

**Canada's Statement to the United Nations
Commission on Sustainable Development – 18th Session**

Waste Management

Mr., Mme Chairperson,

The Government of Canada recognizes environmentally sound waste management, both domestically and internationally, as an important element in health and environmental risk management, in support of sustainable development. Canada would like to take the opportunity to describe two initiatives dealing with sustainable waste management in our country, showing how municipal, provincial, territorial and federal governments have been working together to address waste and end-of-life products.

The first example is Canada's experience with Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). EPR is a policy approach where the producer's responsibility for its product is extended to the post-consumer stage of a product's life cycle. Canada's first experience with EPR came as an end of life paint stewardship program, launched by the province of British Columbia in 1994. From this first experience, EPR programs have grown across the country and now include over 50 operational programs covering a wide range of products such as used tires, electronics and paint, with more under development.

In October 2009, Environment ministers from Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments approved a Canada-wide Action Plan for EPR, which commits jurisdictions to develop harmonized legislation and regulations for a number of product categories, such as packaging, electronics, household hazardous waste, construction and demolition waste and appliances. Consistent with this Action Plan, the Government of Canada is considering developing a national EPR regulation to manage end-of-life ozone depleting substances and their halocarbon equivalents in both stationary and mobile refrigeration equipment. A national EPR program is also being considered to manage end-of-life mercury containing lamps.

The second example is our work in the field of electronic waste, where Canada is taking action both domestically and internationally to encourage their environmentally sound management. At the domestic level, a growing number of regulations requiring EPR programs and other policies have been implemented to better manage end-of-life electronic and electrical equipment. At the international level, Canada has been actively supporting the Partnership for Action on Computing Equipment (PACE) under the Basel Convention.

The Government of Canada is also undertaking a review of its regulations on the export and import of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclable materials, with the objective of strengthening control mechanisms for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. These activities support our commitments to advance work under the Basel Convention and to support the environmentally sound management of wastes. [Consultation

documents are available on Environment Canada's CEPA Registry website
www.ec.gc.ca/ceparegistry]

In closing, Canada recognizes that sound integrated waste management is an important and necessary component to achieve sustainable development and Canada actively supports work in this area. Canada also recognizes the need to integrate the principles of sustainable development into policies and programmes in support of the Millennium Development Goals. For more information, please visit the UNCSD-18 website where you will find Canada's thematic Report on Waste Management.