

Minister of the Environment



Ministre de l'Environnement

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

SEP 24 2003

Mr. Gustavo Alanis-Ortega  
Joint Public Advisory Committee Chair for 2003  
c/o Commission for Environmental  
Cooperation Secretariat  
393 St. Jacques Street West, Suite 200  
Montréal QC H2Y 1N9

Dear Mr. Alanis-Ortega:

I enjoyed meeting with you and the other members of the Joint Public Advisory Committee during our last Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Council session, in Washington, D.C. on June 24-25.

In your letter of July 11, you asked for an update on progress concerning the adherence of provinces to the Canadian Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation (NAAEC).

As you know, to date three Canadian provinces have signed the agreement – Alberta, Québec, and Manitoba, all of whom have been active participants in the day-to-day activities of the Canadian implementation of the NAAEC. While the issue of provincial adherence to the Canadian Intergovernmental Agreement has proven to be a challenge, it has certainly not inhibited the functioning of the CEC's programmes. There are many instances where provinces that are not signatories participate actively in the CEC's work programme.

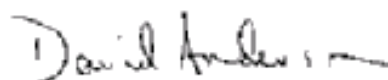
The issue of provincial involvement is also relevant to other environmental side agreements which Canada has negotiated, as well as for future agreements that are nearing completion. The federal government continues to encourage provinces to participate in all environmental side agreements, including the NAAEC.



- 2 -

I appreciate your interest in the Canadian implementation of the Agreement, and I look forward to our continued work together throughout this year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Anderson".

David Anderson, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Steve Ashton, M.L.A.  
Mr. Thomas J. Mulcair  
The Honourable Lorne Taylor, M.L.A.  
Mr. Vic Shantora  
Mr. Jean Perras