

As citizens of one of the world's most beautiful countries, Canadians are especially aware of the extent of the ravages that pollution can bring. No one individual, group or government alone has the capability of bringing this blight under control. Only by mobilizing all available energies and pooling our resources can we effectively combat the deterioration of our environment.

(Prime Minister Brian Mulroney)

What defence has been to the world's leaders for the past 40 years, the environment will be for the next 40: an intractable exercise in national self-restraint, where gains depend less on what individual countries do than on whether many countries trust each other and will work together.

(*The Economist*, July 15, 1989)

But there is only so much we can do on our own. Environmental problems have no respect for national boundaries. Canadian environmental issues combine with those of our neighbours to give rise to regional problems; regional problems lead to global issues; and global environmental issues, in turn, have profound consequences for Canada's environment and economy. To ensure a healthy environment for Canadians, we must work together with other countries to ensure a healthy global environment.

Our health, economic prosperity and quality of life depend on international collaboration to maintain environmental quality. One example is acid rain. About half the pollutants that cause acid rain in Canada originate in the United States. On March 13, 1991, the Canada-U.S. Air Quality Accord was signed in Ottawa. Capping 10 years of effort by the Canadian government, environmental organizations and individuals in both Canada and the U.S., this agreement calls for both countries to reduce their emissions by 50 per cent, a target that Canada adopted for its own emissions several years ago.

While Canada's acid rain problem can be resolved through collaboration with our neighbour, issues like global warming and loss of biological diversity involve virtually every country on earth. Progress in resolving these issues is complicated by the fact that developing countries have