

other major languages. Montreal also offers recreation, culture, entertainment and sports.

## A CONVENIENT LOCATION

Montreal is served by more than 60 airlines. It has frequent and direct connections to most major centres in North America and Europe.

It is convenient in other ways. Almost every country in the world has permanent representation within two hours of Montreal. The city has about 80 consulates and 60 permanent representatives to ICAO. It is only two hours by road or rail from the more than 130 diplomatic missions in Ottawa, Canada's capital. It is about an hour by plane from New York or Washington.

## CANADA - A COMMITMENT TO BIODIVERSITY

The operational benefits of locating in Montreal are matched by Canada's strong support for biodiversity.

Canada has 24 per cent of the world's wetlands, 20 per cent of its fresh water and 10 per cent of its productive forests. A quarter of all wilderness left on this planet is here. To guard this heritage, we are meeting our biodiversity commitments.

Canada was the first industrialized country to sign and ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity. It has followed through with a Canadian Biodiversity Strategy. Governments are protecting more of Canada's natural regions. They are strengthening related policies. The same is happening in sectors such as forestry, farming and industry.

Canada recognizes the ancient tradition of Aboriginal people living in harmony with the environment. Many Aboriginal communities now have substantial influence or control over wildlife management and are full partners in Canada's Biodiversity Strategy.

Montreal is the second largest French-speaking city in the world. The Quebec government has formally adopted the Convention's principles and objectives and followed with its own biodiversity strategy. It has improved many

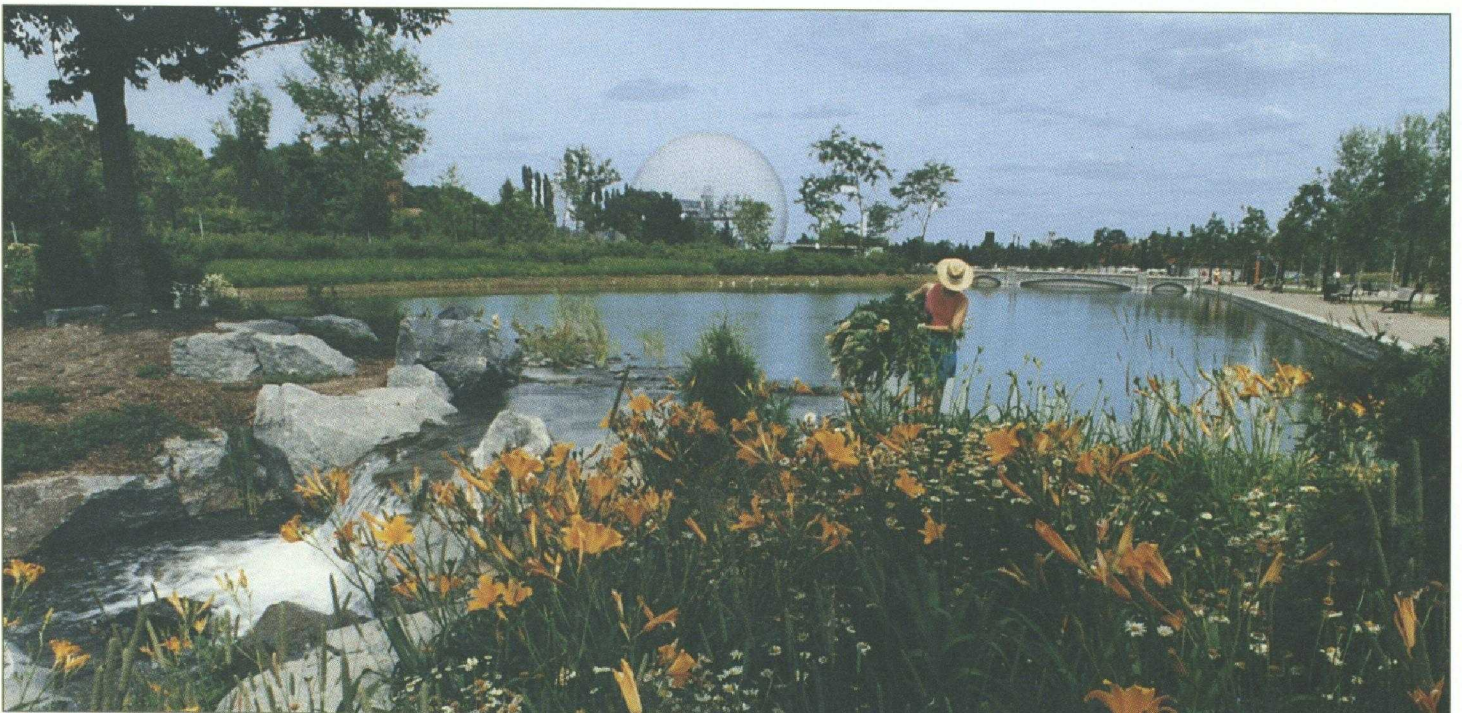
environmental policies and practices to protect its biological diversity better. For example, protected wildlife sites in Quebec occupy an area larger than Switzerland.

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

Canada's record of co-operation on wildlife conservation goes back to the early 1900s. Now, Canada contributes to international efforts to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Canada shares its biodiversity expertise extensively with developing countries. **Since 1991, C\$210 million in official development assistance has been related to the objectives of the Convention.**

Canadian projects support governments, communities and organizations that are taking action on biodiversity priorities. Canadian governments are sharing expertise in economic assessment, environmental impact, protected areas, pollution prevention and local stewardship with developing countries. 🍁



Filtration Basin in the Parc des Îles. Photos: City of Montreal