

economic connotations. Government, industry and environmental experts are no longer the only ones interested in the forests. One need only think, for example, of all the outdoor clubs and nature societies that have proliferated in recent decades. Many ordinary people are trying to convey their vision of, and their aspirations for, Canada's greatest natural resource. Unquestionably, one of the biggest challenges facing the forest sector in the 1990's will be to find ways of marrying these differing concerns and aspirations.

Even more significant is the widely held professional judgement that the economic contribution from our forests must continue to grow and be developed to meet the aspirations and needs of Canadian society into the long-term future. This premise is one of the more daunting challenges of sustainable forestry development — recognizing that the concept of sustainability may be explicitly and implicitly held by those who are responsible for economic development of the resource. In fact, we tend to agree with those who argue that our future targets for timber harvest could be double our present levels by the year 2050 and that the future vision for our forests should have such growth goals established for strategic reasons in time, and be distributed in all regions across Canada.

At the same time, obviously, there should be parallel quantified goals by 2050 for the use and enjoyment of the forests for recreation and other non-timber values. These must also be set at equal or greater magnitudes to meet the growing demands described earlier with obvious regard for variable circumstances in each region. The Committee believes that the economic contribution can be reconciled with the right balance and function for the forest as a whole and the individual forest as a unit. Further, it must be done in such a way that each region of the nation will share fully in the benefits of the forest, and doing so without sacrifice of either economic or environmental values. Such is the promise of sustainable forestry development, and such also is the immense challenge of attaining it in our forested lands.

The Government of Canada's forest policy is a guiding light for the forest sector. It is a policy that recognizes the significance of forests and the need for a long-term vision for the forest sector. It is a policy that recognizes the need for a balance between economic, social and environmental values. It is a policy that recognizes the need for a balance between the interests of the forest sector and the interests of the broader society. It is a policy that recognizes the need for a balance between the interests of the present and the interests of the future. It is a policy that recognizes the need for a balance between the interests of the forest sector and the interests of the broader society. It is a policy that recognizes the need for a balance between the interests of the present and the interests of the future.