

## **Canadian Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Receives World-Class Recognition**

In May 2002, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) granted accreditation to the Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL) as a Proficiency Testing (PT) Provider. This followed an evaluation of the Association against the nationally recognised criteria set by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) in their publication, CAN-P-1593, Guidelines for the Recognition of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes. The Canadian recognition also includes international criteria established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in ILAC G13:2000, Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes. This assessment, which was conducted in September 2001, reflects the high standards of quality assurance being carried out within the Association.

The SCC/CAEAL Program requires accredited environmental laboratories to participate in this PT program. It is an essential indication of laboratory competence. The CAEAL program is now recognised for 120 parameters within the following environmental fields of testing:

- Inorganics – water;
- Organics – water / soil;
- Occupational Health / Air filters;
- Toxicology – water;
- Microbiology – water; and
- PCB - oil.

CAEAL plans to add 45 new parameters to its Scope of Accreditation in 2002/2003 and will continue to add new parameters as they are introduced into the PT Program.

If you would like further information on CAEAL's proficiency testing program or accreditation as a PT provider, please refer to the CAEAL web site, at: [www.caeal.ca](http://www.caeal.ca), or contact:

Ms. Debbie Macey, CAEAL Proficiency Testing Manager

e-mail: [dmacey@caeal.ca](mailto:dmacey@caeal.ca).