### REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION

### **OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

MADE BY THE

# ROUND TABLE ON RESOURCE LAND USE AND STEWARDSHIP

**GOVERNMENT OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND** 

#### Introduction

The report of the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship was made public on September 3, 1997. It contained 87 recommendations, many of which were directed in whole or in part to the Government of Prince Edward Island. After receiving the report, Government asked the Legislature's Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment to assume responsibility for tracking progress. To assist the Standing Committee in this regard, a subcommittee of deputy ministers and senior staff was put in place.

This progress report on the implementation of recommendations made by the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship was prepared by the lead agencies responsible for taking action. The recommendations are assigned to one of seven categories:

- 1. Recommend Implementation No significant barriers identified.
- 2. Recommend Implementation New money required.
- 3. Recommend Implementation New legislation required.
- 4. Recommend Implementation Regulatory change required.
- 5. Implementation Delayed Responsibility shared with outside agency.
- 6. Implementation Delayed Further evaluation required.
- 7. Recommend rejection.

This report shows progress to date and plans for fiscal year 1998-99. Fully two-thirds of the Round Table recommendations have been implemented or are in progress. Further details on Round Table initiatives will be made public as Ministers present detailed budget estimates and program outlines.

In presenting this report, Government wishes to emphasize its commitment to the strategy proposed by the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship. While individual recommendations may prove challenging from a policy or fiscal stand point, Government remains confident that significant progress can and will take place. This first progress report shows clearly that Government and the resource industries are prepared to move forward, following the blueprint laid out so carefully by the Round Table on Resource Land Use and Stewardship.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
	CATEGORY	1 - RECOMMEND IMPLEMENTATION - NO SIGNIFIC	CANT BARRIERS IDENTIFIED
5 (21)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Island farm organizations continue to support the efforts of the Eastern Canada Soil and Water Conservation Centre, particularly those efforts that have practical application to soil and water conservation on Prince Edward Island.	DAF continues to support ECSWCC through the active participation of its representative on the Board of Directors (Teresa Mellish). The Board is considering a proposal to expand its membership to include producers.
11 (25)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments work with the livestock and potato sectors to implement actions proposed in the Livestock Industry Strategic Plan to increase the level of cooperation between the two sectors.	DAF is assisting industry groups through AITP (Agricultural Industry Transition Program) to develop and implement Strategic Plans which incorporate the actions proposed in the Livestock Industry Strategic Plan. PEI Soil and Crop Improvement Association has released model leases for potato and livestock farmers which will facilitate the sharing of the land base.
14 (30)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments immediately begin to enforce those sections of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> and the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> that protect watercourses against contamination from agricultural soil erosion and that they take appropriate measures to correct any deficiencies.	DFE response will be determined by how and if government gives direction via Bill 60, An Act to Amend the Environmental Protection Act. The preamble to this recommendation recognises the difficulty in enforcing non-point sources of contamination, however DFE will enforce legislation where appropriate and in Spring 1998 will develop a strategy to address enforcement of soil and other contaminants in watercourses.
21 (46)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments continue to provide financial and technical support to watershed improvement groups and, in particular, those that are:  • capable of demonstrating appropriate techniques in environmental management; and  • accountable in the areas of financial management, public education and the achievement of results.	DFE and Canada continue to support watershed improvement groups through Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program, Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, Action 21 and Atlantic Coastal Action Program; new provincial Wildlife Conservation Fund will provide additional resources to support worthwhile initiatives promoted by groups.

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22 (47)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that Government and waste management commissions increase educational efforts designed to inform Islanders about the dangers of common household chemicals and provide safer alternatives for their proper disposal.	DFE continues to support this initiative, consequently household hazardous waste disposal will be required of the Request for Proposals to develop an island-wide, public/private waste management partnership. The successful private sector company will be challenged not only to develop a disposal strategy, but also to foster a responsible attitude amongst Islanders.
28 (52)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	<ul> <li>We recommend that nitrate and pesticide concentrations in well water be adopted as the principal indicators of drinking water quality and that monitoring efforts be directed as follows:</li> <li>an Island-wide network consisting of a number of wells in each of the three index watersheds: Mill River, West River and Bear River;</li> <li>concentrated sampling of wells from watersheds that have already demonstrated nitrate levels greater than 6 mg/l; and</li> <li>a research program designed to clarify the relationship between total nitrogen application and nitrate levels in ground water, on a watershed basis.</li> </ul>	Nitrate and pesticides have been identified as priority areas for assessment of drinking water quality, and are being measured through the pesticide monitoring program. Nitrates are also monitored through the index network and through existing departmental sampling programs. A technical workshop held in February/98 focused on current state of knowledge and future research needs/directions.
29 (52)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Island standard for maximum nitrate concentration in drinking water be set at 10 mg/l, consistent with the Canadian Water Quality Guidelines.	The Department has adopted on an operational basis the 10 mg/L nitrate guideline for drinking water quality. The Department doesn't believe there is a need for formal Provincial drinking water quality guidelines or regulations, and the policy will be to follow the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality, including the 10 mg/L guideline for nitrate nitrogen.
30 (52)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment report publicly on the results of all pesticide studies carried out on drinking water, and that pesticide levels be reported, regardless of concentration. Reports of the results of pesticide sampling in drinking water should include the prevalence of negative samples as well as the percentage or prevalence of samples approaching and exceeding established public health guidelines.	The Department publicly released the results of year one of the pesticide monitoring program, and anticipates the release of the year two results in May/June. The Department will continue releasing results of all water quality studies to the public.

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31 (52)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	With respect to irrigation and its impact on the quantity of ground and surface water, we recommend that efforts be directed toward an Island-wide network, with continuous monitoring of ground water levels at nine existing index stations across the province, and continuous monitoring of surface water levels on the three index watersheds, as well as the Dunk/Wilmot water management basin.	During the summer of '97, the Department conducted additional monitoring of ground water levels in areas of intensive irrigation activity. Some results of this work have been released in '97. Monitoring the impact of irrigation wells will continue in '98. Streamflow monitoring is conducted on a continuous basis as recommended. Targeted streamflow monitoring is conducted to determine when extraction must be curtailed.
32 (52)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	In order to establish proper baselines, we recommend that a detailed inventory of ground water levels, water withdrawal rates and stream flow be conducted in areas subject to high volume extraction for industrial, municipal or irrigation purposes, such as the Winter River and Barbara Weit River basins, and those areas of the Island where irrigation is most common.	The Department believes that the existing network of ground water observation wells, and data acquired through the existing high capacity well permitting process provides a sound basis for assessment of ground water availability for withdrawals. Supplementary work in the previous year adds support to this knowledge. Additional work on the identification and quantification of high capacity water withdrawals started this winter. Synthesis of data will continue in '98.
33 (53)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that suspended solids (silt), stream substrate fine sediment levels and nitrate concentration be adopted as the principal indicators of surface water quality in freshwater streams and that monitoring efforts be directed as follows:  • an Island-wide network consisting of surface water sampling stations in each of the three index watersheds, Mill River, West River and Bear River, as well as the two so-called management basins, the Dunk/Wilmot and Montague Rivers;  • continuous monitoring with data logging stations; and  • measurement of pesticide concentrations in surface water following heavy rainfall events.	Nitrate and suspended solids are used as primary benchmarks for stream water quality. The sampling network exists and sampling is ongoing. Continuous monitoring will begin with a trial installation of a turbidity sensor at a site in '98. Pesticides measurement after rainfall is desirable but resources to continue work have not yet been identified. Resources to measure bedload are not available at this time.
34 (53)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Island standard for suspended solids be set at 100 mg/l, consistent with the Canadian Guidelines for the Protection of Aquatic Life.	The Department will be using '100 mg/L' as a standard that no sample should exceed.

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35 (53)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that estuarine water be monitored in the Mill River, the Dunk-Wilmot River, the West River, the Boughton River and the Murray River based on the following indicators: salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, ammonia, faecal coliform bacteria and chlorophyll 'a,' and that this information be used to establish an index of general water quality and ecosystem health in these estuaries. We recommend further that, once the index has been developed, the monitoring network be expanded to include other estuaries in watersheds exposed to heavy resource land use.	The base estuarine monitoring network exists and sampling is ongoing. Shortcomings in parameter selection in the recommendation have been rectified in Departmental sampling. The Department is seeking resources with partners to expand the program to a peak activity survey of estuarine health of a large number of PEI estuaries in '98.
36 (53)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that all information produced from the indicator- monitoring network be communicated to residents in the areas affected, through public meetings, and to Islanders generally, through regular press releases and publications. It is important that information be brought to the attention of residents in a timely manner, particularly when a problem occurs, and that progress on all indicators be reported regularly.	In '97 the Department released a report "Water on P.E.I Knowing the Resource, Understanding the Issues". An interpretative report on water quality data collected through the index basin network is in preparation, and fact sheets on the network and the implications of the data collected have been produced. The Department continues to seek ways of publicising information on water quality data/issues.
40 (69)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry establish the new position of crop protection specialist and immediately recruit a professional with research and extension expertise in the area of bio-intensive integrated pest management (IPM).	Job description prepared, hiring procedure is underway.
41 (69)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that responsibility for enforcing the <i>Pesticides Control Act</i> remain with the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and that the Department increase enforcement activities.	DAF has staffed a full time permanent position, Pesticides Control Officer. DAF is moving from emphasis on education to enforcement.
44 (71)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Pesticide Certification Course be extended beyond the current one-day format, that it become mandatory for all first-time applicants, that there be a mandatory continuing education component and that licensees be provided with training in the use of alternatives to pesticides, safe handling and storage, and emergency response to spills.	At the request of the Potato Producers Association the Pesticide Certification Course curriculum will be revised and expanded during 1998/99. The training upgrade will be introduced in 1999/2000.

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45 (71)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, and associated private-sector interests, disclose their plans for more widespread introduction of transgenic potato varieties on Prince Edward Island and allow for appropriate input before more public money is committed.	Press release on this project issued March 11, 1998.
47 (72)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, working in cooperation with pesticide suppliers and retailers, improve its capability to track and report on pesticide sales so that figures on total usage for a crop year are reported to the public by the end of the same calendar year.	A new vendor data base will improve the timeliness of this reporting. Implementation is on the priority list of the Pesticides Control Officer.
48 (72)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry compile and report statistics on enforcement activity, tickets issued and the activity recorded on the toll-free pesticide number.	Enforcement activity is reported to the Pesticides Advisory Committee annually and then in the Legislature. The 1997 figures will be reported in the spring 1998 sitting. The 1998 figures will be reported in the 1998 fall sitting. DAF will prepare press releases at the time of the announcement. In the Legislature.
53 (87)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the subsidized application of herbicides be reduced to a minimum and that this practice be restricted to those cases where there is no other way to protect the investment of public funds in a plantation.	DAF takes the position that herbicides should only be used when manual techniques are difficult to administer.

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57 (92)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry adopt the following indicators to determine the state of the forest resource and that the status of these indicators be reported to the public on a regular basis:  • percentage of productive forest area harvested and restocked successfully;  • five-year average timber harvest, as a percentage of sustainable harvest, for each of the four major cover types: softwood, softwood/hardwood, hardwood/softwood and hardwood;  • area, percentage and distribution of late successional hardwood cover types;  • area, percentage and representativeness of forest community types in protected areas;  • area of forest converted to other land uses, measured at five-year intervals; and  • value of forest production and employment in the industry, measured annually.	An inventory update is being carried out in 1998. The status of these indicators will be reported to the public in the fall of 1998.
58 (101)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that Government extend the time limit for the present Special Planning Areas, with the proviso that the affected communities be given the opportunity—and provided with the resources—to develop an acceptable land use plan for these Areas within a reasonable period of time.	Consultation plan developed pending approval.
71 (125)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that Government retain property it owns in threatened watersheds and actively pursue opportunities to add to its holdings of forested land and wetland in these areas.	DFE through its Eastern Habitat Joint Venture program and Resource Land Acquisition Fund continue to identify and acquire wildlife habitat, both forested and wetland.
74 (129)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that individual farmers be provided with financial incentives to improve existing hedgerows and to establish new ones and that a section on the benefits of hedgerows be included in the Environmental Farm Plan curriculum.	DAF has a hedgerow incentive program . The Environmental Farm Plan advisory committee will consider the incorporation of hedgerows during their review of the EFP.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
77 (130)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that Government adopt the following indicators of biodiversity and assign responsibility and resources to the appropriate departments to ensure they are measured and reported adequately:  • size and representation of protected areas, with the objective of attaining the goal of seven per cent of the provincial land base;  • quality of aquatic habitat on index watersheds, including the Mill, West, Bear, Dunk and Wilmot rivers, based on an accepted set of parameters;  • relative abundance and distribution of the 13 forest communities on Prince Edward Island, as identified by the Island Nature Trust;  • ratio of wooded "edge" to total forest area; relative abundance of "forest interior" wildlife species—those that require large tracts of forest;  • a measure of soil microbial activity, preferably incorporated into the proposed soil quality index;  • kilometres of hedgerow per unit area of agricultural land;  • size and representation of individual categories of freshwater wetlands, salt marshes and sand dunes; and  • abundance over time of selected wildlife indicator species.	DFE will seek to develop a tracking system for the indicators noted, but cautions that resources are limited to undertake a comprehensive initiative at this time.
82 (141)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE) and Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment, with the assistance of the Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee, undertake a more thorough review of Provincial Lands with significant natural features, particularly the 6,500 acres that have been designated as surplus by the Land Use Coordinating Committee.	Island Nature Trust has been provided a list of surplus Crown lands and is currently reviewing the properties identified in line with the recommendation.

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83 (142)	Transportation & Public Works (TPW)	We recommend that the Department of Transportation and Public Works assign a staff member to respond to public requests for information and assistance, regarding those Provincial Lands managed by the Department that are not part of the provincial highway system, such as public rights-of-way, beach access, old school properties, etc.	This task has been assigned to a departmental property agent working on special projects.
85 (143)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that Government table an annual progress report of the Land Use Coordinating Committee in the Legislative Assembly, detailing its work and accomplishments, as well as a record of the acquisition and disposition of Provincial Lands.	CAAG is preparing a report on options which will be presented to Strategic Planning Committee in May 1998.
86 (146)	Premier's Office	We recommend that the Premier assume responsibility for implementing this report.	
87 (148)	Education (DE)	We recommend further efforts by the Department of Education in consultation with industry to incorporate into the school curricula, either through existing courses or by new offerings, educational material pertinent to the environmental, social and technical aspects of resource land use and stewardship.	The new science curriculum, being implemented for the 1998-99 school year, includes many outcomes related to the environmental, social and technical aspects of resource land use. "Science, Technology and the Environment" is a principle theme of this curriculum.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
	CATEG	ORY 2 RECOMMEND IMPLEMENTATION NE	EW MONEY REQUIRED
2 (19)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments provide the necessary financial support so that farm organizations can promote the Environmental Farm Plan Initiative and offer plans to all farmers by the end of calendar year 2000.	DAF is supporting the development of Environmental Farm Plans through PRDA. The goal is to offer the opportunity to prepare a plan to all farmers by 2000, but not to make EFPs mandatory.  ADAPT requires an EFP as a prerequisite for funding under some of its programs.
6 (21)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry increase the operating budget of the Soil and Water Unit and of the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory by increments of 25 per cent in the fiscal years 1998–99 and 1999–2000; that funding be targeted to soil conservation and improvement; and that it be maintained at this increased level.	!997/98 \$ were used to purchase a total carbon combustion unit for the Soil and Feed Lab Eastern Habitat Joint Ventures is continuing to fund Soil and Water Unit erosion control projects until 2000.
7 (21)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry complete work on the Soil Erosion Risk Index so that it is ready for use by the 1998 field season.	Resources have not be allocated to this project. Progress under the current staffing and assignment of responsibilities is slow. DAF is exploring innovative ways to fund the development of the index.
8 (21)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry make the necessary improvements to the Geographic Information System so that the following parameters can be measured and reported on an ongoing basis, with a degree of accuracy of ± 10 per cent, beginning with the 1998 field season:  • area of land by major crop and forest cover type;  • area of farm land with acceptable soil conservation practices;  • level of compliance with the mandatory riparian (buffer) zone; and  C level of compliance with a potato crop rotation standard.	\$61,000 committed in 1998/99 to continue to improve the agricultural land use inventory.

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9 (21)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend further that information be collected directly from farmers on their soil conservation practices and that it be used to verify the accuracy of information obtained from the Geographic Information System.	Ground verification will be carried out by existing field staff. DAF Agriculture division is developing a methodology to be installed in 1998.
10 (22)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments introduce a successor to the Green Plan to provide cost-shared technical and financial assistance for soil conservation projects. Program details must be developed in consultation with industry. Completion of an Environmental Farm Plan must be a precondition for funding, and assistance should be targeted to the following:  • soil stabilization for fields in row-crop production;  • establishment of hedgerows and shelter belts;  • establishment of permanent vegetative cover in riparian (buffer) zones;  • manure storage and handling systems;  • fencing and watering systems for livestock; and  • establishment of permanent pasture, forest cover or other appropriate crops for land that has a slope greater than nine per cent.	DAF is developing a strategy which includes incentives for environmental conservation.
18 (33)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that organic matter content be adopted as the principal indicator of soil quality for Prince Edward Island and that three per cent be established as the minimum standard of good-quality agricultural land. We also recommend that the necessary changes be made to the provincial Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory in the fiscal year 1998–99 to enable the use of the method of complete carbon combustion for measuring organic matter.	Changes to the Soil and Feed lab were made in 1997 to allow for precise organic matter analysis. (See Rec# 6) Agreement on a soil organic matter standard for PEI will be reached after the results of the first sampling of the Soil Quality Monitoring Network are analysed.

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19 (33)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada continue the development of a comprehensive soil quality index to include the following indicators: organic matter, soil acidity (pH), phosphorus content and cation exchange capacity, and that the index be in operation for the 1998 field season.	The indicators identified in the Round Table Report were incorporated into the Soil Quality Monitoring Network.
20 (33)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the federal and provincial governments finance the initial establishment of a province-wide soil quality monitoring network and that this network be in operation by the 1999 field season.	The network proposal is completed and preparations are underway for the first season of sampling starting in April 1998.
23 (47)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Government provide adequate financial incentives and technical assistance for the construction of proper on-farm manure storage facilities for new and established livestock operations.	DAF and DFE has drafted a new set of manure management guidelines for discussion with industry. ADAPT has committed funding to on-farm manure management facilities Technical Assistance for construction will come from the private sector.
39 (68)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry develop a pesticide reduction strategy based on the IPM Continuum proposed by the Consumers Union, according to the following action plan:  • define an appropriate IPM Continuum for Prince Edward Island;  • establish at what stage we are now;  • establish realistic objectives, in consultation with all stakeholders; and  • recommend action to industry and to Government.	The IPM coordinator (Rec #40) will develop this strategy. DAF collecting info on similar strategies elsewhere, eg Wisconsin potato project with WWF.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998		
51 (86)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Private Land Management Program be amended to include (or increase) incentives for the following treatments:  • selective, individual tree management in late successional hardwood stands;  • elective harvesting and thinning in mixed wood stands;  • treatments promoting the development of uneven-aged stands;  • strip-cutting and patch-cutting in pure softwood stands;  • techniques that promote natural regeneration;  • fill-planting in patch cuts; and  • under-planting of mixed wood stands.  We recommend further that the acreage subject to these treatments be increased significantly.	The treatments which are supported by the Private Land Management Program are under discussion with the Forest Partnership Council.		
73 (128)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment strengthen its staff capability by hiring a fisheries biologist and a non-game biologist.	No new resources have been identified in the 1998/99 budget to acquire additional staff; DFE will continue to seek the needed resources in future budgets.		
76 (130)	Economic Development & Tourism (EDT)	We recommend that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism assess the opinions of residents and visitors to Prince Edward Island regarding the quality and attractiveness of the landscape and the impact of changes thereto.	No progress to report.		
	CATEGORY 3 RECOMMEND IMPLEMENTATION NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRED				
15 (31)	Transportation & Public Works (TPW)	We recommend that Section 37 of the <i>Roads Act</i> be amended to establish a permanent "no-cultivation" zone within the public right-of-way and that the Department of Transportation and Public Works make every attempt to establish and maintain a permanent vegetative cover in ditches and along roadsides.	Section 37 of the Roads Act already gives authority to the Minister to enforce a "no cultivation" zone within the public right-of-way for violations of this nature. Where violations occur department staff will advise landowner to discontinue this practise. Enforcement will follow if there is no compliance.		

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
16 (31)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> be amended to make it illegal for all forms of livestock to have access to watercourses and to travel within the designated riparian (buffer) zone.	The Department has provided information to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, and participated on the inter-departmental Watercourse Protection Committee in the preparation of the Watercourse Buffer Zone discussion paper. At this point, the Department awaits the report of the Standing Committee.
25 (49)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	<ul> <li>We recommend that the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> be amended to establish mandatory riparian (buffer) zones adjacent to all watercourses as follows:</li> <li>having a minimum width of ten (10) metres, measured on the horizontal, from the edge of all intermittent streams and springs; and</li> <li>C having a minimum width of twenty (20) metres and a maximum width of thirty (30) metres, depending on surrounding topography, measured on the horizontal, from the edge of all permanently flowing watercourses.</li> <li>We recommend also that the crossing of riparian zones established adjacent to intermittent streams be allowed only when the watercourse is dry and only by the owner of the land or the lessee, where this individual is engaged in farming or forestry operations, and only after the owner has first obtained a permit to do so under the provisions of Section 10 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i>. An annual and renewable Section 10 permit should be granted to certified forest contractors who are in compliance with the Code of Practice for Forest Contractors.</li> <li>We recommend further that any activity permitted by law within the riparian (buffer) zone must not detract from its buffering ability, nor from the quality of wildlife habitat contained therein.</li> </ul>	The Department has provided information to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, and participated on the inter-departmental Watercourse Protection Committee in the preparation of the Watercourse Buffer Zone discussion paper. At this point, the Department awaits a decision from the Standing Committee.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
62 (106)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend the creation of a Farm Practices Review Board. The Board, appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, would include a majority of members nominated by the farm community as well as representatives of environmental groups, rural non-farm residents and municipal governments. The Board's mandate would include the following:  • establishing terms of reference for codes of practice covering all agricultural activities carried out in the province;  • reviewing, approving and amending agricultural codes of practice submitted to the Board by farm organizations;  • acting as public mediator and appeal body to resolve complaints occurring as a consequence of farming practices; and  C recommending farm practices regulations to the Minister.  Funding for the operation of the Farm Practices Review Board should be provided by the provincial government.	Bill 103, the Farm Practices Act has been introduced by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. It follows closely the recommendations made by the Round Table.
67 (110)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Government direct the Farm Practices Review Board to complete the development of codes of practice for all significant agricultural operations carried out in the province by the year 2000, implementation by 2002	Bill 103, the Farm Practices Act has been introduced by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry. It follows closely the recommendations made by the Round Table.
72 (127)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Minister of Fisheries and Environment inform agriculture and forestry groups when any species of wildlife is designated as endangered or threatened and that the impact of such a designation on the use of resource lands be made very clear to any landowner so affected.	The Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment has solicited and heard public comment on Bill 31. Any required amendments to the proposed Wildlife Conservation Act will be presented to the House for consideration.
84 (143)	Transportation & Public Works (TPW)	We recommend that Government establish a "no net loss" policy for Provincial Lands and that the present level of 9.2 per cent of the province's land area be established as the minimum.	The Resource Land Acquisition Fund Committee has identified "no net loss" as a priority and it is included in the annual workplan to be used a guideline in decision making.

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## CATEGORY 4 RECOMMEND IMPLEMENTATION REGULATORY CHANGE REQUIRED

26 (51)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> be amended to make it illegal to dump trash, garbage or rubbish on private land.	DFE is working on a Request for Proposal for a public/private partnership for solid waste management in the Province. New regulations to prohibit this dumping will be developed in the current year.
27 (51)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> be amended to require the closure of all public dump sites, excepting those permitted under Section 18 of the <i>Act</i> .	The Waste Management Plan is still on schedule and all private disposal sites are scheduled to be closed by the year 2000. French River dump closed on December 31, 1997.
60 (103)	Provincial Treasury (PT)	We recommend that the Taxation and Property Records Division immediately take steps to identify parcels of Class 2 and 3 agricultural land which have received subdivision approval and are owned by bona fide farmers and farm corporations, but upon which no development has taken place. We further recommend that all such parcels be taxed at the commercial rate for as long as the subdivision approval remains in effect.	Recommendation is being studied prior to making a recommendation to the Minister.
61 (103)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that the <i>Planning Act</i> Regulations be amended to place a time limit of two years on all new subdivision permits on Class 2 and 3 agricultural land issued in areas of the province that have no official plan, whether they consist of a single or multiple lots. In other words, if no lot is built on and no infrastructure is developed within two years from the date the subdivision is approved, then the permit automatically terminates.	Regulations have been revised and are before the Legislative Review Committee.

REC # (Page in Round Table Report)	LEAD AGENCY	RECOMMENDATION	PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 1998
63 (109)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that all municipalities with an official zoning plan adopt a bylaw requiring developers to set aside sufficient land for a buffer where a proposed residential, commercial or industrial development borders on agricultural land, and that the Department of Community Affairs and Attorney General apply the same restrictions to building and subdivision permits in areas of the province where it has jurisdiction.	Regulations have been revised and are before the Legislative Review Committee.
65 (110)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG) & Policy Secretariat (PS)	We recommend that the number of building permits issued for residential and all other forms of construction in areas not having an official zoning plan be reduced from the present level of 70 per cent of the provincial total to 25 per cent by the year 2000.	No progressdepartment reviewing options.
75 (130)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment conduct a review of the Excavation Pits Regulations and develop better ways to ensure that operators holding permits restore abandoned pits to an acceptable condition, within a predetermined period of time.	DFE will initiate a review of the Excavation Pits regulations in the current calender year

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78 (137)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Provincial Forests be designated under the Forest Management Act and that Government adopt the following general criteria for their management:  • management plans should first promote an increase in biodiversity; in practice, this means that the preferred treatments should be: small patch-cuts or shelterwood cuts, managing for natural regeneration and planting long-lived, native species of late successional hardwoods and softwoods;  • all Provincial Forests should be clearly identified with appropriate signage and access should be provided for the general public;  • certain properties or portions thereof should be designated under the Natural Areas Protection Act or given equivalent protection under the Forest Management Act;  • several large tracts should be retained or consolidated as permanent forest;  • management plans should be subjected to public consultation and input at five-year intervals and reports to the public should include a detailed account of work done in each Provincial Forest over the period;  • work in Provincial Forests, which falls within the purview of forest contractors, should continue to be limited to certified contractors and subject to the Code of Practice;  • sawlogs should be processed on the Island, and standing timber and harvested wood containing sawlogs should be sold by invited tender;  sales of other materials should be by public tender, and contracts for work on Provincial Forests should be reserved for wildlife habitat research, for the establishment of experimental plantations of exotic species, for the production of seed, for public education and for other particular uses not primarily related to the production of wood fibre; and	Public consultations on the concept were held in 1997. Public consultations on management will be held in May and June 1998. Public Satisfaction with Crown Lands is being measured by the Department's public opinion survey to be completed by April 1998.

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80 (140)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment proceed with plans to designate six additional Wildlife Management Areas, as follows: Saint-Chrysostôme, Dromore, Corraville-Martinvale, Southampton, Dingwell's Mills and Grovepine-Big Brook.	DFE currently working on having additional Wildlife Management Area's recognized in legislation in 1998/99; all sites are involved with the size amounting to over 8,900 acres.
81 (141)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the Department of Fisheries and Environment proceed toward the goal of designating 70 sites under the <i>Natural Areas Protection Act</i> by the year 2000.	DFE continues to recognize and designate protected natural areas in line with its Year 2000 objective; most recently 10 properties were designated for protection under <i>Natural Areas Protection Act</i> , bringing the total to 12,929 acres; presently the area recognized under Endangered Spaces Program amounts to 2.6%, one-third of the Province's goal of 7.0%.
С	ATEGORY 5 IMP	LEMENTATION DELAYED RESPONSIBILITY	SHARED WITH OUTSIDE AGENCY
3 (20)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Government, together with the potato producing and processing sectors, develop an awards program, to be called "The Lieutenant Governor's Award for Soil Conservation."	No progress to report.
4 (20)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Charlottetown Research Station place a higher priority on research and demonstration of better soil conservation practices for potatoes, specifically:  C research into other appropriate cash crops for potato rotations;  C research into the impact of various potato rotation regimes on levels of soil organic matter;  C research into reduced-tillage potato production; and  C demonstration of soil conservation practices on private farms.	DAF maintains open communication with AAFC, Deputy Minister, Charlottetown Research Centre Director and the regional Director General. DAF Staff are involved in collaborative projects with AAFC scientists.

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12 (26)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the soil conservation code of practice for potato production as outlined in Tables 3 and 4 be adopted immediately and that it form the basis for all government and industry efforts to improve soil quality on potato land.	DAF has published the potato rotation and management guidelines according to slope. These form the basis of a code of practice for potato production.
13 (26)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the industry adopt a mandatory crop rotation standard for potatoes based on the following principle: that potatoes are to be grown no more frequently than one year in three, unless the producer has an alternative plan that will maintain soil quality. Such a plan must be approved by a qualified Government soil engineer.	DAF recognises that a three year (or more) rotation is desirable and will work with the potato industry on a code of practice.
24 (48)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that local research efforts by federal and provincial government agencies be directed toward gaining a better understanding of the relationship between total nitrogen application on agricultural land and the contamination of ground and surface water by its nitrate form (NO <sub>3</sub> ·). The results of this research should be used by Government and industry to develop practical remedies—legal and otherwise—to restore wells contaminated by excessive nitrate levels.	In February '98 the Department co-sponsored (with federal and provincial agriculture depts.), a technical workshop to focus on nitrates in groundwater, identify areas for future research and outline practices that can reduce the impact of agriculture on groundwater and surface water nitrate levels. A public follow-up workshop with the agriculture sector is scheduled for April '88. The Department is considering further research on the role of elevated nitrate levels on eutrophication of surface waters.
37 (66)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the potato industry develop better ways to communicate with the public on the issue of late blight control. These efforts must highlight the industry perspective and, above all, they must present the need for crop protection rather than a defence of fungicide use.	The PEI Potato Board has acknowledged that it needs to improve communications to the public about production practices. There is no campaign in place but DAF organised an "Image" workshop for the Industry in January 1998.
43 (71)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that farm organizations publicly state their support for a zero-tolerance policy when it comes to off-target pesticide drift, and develop educational material for farmers on how to accomplish this goal.	There is no support from industry for a zero tolerance policy. DAF will promote the concept of zero tolerance for spray drift (no regulation) in order to move the industry closer to this ideal.

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49 (86)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that Government continue to support the Forest Partnership Council in its efforts to develop and implement the Code of Practice for PEI Forest Contractors, we encourage the Council to introduce improvements to the Code in the area of alternative silviculture treatments and wildlife habitat enhancement, and we suggest that the Office of the Auditor General become involved in monitoring compliance with the Code.	Forest Partnership Council (FPC) is moving towards an improved and regulated code of practice.
56 (91)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that negotiations and discussions continue between industry and Government through the Forest Partnership Council, with the objective of introducing a system to provide for softwood harvesting controls and adequate reforestation by March 31, 1998. If an agreement is not reached by that date, Government should legislate controls immediately.	FPC is working on the softwood over harvesting problem through its regulated code. (Rec #49)
59 (102)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG) & Policy Secretariat (PS)	We recommend that Government work with residents, landowners and municipal governments within the greater Kensington area to develop a comprehensive land use plan. More specifically, the plan should include the area bounded by Malpeque Bay, New London Bay to the Stanley River, Highway 8 and Highway 1A; it should include zoning of all land; and it should become official by January 1, 2000.	CAAG and ECO have presented the Standing Committee on Community Affairs and Economic Development with information on the Kensington area, zoning and planning, and options to proceed with implementing this recommendation. Further direction is expected from that Committee.
70 (125)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that Government assist community and watershed groups, particularly in those areas that are under the greatest threat from deforestation, to develop and implement management plans which address the issue of maintaining minimum forest cover.	DFE continues to work with and support watershed and community based groups to establish treed buffers and hedgerows; DFE supports initiatives of ACAP groups (Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association and the Southeast Environmental Association) to address first resource issues; in cooperation with Forestry Division, DFE will attempt to categorize those watersheds at greatest risk in 1998/99.

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	CATEGOR	Y 6 IMPLEMENTATION DELAYED FURTHER	EVALUATION REQUIRED
1 (18)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that the responsibility for maintaining soil quality, for controlling erosion risk and for establishing riparian (buffer) zones be vested in the landowner, not the tenant or the lessee, and that this responsibility be recognized in law. All programs, policies and legislation implemented by government and industry groups must respect this principle.	No progress to report.
17 (32)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE)	We recommend that the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> be amended to make it illegal to produce any row crop on land with a slope greater than nine per cent (i.e., a nine-foot vertical rise over one hundred feet of distance, measured horizontally). Pasture, forage and cereals would be allowed.	The Department has provided information to the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Environment, and participated on the inter-departmental Watercourse Protection Committee in the preparation of the Watercourse Buffer Zone discussion paper. At this point, the Department awaits the report of the Standing Committee.
38 (66)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the potato industry and the Department of Agriculture and Forestry continue to explore regulatory methods, including the <i>Plant Health Act</i> , for the prevention and control of all potato diseases. Specifically, we recommend that the <i>Act</i> be amended to give inspectors the power to order the destruction of any potato plants infected by late blight, at the owner's expense. We recommend further that work continue on the development of an economical post-harvest test for late blight.	Plant Health Act evaluation is underway.
42 (70)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry acknowledge its responsibility to enforce pesticide use standards according to the instructions contained on federally approved pesticide labels and provide notice to users of its intention to do so.	No progress; jurisdictional issue.

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46 (72)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry introduce a certification program for all those involved in the sale of home and garden pesticides. We also recommend that the Pesticide Certification Course for applicators of home and garden pesticides be upgraded and made mandatory for all employees, including temporary staff.	No progress; DAF would respond to a request for education for home and garden applicators.
55 (87)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the current \$40 per acre charge levied for the establishment of a tree plantation be waived if the following conditions are met by the landowner:  C planting in a riparian (buffer) zone; or  C if the plantation is established under the supervision of a contractor who is in compliance with the Code of Practice.	FPC is considering the elimination of all management fees and looking for alternative methods of funding.
64 (110)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG) & Policy Secretariat (PS)	We recommend that the Department of Community Affairs and Attorney General take the steps necessary to ensure that the area of the province covered by official zoning plans increases from the present 6 per cent to 25 per cent by the year 2000 and 50 per cent by the year 2003. We recommend further that Government assist communities by providing the services of competent professional land use and landscape planners.	Province on schedule to meet these targets through Kensington and Greenwich special planning areas.
66 (110)	Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that Government develop a better system to track the loss of Class 2 and 3 agricultural land to non-resource uses, and that Government take the measures necessary to reduce the current rate of loss by 50 per cent by the year 2000.	Department is increasing capability to track land use trends through GIS.

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68 (121)	Fisheries and Environment (DFE) and Community Affairs and Attorney General (CAAG)	We recommend that governments increase their support for the Island Nature Trust in its efforts to preserve significant features of the Island landscape. Any financial support provided from the public purse should be directed toward the purchase of land, and not to the administration of the Trust. We recommend also that the provincial government exempt the Island Nature Trust from the land ownership limits under the <i>Lands Protection Act</i> .	DFE continues to provide support to Island Nature Trust and agrees with recommendation that the level of funding support beyond that contained in current contract should not be directed to administration, but towards land acquisition; exemption under the <i>Lands Protection Act</i> will have to be considered through an amendment, due to be presented to the Legislature in its spring 1998 sitting.
69 (121)	Provincial Treasury (PT)	We recommend that Government amend laws within its jurisdiction so as to make it easier—and more financially attractive—for landowners to donate development rights to the L. M. Montgomery Land Trust. We recommend further that Government assess all land upon which development rights are held by the Trust, at the farm or woodland rate, for property tax purposes.	Under review.
79 (139)	Economic Development & Tourism (EDT)	We recommend that the Department of Economic Development and Tourism conduct a public review of Provincial Parks, and that it consult with residents of affected communities and the Island Nature Trust prior to divesting itself of any parks property.	No public review of Provincial Parks has been carried out as is planned for 1998-99. Consultation with Island Nature Trust is already part of the process of reviewing Parks property.

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CATEGORY 7 RECOMMEND REJECTION			
50 (86)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Forest Nursery continue to expand the number of species it produces and that the ratio of hardwood to softwood species be increased significantly through the production of late successional hardwoods.	Although rejected by DAF, the FPC has reviewed this recommendation and has decided to implement a small hardwood planting programme as a trial.
52 (86)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the Private Land Management Program be amended to remove incentives for the following treatments: C plantations containing a single species; C any form of site preparation that involves slash burning; and C plantations containing non-native species.	Rejected.
54 (87)	Agriculture and Forestry (DAF)	We recommend that the "twenty-five-year clause" contained in Forest Renewal Agreements which limits a landowner's right to alter a silvicultural treatment that has received Government financial assistance be replaced by a clause requiring the owner to repay the full amount of the subsidy, plus interest, if the stand or plantation so treated is destroyed prior to attaining maturity.	FPC has recommended that the commitment be reduced to 15 years from time of establishment. DAF supports this recommendation.