

## Meeting the needs of today and tomorrow

The World Commission on Environment and Development's landmark 1987 report defines sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Here is a sampling of Canadian websites of government bodies and other organizations promoting that vision:

### Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues [www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb](http://www.liberal.parl.gc.ca/urb)

The argument for making urban sustainability a national priority has never been stronger. Today, 80 per cent of Canadians live in large urban centres and by the year 2020 that figure could rise as high as 90 per cent. Urban centres are not only the economic engines driving our economy, but increasingly, they are also our homes and workplaces. This website contains the full text of the interim and final reports, called *Canada's Urban Strategy*, which outlines our federal government's vision of urban sustainability. The final report identifies three priority programs: affordable housing, transit/transportation and sustainable infrastructure. Look to the appendices in the interim report for city-by-city roundtable summaries.

### CIS-TRM: Canada's Civil Infrastructure System—Technology Road Map [www.cscce.ca/TRM](http://www.cscce.ca/TRM)

The Civil Infrastructure System—Technology Road Map (CIS-TRM) paints a compelling picture of Canada's current civil infrastructure system and draws a 10-year action plan for construction, renewal and management. The website quotes some impressive statistics to underscore the economic importance of the venture: Our physical infrastructure, for example, represents close to half of our entire construction industry GDP, and much of it may have reached 80 per cent of its service life. In the grey centre frame, choose "National Lecture Tour" for a graphics-rich, PowerPoint-style overview or "Project Statement" for a quick written summary.

The *TRM Final Report* is also available. CIS-TRM is a joint venture of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering, the Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the National Research Council and the Canadian Public Works Association.

### InfraGuide [www.infraguide.ca](http://www.infraguide.ca)

InfraGuide is our national guide to sustainable municipal infrastructure. It offers a growing collection of best practice publications for core infrastructure. Choose "Best Practices" for links to published best practices documents. Topics include transit, environmental protocols, roads and sidewalks, storm and wastewater, potable water, decision making and investment planning. Each section also includes "Best Practices Under Review," where you can post your own detailed comments, and "Future Best Practices" where you make an offer to participate in a working group for the development of future best practices. Under "Education," you can find out about the InfraGuide Internship Program and the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering Youth Internship Program.

### Engineers Without Borders Canada [www.ewb.ca](http://www.ewb.ca)

A growing number of people around the globe recognize the key role that technical capacity building can play in promoting sustainable human development. Here in Canada, Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is our fastest growing development organization, with a current membership of 6000. Overseas, EWB Canada works with the local technical sector to build their capacity to deliver innovative, appropriate and sustainable solutions to local problems. Particular areas of interest are water and sanitation, food processing and agriculture, energy, and information and communication technology. From the orange navigation bar, choose "Overseas," then "Projects" for highlights of projects from crop drying

in East Timor to the award-winning IT learning centres in the Philippines.

### International Institute for Sustainable Development [www.iisd.org](http://www.iisd.org)

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is a distinctly Canadian institution. Founded in 1990 and based in Winnipeg, it works on the international stage to promote sustainable development. The IISD advances policy recommendations, brokers knowledge and promotes and publishes research. For details, choose any of the general topics on the home page. "Energy," for example, leads to information on full-cost accounting of electricity, or a modified market allocation model for carbon emissions regulation. Back on the home page, look on the right side for details of a recent, independent, 19-nation study that shows most national governments aren't thinking strategically about the transition to a sustainable future.

### SDInfo: Sustainable Development Information System [www.sdinfo.gc.ca](http://www.sdinfo.gc.ca)

If you are puzzled by how Agenda 21, the Montreal Protocol, Kyoto and the other major players in sustainable development fit together, this Government of Canada gateway site is a great resource. On the left navigation bar choose "Historical Path" for an overview of sustainable development milestones since 1885. "Federal SD Resources" has links to the latest sustainable development strategies, which must be tabled periodically by each federal department. The site also contains a list of links to important players on the government and NGO (non-governmental organization) world stage, from Greenpeace to the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).

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