

# ***ARET 2:*** **Canada's Flagship** **National Voluntary Initiative**

A Presentation To:

Great Lakes Regional Pollution  
Prevention Roundtable

August 28, 2002

# Purpose of Presentation

- To describe the development and status of ARET 2:
  - Environmental Management Tool Box;
  - A brief history of ARET & its results;
  - Environmental Performance Agreements (EPA)
  - The context of program renewal;
  - The design of ARET 2 & responses to the new program;
  - Incentives and benefits of ARET 2; and
  - Opportunities and challenges

# Environmental Management Toolbox

- Regulations
- Pollution Prevention Planning
- Economic Instruments
- Non-regulatory Standards
- Voluntary Initiatives
- Responsible Corporate Conduct

# ARET - History

- Idea developed by ENGO/Industry coalition, “*New Directions Group*” (NDG) 1991
- “Accelerate reduction, elimination of toxics before regulation”
- ARET challenge issued in 1994

# ARET - History (Cont'd)

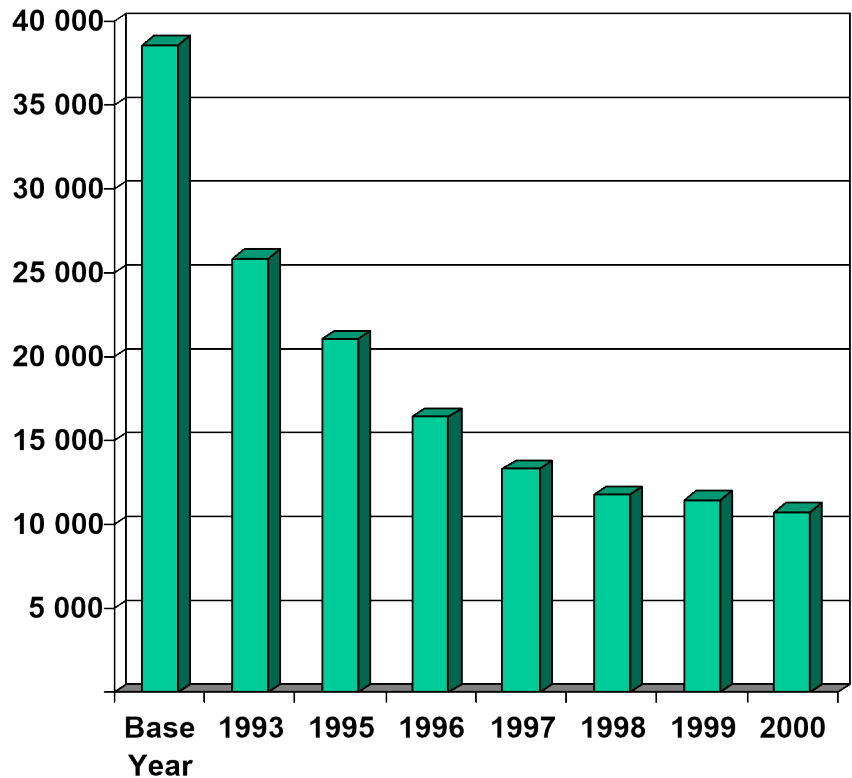
- 5 year Challenge program (1995-2000)
  - 117 substances targeted
  - 90% reduction of 30 “A-1” substances (Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics)
  - 50% reduction of other substances
- Overseen by “Stakeholder Committee” (industrial, federal, provincial)

# ARET Participation

- Program attracted participation from across Canada including:
  - 8 industrial sectors & government
  - 171 companies
  - 318 facilities

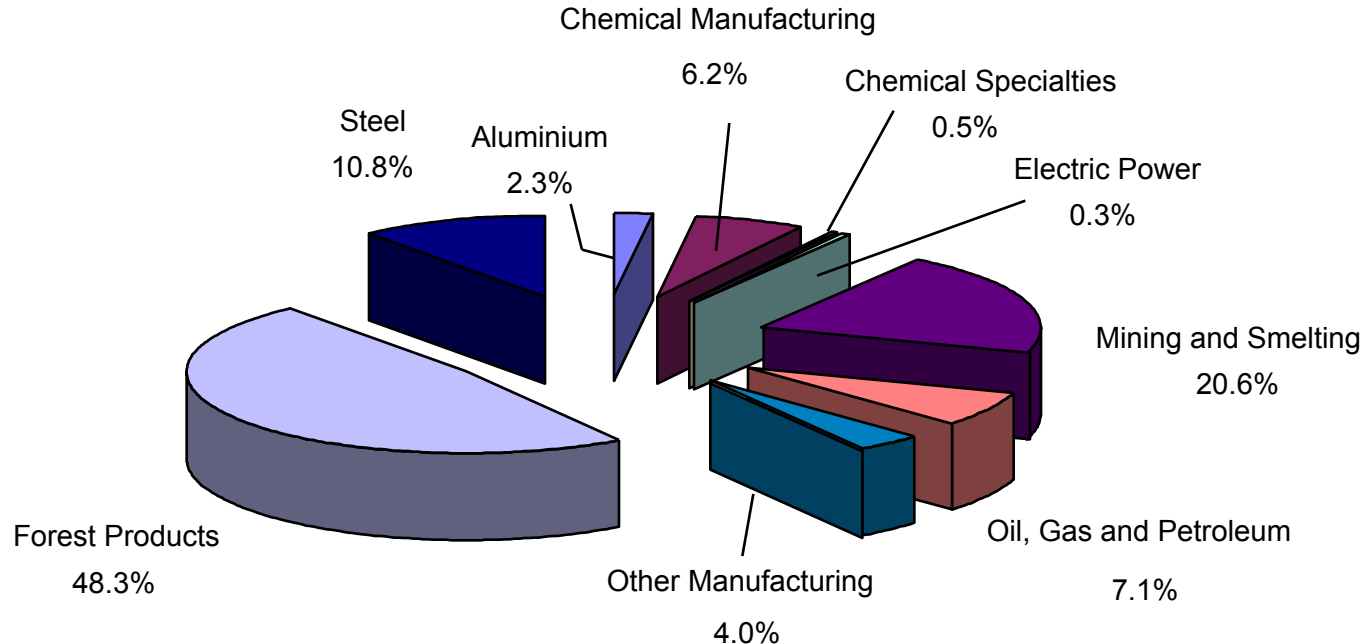
# ARET Results

- Reductions from base year:
- Total: >27 800 tonnes
- A-1: 61%
- A-2: 72%
- B-1,2&3: 72%



# ARET Results (Cont'd)

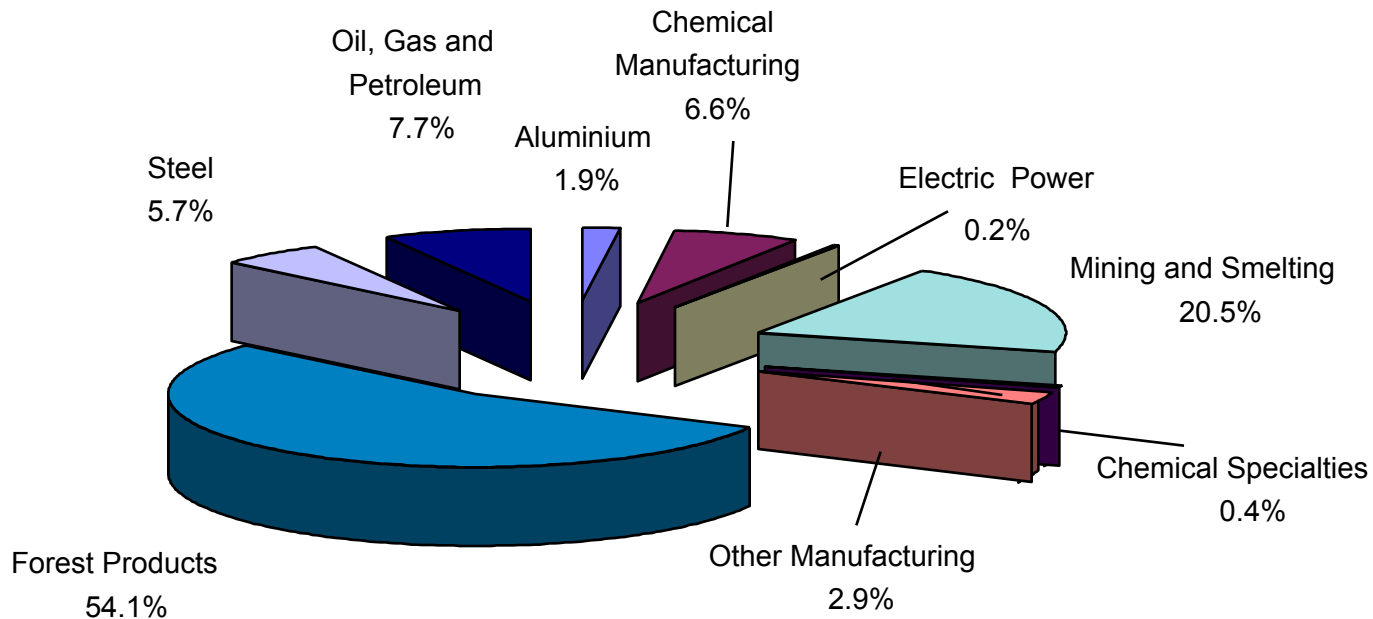
## Percentage of Total Releases (Base Year)





# ARET Results (Cont'd)

## Percentage of Total Reductions by Sector (Base Year to 2000)



# EPA Policy Framework

- Developed through stakeholder consultation
- Based on work of NDG
- Reflects recommendations of CESD
- Approved by Minister- June, 2001
- Guiding Principles:
  - Effectiveness
  - Credibility
  - Transparency/ Accountability
  - Efficiency

# EPA Design Criteria

- Senior-level commitment
- Clear objectives/measurable results
- Defined roles and responsibilities
- Consultation
- Public reporting
- Verification of results
- Incentives and consequences
- Continual improvement

# ARET 2 Evolution

- Responsive to EC Evaluation
- Consistent with NDG Principles
- Incorporates EPA Design Criteria
- Exemplifies Minister's Innovation Agenda: Knowledge, Incentives, and Partnerships

# ARET 2 Evolution (Cont'd)

- Addresses recommendations of Commissioner for Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD)
- Draws upon provincial and international experience
- Design simplified through consultation process
- Multistakeholder Advisory Committee to Environment Canada

# Advisory Committee

- To advise on:
  - new candidate substances;
  - program improvements;
  - potential links with provincial programs;
  - annual report; and
  - may conduct promotion and marketing.

# Advisory Committee

- Two Co-chairs in place
- Will add 12/15 members including:
  - industry sector associations,
  - corporations,
  - NGOs,
  - provincial environmental agencies
  - one or more federal depts (ex-officio as appropriate)

# Significant Responses

- Acceptable to both NDG & CESD
- Industry support across many sectors
- Some key ENGOs are supportive, some others want to add value, no open criticism at this time



# Benefits of Participating

- A credible platform to meet public expectations, show leadership & manage toxics and other pollutants;
- Recognition of verifiable action by the public & government; and
- Fora for peer exchange on best practices.

# Benefits of Participating

- More flexible and cost effective than regulatory alternatives;
- Not subject to legislative processes as are other management tools; and
- Access to technical assistance

# Benefits of Participating

- Provides opportunity to 'stay ahead' of regulatory agenda
- Potential linkage with complementary provincial programs
- Simple 'one-window' reporting through National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI)

# Opportunities & Challenges

- ARET 2 is strengthened with enhanced rigour & supportive policy framework.
- ARET 2 is a credible platform for beyond compliance achievement & public recognition.
- EC will focus on recruiting early participants prepared to address sector priorities.
- Formal program launch expected before the end of this year.

# For Further Information

- For inquiries about ARET 1 & 2 or for copies of the reports referred to in this presentation please contact:

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- The EPA Policy Framework can be viewed at:  
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/epa-epe/pol/>