



RIO + 8

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL RIO REPORT CARD, 2000

Grading the Government of Canada and the Provinces
on their Environmental Commitments

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THE RIO REPORT CARD, 2000

Introduction

In 1992, the Sierra Club of Canada (SCC) committed itself to a political accountability project, "Rio Watch." Since then, every year, on the anniversary of the Earth Summit, SCC has released a report card on progress by governments in meeting the Rio targets. In this, the eighth annual reporting, it is clear that, far from making progress, governments have moved so far backward that even the safety of drinking water can no longer be taken for granted.

SCC, with other environmental groups across Canada, has tried to raise the alarm. But no one has been listening. It would be beyond tragic if it takes the loss of life to force any level of accountability from governments. The Sierra Club and others have been issuing clear warnings for years.

Warnings that went unheeded....

Since 1994, the Rio Report Card process has highlighted the increased risk to the environment from intensive livestock operations. As the years have gone by references to this issue have increased, with warnings in 1996, "Hog farms are potential major polluters and care must be taken to avoid harming fish habitat." And again in 1997, "The hog industry (in Manitoba) is currently being promoted with a goal of 4 million hogs by the year 2000. This industry has serious problems in pollution of ground and surface water. " We have raised the concerns of groups in Quebec about hog farming there: "In Quebec, environmental groups are increasingly concerned about the enormous expansion in hog farms. Industrial hog operations can be extremely polluting and energy intensive. The projected capacity is for 18,000 hogs/day!"

In 1998, the Rio Report card warned the problem was extending to PEI, "Industrial agriculture practices have significant impacts on biodiversity and are intensifying. Increased hog production is a threat and a number of affected communities are opposing hog farm development. To top it off, the province has given Second Reading to a new "Right to Farm Act" which will prevent neighbouring land owners from seeking damages if they are negatively impacted by agricultural practices."

The budget cutbacks have meant that the most basic level of environmental protection — keeping manure out of water supplies — can no longer be taken for granted. In 1998, the Rio Report card warned, "By the end of fiscal 1997-98, the Harris government had cut the Environment Ministry by over 36% and the Ministry of Natural Resources by 40%. In total, cuts to both key departments come to well over half a billion dollars...."

"While Canadians are innately proud of our environmental consciousness, we are often blissfully unaware that Canadian environmental standards — and our capacity to study and understand our environment — are being unravelled. ...Levels of environmental protection in Canada are still lacking at a very basic level. Raw sewage is still dumped into harbours, from Sydney on the East Coast to Victoria on the West." (1998)

The Walkerton tragedy could have happened in Manitoba or Prince Edward Island or Quebec. Dangerous levels of trihalomethanes (THM), a chemical that increases risks of cancer, miscarriages and birth defects, were present in Newfoundland's water supply since 1996, but the information was not released. Cut-backs in spending for environmental programmes have occurred across the country, as has down-loading responsibilities to the municipal level.

Canada's Record Since 1992

Canada's record since 1992 is one of broken promises of progress, while dismantling health and environmental protections we had before 1992.

- In 1992, Canada produced a State of the Environment (SOE) Report providing the public with accessible information about environmental performance. Due to budget cuts, it no longer exists. If one were to try to assemble an SOE report today, one would discover that much of the basic information that went into the report is no longer collected — due to budget cuts.
- In 1992, Canada was represented in international negotiations by our Ambassador for the Environment and Sustainable Development. The position was vacated by the Honourable John Fraser in 1997, and quietly the government allowed the position to vanish.
- In 1992, Canada committed to complete the national parks system by the year 2000.
- In 1992, Canada committed to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels by the year 2000. The Liberal Party called for 20% reductions by 2005.
- In 1992, Canada committed to reduce its solid waste production in half by 2000.
- In 1992, Canada repeated a commitment made when Lester Pearson was Prime Minister to increase overseas development assistance to 0.7% of our GDP.

- In 1992, Canada and every province was committed to creating a network of protected areas, of representative ecosystems, equal to 12% of the land base.

It is the year 2000. None of these targets have been met. In the case of overseas development assistance and carbon dioxide emissions, Canada has moved farther from the target.

Other commitments with targets loom. The 1990 commitment to solve the smog problem in Canada, with a deadline of 2005, is foundering through lack of leadership. The Kyoto commitments, revised and weaker than the Liberal Party climate change promises or the 1992 Rio promises, fall due between 2008-2012. Canada still has no plan. Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise.

In the face of this appalling record, there are bright spots. This year, for the first time, the Rio Report Card, from G.H. Brundtland High School, will include an Honour Roll. No federal or provincial minister will find their names there. But many members of parliament of all parties, municipalities who have accepted Rio challenges and exceeded targets, individuals of vision and leadership deserve to be recognized — if for no other reason than to break the monotonous groan of failure from those most accountable.

HONOUR ROLL

Many of these individuals deserve to be recognized for years and, in some cases, decades of commitment and environmental leadership. We merely note, with deep appreciation, actions in the last year.

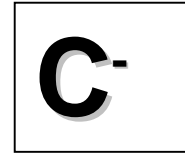
- Charles Caccia, M.P., P.C., Chair, House of Commons Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (high marks on CEPA, endangered species, and pesticides).
- Clifford Lincoln, M.P., Chair, Standing Committee on Heritage and participant in environment committee, (high marks on CEPA, pesticides and for his private member's bill on MMT).
- Karen Kraft-Sloan, M.P., former parliamentary secretary to Environment Minister (high marks for two annual Eco-Summits, CEPA, pesticides and endangered species).
- Marlene Jennings, M.P., high marks for her private member's bill to eliminate use of toxic pesticides for cosmetic lawn care purposes.
- John Herron, M.P., Environment Critic, Progressive Conservative Party, for his draft Endangered Species Bill and CEPA.
- Peter Stoffer, M.P., NDP Fisheries Critic, for his work for sustainable fisheries and for environmental assessment of off-shore oil and gas in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.
- Rick Laliberte, M.P., former New Democratic Party Environment Critic, for CEPA.
- Paul Forsyth, M.P., former Reform Party Environment Critic, for continuing to prove that environmental concerns are a universal concern.
- Peter Mancini, M.P., for work to get a clean-up of the Sydney Tar Ponds.
- Bill Blaikie, M.P., for fighting against trade of fresh water and for leading on a wide range of trade-related environmental threats.
- Judy Wasylycia-Leis, M.P., for highlighting the weaknesses of the Health Protection Branch, biotechnology issues and health.
- Jocelyne Girard-Bujold, M.P., for her work on endangered species legislation (C-33).

- Senator Ron Ghitter, Chair of the Senate Committee on CEPA, for outstanding leadership, including a walk-out by Conservative Senators, to protest the fast-tracking of CEPA.
- Senator Mira Spivak, for her outstanding work on forests, CEPA and biotechnology.
- Former Senator Eugene Whelan, for leadership against biotechnology in agriculture.
- Senator Janis Johnson, for her outstanding work in bringing attention to the proposed North Dakota Devil's Lake diversion (the Garrison Diversion).
- The Honourable John Fraser, Chair, Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council, could be a lifetime achievement award, but this year we honour his outspoken criticisms of the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Brian Emmett, first Parliamentary Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development, who took a position of unformed potential and delivered credible scrutiny and a measure of accountability of federal government performance.
- North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, for taking a potential paper-shuffling exercise and making it a useful mechanism. The Pollutant Release Inventory and investigations of complaints have been effective in creating pressure for clean-up.
(Honour Roll status threatened by proposed new rules to restrict NGO access.)
- Jack Layton, Toronto City Councillor, for championing energy efficiency and greening of infrastructure on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- For progress in meeting greenhouse gas reduction targets:
 - City of Ottawa
 - City of Calgary
 - City of Toronto
- Town of Hudson, Quebec, for banning pesticides for cosmetic lawn care use and for its legal struggle against pesticide proponents at the Supreme Court of Canada.
- Other municipalities that have followed suit: Chelsea, Quebec and Russell, Ontario, among others.
- Regional Municipality of Halifax, for proposed by-law to phase out chemical pesticides for lawn care.

FEDERAL



**Commitment to Increase
Overseas Development Assistance
to 0.7% of GNP.**



1993 Grade: F
1994 Grade: B
1995 Grade: F
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: D
2000 Grade: C-

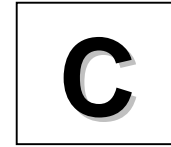
At the 1992 Earth Summit, the Canadian government reconfirmed its historic commitment to have our overseas development assistance (ODA) reach 0.7% of GDP. In the 1993 election, the Liberal "Red Book" committed to meet the 0.7% target. But in every year of the Chrétien government, the level of ODA has fallen. Thus, from an ODA level of 0.45% of GDP at Rio, it now stands at 0.26 per cent of GDP (for 2000-2001). Despite modest increases in ODA, this year continues the downward trend.

Why then would the grade have improved marginally? The Canadian Council for International Cooperation and Sierra Club of Canada want to acknowledge progress in reducing the debt loads of the poorest nations on earth. Canada has increased bilateral debt cancellation to 100% for debtors covered by the Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, but still links debt cancellation to IMF/WB conditionality. Despite the \$100 million in new money for ODA, the majority was used to pay down CIDA's multilateral commitments that had been prepaid in previous years. We are also encouraged by the renewed attention to a social agenda for Canadian ODA.

FEDERAL



Commitment to reduce Greenhouse Gases



1993 Grade: **D**
1994 Grade: **C+**
1995 Grade: **D+**
1996 Grade: **D-**



1997 Grade: **F**
1998 Grade: **Incomplete**
1999 Grade: **Incomplete**
2000 Grade: **C**

No other environmental issue is as urgent and compelling as climate change. Global atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (ghg) continue to rise. Humanity risks catastrophic disruptions of climate. All the computer modelling of climate change impacts shows catastrophic impacts from a doubling of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Unfortunately, at the rate of increasing emissions, it is likely we could shoot past a doubling. The worst-case scenario is not rising sea levels, massive flooding and droughts. The worst case scenario is a run-away greenhouse effect fuelled by positive feedbacks as the planet warms. Action is urgently needed.

The federal government has still failed to reduce emissions. Canada still has no plan to meet the Kyoto targets. How then can the government merit a C?

The federal government, particularly Ministers Ralph Goodale (Natural Resources), David Anderson (Environment) and Paul Martin (Finance) have made a start in the right direction this year.

The federal budget included new funding for energy-saving infrastructure for municipalities, increased funding for the awareness-building Climate Action Fund. Through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, two funds will be administered totalling \$125 million. The Green Municipal Enabling Fund and the Green Municipal Investment Fund are both designed to revitalize municipal infrastructure in ways that reduce long-term costs and reduce emissions.

The government also seems to be recognizing the need to act on smog. With an estimated 5,000 Canadians dying prematurely every year due to bad air, the impetus is health protection. As noted in the introduction, the federal government dropped the ball on the ten-year old plan to act on smog. Still, it is encouraging to see the issue re-invigorated. Measures to reduced smog-causing pollution also reduces greenhouse gases — both are created by burning fossil fuels. Environment Minister Anderson has,

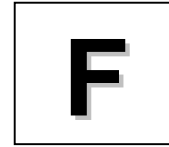
at least, re-committed federal and provincial environment ministers to meeting smog targets. But the "harmonization" process, as we feared, has weakened the federal hand, and provinces, which themselves have drastically cut back environmental spending, are in a poor position to take up the slack. The test will be whether the smog-control measures are voluntary or mandatory, and whether new funding moves with the promises.

Meanwhile, the agenda on climate change is tight. The federal and provincial ministers of environment and energy meet in fall 2000 at the Joint Ministerial Meeting (JMM), to develop Canada's plan. The plan will then be taken to COP6 in November. After years of stalling, Canada may at long last be prepared to embrace real emission reductions.

FEDERAL



Commitment to Protect Biodiversity



1993 Grade: A (for
ratification); C (for
Implementation)
1994 Grade: D
1995 Grade: C



1996 Grade: D
1997 Grade: D-
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: D-
2000 Grade: F

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity has been honoured in Canada more in the breach than in its observance. The two key areas we have tracked over the last eight years have been development of endangered species legislation and completing Canada's network of national parks. On both fronts, this year, the government has failed. Despite progress in the federal budget for stewardship, voluntary efforts, scientific research and recovery planning as well improvements in donations of ecologically sensitive lands, the failure to move forward in park creation and the lack of vision and commitment in legislative tools to protect species at risk make an "F" unavoidable.

Endangered Species

On April 11, 2000, Environment Minister David Anderson tabled the new *Species At Risk Act* (SARA, Bill C-33) for First Reading. Environmental groups were unanimous in criticising the proposal as inadequate. We were shocked as it fell so far short of the Minister's rhetoric on the importance of protecting species and habitat. As it stands, SARA would be an international embarrassment.

The Species at Risk Working Group (SARWG), composed of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, the Mining Association of Canada, the Canadian Nature Federation, Canadian Wildlife Federation and the Sierra Club of Canada, has also been critical of the bill. Its concerns range from the inadequacy of the compensation language to the failure to prohibit the killing of a species at risk regardless of where it is located. SARWG continues to work together to develop a better, more effective approach.

If the SARA bill were passed unchanged, an endangered species, such as a grizzly bear passing over the border from Montana to Alberta could still be legally shot, unless

it was on federal land. SARA only prohibits the killing of species at risk if they are found on federal land, or are protected by the Migratory Birds Convention Act or Fisheries Act.

The reluctance to prohibit the direct killing of species at risk is perplexing. The Supreme Court of Canada decision on Hydro Quebec's challenge of federal toxic chemical regulation confirmed the validity of Criminal Law Powers as an aspect of federal environmental constitutional jurisdiction. The Department of Justice has approved the use of Criminal Law powers, which give the federal government an "all clear" to prohibit the killing of species at risk (or disturbing them or destroying their residence) wherever they exist in Canadian lands or waters. Yet, the proposed SARA will only affect a minority of species at risk.

Failing to provide the bare, minimum foundation for an endangered species law, it is no surprise that the act is also weak on habitat protection. Even on federal land, there is no requirement for habitat protection.

The listing of species would still be political, as proposed in Bill C-65, the last attempt at a federal endangered species law. But even weaker than C-65, the SARA proposal would not provide protection for species that migrate across international borders.

The one innovation upon which Anderson has hung his hat as the champion of endangered species is the so-called "safety net." Whenever a federal minister concludes that a province was failing to protect a species at risk, the minister would be required to go to Cabinet to seek permission to regulate to protect that species, including possible habitat protection. The regulation could protect habitat even on private land. Winning this concession from development-minded ministers around the Cabinet table appears to have blinded the Minister and his staff to the serious flaws in this approach.

Firstly, it is discretionary. It depends on a federal minister finding fault with a provincial minister. Any minister who doesn't reach such a conclusion is not required to do anything. Our history with discretionary powers of an environment minister is instructive. No federal environment minister has ever invoked their discretionary powers under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act or the Canadian Environmental Protection Act or any other environmental statute.

Secondly, it is politically unworkable. Canada's eternal federal-provincial tensions make environment ministers leery of offending a province. The possibility of a federal minister getting Cabinet approval for a hostile take-over of an area the province believes to be in its jurisdiction is vanishingly small.

Lastly, such an unusual approach to federal regulation lacks any precedent in law and risks a successful constitutional challenge. By failing to prohibit the killing of all species across Canada as the starting point for legislation, SARA virtually accepts primacy of provincial jurisdiction. To hold in reserve the power to swoop in later, asserting a

federal role only when a province is failing within its own jurisdiction, is likely unconstitutional.

Completing the National Park System by the year 2000

Meanwhile, the government has missed its target to complete the national park system by the year 2000. The national park system is only 65% complete. Of the 39 national park natural regions across the country which require at least representative areas to be protected, 15 still have little or no protection. The only new park created in the last year was Sirmilik on North Baffin Island. Incredibly, in this the year, the government's long-standing commitment to national park establishment the budget for new parks decreased by 25% (from \$14 million to \$11 million).

The level of "protection" of existing national parks came under scrutiny this year through the Federal Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. The Panel made substantial recommendations and issued a clear warning about the ecological damage done to our parks:

"In much of Canada, protected areas have become ecological islands, disconnected from other areas of remaining natural habitat. Increasingly, urban development, agriculture, industrial forestry or other land uses surround national parks and other conservation areas, affecting the viability of park ecosystems."

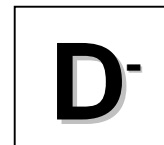
Minister Sheila Copps is to be commended for accepting the recommendations which she called a "wake-up call," for government. Details of her response are still pending, although progress has been made through amendments to the National Parks Act currently before the House. The amendments increase the mandate for ecological integrity of Parks Canada Agency. Amendments through the Heritage committee also take six national parks that have been established but not legislated to the next stage of legal existence.

The only bright spots were in the federal budget, and modest improvements to the tax treatment of ecologically sensitive lands and funding for species at risk, and in the announcement of the U.N. Biosphere Reserve for Clayoquot Sound — a success that marks unprecedented collaboration within civil society — environmental groups, First Nations, labour, industry, and government.

FEDERAL



Commitment to Review and Reform Pesticide Policies



1993 Grade: F
1994 Grade: C
1995 Grade: D
1996 Grade: C-



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: D
2000 Grade: D-

More than a decade ago the previous federal government committed to an over-haul of the outdated and outmoded legislation governing pesticide use in Canada. The current government adopted that commitment as well in 1994. The Pest Control Products Act has been in force for over thirty years. It fails to deal with the many ingredients of pesticides, their synergistic effects, and the need to regulate specifically to protect the special vulnerabilities of children.

Both Canada and the U.S. committed to specifically review the special vulnerabilities and susceptibilities of children. The U.S. government has acted on that pledge by initiating a major review of existing pesticides for risks to children's health. Canada has not. The U.S. review has led to the banning of a common pesticide, Dursban (chlorpyrifos), from home, lawn and garden use. Canada needs to follow suit.

Despite promises to introduce amendments to the Act, Health Minister Allan Rock has not yet brought them forward. The Parliamentary Committee (the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development) expressed appreciation to the Minister for delaying amendments in order to allow the Committee's recommendations to be considered. The Committee made a wide-ranging set of significant recommendations. It called for the phase-out of lawn and garden pesticides used for non-economic, cosmetic purposes, for a shifting in the burden of proof so that the manufacturer would have the burden of establishing the acceptability of its product, for a fund to assist farmers who wish to do so to make the transition to non-chemical organic farming.

Since the Committee specifically requested a delay in introduction of PCPA amendments, and, as it noted that the draft amendments tabled to the committee by the Pest Management Regulatory Agency were inadequate, the failure to come forward with

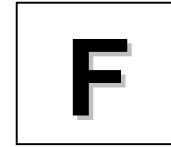
those amendments may be seen as positive. Therefore, we did not give a failing grade on pesticide reform.

But action cannot be delayed much longer. Amendments to the PCPA introduced at this point are unlikely to be passed prior to the next federal election. Minister Rock can bring up his mark by converting Marlene Jennings's private member's bill to restrict the use of toxic pesticides in frivolous application for lawn care into a government bill.

FEDERAL



Commitment to Environmental Assessment



1993 Grade: F
1994 Grade: C
1995 Grade: B-
1996 Grade: D



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: F

There is no reason to improve the grade given last year. No reviews have been initiated by the Environment Minister using his discretionary powers. The Sierra Club of Canada case challenging the sale of reactors to China without an environmental assessment is still before the courts with the earliest date for a hearing sometime in the spring of 2001.

If environmental assessment might affect a political pet project, the Canadian government continues to regard it with contempt. This year the U.S. assessed the potential environmental impact of the transport of mixed oxide plutonium fuel to Canada, Canada. The Chrétien government on the other hand did not. In fact, at the last minute, Canada shifted from ground transport to air, even though the U.S. assessment had rejected air transport as too hazardous.

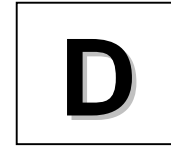
The hypocrisy of the federal government has created common ground for environmentalists and private industry. Companies planning a development are subjected to different demands and uncertain processes. Any faith in the system is eroded as the government evades assessment of its own projects.¹

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency is in the midst of its five year review of the effectiveness of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, mandated by the law itself. The process promises to be long, with many opportunities for the failures of the Act and the absence of political leadership to be identified. The challenge for the government will be to use the five-year review as an occasion to re-commit to the principles of environmental assessment. They might start by delivering on the 1993 Red Book promise to create an independent CRTC-like body to ensure effective, predictable and impartial Environmental Assessment.

FEDERAL



Agenda 21 Commitment to make Trade and Environment Mutually Supportive



1993 Grade: F
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: F-
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: D

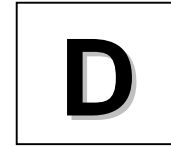
The grade on making trade and environment mutually sustainable has advanced to a passing mark for the first time in eight years. Minister Pierre Pettigrew has begun the process of opening the trade file to public involvement. Although the progress is very limited, it is also unprecedented. Consultations took place in advance of the Seattle World Trade Organization meetings. They were not true consultations, but they did represent an opportunity to express views. This was a first for DFAIT. Similar steps towards transparency involved including a representative from the culture community as well as one from an environmental group in the government delegation to Seattle. In addition the advisory group on trade was opened to environmental group membership.

The grade would be above a D, if not for the decision of David Anderson to block the Commission for Environmental Cooperation investigation into Quebec's industrial hog farms. The CEC, a mechanism created parallel to the passage of NAFTA, had received a request to investigate the alleged failure of the Quebec government to enforce regulations to control mega-farm pollution. The CEC recommended to the Council of Ministers that the complaint be investigated. Anderson opposed the move.

FEDERAL



Commitment to the Conservation and Sustainable use of Living Marine Resources



1993 Grade: B-
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: C
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: C-
1999 Grade: C
2000 Grade: D

The passing grade is in recognition of the extension of the moratorium on off-shore oil and gas in the rich fishing grounds of George's Bank. The Canadian government, with the support of the Nova Scotia government, established a moratorium parallel to that on the U.S. side of the border — until 2012.

Unfortunately, fisheries conservation and management has brought down the grade. Minister Herb Dhaliwahl has had a trial by fire, caught flat-footed in October by the Supreme Court of Canada ruling of Mi'kmaq rights to fish commercially on the East Coast. Despite the likelihood of the court decision, no contingency plans has been made. Dhaliwahl scored points with East Coast fishermen this spring for increasing crab quotas, but overall, the conservation mandate of the department has slipped backward this year.

Despite the fact that the mandate of the *Oceans Act* is conservation, within the context of the precautionary principle, decisions are made which routinely ignore both. On the East Coast, permits for oil and gas development go forward with no public consultation, no environmental assessment and, allegedly, outside the scope of the *Oceans Act*. Antithetical to the principals in the *Oceans Act* is the *Canada-Nova Scotia Off-Shore Petroleum Board Act* (CNSOPB). Under that Act, no consultation or assessment is required before committing areas of the coastline to oil and gas.

Oil and gas development in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, between western Cape Breton Island and eastern Prince Edward Island is particularly disturbing. The Fisheries Resource Conservation Council has recommended that no oil and gas exploration or development take place in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, at least until a thorough assessment of ecological sensitivity has been conducted. Every fisheries group in the 3 Maritime provinces opposes oil and gas development in the Gulf. Percy Hayne of the Gulf Nova Scotia Fleet Planning Board notes with irony that the only east coast area where cod appears to be making a rebound is in the Gulf.

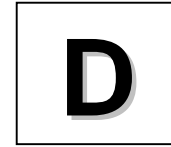
The Wild Salmon Policy on the west coast has been universally condemned by environmental groups, and most recently panned by the government's own Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council. Chairman John Fraser called on the government to "rethink their approach," as all six principles adopted by DFO are "flawed." According to the Council, salmon levels are at their lowest in 99 years. The annual returns of sockeye salmon to British Columbia's Rivers and Smith Inlets rivers used to be 2-3 million fish. "Last year," said Mr. Fraser, "the returns were 3,500 and 5,000 respectively. This indicates what an extraordinary situation we are looking at. It needs urgent attention."ii

The Minister should heed these calls for action and immediately withdraw the fatally flawed Wild Salmon Policy. On the East Coast, Dhaliwahl must exert his authority under the Oceans Act to control the flawed decisions of the CNSOPB. The Minister should also accept the recommendation of the Science and Management of Marine Protected Areas Association (SAMPAA). SAMPAA has called for the federal government to convene a panel on the ecological integrity of the oceans, patterned on the very effective national panel on the Ecological Integrity of National Parks. Canada's oceans are at risk. Fisheries and non-commercial species are in decline. Habitat in the deep ocean, corals on the East Coast and sponges on the West, are devastated by draggers. If we continue to take the health of the oceans for granted, we risk losing all that they provide.

FEDERAL



Incorporating Environmental Concerns into Every Aspect of Government Decision Making



1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: B+
1995 Grade: D
1996 Grade: D-



1997 Grade: D
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: D

The improved grade is in recognition of modest efforts in the federal budget to recognize the importance of fiscal measures to environmental sustainability. As noted under the Rio Climate Change target, the budget included funding for energy efficiency and improved infrastructure. It also improved the tax treatment for the donation of ecologically sensitive lands, although a deemed capital gain still exists, albeit at a reduced level. The budget also provided new funding for stewardship initiatives for species at risk, and for recovery plans. Potentially very significant is the relatively small amount, \$9 million over four years, to develop new environmental indicators. On the theory that we don't value what we don't measure, many ecological economists have been calling for a new system of measurement of progress. The GDP is a crude analysis which counts the destruction of the fishery or forests as a positive value — right up to the moment they are wiped out. Daly and Cobb, in For the Common Good, argued for a Genuine Progress Index. Practical applications are occurring in Nova Scotia through the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI) project.

The budget also created the \$200 million Sustainable Development Technology Fund to promote innovative technological solutions to environmental problems.

Still, this was the year in which the Chrétien government forced passage of the deeply flawed *Canadian Environmental Protection Act*. Amendments to CEPA to satisfy a regressive industry lobby resulted in a bill in which the English and French versions are different, the precautionary principle has been watered down, and the virtual elimination of toxic chemicals becomes a mobius loop of goals that can never be met.

This year also saw the worst in anti-democratic instincts, in deciding to move plutonium fuel by air, specifically to avoid opposition on the highways. U.S. law specifically forbids plutonium fuel overflights for safety reasons. But the Chrétien government was so keen on the weapon plutonium fuel (MOX) project that it lost sight of safety and environmental concerns.

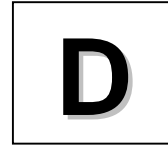
Lastly, we were deeply saddened by Canada's vote at the World Bank. Canada voted with the majority to provide tens of millions to some of the world's largest oil companies in order to build a pipeline through pristine rainforest from inland Chad to coastal Cameroon.

Overall, government is still making more environmentally destructive decisions than responsible ones. Perhaps, this year marks the beginning of a turn-around to improved decisions. It is in that hope that, despite all the failures, the government receives a passing mark.

FEDERAL



Forests



1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: A
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: C-



1997 Grade: D
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: D
2000 Grade: D

On the international front, the federal government has played an active role in three negotiating fora related to forests: the Climate Change Convention (where forests are "sinks"), the Biodiversity Convention, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF). In each of these, Canada has allowed forest trade interests to overtake potential ecological benefits of global action.

Canada has continued aggressive lobbying for a Global Forest Convention, but is rapidly losing support for what might have been a useful global conservation tool. Within the Climate Change Convention, Canada still hopes to gain carbon credits for our forests, although industrial forestry is not a model that fits existing language within Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol. Canada has blocked the United Nations Convention for the Protection of Biological Diversity from becoming involved in the issues of protecting old growth forests as a critical repository of biodiversity. The Biodiversity Convention has again raised the issue of the importance of protecting areas of forests as repositories of biodiversity. In its most recent meeting of the subsidiary scientific body (January 31 - February 4, 2000 in Montreal), it was recommended that a specific working group on forest biodiversity be created.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Forest Service continues to allocate significant resources to the "Canada-Costa Rica Initiative" of expert consultations. Its most recent session in Mexico (November 1999) claimed to have endorsed movement toward a forest convention, even though participants had not voted on anything.

Domestically, forest issues occupied one of the "Issue Tables" in the interminable consultative and time-wasting effort. The results are predictable with calls for carbon credits for intensive plantations as opposed to sustainable management of existing forests and the protection of large areas of natural forest.

Canada has an opportunity to improve this mark by using the renegotiations of the Softwood Lumber Agreement to integrate the environmental costs of our ritualistic wood wars with the U.S.

PROVINCIAL

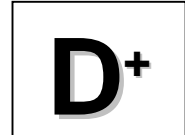


NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Biodiversity



Climate Change



Biodiversity:

1993	Grade: n/a
1994	Grade: n/a
1995	Grade: D-
1996	Grade: F



1997	Grade: D
1998	Grade: C-
1999	Grade: D
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: F</u>

The provincial government has ignored pleas from the Sierra Club and others to protect the forests in the watershed of the Main River. Corner Brook Pulp and Paper is moving in with mechanical harvesters to an area of 7,000 year old untouched boreal forest. Extensive clear cutting is already affecting the nearby Humber River. Many Newfoundlanders are calling on their government to leave the Main unlogged. The Main is a healthy salmon river in a wild ecosystem. It provides over-wintering habitat for a herd of caribou that summers in Gros Morne National Park. It is also home for the endangered pine martin. Protecting it is an urgent conservation priority.

Newfoundland proceeded with the Star Lake Hydro project, once the court challenge of local environmental groups was dismissed. The Star Lake project threatens important habitat for a Newfoundland endangered species, the pine martin.

Climate Change:

1993	Grade: F
1994	Grade: F
1995	Grade: F
1996	Grade: D-



1997	Grade: D
1998	Grade: F
1999	Grade: F
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: D+</u>

Newfoundland is now producing 40% of Canada's light crude oil and has thus become a larger contributor to climate change. We haven't seen any emission reductions, but this year there are signs the government recognizes that climate change is a real issue. The province recently committed \$125,000 to Climate Change Action projects, jointly

administered by the Ministers of Environment, Labour, Mines and Energy. Newfoundland also serves on the National Air Issues Group, where its constant refrain has been the potential pollution reduction promised by the Lower Churchill project. Fortunately, the project has few friends outside Newfoundland and Quebec. For the moment discussion about the Lower Churchill project appears to have died down.

SPECIAL DETENTION:

Newfoundland's water quality has been compromised for years — but the province didn't want anyone, even their own citizens, to know. “The State of Newfoundland Water 1996 report” was never publicly released. Individual towns with water contamination problems were sent the reports, but without expert assistance to understand what the results meant.

When, in 1999, CBC-Radio used the Freedom of Information Act to get a copy, the government refused. CBC-radio then took the unusual step of sending water to be tested independently. High levels of a cancer causing substance, trihalomethane, were found. Trihalomethanes are created when chlorine is added to water contaminated by organic materials, such as leaves and other plant materials. The CBC testing broke the government's silence and it released the names of towns with problem water — over 60. Some towns had levels four times higher than the Canada Water Standard!

There needs to be a major effort to assist rural municipalities with the threats to water supplies, both bacteriological, as in Walkerton, and through chemical contamination as is evident in many communities in Atlantic Canada.

PROVINCIAL



NOVA SCOTIA

Biodiversity

C

Climate Change

C+

**Toxic Chemicals/
Pollution:**

F

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: D
1996 Grade: B-



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: C-
1999 Grade: C-
2000 Grade: C

The protection of biodiversity in Nova Scotia saw a minor improvement this year as the new government of Premier John Hamm protected West Mabou Beach as a Provincial Park. The area, recommended for protected status for years, is Crown land. Still a developer nearly persuaded government to allow the development of a golf course on this breathtakingly beautiful piece of coastline.

Thanks to the previous Liberal government, there was a decision to extend the moratorium on oil and gas on George's Bank. The McLellan government had established a panel to review the environmental impacts of hydrochemical development in an area of rich marine biodiversity. The moratorium was extended to 2012 by the Hamm government, the same end point set by the U.S. government.

The provincial Endangered Species Act remains the best in Canada — with no competition from the federal SARA. On June 7, 2000, the province released the names of its first endangered species list — ten species of plant and animal now legally protected in Nova Scotia.

Meanwhile, both governments put the promise of economic development ahead of the environment on two other issues. As noted in last year's Rio Report Card, the McLellan government gave approval for an open-pit gypsum mine, with blasting to reach the soft white rock, immediately adjacent to the Bornish Hills Protected Area. Bornish Hills, an area of 920 hectares, is one of the province's only protected old growth Acadian forest. Old growth Acadian forest is the most threatened forest type unique to Canada. The southern Ontario Carolinian forest is an extension of this ecosystem from south of the

border. The Maritime's belt of Acadian forest is known only in Canada. Old growth Acadian forest has shrunk to one per cent of its original range. Georgia Pacific was given initial approval to develop the mine, in the Bras D'Or watershed on Cape Breton Island by the Liberal government. Final approval was granted by the Conservatives. The decision is now subject to a court challenge by Sierra Club of Canada.

The other issue where the change in government didn't change anything is the permission to Corridor Resources to explore for oil and gas in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. The permit under the Canada Nova Scotia OffShore Petroleum Board was granted in the final days of the McLellan government — without any consultation or environmental assessment. The 600,000 acre parcel along the western coast of Cape Breton comes right to the shore line of the Cabot Trail. Every fishermen's association in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island opposes the permit, as do the First Nations, municipal county councils in the areas abutting the Gulf, tourism interests and the environmental movement. Yet, the Hamm government has been strongly in favour of a project opposed by so many of its constituents. In fact, in June 2000, Hamm created the "Premier's Energy Council" on which he and his Minister of Natural Resources, Gordon Balsler will sit, along with industry representatives, including the CEO of Corridor Resources, Norm Miller. The press release suggested "environment" was represented, but no environmental group was asked to serve, nor were any First Nations interests.

The provinces forests are being ravaged — and not by the European longhorn beetle, although that exotic beetle is clearly a threat. Current devastation is due to the forest industry. Logging rates have been skyrocketing in this small province. Exports of lumber have doubled. Pulp wood leaves the province by the truckload. And it's all unregulated. The province has given up setting an annual allowable cut.

With all this devastation, a C may appear overly generous. But West Mabou Beach, the first listed species and George's Bank are important victories, and in fairness to the Hamm government, it has had less than a year to establish its environmental *bona fides*. Progress was likely slowed by the serious illness of the province's Environment Minister. Since early spring, John Chattaway, who set the protection of West Mabou Beach into motion, has been hospitalised and is recovering from a stroke. The Acting Minister, Michael Baker, is also Minister of Justice and also Aboriginal Affairs. In essence, the province has been acting without an environment minister.

Toxic Chemicals/Pollution:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: n/a
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: C
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: D
2000 Grade: **F**

There has been no progress whatsoever, in cleaning up the country's most contaminated site, the Sydney Tar Ponds. After the small concession of moving fourteen families, no one else has been relocated. The entire blame does not rest with the Nova Scotia government. The federal government also has large areas of liability and should have ensured action before now.

The tar ponds saga has taken on the characteristics of a bad soap opera. Tune in once a year and all the poison still sits there while people die.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: D+
1996 Grade: D-



1997 Grade: D+
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: D
2000 Grade: **C+**

Nova Scotia has improved its mark through a well-run consultation process, producing a good set of recommendations. While much of the province's environmental, education and health funding has been slashed, the climate change budget is unchanged.

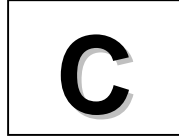
There remains, however, much work to be done. The province's transportation policy is still dominated by the car. Transportation Minister Ron Russell went so far as to suggest a new highway through wilderness would be good for the environment. His logic: a more direct route would reduce carbon dioxide emissions. Halifax, in particular, has transportation challenges. As a peninsula, with population growth, and urban sprawl, it has all the ingredients of Vancouver-style highway grid-lock. The city and province are working with an Ecology Action Centre-led project, TRAC, to explore innovative, liveable solutions to the potential transportation nightmare.

PROVINCIAL

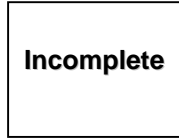


NEW BRUNSWICK

Biodiversity



Climate Change



Biodiversity:

1993	Grade: F
1994	Grade: C
1995	Grade: F
1996	Grade: D



1997	Grade: F
1998	Grade: D
1999	Grade: D
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: C</u>

The government of Premier Bernard Lord, elected just before the 1999 Rio Report Card, inherited a process at the point of yielding results. Professor Louis LaPierre chaired the Protected Areas Strategy process for the province. Recommendations were well developed for the protection of eight new areas, adding substantially to the province's protected areas system, at the time of the change in government. To the credit of the Lord government, it has maintained the momentum for biodiversity protection. Environmentalists across Canada regret that key areas near the Christmas Mountains, which have now been so clear-cut that protection becomes moot, such as Naliask and Serpentine Mountains, are not to be protected. Nevertheless, the designation of a large area north of Christmas Mountains is strategic and protects similar ecosystems. It essentially extends Mount Carleton Park east to the Missionary Mountains.

An additional good sign is that Minister of Natural Resources and Energy, Jeannot Volpe, has committed to review the *Crown Lands and Forests Act*. Although the review process has not yet started, it is encouraging the government recognizes the need to reform the Act.

The provincial government will have to act soon to regulate and control the booming hog factory problem. The Metz farm in Sainte Marie-de-Kent, 80 km north of Moncton, is slated to produce 30,000 hogs per year. The previous government allowed the pig manure factory to be built without any environmental assessment. Its lagoon can hold up to 240 million litres of liquid pig manure.

The manure is then "recycled" as fertilizer sprayed on to nearby fields. The Bouctouche River Basin and local water supplies are threatened by this development. Yet no monitoring plan is in place, and no water tests conducted in areas surrounding the intensive hog operation.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: C
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: D



1997 Grade: C-
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: Incomplete

It is too early in the Lord government's lifespan to grade performance on climate change. With no actions to measure, teachers at G.H. Brundtland High have noted a positive attitude to study on the part of the government. A recent session with energy analyst Ralph Torrie, who presented the results of his study for the David Suzuki Foundation for measures to meet Kyoto targets, was well-attended by Cabinet members. We are cautiously optimistic. The "incomplete" should be seen as a holding a place for high marks next year.

PROVINCIAL



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Biodiversity

D

Climate Change

D

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: n/a
1995 Grade: B-
1996 Grade: C



1997 Grade: C
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: C-
2000 Grade: D

The province continues to have a problem protecting biodiversity from the pressures of agriculture and intensive tourism. Even when dealing with a national park, both the federal and provincial governments tend to see growth potential in tour buses instead of ecological integrity in sand dunes. The most controversial issues have arisen surrounding the Greenwich National Park in eastern Prince Edward Island. Parks Canada was all set to proceed with a hotel and resort complex on private land, nestled on all sides by the park, until public pressure — and timely comments from the National Panel on Ecological Integrity of National Parks — forced Parks Canada to scrap the hotel plan. But the provincial government continues to pursue inappropriate plans adjacent to the park's sensitive ecosystem. The province controls a 7,000 acre special planning area around Greenwich National Park. Provincial plans for the area, presented as four options, are described as "eco-tourism" but are actually fairly intensive business activity between the park and village of Saint Peters. The park is significant and requires sensitive use. The village of Saint Peters should benefit economically from the park, but new B and B, restaurants and shops, should be discouraged and certainly not disguised as "eco-tourism."

More grim news comes from what is now an annual rite of spring on the Island province — fish kills. So far in the spring of 2000, there have been nine separate fish kills, involving a range of insecticides used to produce our french fries. The U.S. has banned azinphos-methyl, a toxic organophosphate, but Canada still authorizes its use. Azinphos-methyl was responsible for one of the fish kills this year. Other culprits include endosulfan and carbofuran.

There is, however, some good news. Under enormous public pressure, the Government of Pat Binns reversed itself in siting a mega-dump at pristine Tracadie Cross. Other good news come in the protection of a number of small ecological reserves.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: C
1995 Grade: C-
1996 Grade: D-



1997 Grade: D
1998 Grade: D-
1999 Grade: C
2000 **Grade: D**

The province has slipped this year — no new initiatives, no rideshare programme, no money for education. The advice from Prince Edward Islanders was "E" for effort, but hope they will make the effort!

PROVINCIAL



QUÉBEC

Biodiversity

D⁻

Climate Change

B⁻

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: D
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: C+



1997 Grade: D-
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: D-

The Quebec government brought up its grade with the establishment of several small ecological reserves as well as, at long last, establishing Hautes-Gorges as a Provincial Conservation Park. This spectacular 225 square km area, is north east of Quebec City in the Charlevoix region. It has been a proposed park area for almost twenty-five years.

As well, the province improved its mark through the listing of additional provincial species at risk, bringing the total of provincially protected plants to 19, and protected species of animals to six. As noted last year, allowing habitat to be defined by regulation is a weakness, but, at least, the process of recovering species is moving forward.

The province loses marks as its Protected Areas Strategy, promised more than a year and a half ago, has still not been released.

After the stunning impact of Richard Desjardin's film on the clear-cut destruction of the boreal forest, the government postponed its review of its forest regime, which was already underway. Its parliamentary commission will hold hearings in the fall.

Meanwhile, the Grand Council of the Cree have been active in court challenging logging on their territory, at least in areas of governed under the James Bay and Northern Quebec (JBNQ) Agreement. On Dec. 21, 1999, the Quebec Superior Court ruled that logging regimes in Cree territory violate the Agreement. Quebec's approach, in particular has denied the requirements for full environmental assessment. If Quebec does not meet the terms of the JBNQ Agreement within six months, the court has ruled the Cree have rights to end forestry operations. The federal government, Quebec government and forest companies have appealed to the Quebec Court of Appeals. Quebec environmental group, the Sierra Club of Canada, Greenpeace, and other First Nations have attempted to intervene in support of the Cree.

In what may be an unprecedented move, the federal and provincial governments succeeded in its argument to remove the judge who ruled in favour of the Cree, Mr. Justice Jean-Jacques Croteau. Croteau, who had been appointed under section 96 of the Constitution Act, was forcibly removed from the case — and the Cree were ordered to pay costs. This matter and subsequent appeals are still before the courts.

Environmentalists are alarmed by Premier Bouchard's proposed Bill 116, which would increase Hydro-Quebec's autonomy raising fears of mega-projects. Regulatory controls, transparency and accountability are necessary elements of any sustainable energy policy. Hydro Quebec is no exception.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: D
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: D+



1997 Grade: D-
1998 Grade: B-
1999 Grade: C+
2000 Grade: B-

At “B-” this mark could be improved if the provincial government stops going backward and forward at the same time. Over the last year the Quebec government has held provincial negotiations on climate change to consider how the province might implement the recommendations of the national process on climate change. The minister of the environment refers to it frequently. These positive, if not substantive, moves by Quebec might have indicated an improved mark. On the other hand, Quebec staged a walkout at the last meeting of energy and environment ministers in March, demanding credit for having built large scale hydro projects in the past. Following this, there was wide spread speculation that the province would produce the first provincial business plan prior to the June meeting of Environment Ministers. This did not materialise. Again on the positive side transportation initiatives were announced that may lead to reducing emissions from vehicles, but the climate change measures are bundled with money for building more roads.

PROVINCIAL



ONTARIO

Biodiversity

F

Climate Change

F

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: n/a
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: D-
2000 Grade: F

After getting a passing grade last year in recognition of the Lands for Life policy, this year the grade has slipped once again. Budget cuts have slashed, once again, the Ministry of Natural Resources — cut \$85 million this year alone — and Environment — down to 40-50% of what its budget was five years ago, while the Conservation Authorities are still struggling.

The province created a nasty scare at the suggestion that wilderness parks be opened up to sport hunting. The government promised that consultation would be conducted prior to any decision, but then clarified that those consultations would only take place locally. Such a skewing of the public interest would virtually ensure approval of the scheme. Fortunately, Minister Snobellen recently reconsidered and has now promised consultations across Ontario.

The listing of endangered species continues to move at a glacial pace in Ontario. This year two new species were listed. But the number of species that inhabit Ontario, listed federally by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), but **not** listed in Ontario is a very long list. Approximately half of the COSEWIC species in Ontario have not been listed. Failure to list species creates serious problems and makes Ontario's status as a province with an act to protect species at risk somewhat farcical.

Pressure on the significant ecoregion known as the Oak Ridges Moraine has intensified. In the absence of provincial regulation, developers can lay claim on the Moraine, leaving the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to sort out the land use issues. Public outrage is rising as it becomes clearer that the Moraine is at risk.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: D
1994 Grade: C
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: F
1998 Grade: F
1999 Grade: F
2000 Grade: F

Ontario, both through its own intransigence as well as improved performance by Alberta, is now the worst government, provincial or federal, in the country on climate change. There is the appearance of some commitment to carbon emission reductions evidenced by a \$10 million programme. But no one, even close observers of climate change policy, can tell how that money is being spent and how this spending relates to climate change targets. Ontario has not even taken the easy steps of public consultation and commissioning policy studies, that other provinces have. Officials in the Ontario government have told at least one environmental organization that they are under instruction **not** to participate in any federally-funded climate change initiatives — even something as benign as an education web site.

At the Joint Ministers Meeting, Ontario distinguished itself as the major obstacle.

Work in the related area of cleaner air to protect public health is as contaminated as Walkerton's water. Both suffer from an addiction to unregulated economic activity, cut-backs and a lack of commitment to protect health and the environment.

PROVINCIAL



MANITOBA

Biodiversity

Incomplete

Climate Change

Incomplete

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: F
1994 Grade: F
1995 Grade: F
1996 Grade: F



1997 Grade: C+
1998 Grade: D
1999 Grade: D+
2000 Grade: Incomplete

The new provincial government of Gary Doer has been in office too briefly to be fairly graded at this time. Although the government has said and done little on environmental issues, there are hopes for meaningful announcements soon, particularly on land use on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. In a recent letter (May 30, 2000) to the Manitoba Chapter of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS), Premier Doer confirmed that "Our government is committed to ensuring land-use planning on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Oscar Lathlin, is currently reviewing this issue and will make an announcement on this matter in the near future."

The issue of land use, and particularly road-building and clear-cutting, was the subject of unrelenting conservation work by environmental activist Alice Chambers. Her death this year (after many years of dedicated assistance to this report card) is a loss to the planet, not just the province. Marking her passing with environmental protection would be a significant legacy for the Doer government.

The province also must act to reduce the pressures on Riding Mountain National Park. The Panel on Ecological Integrity identified Riding Mountain as one of the ten most threatened parks in Canada. Intensive agriculture and logging in areas surrounding the park are contributing to the declining ecological health within the park.

Another issue of concern relates to wildlife management. The Doer government has committed to legislation to ban the hunting of penned wildlife. Elk ranchers had been engaged in vigorous lobbying to weaken government resolve. But it appears the government will hold firm (also noted by the Premier in his May 30, 2000 letter.) Another species faces a barbaric practice. Early in 2000, provincial wildlife staff poisoned wolves with strychnine and cyanide in the Ethelbert Community Pasture. Wolves in that area could range in and out of the Riding Mountain National Park.

Poisoning the top predator has increasingly been demonstrated to cause a cascading of ecological degradation. Hence, areas like Yellowstone National Park, are importing wolves so that they can become re-established in the park. Due to a public outcry when the *Winnipeg Free Press* reported the use of strychnine to kill wolves, the Doer government postponed further killing of wolves while examining its options.

Lastly, the government has a major challenge in regulating and controlling the exponential growth in manure factories — otherwise known as hog farms. The latest proposal is for a 4,000 hog "finishing facility" near a tributary of the Seine River. The Filmon government set targets to boost hog production. The Doer government must ensure that hog factories are no longer allowed to dispose of sewage by spraying it on fields. Sewage pollution abatement is urgently needed for these factories across Canada.

Climate Change:

1993	Grade: n/a		1997	Grade: F
1994	Grade: F		1998	Grade: F
1995	Grade: D+		1999	Grade: F
1996	Grade: D-		<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: Incomplete</u>

The Manitoba Government was elected last fall and to this point has not taken a public position. It has held no consultations and has no programs. It has said climate change is one of the items it will be thinking about. We are therefore giving the province an "Incomplete".

PROVINCIAL

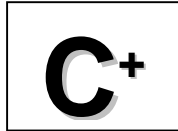


SASKATCHEWAN

Biodiversity



Climate Change



Biodiversity:

1993	Grade: F
1994	Grade: F
1995	Grade: D
1996	Grade: D



1997	Grade: F
1998	Grade: C+
1999	Grade: F
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: F</u>

New industrial pressures, in addition to forestry and agriculture, are increasing stress on Saskatchewan's biodiversity.

Oil and gas in south west part of the province demonstrate a strong commitment in industrial development at the expense of ecosystems. The consensus among Saskatchewan environmentalists is that as hard as the Environment Department may try to do the right thing, it lacks clout compared with the Department of Agriculture and Food, and energy-hungry Natural Resources.

The province's Representative Areas Network was expanded, and conservationists continue to be pleased with last years' announcement to protect the Seager Wheeler Lake are (178,000 hectares). However, the endangered species file remains a black mark with no provincial legislation and no plans develop any.

Climate Change:

1993	Grade: F
1994	Grade: F
1995	Grade: D-
1996	Grade: F



1997	Grade: D-
1998	Grade: F
1999	Grade: F
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: C+</u>

Energy Minister Eldon Lautermilch deserves credit for forward movement. Although the steps taken may appear small and surely inadequate to meet the challenge of climate change, a new atmosphere is palpable. The government is finally acknowledging the severity of the threat. The government has announced the retrofitting of an old

inefficient coal and gas power station. The Station will be retrofit to burn only natural gas.

The province is also embarking on a co-generation project, buying power from a Weyerhaeuser pulp mill. Another important initiative is the programme for a new government buildings retrofit. Sask Power also launched its "Energy Solutions" programme to deliver commercial and institutional buildings audits. The province is also partnering with the federal residential programme through Natural Resources Canada, with a limited number of home audits, run through a private company.

This is also one province where the stakeholder group is actually working well together. The Saskatchewan Climate Change Stakeholder Advisory Committee is admitted all round to be a genuinely progressive, cooperative effort.

PROVINCIAL



ALBERTA

Biodiversity



Climate Change



Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: B
 1994 Grade: B
 1995 Grade: F
 1996 Grade: D



1997 Grade: F
 1998 Grade: F-
 1999 Grade: D-
2000 Grade: F

The grade might have been a pass this year, but conflict between Environment Minister Gary Mar and former Energy Minister Steve West has sidelined the much needed Natural Heritage Act. Bill 15 was withdrawn from the legislature in May due to internal disputes. The bill will not be reintroduced according to Minister Mar. Leading scientists and conservationists had called on the government to deliver an effective legislative framework for protected areas. The prospects are discouraging with oil companies declaring that it could take 100 years to phase out industrial development in parks.

The only good news was the creation of Spray Lake Provincial Park in Kananaskis country. Protection of the Bighorn Country, along the Eastern slopes west of Banff and Jasper will bring this grade up next year!

Meanwhile, proposals for the world's largest hog farm, by Taiwanese interests, must be met with rigorous analysis and environmental assessment. The proposed 80,000 hog operation, near Lethbridge, will create the equivalent of the waste produced by 240,000 people. These mega-hog operations are not "farms" anymore than brothels are day care centres.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
 1994 Grade: D
 1995 Grade: F
 1996 Grade: F-



1997 Grade: F
 1998 Grade: F-
 1999 Grade: D-
2000 Grade: D

Alberta has done nothing substantive since last year. Climate Change Central is a largely process-oriented initiative that took several months just to hold its first meeting. It won't even be thinking about actions until August.

Alberta did, however, put a lot into the national process — more than any other province. The mark rises slightly to reflect the marginal moves by the Alberta government.

PROVINCIAL



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Biodiversity

D-

Climate Change

C-

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: C-
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: B-



1997 Grade: D-
1998 Grade: D-
1999 Grade: C
2000 Grade: D-

Last year the British Columbia government received a failing grade for watering down the Forest Practices Code, suggesting privatization of Crown forests, and ignoring the need to protect endangered species. This year, the record is still one of failure. But recent efforts by newly appointed Minister Joan Sawicki deserve some credit for movement in the right direction. Unfortunately, the record remains appalling.

Since the last report card, there have been further amendments to the Forest Practices Code, providing administrative ease for companies but not improving environmental sustainability. In his final report, Forest Practices Board Chair, Keith Moore, confirmed that, five years into the Forest Practices Code, it is not being fully implemented to meet environmental goals. Keith Moore identified that the government had failed to implement all aspects of the Code. Thus it was failing to meet its promise of protecting wildlife, species at risk, and ecological integrity.

This is a tragedy, as for all its faults, the Code is the most progressive attempt to regulate logging for ecological values in Canada. Yet, it is increasingly clear to British Columbia environmentalists that the Ministry of Forests is not supportive of the Code's ecological goals. Recommendations from the Environment Ministry are simply overruled by a Forest ministry that continues to put industry interests ahead of biodiversity.

The efforts through the Forest Practices Code, and identified wildlife strategies, are not effective in protecting species. The species protection efforts are, in most cases, constrained by caps, to ensure that species protection does not impact on the rate of cut above a fixed number. Species protection and recovery must be driven by a scientific appraisal of species needs, not an economic assessment of mill requirements.

Both Keith Moore and Environment Minister Sawicki confirmed that logging continues to pose a risk to British Columbia's beleaguered fish and wildlife populations.

The most critical forest issue in British Columbia, the current "hot spot," is on the central and north coast. The central and north coast rainforest has been dubbed the "Great Bear Rainforest," and protecting intact old growth forest watersheds in the region has become a major priority. Sierra Club of B.C., Greenpeace and the Coastal Rainforest Coalition have been in negotiation with the forest industry, but government engagement is vital.

The government must be prodded to get more involved in the negotiations over:

- 1) logging moratoria on the central and north coast
- 2) working on a complete change in forest practices (moving to ecoforestry) in the coastal forest industry
- 3) negotiating interim measures agreements with First Nations.

Another hot spot for environmental concern is the Elaho Valley. This 1,000 year old Douglas fir forest, with individual giants over 400 years old, was not included as a protected area in the original Lower Mainland Protected Areas Plan. The recent decision of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, severely condemning Interfor for engaging in "vigilante activities" in which its employees put three environmentalists in hospital, makes it clear that Interfor does not have "clean hands." Protests in the Upper Elaho Valley are bound to increase in the wake of Mr. Justice Vickers' decision to set aside the September 17, 1999 injunction. The government needs to take a leadership role and deal with this outstanding land use issue.

Several land use plans, like the Robson Valley, have failed to protect habitat for threatened species including the mountain caribou, a species "red-listed" by government as a species at risk. In the Kootenays and in west Chilcotin, logging plans have also been approved which acknowledge logging will result in a risk to caribou.

The land use plan for Vancouver Island is simply a business as usual logging plan that has no vision for the future of Vancouver Island and does not meet urgent conservation needs. Both the Vancouver Island Land Use Plan and the Higher Level Plan which govern it, are predicated on continued over-cutting. In fact, logging rates will go up in the wake of the proposed implementation of the higher level plan which legislates further relaxed code standards on 23% of Vancouver Island, the so-called Enhanced or High Intensity Zones.

Another discouraging move was the lifting of the moratorium on aquaculture operations. Although the government has set a policy of no growth, with new farms replacing old ones, the impact through increased corporate control of the industry is to allow increasing environmental damage and risks to the wild stocks.

Still, there was some good news this year, justifying a passing mark. The legislated protection of all Ecological Reserves, plus legislated protection for Order-in-Council parks, as well as the same protection for twenty-nine new parks totalling in excess of 264,000 hectares. The creation of the Clayoquot Sound U.N. Biosphere Reserve is cause for celebration, although the province did not play a key role in the process. As well, B.C. has completed a number of its land use planning exercises. Although the levels of protected areas achieved fall short of ecosystem needs, still a number of protected areas must be recognized and credit given. Areas near Smithers, Prince George, Robson Valley, and the Kispiox have been set aside in significant new protected areas. But enthusiasm over some protected areas is met with bitter disappointment that the government once again cut the already vanishing budget of its environment ministry.

To bring up this grade, and to reclaim the province's historic head of the class position, serious implementation of the Forest Practices Code must move forward, with increased protection of biodiversity and critical salmon habitat, along with stand-alone endangered species protection, a serious reduction of the rate of cut in British Columbia's forests to a more sustainable level and a substantial effort to address the dwindling ecological integrity of marine areas.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: C-
1995 Grade: C+
1996 Grade: D+



1997 Grade: C-
1998 Grade: D-
1999 Grade: D-
2000 Grade: C-

British Columbia is moving forward, not as aggressively or as quickly as it should, but is showing glimmers of hope and action. There is an ongoing consultation on tax shifting or using taxes to encourage and discourage individual and corporate action. The province is expected to have a climate change business plan in place by September. On the action side there are a number of initiatives:

- A new policy mandating that ten percent of new electricity generation will come from renewables;
- A program to retrofit existing provincial buildings and a new design criteria for future construction;
- alternate fuel vehicles to be purchased for the provincial fleet.

TERRITORIAL



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Biodiversity

C⁻

Climate Change

C⁺

Biodiversity:

1993	Grade: n/a
1994	Grade: n/a
1995	Grade: n/a
1996	Grade: D



1997	Grade: C-
1998	Grade: C
1999	Grade: C
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: C-</u>

The Northwest Territorial government biodiversity grade has fallen slightly, despite having put in place a good Protected Areas Strategy last September. Unfortunately, nothing has been done to implement the strategy.

Meanwhile, Nahanni National Park was listed as one of the country's ten most threatened parks by the Federal Panel on the Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks. The park, created by then Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Jean Chrétien, is also the first Canadian site to receive United Nations World Heritage Site designation. But the ecological integrity of the park is threatened by mineral development, road building, oil and gas activity — all within the larger Nahanni River ecosystem, but outside park boundaries.

At long last, a co-management agreement has been completed for Nahanni. But much needs to be done to establish more sensitive activities in areas near the park.

The grade gets a boost from efforts to begin to develop a wildlife act, to potentially operate as a *Species At Risk Act*. There has already been one round of consultation on the proposed act.

Climate Change:

1993	Grade: n/a
1994	Grade: n/a
1995	Grade: D
1996	Grade: C-



1997	Grade: C
1998	Grade: C
1999	Grade: C-
<u>2000</u>	<u>Grade: C+</u>

Having already seen the clear effects, the NWT government takes climate change seriously. At recent meetings of environment and energy ministers, the province put forth a strong demand for action to reduce emissions. Confronting Ontario and Alberta alone warrants an improved mark but NWT has gone further.

NWT has now developed a focussed website, and a newsletter that will provide updates on where their process is at. Working with the Arctic Energy Alliance (comprised of energy producers, consumers and distributors) the NWT is delivering energy efficient programs by assisting consumers to reduce their costs and the environmental impact of energy use.

TERRITORIAL



YUKON

Biodiversity

D⁺

Climate Change

B⁻

Biodiversity:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: n/a
1995 Grade: D
1996 Grade: D



1997 Grade: C
1998 Grade: C+
1999 Grade: C-
2000 Grade: D+

The Department of Indian and Northern Development, which is currently in charge of forestry in the Yukon is fast-tracking a development process for long term forest tenures (called Timber Harvest Agreements or THAs) in the south-east Yukon. This process began last June and since then has been stopped three times due to a public outcry. However, the government is scheduled to make a final decision in the next few weeks and environmental groups are receiving conflicting information from various levels as to what the decision will be. Recently, the SE Yukon, which contains several beautiful and pristine watersheds and ecosystems such as the Coal, Beaver and Labiche, has been facing increasing pressure. A new mill proposed last year is now operational and is owned by the South Yukon Forest Corporation.

There is an opportunity to develop a 'made in the Yukon' tenure system that would be appropriate to its wood supply, emphasizing the importance of non-timber forest uses, if the THAs were put on hold for the moment while protected areas, important wildlife habitat and land claims are identified. General planning is required before any long term allocation system is put into place.

Although the creation of Tombstone Territorial Park, protecting 216,000 hectares of the Tombstone Mountains is a positive development in the province's protection of biodiversity, there are still serious mining pressures at issue. Canadian United Minerals Inc. still has an application to conduct drilling and trenching within park boundaries and although Minister Nault has indicated that he finds it "difficult to comprehend how we can have mining in the park," they have yet to reject the application.

Climate Change:

1993 Grade: n/a
1994 Grade: n/a
1995 Grade: D
1996 Grade: D



1997 Grade: C
1998 Grade: C-
1999 Grade: C-
2000 Grade: B-

Having already experienced concrete effects of climate change, the Yukon Territory has sent a strong message to the rest of Canada by setting substantial initiatives in motion to address the issue. With a new government having been elected in April with future priorities yet to be announced, it remains to be seen if the trend will continue.

A brand new Northern Climate ExChange Centre was opened in February 2000, designed as a focal point for research and education among northerners. Most of the programs run out of the centre tend to be focussed on issues in the Yukon. As this year will be an experimental year, the territory has arranged a series of consultations to allow all stakeholders to contribute to the growth of the Centre.

The Yukon Territory has begun a Gap Analysis Project to “review all of our scientific and documented traditional knowledge, to determine the state of knowledge of climate change in the north.”

A Circumpolar Climate Change Summit and Northern Sustainable Technology Trade Show is planned for March 2001, as is an NRCAN funded Energy Solution Centre, to be housed in the Yukon Energy Corporation.

Most importantly the territory joined NWT in making strong pleas to the other provinces to act in view of the impacts of climate change on the Arctic.

Notes:

The "Rio Report Card" is a part of the Rio Watch Project of the Sierra Club of Canada. In June 1992, Sierra Club of Canada (SCC) committed to the assessment of government performance to meet targets set at the United Nations Convention on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro.

The views and opinions expressed in the report card are those of the Sierra Club of Canada. Any errors and omissions are also the responsibility of SCC.

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The "Rio Report Card" was researched, written and produced by the SCC National Office Staff. The 2000 Rio Report Card team included Elizabeth May, Rita Morbia, John Bennett, Andrew Chisholm, Kristen Ostling, John Purkis and Leslie Dickout.

1. see on this point, *The Nasty Game*, by Andrew Nikiforuk (1998) (available on the SCC website: www.sierraclub.ca/national)

2. Mickleburgh, R, "Ottawa putting B.C. Salmon at risk," *Globe and Mail*, June 8, 2000, p. A2.