around the process of sustainable development, and several international meetings are planned.

In March 1990, Vancouver will be the site of a trade fair and conference on techniques for doing business in ways that are less environmentally destructive. It is called GLOBE 90, Global Opportunities for Business and the Environment.

The Brundtland Commission also suggested a world conference on sustainable development in 1992, an idea which has been endorsed by the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly is expected to confirm this fall that the meeting, to be called the UN Conference on Environment and Development, be

held in 1992. The UN is also expected to agree on a location and agenda.

Last fall at the United Nations, Prime Minister Mulroney announced that Canada would create a world centre to promote internationally the concept of sustainable development. The centre is to be established in Winnipeg with both government and private funding.

In the future, each country must develop strategies for adapting its development to fit with the ecological realities of the world. All must find business practices and lifestyles that are at least environmentally neutral and preferably environmentally friendly.

In Canada, a National Task Force on Environment and Economy recommended that this country develop a conservation strategy to "ensure that we preserve genetic diversity and maintain essential ecological processes and life support systems."

The challenge ahead will be to turn ideas into plans and plans into action.

Canadian Environmental Advisor Appointed

A diplomat with considerable experience in international environmental, resource and ecological matters has been appointed Special Advisor on Environmental Affairs to the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Right Honourable Joe Clark. J. Alan Beesley, O.C., Q.C., is charged with co-ordinating Canadian foreign policy and related activities on major international environmental and ecological issues and representing Canada at international conferences concerned with such global problems.

In addition, he has served as Canada's Ambassador for Disarmament and was Canada's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade for four years. He has also been Canada's representative on the International Atomic Energy Agency and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Mr. Beesley has also represented Canada in a wide variety of United Nations conferences in New York and Geneva for over 25 years,



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Mr. Beesley was Special Advisor to the External Affairs Minister on the Law of the Sea, headed Canada's Law of the Sea Delegation, and served for three years as Ambassador to the Law of the Sea Conference. His involvement in environmental concerns goes back to 1972 when he represented Canada on environmental law issues at the 1972 Stockholm environmental conference. With his election to the International Law Commission in 1986, where he will serve until 1991, Mr. Beesley has continued to be actively involved in the development of international law.

On the left, J. Alan Beesley, Canada's special advisor on environmental affairs.

having worked with nearly every specialized agency of the United Nations and most of the UN General Assembly committees.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, Mr. Beesley holds an honorary doctorate in Environmental Studies and is a recipient of the Outstanding Public Service Award. He was most recently a University Visitor at the University of British Columbia law school.



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