

The problem does not begin and end in Canada. It is a North American concern. In Quebec, for instance, 50 per cent of acid rain comes from the United States, 25 per cent from Ontario and 25 per cent from Quebec itself. Canada has already committed to reducing its emissions of sulphur dioxide by half before 1994. As part of this program, Ontario is planning to reduce its sulphur dioxide emissions by 45 per cent, compared to the 1986 level, while Quebec will have reduced its emissions 45 per cent by 1990, compared to 1980. Other provinces east of Saskatchewan have adopted similar measures. Canada will lower its nitrogen oxide emissions from moving sources by over 45 per cent between now and the year 2000. In 1988 Canada and 24 other countries signed the Sofia Protocol, aimed at reducing these emissions.

But more has to be done. In addition to short-term remedies such as spreading lime on acidified lakes and soils, it remains extremely important to further pursue negotiations with the United States to come to an agreement on reducing emissions all over the continent.