



Air in Canadian cities being cleaned up . . . Maples suffering from acid rain . . . New regulations on toxic waste . . . Chemicals poisoning sea animals . . . Plan to clean up St. Lawrence River . . . Pollution . . . Prairie farming threatened by drought . . . Canada to get rid of CFCs by year 2000 . . .

The environment is headline news in Canada. Canadians have been alerted and are paying more attention to the dangers threatening their surroundings. Surveys indicate that this issue is one of their greatest concerns: a large majority is prepared to accept sacrifices in order to live in a healthy environment.

The traditional antagonism between economic development and environmental protection is losing its hard edge. Where they were once diametrically opposed, the interests of industrial firms and environmental defence groups are beginning to converge as each becomes aware of the close link between lasting development, quality of life and environmental health. Canadians and their governments are showing that now, more than ever, they are determined to find permanent solutions to environmental problems. Prevention is now taking the place of reaction; planning is taking the place of improvisation. It is certainly a great undertaking, but Canada has the will and the resources to take up the challenge.

Jurisdictions

Under Canada's federal system, responsibility for the environment is shared by federal, provincial and municipal governments. The federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over coastal and freshwater fishing, oceans, navigation, federal lands, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. It is also primarily responsible for any environmental issues that have inter-provincial or international aspects. Provinces own the natural resources within their boundaries, while municipalities, which come under the provinces, provide local services such as garbage removal and water supply. Many environmental problems are of a complicated, multidimensional nature, and their solution requires collaboration by various levels of government.