

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE
ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
THE ECONOMY



*Annual*Report
1999-2000

National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy



Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie

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Letter from the Chair and Chief Executive Officer

July 2000

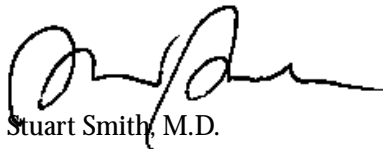
Dear Prime Minister:

We are pleased to submit to you the 1999-2000 Annual Report of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE).

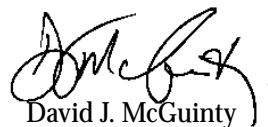
Our efforts over the last year have focused on facilitating discussion of the environmental and economic elements of a number of key issues of national and international interest. Stakeholders from a wide range of sectors have contributed to important debates on Aboriginal communities and non-renewable resources development; health, environment and the economy; emerging sustainable development issues of importance to Canada in the new millennium; and recommendations on measures for inclusion in the last federal budget.

Over the next year, the NRTEE will encourage similar discussion and debate in a number of program areas, with particular emphasis on the development of sustainable development indicators, the development of eco-efficiency indicators in business, and ecological fiscal reform. We look forward to continuing to provide your office with current information and advice throughout 2000-2001.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Smith, M.D.
Chair



David J. McGuinty
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

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National Round Table
on the Environment
and the Economy



Table ronde nationale
sur l'environnement
et l'économie

The NRTEE: *An Overview*

Who We Are

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (NRTEE) is an independent agency of the federal government committed to providing decision makers and opinion leaders with reliable information and objective views on the current state of the debate on the environment and the economy.

The NRTEE's members are distinguished Canadians appointed by Governor-in-Council. Members represent a broad range of regions and sectors — including business, labour, academe, environmental organizations and First Nations.

What We Do

The NRTEE was legislated by an Act of Parliament in 1994 to serve as a catalyst in identifying, explaining and promoting the principles and practices of sustainable development. Working with stakeholders across Canada, the NRTEE carries out its mandate by identifying key issues with both environmental and economic implications, fully exploring these implications, and suggesting action designed to balance economic prosperity with environmental preservation.

Activities are organized into a series of programs, each of which is overseen by a task force or committee made up of one or more NRTEE members and selected representatives from business, government and non-profit organizations.

The responsible task force or committee commissions research, conducts national consultations, reports on areas of agreement and disagreement, and puts forward reasoned recommendations for change. The full NRTEE then reviews these reports and recommendations prior to approving and releasing them to the public. The NRTEE meets four

times each year to review progress, establish priorities for the future and initiate new programs.

In addition to program responsibilities, the NRTEE administers the Canadian component of Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD), an international training program for promising individuals from various countries designed to further their understanding of, and ability to manage, issues related to sustainable development.

How We Work

A multistakeholder approach, combined with impartiality and neutrality, are the hallmarks of the NRTEE's activities. By creating an atmosphere in which all points of view can be expressed freely and debated openly, the NRTEE has established a process whereby stakeholders themselves define the environment/economy interface within issues, determine areas of consensus and identify the reasons for disagreement in other areas.

Each year, the NRTEE undertakes a strategic planning process to identify key issues to be addressed over the short and medium term. Programs are selected which address pressing issues with both environmental and economic implications and which have potential for advancing sustainable development.

Making headway in sensitive areas while maintaining balance is a challenge for stakeholders. As a catalyst in the process, the NRTEE brings a "round table" format to each issue by:

- analyzing the environmental and economic facts and trends;
- actively seeking input from key stakeholders;
- drawing together the results of research and consultation, clarifying the "state of the debate";
- pinpointing the consequences of action and inaction and making recommendations.

The round table process is a unique form of stakeholder consultation, permitting progress on diverse issues with an environmental/economic interface. The process itself is of value in

overcoming entrenched differences. At the same time, the products (reports) for each program emphasize broad policy development and provide specific recommendations for action.

The Year in Review: *Program Updates*

Economic Instruments and Green Budget Reform

The goal of this program has been to advance the use of market-based approaches for environmental improvement in Canada. It is focused on three key components:

1. *Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading Program*

Continuing the work of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading program, completed last year, which explored various approaches for incorporating emissions trading into a Canadian program to limit greenhouse gases, the NRTEE hosted a workshop entitled *An International Comparison of Progress*

Toward Development of Domestic Emissions Trading Programs for Greenhouse Gases at Globe 2000 on March 23 in Vancouver, BC. This session provided a current analysis of a variety of domestic emissions trading schemes either being implemented or under consideration in selected countries, and

linked these schemes to the international trading mechanisms. Representatives from Canada, the United States, Australia and Denmark participated in the panel discussion.



2. *Greening the Budget*

The Economic Instruments and Greening the Budget Committee has continued its work on the use of economic instruments to improve the environment. Central to this program is the annual Greening the Budget process, held to develop recommendations for consideration by the Finance Minister in the ensuing year's budget. Stakeholder meetings were held throughout the summer to examine proposed measures and streamline the recommendations into six key measures that were presented to the Minister of Finance and the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance in November. The six measures fell into three broad categories:

- *Catalyzing investment in innovative technologies* included implementing a federal green energy procurement plan and an accelerated capital cost allowance for investments in highly eco-efficient technologies.
- *Protecting and conserving natural spaces* included reducing capital gains taxation on ecological land gifts by 50 per cent and establishing a stewardship fund for habitat conservation. Such initiatives will create jobs and make communities more liveable and healthy.
- *Capacity-building measures* consisted of (a) support for a Canadian program for applied sustainable economics to develop indicators to measure environmental performance and (b) the creation of a sustainable solutions network to provide governments, business and communities

with the information and tools they need to integrate economic and environmental considerations into their decision-making processes.

Approximately half of the \$700 million in new environmental-related spending will be directed to initiatives that reflect the NRTEE's proposals. Of that amount, \$9 million over three years will be provided to the NRTEE and Environment Canada, in collaboration with Statistics Canada, to develop environmental and sustainable development indicators. These indicators will provide a better basis for assessing the interactions between the economy and the environment and will improve Canada's ability to measure its progress.

3. Ecological Fiscal Reform

The Economic Instruments Committee has launched a major program to promote discussion and implementation of ecological fiscal reform in Canada. Initiatives in concrete areas such as air and water quality will be emphasized.

Measuring Eco-efficiency

Eco-efficiency is a practical approach that businesses are adopting in setting and achieving their environmental performance objectives. Measuring these

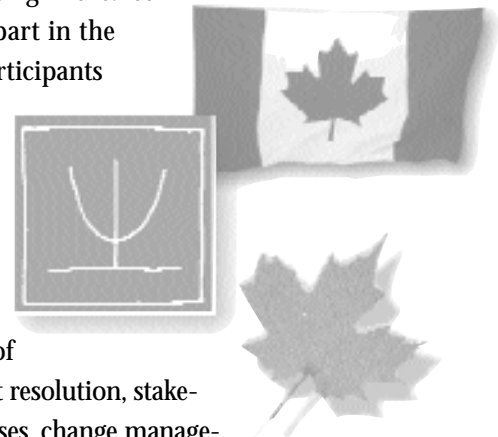
goals in a standardized manner will allow useful dialogue and permit easy comparison between divisions, companies and business sectors. Under its Measuring Eco-efficiency program, the NRTEE has proceeded with the testing of material and energy eco-efficiency indicators. A pilot project, *Measuring Eco-efficiency in Business: Developing a Core*

Set of Eco-efficiency Indicators, was carried out during 1997 and 1998. This expanded work, supported by Environment Canada, will build on those results and involves the active participation of 13 companies

from the manufacturing sector. These companies are testing the value of the energy and material intensity indicators to their businesses. They will refine the definitions, decision rules and complementary indicators. The final report will be completed in the spring of 2001.

LEAD Canada

LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) Canada is a two-year training program that seeks to ensure that future decision makers understand the challenges of sustainable development and are equipped to meet them. Twelve LEAD programs around the world each choose up to 15 promising mid-career professionals to take part in the program each year. Participants (called Associates) are exposed to a number of substantive issues related to sustainable development, and gain skills in a variety of areas including conflict resolution, stakeholder dialogue processes, change management, cross-cultural communication and public presentation. At the same time, Associates undertake a self-directed course of study that is designed to complement their professional activities. In August, Cohort 7 attended its second domestic training session in Ottawa. Twelve new Associates joined LEAD Canada's Cohort 8 in October. Cohort 8 Associates met with more than 170 other LEAD Associates in Brazil for their first international training session in February. The theme of the session was *Transition and Diversity: Challenges for Sustainability in a Globalized World*. The international session dealt with globalization and its impacts on society, culture, the environment, politics and economics at national and local levels.



Due to a significant decrease in funding, budgetary constraints and a re-evaluation of opportunities and priorities for the future, the National Round Table will be ending its relationship with LEAD International as the host institute for the Canadian program after the completion of Cohort 8. The recruitment for the Cohort 9 training cycle was suspended and LEAD International is planning to choose a new host institute.

Health, Environment and the Economy

The focus of the Health, Environment and the Economy program has been on policy and decision-making processes. Four case studies on lindane, low-sulphur fuel regulations, MMT (methylcyclopentadienyl manganese tricarbonyl) — a fuel additive, and bovine hormone Revalor-H illustrated major areas of concern. Based in part on these cases, stakeholders and experts participated in workshops in November and January to identify key issues and recommendations. The discussions, findings and recommendations will be incorporated into a State of the Debate report to be released in the fall of 2000.

Sustainable Development Priorities for the New Millennium

This program will identify sustainable development trends and challenges for Canada for the first decade of the new millennium.

The first area examined in the year-long process was health and the environment at the August plenary held in Halifax, NS. In conjunction with the Halifax plenary, a public workshop entitled *Emerging Health and Environment Issues for the New Millennium* was co-sponsored with the Nova Scotia Community College and attracted an audience of 400.

The second area, “jobs, the environment and the economy,” was examined at the November plenary held in Toronto, ON. Over 500 people attended a public lecture hosted by the NRTEE entitled *Natural Capitalism and the Canadian Economy*, which featured Amory Lovins, co-author of *Natural Capitalism: Creating the Next Industrial Revolution*.

Preservation of nature was the focus of the third plenary in February in Calgary, AB. In conjunction with the plenary, the NRTEE hosted three public events featuring Amory Lovins. The NRTEE brought 200 industry, government and non-governmental representatives together for a luncheon presentation, which was then followed by a “bear pit” session with students and faculty at the University of Calgary. The day’s events were capped by a dinner hosted by the NRTEE for over 25 oil-patch executives, at which Mr. Lovins spoke on *Coming Energy Surprises: Megawatts, Hypercars, Hydrogen and Distributed Utilities*.

The fourth and final issue, urban liveability, was examined at the May plenary in Montreal, QC.

A statement highlighting emerging sustainable development issues of importance to Canada for the first decade of the new millennium will be released in the fall of 2000.

Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development

The goal of this program has been to determine measures that must be taken to ensure that non-renewable resource development in Canada’s North over the next 10-25 years supports economically viable, self-sufficient and socially healthy Aboriginal communities without compromising the ecological integrity of the environment. A planning meeting in June brought together an experienced cross-section of participants from across Canada representing industry, the environment, government and

Aboriginal communities to identify and resolve conflicts related to the extraction of non-renewable resources near Aboriginal communities.

Commissioned research to provide the information base for the program included: *Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development: The Magnitude of Opportunity, Oil and Gas Activity in the Northwest Territories (NWT); The Legal, Regulatory and Policy Framework for Non-renewable Resource Development in the NWT;*

and Impact and Benefits Agreements as Instruments for Aboriginal Participation in Non-renewable Resource Development.

At a meeting held in March in Yellowknife, NWT, and opened by the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier, NWT, over 100 participants helped identify priorities and preliminary recommendations.

A State of the Debate report including final recommendations will be released in early 2001.

Communications and Publications

The NRTEE Web site was redesigned. The Web site has continued to disseminate key information to stakeholders and members of the public. It was the primary information source for the Greening the Budget 2000 recommendations and featured bi-monthly *Progress Bulletins* for the Health, Environment and the Economy and the Aboriginal Communities & Non-renewable Resource

Development programs. The four Health, Environment and the Economy program case studies and the *NRTEE Sustainable Cities Initiative Final Report and Recommendations* are all available free of charge on the NRTEE Web site.

Publications continued to be marketed and distributed on a partial cost-recovery basis through Renouf Publishing Co. Ltd.

Look Ahead

The coming year, 2000-2001, will be an active one for the NRTEE. The following are the key initiatives planned for next year:

- The NRTEE's program, **Sustainable Development Priorities for the New Millennium**, will release its statement of emerging sustainable development issues at the Policy Research Initiative Conference in the fall. This will be followed by an extensive year-long national communications campaign that will target all levels of government, industry associations, citizens' groups and the media.
- The NRTEE will launch its **Sustainable Development Indicators (SDI) Initiative**. The goal is to generate a national set of sustainable development indicators that will be practical, feasible, well-accepted and used widely in Canada. This initiative originates from the NRTEE's Greening the Budget 2000 recommendations, and came to fruition through funding in the 2000 Federal Budget.
- The **Economic Instruments program** will concentrate its efforts on stimulating discussion and the promotion of Ecological Fiscal Reform over the next two to three years, while continuing to make annual pre-budget submissions to the Department of Finance.
- Reports from the **Aboriginal Communities and Non-renewable Resource Development and Health, Environment and the Economy** programs will be released and actively communicated.
- **LEAD Canada's** Cohort 7 Associates will be joining over 150 other LEAD Associates at their graduation and final international training session in Vancouver, BC, in August. The LEAD Secretariat will be working closely with LEAD International to plan the Vancouver session, which will be the first time an international training session is held in Canada. The session will include field trips to Vancouver Island, BC, Whistler, BC, and Yellowknife, NWT. Cohort 8 forges into the second half of its training session in Ottawa in mid-October and will attend its second and final international training session in the Commonwealth of Independent States in August 2001. After Cohort 8's graduation at this international session, the NRTEE will cease to be the host institute for the LEAD program in Canada.

July 7, 2000

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

MANAGEMENT REPORT

for the year ended March 31, 2000

We have prepared the accompanying financial statement of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy in accordance with the reporting requirements and standards of the Receiver General for Canada. This financial statement was prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies set out in Note 2 of the statement on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

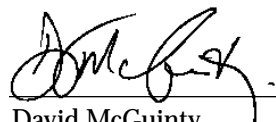
Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of data in this financial statement rests with the management of the Round Table. In order to assure maximum objectivity and freedom from bias, the financial data contained in this financial statement has been examined by the Executive Committee of the Round Table.

The information included in the financial statement is based on management's best estimates and judgments with due consideration to materiality. To fulfil these accounting and reporting responsibilities, the Round Table maintains a set of accounts which provides a centralized record of the Round Table's financial transactions. Financial information contained in the ministerial statements and elsewhere in the *Public Accounts of Canada* is consistent with this financial statement, unless indicated otherwise.

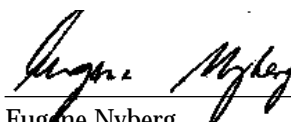
The Round Table's directorate of financial services develops and disseminates financial management and accounting policies, and issues specific directives which maintain standards of accounting and financial management. The Round Table maintains systems of financial management and internal control which give due consideration to costs, benefits and risks. They are designed to provide reasonable assurance that transactions are properly authorized by Parliament and are executed in accordance with prescribed regulations, and are properly recorded so as to maintain accountability of Government funds and safeguard the Round Table's assets. The Round Table also seeks to assure the objectivity and integrity of data in its financial statement by the careful selection, training and development of qualified staff, by organizational arrangements that provide appropriate divisions of responsibility, and by communication programs aimed at ensuring that its regulations, policies, standards and managerial authorities are understood throughout the organization.

Management presents this financial statement to the Auditor General of Canada who audits and provides an independent opinion which has been appended to this financial statement.

Approved by:



David McGuinty
Executive Director and
Chief Executive Officer



Eugene Nyberg
Corporate Secretary and
Director of Operations



AUDITOR GENERAL OF CANADA

VÉRIFICATEUR GÉNÉRAL DU CANADA

Auditor's Report

To the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
and the Prime Minister

I have audited the statement of operations of the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy for the year ended March 31, 2000. This financial statement is the responsibility of the Round Table's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, this financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the results of operations of the Round Table for the year ended March 31, 2000 in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Flageole'.

Richard Flageole, FCA
Assistant Auditor General
for the Auditor General of Canada


Ottawa, Canada
7 July 2000

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy *Statement of Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2000*

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Expenditures		
Operating		
Salaries and employee benefits	1,487,063	1,424,954
Professional and special services	740,769	876,305
Transportation and communications	383,527	258,019
Publications	247,243	328,285
Rentals	215,268	219,109
Furniture and equipment	111,124	45,620
Repairs and maintenance	39,803	21,921
Utilities, materials and supplies	32,548	85,780
Other subsidies and payments	107	142
	3,257,452	3,260,135
Executive Committee		
Travel and living expenses	15,461	16,508
Honoraria	25,036	33,240
	40,497	49,748
Other Committees		
Travel and living expenses	164,171	121,531
Honoraria	106,914	90,694
	271,085	212,225
	3,569,034	3,522,108
Non-tax revenue		
Sale of publications	15,576	16,035
Sale of conference materials	3,380	-
Refund of previous years' expenditures	-	315
Sale of surplus Crown assets	369	291
	19,325	16,641
Net cost of operations (Note 3)	3,549,709	3,505,467

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this financial statement.

Approved by:



 Stuart Smith
 Chair



 David McGuinty
 Executive Director and
 Chief Executive Officer

National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy

Notes to the Statement of Operations for the Year Ended March 31, 2000

1. Authority and Purpose

The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy (Round Table) was established in 1994 under the *National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy Act* and is a departmental corporation named in Schedule II of the *Financial Administration Act*. The Round Table fulfils its objective of promoting sustainable development, and the integration of environment and economy in decision making in all sectors, by conducting studies, organizing multistakeholder “dialogues” on specific issues and economic sectors, providing advice, carrying out educational and communication activities, and by acting as a catalyst for change. Its operating expenditures are funded mainly by a budgetary lapsing authority, and to a lesser extent, from cost recovery and cost sharing for specific activities. Employee benefits are authorized by statutory authorities.

2. Significant Accounting Policies

The statement of operations has been prepared using the following accounting policies:

a) Expenditure recognition

All expenditures are recorded on the accrual basis with the exception of termination benefits, vacation pay and compensatory time-off, which are recorded on cash basis.

b) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recorded on the cash basis.

c) Capital purchases

Acquisitions of capital assets are charged to operating expenditures in the year of purchase.

d) Services provided without charge by Government departments

Estimates of amounts for services provided without charge from Government departments are included in expenditures.

e) Refunds of previous years' expenditures

Refunds of previous years' expenditures are recorded as revenues when received, and are not deducted from expenditures.

f) Public Service Superannuation Plan

Employees participate in the Public Service Superannuation Plan administered by the Government of Canada. The employees and the Round Table contribute equally to the cost of the Plan. The Round Table's contributions are recorded as expenditure in the year they are made and they represent the total pension obligation of the Round Table under the Plan.

3. Parliamentary Appropriations

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Privy Council — Vote 40	3,114,138	3,018,000
Supplementary — Vote 40b	98,600	121,509
	3,212,738	3,139,509
Lapsed	178,342	86,327
	3,034,396	3,053,182
Statutory contributions to employee benefit plans	266,000	237,000
Spending of revenues from the sales of publications and conference materials in accordance with section 29.1 (1) of the FAA	18,956	16,035
Spending of proceeds from the disposal of surplus Crown assets	369	291
Total use of appropriations	3,319,721	3,306,508
Add: accommodations and other services provided without charge by other Government departments	182,280	190,500
funds received from other Government departments	67,033	25,100
Less: non-tax revenue	19,325	16,641
Net cost of operations	3,549,709	3,505,467

4. Specified Purpose Account

When the Round Table was created, a specified purpose account was established pursuant to section 21 of the *Financial Administration Act*, to record grants and donations received from third parties, and expenses incurred to do various studies related to the principles of sustainable development in Canada and internationally. This account is also used to reflect financial transactions of the Canadian chapter of the LEAD (Leadership for Environment and Development) International training program which will sunset in December 2001. These receipts and expenses are not included in the statement of operations of the Round Table. The unspent balance in this account is carried forward for future use.

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Balance at beginning of year	21,065	246,199
Receipts	597,024	304,225
	618,089	550,424
Expenses	420,237	529,359
Balance at end of year	197,852	21,065

5. Inventory of Publications Intended for Sale

Effective May 28, 1996, the Round Table began a cost-recovery program for its publications. Canadian distribution is done through a distributor who is entitled to a 50 per cent commission fee on the sale price of each publication sold. Inventory of publications intended for sale is valued at net realizable value.

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
Inventory at beginning of year	246,984	251,366
Add: new publications produced	38,488	60,446
Less: sales	15,576	16,035
written-off	-	37,665
adjustments	9,400	11,128
allowance for obsolescence	109,762	-
Inventory at end of year	150,734	246,984

6. Capital Assets and Accumulated Amortization

Internal controls are maintained to safeguard capital assets costing over \$1,000. The following supplemental information reflects historical cost and amortization if the assets were amortized on a straight-line basis over their useful lives of five years.

Capital assets at cost	March 31, 1999	Acquisitions	Disposal	March 31, 2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Informatics Equipment	257,420	48,933	–	306,353
Office Furniture and Equipment	129,479	12,640	1,100	141,019
	<u>386,899</u>	<u>61,573</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>447,372</u>
Accumulated Amortization	March 31, 1999	Amortization	Disposal	March 31, 2000
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Informatics Equipment	172,703	37,188	–	209,891
Office Furniture and Equipment	50,821	23,524	971	73,374
	<u>223,524</u>	<u>60,712</u>	<u>971</u>	<u>283,265</u>

7. Liabilities

As of March 31, liabilities are as follows:

	2000	1999
	\$	\$
a) Accounts payable and accrued charges		
Accounts payable	500,014	274,074
Accrued salaries	60,712	13,058
	560,726	287,132
b) Other liability		
Accrued vacation pay	58,646	45,579
Compensatory time-off	2,968	6,658
	61,614	52,237