

Canada and Mexico

• Working Together on Environmental Projects •

Canada is working with Mexico to strengthen their environmental monitoring and enforcement practices. Through the *International Partnerships Program* under Canada's Green Plan, \$1 million has been pledged to Mexico for the second consecutive year.

The projects will continue to focus primarily on training in the areas of compliance monitoring, the enforcement of environmental regulations, the management of hazardous substances, the treatment of wastewater effluents, air pollution control and environmental impact assessment.

Canadian and Mexican officials are currently defining the scope of the projects for the second year, keeping in mind Mexico's environmental priorities, the need to strengthen their capabilities in the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations, and Canada's desire to promote its own environmental expertise.

In 1992, 21 projects in Mexico received funding from Canada. These included a mobile laboratory for on-site measuring of industrial and municipal emissions polluting the air, ground or water (see sidebar), and the creation of regulations and environmental protection plans for companies involved in high-risk activities. The 1992 explosion in the city of Guadalajara has led Mexico to intensify its activities to prevent accidents of this nature from happening again. Canadian specialists have also met with senior staff of Mexico's Secretariat of Social Development and Ecology (SEDESOL) to assist them with the implementation of comprehensive environmental audits and to provide training for SEDESOL staff.

The International Partnerships Program was created in 1991 as part of the Green Plan and will run until 1997. Its aim is to advance Canada's environment and sustainable development interests in the international arena through multilateral, bilateral and commercial partnerships that fit with Canadian priorities. Its purpose is twofold: to assist developing nations to achieve their environmental objectives, and to expand market opportunities for Canadian companies offering services and products in these sectors.

In Mexico, Canadian environmental companies have expanded into a fast-growing market and have demonstrated impressive expertise. In fact, their successful efforts have led to further contracts with the Mexican government, some through funding provided to Mexico by the World Bank.

Canada and Mexico have a history of co-operation on environmental issues. In 1988, they joined with the United States to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Migratory Birds and their North American Habitats. In 1990, Canada's Prime Minister and Mexico's President signed the Canada-Mexico Environmental Co-operation Agreement to plan and co-ordinate joint projects, and provide environmental and commercial benefits to both countries.

The environmental projects that Canada and Mexico are working on today and in the future reflect shared priorities and open the door to future collaboration between the two countries, primarily in the private sector. The partnerships developed also contribute to Canada's commitment to building a strong environmental industry and assisting Canadian companies in foreign markets. 🍁

Canadian Mobile Labs Fight Pollution

To support Mexico in its fight against pollution, Canada has provided it with a mobile laboratory that can conduct on-the-spot inspections of gaseous and liquid effluents, analyze hydrocarbon, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide emissions, detect radiation and monitor air quality.

The mobile lab will aid the Mexican Attorney-General for the Environment in its routine inspection of industries, enabling it to measure emissions polluting the air, ground or water. The lab will also help to monitor minimum environmental standards, and the findings will assist in the development of corrective measures for industries not meeting these standards. The mobile lab is equipped to detect and analyze specific trace contaminants that result from industrial processes.

Built by Malley Industries of Moncton, New Brunswick, the lab is outfitted with specialized equipment supplied by Caledon Control Ltd. of Mississauga and R.A. Kirby Sales of North York, Ontario.

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GLOBAL AGENDA

CANADA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

• SPRING 1993 •

Over the last several years, the protection of the global environment has increased in importance for Canadians, as it has for citizens of virtually all countries. Canadians feel strongly about the international role that their country plays in helping to care for a fragile world environment, and they expect Canada to do its fair share.

Global Agenda is a quarterly bulletin that will discuss how Canadian foreign policy can most effectively deal with global environmental challenges. Each publication will focus on a priority issue for Canada in environmental foreign policy and will profile "policy in action" abroad. Canada's Ambassador for Environment and Sustainable Development will discuss issues on the global environment agenda and report on the work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. Periodically, guest articles and book reviews will be included.

The percentage of Canadians citing the "Whole World" as the scope for environmental issues has nearly tripled from 1988 to 1992.



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