

# *ARET 2*

Presentation to:

## **CANADIAN POLLUTION PREVENTION ROUNDTABLE**

April 25-26, 2002

Quebec City

# Purpose of Presentation

- ◆ To inform on the development and application of the new initiative:
  - Environmental Management Toolbox;
  - Brief history of ARET & its results;
  - Context of program renewal; and
  - Design of successor to ARET.

# Environmental Management Toolbox

- ◆ Regulations
- ◆ Pollution Prevention Planning
- ◆ Guidelines and Codes
- ◆ Economic Instruments
- ◆ Non-regulatory Standards

# ARET - History

- ◆ Idea developed by “*New Directions Group*” a coalition of Environmental Non Government (ENGO) and Industry (1991)
- ◆ “Accelerate reduction, elimination of toxics” (ARET)
- ◆ ARET challenge issued (1994)
- ◆ First Progress Report March (1995)

# ARET - History (Cont'd)

- ◆ 5 year Challenge program (1995-2000)
  - 117 substances targetted
  - 90% reduction of 30 (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics)
  - 50% reduction of other substances
- ◆ Program Oversight by “Stakeholder Committee” (Industrial, federal, provincial)

# ARET Results

- ◆ 8 industrial sectors & government participated
- ◆ 318 Facilities (171 companies)
- ◆ Aggregate reductions achieved:
  - PBT substances reduced 61%
  - Other substances reduced by 72 %
  - Total 27,900 tonnes targeted substances

# ARET 2 - Evolution

- ◆ Minister's Innovation Agenda
- ◆ Environment Canada's Evaluation of ARET
- ◆ "New Directions Group" Principles
- ◆ Policy Criteria for Environmental Performance Agreements

# ARET 2 - Evolution (Cont'd)

- ◆ Addresses Recommendations of Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development
- ◆ Draws Upon Provincial and International Experience
- ◆ Design Simplified Through Consultation Process

# Responses

- ◆ Industry Support Across Many Sectors
- ◆ Some Key ENGOs are Supportive
- ◆ New program Advisory Committee Co-chaired by Industry and ENGO

# Benefits of Participating

- ◆ Opportunity to demonstrate leadership and meet public expectations to manage toxics
- ◆ Fora for peer exchange on best practices
- ◆ Recognition of verifiable action by the public & government;

# Benefits of Participating

- ◆ Flexible and cost effective;
- ◆ Less intrusive than other environmental management tools;
- ◆ Access to technical assistance;
- ◆ One-window reporting through National Pollutants Release Inventory;

# Opportunities & Challenges

Successor to ARET:

- ◆ Reinvigorated program with enhanced rigour;
- ◆ Supportive policy framework;
- ◆ Platform for beyond compliance results

Will focus on recruiting leaders prepared to address environmental priorities.