

- The Youth Round Table on the Environment gives Canadian youth, from a range of backgrounds, perspectives, and values, the opportunity to provide input into the development of Environment Canada's policies and programs.

The Government of Canada is also redesigning policy and programming in a number of areas to create management partnerships with key stakeholders. A key example of this change is Fisheries and Oceans Canada's emerging Canadian Oceans Strategy, which calls for information sharing among governments, Aboriginal organizations, coastal communities, and other stakeholders and interested Canadians. Information on Canada's oceans ecosystems and activities will be used to achieve the strategy's objectives of meeting economic, environmental, and social goals for sustainable development; managing the increasing complexity and diversity of oceans use through integrated management; and engaging communities and stakeholders in making collaborative decisions that affect them.

Eastern Scotian Shelf Integrated Management Initiative

The eastern Scotian Shelf is the first offshore area selected to apply Canada's new concept of oceans management under the Oceans Act. The area possesses important living and nonliving marine resources, a high level of biological diversity and productivity, and multiple ocean users and activities with a number of existing and potential user conflicts. Effective management of the shelf needs to address a range of issues including resource use, ecological change, marine ecosystem health, and competition for ocean space. The first phase of the project resulted in an overview and use audit to set the groundwork for an oceans management plan. Information sessions will be held with individual stakeholder groups, leading to the creation of a forum comprising representatives from government, industry, communities, nongovernmental organizations, and academia. The forum will serve an advisory role, facilitating broad-based intersectoral input to the development of a long-term oceans management plan for the eastern Scotian Shelf area.

Participation in Information Sharing for Sustainable Forest Management

Canada's Model Forest Program was initiated by the Canadian Forest Service of Natural Resources Canada to encourage the creation of partnerships locally, nationally, and internationally in order to generate new ideas and on-the-ground solutions to sustainable forest management issues. A model forest brings together, and forms a partnership among, individuals and organizations who share the common goal of sustainable forest management. Partners typically include industrial companies, parks, landowners, all levels of government, Aboriginal peoples, academic institutions, environmental groups, labour, and youth. This cross-section of membership is committed to demonstrating how social, environmental, cultural, and economic interests can be integrated.

The model forest provides a unique forum where these partners can gain a greater understanding of conflicting views, share their knowledge, and combine their expertise and resources to develop innovative, region-specific approaches to sustainable forest management. A model forest acts as a giant, hands-on laboratory in which these leading-edge techniques are researched, developed, applied, and monitored. It encompasses a working-scale land base where the participants have a direct interest and influence over the uses in the forest, while at the same time the rights of participating landowners and land managers are not superseded.

The result of this grassroots approach is solutions to sustainable forest management that work and earn local support. Through the International Model Forest Network Secretariat, located in Canada, many countries have adopted the model forest concept, creating a global network that continues to grow.