

energy use are changing to incorporate conservation and substitution, and expertise is being developed in areas of special concern to Canada, such as conservation in the forest-based industries and new sources of fluid fuels. In the near term, and probably to the end of this century, conservation is likely to play a bigger role than most renewable energy sources in contributing to energy self-sufficiency in Canada.

The diversified resource base and the geographic and social structure of the country have ensured the development of special Canadian expertise in many specialised aspects of new and renewable resource production and use. Transfer of this experience constitutes the main contribution Canada can make to the developing countries. For example, Canada has experience and expertise in such areas as energy planning and systems development, engineering and design for unique applications, transmission and transportation techniques, remote community applications, development of hydro resources, forest management and use of biomass in forest industries.

In Canada, the energy scene is complicated by the balance of powers between federal and provincial governments. The provinces have ownership and control of resources within their borders, and also have jurisdiction over many of the activities involving energy demand. They make a substantial contribution to the funding of research and development associated with energy projects. The ubiquitous and non-depletable nature of most renewable energy sources means that both levels of government can be, and are, involved in the encouragement of their promotion and exploitation, often with overlapping or joint activities. Many provinces, such as British Columbia, are just now establishing the details of a renewable energy strategy which will cover the elements of resource assessment, development and demonstration, followed by eventual commercialisation of appropriate technologies. Others like Quebec (as early as 1978), had established a renewable energy strategy and are implementing policies promoting the development and the use of new and renewable energy sources.

However in cases where resources are localised in specific areas of the country, policies may differ in perspective among provincial governments and between federal and provincial governments. At the present time, for example, discussions and negotiations are continuing between the federal and western provincial governments on revenue distribution and other issues related to tar sands development, and the final outcomes in terms of resource availability and pricing are still unclear.