

# Environment and Sustainable Development Indicators

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# Introduction

- Federal Budget 2000
- GDP not enough
- Concept of Capital
- More info but fewer indicators

# Necessary Features of Indicators

- Few, clear, simple
- Meaningful, relevant
- Robust, i.e. direction is never misleading or open to political interpretation
- Pertinent to the economy

# Concept of Capital

- Legacy issue (inter-generational equity)
- Natural Capital (also Human, Social, Financial, Economic)
- Substitutability of forms of capital
- Our focus: Natural and Human, for now

# System of National Accounts

- Few Indicators
- Serious need to revise SNA to include ALL forms of capital
- Needs resources

# Canadian Information System for the Environment (CISE)

- Necessary underpinning for Indicators and SNA
- Federal, provincial and local
- Coordinated, accessible
- Plan exists but needs resources

# Indicators

- Air Quality: Trend, population-based, ground level Ozone.
- Water Quality: Surface water; by objectives; CCME-based
- GHG emissions: not netted against offsets
- Forest Cover: series of one
- Wetlands: not ready until next year
- Education: % post-secondary

# Dissent

- Too few
- Aggregate into one
- Too simple in certain cases
- Need for social capital measures
- Not ready for Finance Minister's use

# Next Steps

- Release report and publicize it
- Work on SNA and CISE
- Develop the land use indicators
- Persuade Finance or the PM (current or future) to utilize Indicators and SNA in economic context