

CANADA AND THE NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA)

HOW THE AGREEMENT WORKS

The Commission for Environmental Co-operation

The Council will:

- oversee the implementation of the Agreement and the Secretariat;
- serve as a forum for discussion of environmental matters;
- promote and facilitate co-operation;
- address questions and disputes arising from the Agreement;
- work to improve environmental laws and regulations; and
- co-operate with the NAFTA Free Trade Commission in environment-related matters.

Specifically, the Council will promote a co-operative work plan based on priority areas, including:

- establishing limits for specific air and marine pollutants,
- environmental assessments of projects with transboundary implications; and
- reciprocal court access for damage or injury resulting from transboundary pollution.

It may consider and develop recommendations on environmental issues, including:

- scientific research and technology;
- eco-labelling;
- pollution prevention techniques and strategies; and
- public awareness of the environment.

The Secretariat will be accessible, active and responsible. It will:

- support the Council;
- receive submissions directly from any person or non-governmental organization alleging the non-enforcement of environmental laws;
- develop factual records and prepare reports for consideration by the Council; and
- be located in Canada.

Joint Public Advisory Committee:

- The committee, comprising five representatives from each country, will provide technical, scientific or other advice to the Secretariat and may assist in the preparation of the Secretariat's annual work program and budget.