

*Adjournment Debate*

Our staff has consulted and checked with the Government of Nova Scotia and as of Tuesday, in any case, there has been no indication from the Government of Canada as to when the minister would actually sign this particular agreement. It is very important that he does.

I hope when the member responding from the government side comments on the importance of this agreement, he can give the commitment that the minister gave some nine months ago that an agreement would be signed at any time. I hope the member responding can tell us when the minister is going to sign the new forest agreement with Nova Scotia.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Guy Hudon (Parliamentary Secretary to President of the Queen's Privy Council for Canada and Minister responsible for Constitutional Affairs):** Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be given this opportunity to address this House on our achievements in the area of sustainable forestry in Nova Scotia.

As you may know, the agreement was negotiated in two phases in Nova Scotia. The first phase saw the signing of a two-year, 1989-1991, interim agreement, the Canada-Nova Scotia cooperation agreement for forestry development, 1989-1991, CAFD I. This interim agreement had a major impact in two very important areas. First, it was instrumental in building upon the momentum established through previous forestry agreements. Second, it represented a new beginning toward more integrated and sustainable forestry development.

Twenty-four million federal dollars, 55 per cent of total \$45 million agreement was invested in the Nova Scotia forest sector in key areas of forest management, applied research, development and technology transfer, and communications and education.

The two years saw us maintain annual silviculture targets needed to sustain a healthy and diversified forest

sector. Over 11,000 hectares of silviculture, 4,000 in planting, was accomplished on small private land alone. Research projects into the environmental impacts of forestry operations have been initiated. Better availability of forestry data has been made in education and training.

Since the termination of CAFD I, key programs have continued, thanks to interim funding provided by the province. I wish to assure hon. members that the new agreement incorporates these funds spent by the province.

I am pleased to say, however, that we will not have to rely on provincial funds for much longer. All that remains for the signing of a new agreement is to arrange a suitable date.

[*English*]

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There is great enthusiasm surrounding the programming and direction of this new agreement. It is a four-year deal, from 1991 to 1995, and will see continued implementation of Forestry Canada's principles for sustainable forestry development.

An appropriate date for the signing of this agreement is being negotiated, and rest assured this new agreement will embrace the concepts of sustainable development.

[*Translation*]

**Madam Deputy Speaker:** The motion to adjourn the House is now deemed to have been adopted. Accordingly this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

The House adjourned at 6.11 p.m.