WATER QUALITY BRANCH SPECIAL ISSUE

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This special issue of the Water Pollution Research Journal of Canada highlights some of the recent work of the Water Quality Branch, Environment Canada. The Water Quality Branch operates out of regional offices located in Moncton, New Brunswick; Longueuil, Quebec; Burlington, Ontario; Regina, Saskatchewan, and Vancouver, British Columbia. Many of the issues and problems regarding water quality in Canada are not common to all regions, this is reflected in the diversity amongst the papers that are presented.

Water Quality Branch activities range from broad and philosophical water quality considerations to studies of specific basins where water quality problems exist. This special issue consists of papers which touch on a number of these interests. The first two papers consider the design of water quality networks. Two papers consider water quality objectives as a management tool; developing guidelines for pesticides, and developing effective monitoring programs for objectives. Several papers consider problems associated with temporal variations: temporal patterns of acidification in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, trends in water quality of the St. Lawrence, phosphorus variability in the Flathead River, and changes over time in the St. Croix River. The remaining papers report specific pieces of work reflecting novel methods or procedures: large volume extractors, organic contaminants in suspended sediments, contaminants in water and suspended sediments, and contaminants in surficial sediments.

On behalf of the Water Quality Branch, we would like to thank the authors for their contributions to this special issue of the Journal. We would also like to thank the many colleagues who joined with Water Quality Branch staff to review the papers. Special thanks are extended to external reviewers who contributed much to the quality of the papers presented.