



news release

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CANADA HOSTS CSCE FORESTRY SEMINAR

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty and Minister-designate for Natural Resources Barbara Sparrow today announced that Canada is hosting a Seminar of Experts on Sustainable Development of Boreal and Temperate Forests. Held under the auspices of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), the meeting is taking place in Montreal from September 27 to October 1.

"This is a unique type of CSCE meeting, compared to those that focus on arms control, conflict prevention or human rights," said Mr. Beatty. "Canada strongly supports the CSCE's comprehensive approach to co-operative security which includes political, military, economic and environmental dimensions."

The purpose of the Seminar is to stimulate dialogue among CSCE states, key environmental groups and other international and non-governmental organizations on technical issues pertaining to the future of boreal and temperate forests. The meeting will complement the work of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and improve understanding and co-operation in the definition and application of sustainable development criteria and in related research.

"Forests have always been and will continue to be a crucial element of Canadian heritage and development," said Natural Resources Minister-designate Barbara Sparrow. "By establishing extensive partnerships among Canadians with initiatives such as the Model Forest Program and the National Forest Strategy, Canada has played a leading role regarding the future of forests. I am pleased to see such openness and collaboration at an international level."

The CSCE, established in Helsinki in 1975, is a transatlantic co-operative security forum in which Canada is a full and active participant.

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