

# Preface

As the availability of liquid fossil fuels increased in the past century, the use of traditional fuels such as coal, wood, and peat declined substantially. This trend reversed abruptly when rising oil prices and a threatened supply made solid fuels and other indigenous sources of energy economically and strategically attractive alternatives to oil.

In response to the need to evaluate indigenous energy resources, the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy in 1979 initiated an inventory program to

delineate the Province's peat resources and define potential fuel peat reserves. The Peatland Inventory Program was designed to evaluate major peat deposits of Nova Scotia and to determine peat quality, quantity and composition in such a way as to allow an assessment based on a broad spectrum of criteria. The following report describes the major peat resources and their potential for development, discusses in broad terms peat production methods, and recommends future work on the Nova Scotia's peatland resource.