

difficulty financing the measures necessary to deal with them. However, we must find solutions to global environmental problems. The consequences for Canadians of not doing so are serious.

- Further depletion of the ozone layer threatens human health and could damage the agricultural and forestry industries.
- Increases in global warming are likely to have major economic and environmental impacts on Canada. They include possible flooding of towns and cities on our east and west coasts, increased drought, a higher risk of forest fires, lower water levels in the Great Lakes, soil degradation and damage to fish populations.
- Pollution of the oceans and declines in fish stocks threaten the livelihood of thousands of Canadians and the economies of whole regions.
- Loss of biological diversity threatens our access to species of plants and animals that may be necessary to develop new products and technologies.
- Worldwide deforestation amounts to approximately 17 million hectares annually. Forest loss on this scale affects planetary recycling of such vital elements as carbon, nitrogen and oxygen and is a major contributor to global warming.

On a more positive note, taking action to protect the global environment presents Canadians with certain advantages. Export and trade opportunities will result from growing international demand for goods, technologies and services that help protect and improve the environment. Canadians can contribute to a healthier world and gain international goodwill by being in the vanguard of those who are providing solutions to world environmental problems. At the same time, curbing pollution at home through more efficient use of resources will help improve the competitiveness of Canadian industries.