

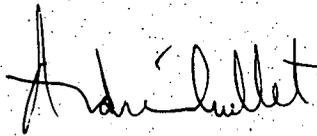
FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's first Environmental Management Plan. The plan reflects our commitment as a government department to protect the environment while carrying out our daily operations.

This is an exciting and challenging time for us all. It is imperative that we introduce measures to ensure that our interaction with the environment is sustainable in Canada and abroad. We must also find ways to cut costs and remain competitive internationally. Sound environmental management is compatible with the new economy; indeed, caring for the environment can lead to substantial economic benefits.

Internationally, Canada has been one of the strongest advocates of the environment. We must ensure that our actions, at home and abroad, fulfil our promises.

Many of you have already taken steps to include environmental considerations in your work. I applaud your efforts and enthusiasm. I also commend the Committee on Environmental Management for its firm commitment to environmental stewardship.



The Honourable André Ouellet, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Foreign Affairs