

Canada-UK Colloquium tackles environment

'The response of industry and public authorities to environmental issues' is the theme of a colloquium held in Glasgow 12-14 November this year for representatives of public and private sectors from Canada and Britain. Among high-ranking officials taking part are the new Canadian High Commissioner to Britain, Mr Fredrik Eaton, and the British High Commissioner to Canada, Mr Brian Fall. It is chaired by Dame Janet Fookes MP.

The colloquium is followed by an open forum on 're-use and recycling' held in Dundee on 15 November, where Glasgow participants share their deliberations with a wider audience.

The themes of these two meetings are reflected

in the following articles. Participants include officials of Petro-Canada and Alcan Aluminium Ltd whose environmentalism are also featured.

The Canada-UK Colloquia are an annual forum, held alternately in Canada and Britain, bringing together academics, parliamentarians, businessmen, officials and others, to share information and experience on matters relating to public policy issues in both countries. The proceedings of each colloquium are published. The Canada-UK Colloquia are funded by the Canadian Department of External Affairs and International Trade, the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and by sponsors from the private sector.

A national policy for a healthy environment



Last December, Canada announced its wide-ranging Green Plan for a healthy environment – a plan the government promises will be second to none in ensuring clean air, water and land for all Canadians. It commits the government to sustainable use of renewable resources, protection of Canada's special spaces and species, and the preservation of the integrity of the North. More than 100 initiatives are outlined in the plan, ranging from the creation of five new national parks by 1996 to the introduction of a drinking water safety act.

More than 10 000 Canadians consulted

The Green Plan is the result of massive consultations that encouraged more than 10 000 Canadians to present their views on environmental issues. A series of workshops was held in 17 cities and information sessions in 40 more towns. Recommendations were received from representatives of the provinces and territories, municipalities, industry, unions, environmental groups, youth, aboriginal people, academics, religious organisations and concerned citizens. In the end, the Green Plan adopted 80% of the 500 recommendations that emerged from the consultations.

Forging partnerships to preserve the environment

Consultation and co-operation then, are at the heart of the Green Plan. Through the Environmental Partners Fund, for example, communities are encouraged to become involved in clean-up and protective efforts. Indian communities will be assisted in preparing environmental action plans; the Youth Advisory Council on Environment and Development will give advice on programmes geared to young people; and Canada's environmental groups will receive more funds for co-operation and exchange of information. The plan will also give Canadians information they may need to make environmentally sound choices in their daily lives.

The importance of co-operation with the private sector in protecting the environment is recognised. The economic climate of the 1990's is competitive, and the key element in maintaining a competitive edge is the ability to participate in the growing market in the environmental technologies and services, one of the fastest-growing sectors of the Canadian economy. Indeed, the environmental industry is valued at \$250 billion a year worldwide. For industry and workers, protecting the environment is as much an economic opportunity as a challenge. And under the Science and Technology Action Plan, the Canadian government will offer up to 50% funding to attract private venture capital for demonstration projects.

The Green Plan seeks to build stronger international partnerships too. It promises to increase funding to international environmental institutions, like the United Nations Environmental Programme, the World Meteorological Organisation and the International Maritime Organisation. The plan will also help Canadians participate in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil.

Green Plan initiatives announced

The government has already announced new programmes under the Green Plan to clean up some of Canada's most vital waterways. An initial \$25 million will be provided for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Pollution Prevention Initiative. Other river systems will benefit from action plans and studies under the Green Plan. In addressing pollution in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence region, the government will work in partnership with industry, municipalities, business and individuals. These groups will be involved from the beginning in mapping out prevention strategies for their respective sectors.

Canada's Atlantic coast will benefit from a series of initiatives for specific contaminated sites with funding of \$10 million supplemented by other partners in the projects. Furthermore, the