



**Presentation to the Standing
Committee on Environment and
Sustainable Development
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Johanne Gélinas

Commissioner of the
Environment and Sustainable
Development

Introduction

- Thank you for the invitation
- This committee's importance to my work
- My background
- Predecessors' work was excellent -- I look forward to building on the foundation they laid.

Three Topics Today

- Priorities and changes in approach
- The 2001 Report
- Planning: 2002 and Beyond

Priorities and Changes in Approach

- Increase impact of our work through improved communication with Canadians
- Improve petition process - part of improved communication with Canadians
- More emphasis on results of SD strategies
- Change tabling date and enhanced follow-up on recommendations
- More integration of environment into OAG work

Improved communication with Canadians

- Increase impact of our work
- Raise the profile of the CESD
- Speak to Canadians and get their attention:
 - ◆ Parliamentary committees -- This committee is our natural client. We need to build other bridges as well.
 - ◆ Media
 - ◆ Departments

Petition Process

- Legislation allows your constituents to petition and get answers from departments.
- Questions are good; answers are interesting.
- But there is not enough interest -- only a small number so far.
- Process should become better known and more accessible.

SD Strategies and Results

- SD strategies are a potentially powerful management tool for bringing us closer to sustainable development.
- SD strategies should lead to discernible improvements in environment and lives of Canadians
- SD strategies should form part of departmental accountability frameworks.
- In sum, a greater focus on the results of SDS's

Reporting and Follow up

- Fall tabling -- starting this fall
- Greater emphasis on follow-up

2001 Report Three Main Parts

- Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin
- Managing for Sustainable Development
- Follow-up of Audits on Energy Efficiency and Climate Change

2001: Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin

- Home to 14 million Canadians
- 20% of world's fresh water
- \$12 billion in agriculture
- Majority of Canadian industrial activity
- If this region is not healthy, Canada is not healthy.

2001: Why audit this region ?

- The region embodies many cutting edge issues.
- There are serious environmental stresses.
- Ecosystem complexity is compounded by the complexity of governance arrangements.

2001: Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin

- The audit concentrates on five main subject areas:
 - ◆ Water quality and quantity
 - ◆ Fisheries
 - ◆ Agriculture
 - ◆ Species and space at risk, and
 - ◆ Ecosystem initiatives

2001: Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Basin: Questions

- What is known about the state of the basin?
- What is the federal government role and how well is it performing this role?
- Are the really important matters being attended to?
- What does the future hold?

2001: Managing for Sustainable Development

- Four interrelated chapters:
 - ◆ Environmental management systems in federal departments: Have appropriate systems been established?
 - ◆ Reporting of performance on sustainable development: Is the information provided to Parliament adequate?
 - ◆ The first sustainable development strategies: Did departments conduct assessments?
 - ◆ What is the social dimension of SD?

2001: Follow-up of Audits on Climate Change and Energy Efficiency

- Audit on climate change noted need for
 - ◆ a coordinated approach, applicable to the entire range of federal activities.
 - ◆ Rethinking the federal climate change strategy.
- Both audits noted need for
 - ◆ reporting on specific targets and outcomes against which government can measure progress.
- Follow up will report on how much progress we have observed on these matters.

Plans for 2002

- Take Stock --Look at progress over the last 10 years in several key areas :
 - ◆ toxic substances
 - ◆ contaminated sites
 - ◆ waste management
- Review SD strategies
- International Work

Plans for 2003 -2007

- Possible Areas of Interest --
 - ◆ Economy and Trade
 - ◆ Natural Resources
 - ◆ Management Tools
 - ◆ Environmental Health

Plans for 2003 and Beyond

Selection Criteria

- Is there a federal mandate?
- Is there a risk that the issue may have a negative impact on Canadians?
- Has Parliament expressed an interest, or is it likely to be interested?
- Can the CESD make a difference? Or can others better handle it?

Conclusion

- If we are on a journey, we need to know whether we are getting closer to the destination.
- This committee is very important to our work.