

In conclusion, the Committee believes there *is* a unique and essential *federal role* in Canada's national forests strategy. Working closely with all stakeholders, but particularly with the provinces and the territories, and with a strengthened mandate to do so, the new Department of Forestry can contribute dramatically to attaining the remarkable reality of *sustainable forestry development* in Canada.

It is a mission for *all* forests ministers, as a partnership through the *Canadian Council of Forest Ministers*, inscribed for history as the *Canada Forests Accord*. It is a *national mission*, in which Forestry Canada must play a *leading national role!*

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 — The Committee recommends that the following conclusions be adopted as the philosophical foundation for the basic mission of the new federal Department of Forestry:

- (i) The principles of sustainable development and stewardship must be the basis for public policy concerning the management of Canada's forests, both now and in the future.
- (ii) The responsibilities for stewardship to achieve sustainable forestry development rest broadly in an interdependent manner with all stakeholders in Canada's forest resources, although policy and land management decisions belong primarily to provincial governments in their respective areas of ownership and jurisdiction.
- (iii) In terms of developing a national forests strategy, and convening a national consensus among all interests to ensure the successful implementation of that strategy, the new federal Department of Forestry must play a leading role, in co-operative and collaborative partnerships with the provinces, the territories and all other stakeholders.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 — The Committee recommends that, as the basic mission for the new federal Department of Forestry, it be charged with initiating and developing a process and a structure for the design, planning and implementation of sustainable development in Canada's forests, in a manner that will reflect these key perspectives: