

Commissioner Finds Federal Government Unable to Sustain Its Own Env. Initiatives

2005 Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development



Ottawa —While the federal government has announced many initiatives to put Canada on a path to environmental sustainability, it rarely sees them through to completion, says Johanne G  linas, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, in her Report tabled today in the House of Commons.

“When it comes to protecting the environment, bold announcements are made and then often forgotten as soon as the confetti hits the ground,” said Ms. G  linas. “The federal government seems to have trouble crossing the finish line.”

The Commissioner's most recent Report details urgent examples of unfinished environmental business in areas such as Canada's deteriorating oceans, the protection of biodiversity, and the safety of drinking water in First Nations communities, as well as in other areas of federal responsibility.

The Report also looks at the government's efforts to protect national parks and to follow through on its commitment to “green” federal purchasing. As well, it includes the results of three audits of environmental petitions submitted to the government by Canadians—one of which deals with the government's promise to update requirements for nuclear liability insurance coverage to meet international standards.

“The issues we raise this year pose concrete risks to the environment and well-being of Canadians,” said Ms. G  linas. “Federal performance must improve markedly if vital initiatives are to achieve their goals.”

The Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development and her audit team are part of the Office of the Auditor General of Canada. Her mandate is to audit and report to Parliament and Canadians on significant environmental and sustainable development issues.

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