

Canada

Approval of Environmental Protection Act

Following months of consideration in Parliament, the renewed *Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA)* was finally given Royal Assent on 14 September 1999, and will come into force when proclaimed early in 2000.

The new CEPA provides for toxicity analysis of the 23,000 substances in use in the country, sets deadlines for controlling pollution caused by these substances, and provides for virtual elimination of the most dangerous among them.

An amount of \$72 million will be allocated to implement the new *CEPA*, over and above the \$40 mil-

lion announced earlier this year for research on toxic substances that harm human health and the environment, for example by disrupting the endocrine system.

Where public participation is concerned, members of the public will now have the right to request investigations, and to sue if government failure to implement the renewed *CEPA* has serious effects on the environment. In addition, the new law allows Canada to respect its international commitments in environmental matters. □