

- decision making to resolve conflicts and to advance a comprehensive, sustainable approach to natural resources development in the province.
- In 1992, Alberta consolidated eight environment-related statutes into the Alberta Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. This provides an integrated approach to the protection of air, water, and land.
 - Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights came into law in February 1994. It incorporates features such as
 - a requirement that Statements of Environmental Values be prepared by fourteen provincial ministries;
 - the creation of a public electronic registry of proposals for environmentally significant policies and legislation;
 - enhanced access to courts; and
 - the appointment of an Environmental Commissioner, reporting to the Legislature, to investigate alleged contraventions of environmental laws.

Governments in Canada often work in partnership in developing national responses to key domestic and international issues. Governments are also working to harmonize policy and regulatory frameworks to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental management across Canada. To this end, a number of federal-provincial cooperative arrangements have been developed.

Private Sector

Many companies are designing environmental management systems (EMS) to integrate environmental considerations into their activities, processes, products, and services. In 1994, KPMG Management Consultants carried out a survey of Canadian companies, hospitals, municipalities, universities, and school boards. Some 69 percent reported EMSs in place. Under the aegis of the Canadian Standards Association, there is also an ongoing effort to refine existing EMS efforts by organizations and firms across Canada.

Business associations are promoting sustainable development through improved decision-making processes. A number of organizations, such as the Business Council on National Issues and the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, have developed principles that can be used to develop environmental codes of practice, EMSs, and environmental audits.

The Canadian Chemical Producers Association, the Mining Association of Canada, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, and the Aerospace Industries Association of Canada have adopted environmental policies, principles, and, in some cases, guidelines to assist member companies to integrate environmental considerations into their activities.

Challenges and Next Steps

Governments, business, and interest groups have undertaken a range of initiatives over the past five years to integrate social, environmental, and economic considerations into planning and decision making. Many of these initiatives are new and will require fine-tuning as they are implemented.