

Mr. Chairman, Your Imperial Highnesses, Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen. It's a great pleasure for me to be back in Tokyo, to have the opportunity and the honour to be here as Secretary of State for External Affairs now at a time when I think the relations between Canada and Japan are more important than they have ever been, at a time when there is very real opportunity for us to accomplish very important things together. I am particularly honoured that their Imperial Highnesses would be present at this luncheon. Knowing your long standing interests in Canada and your attendance at Queens University I very much hope that it will be possible in the near future for you and her Imperial Highness to come to Canada.

I am very happy to be here today in a country that manages to combine some of the noble traditions of antiquity with the kinetic energy of a thoroughly modern state. I chose to come here, a deliberate choice, discussed and approved by the Prime Minister, just 3 months after being sworn in as Secretary of State for External Affairs for Canada because I want by my presence and by the conversations we will be able to have here to emphasize the importance that we in the new Canadian Government place on our relations with Japan and to signal our determination to develop an ever closer and more productive relationship between our two countries.

It is particularly appropriate that I share my views with the Canada-Japan Society and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Tokyo. Your organizations have both played a vital role in the development of the Canada-Japan relationship. Your energy, your commitment and your imagination have contributed the foundation on which our dynamic relationship has been constructed, and I say to you in all sincerity that as we look forward to what might be developed in future, your efforts are going to be essential if we are going to be able to develop the full potential of the cooperation between our two countries.

As you would know, the Canadian people provided our party with an overwhelming mandate in the national Canadian election on the 4th of September. We won 211 out of 282 seats in the House of Commons. We won a decisive majority in each one of Canada's 10 provinces and in both of our Northern Territories. In the French-speaking province of Quebec, where our party has historically had great difficulty in establishing broad support, we won 58 out of a possible 75 seats. To put that in some perspective, you should know that before the September election, we held only 1 seat in the Province of Quebec.

In themselves, those numbers are much less important than the virtual unanimity of the vote for change. I have been in parliament long enough to know that Governments change after people do; and my particular experience, as someone who once led a minority Government, allows me to distinguish between a reluctant mandate and a decisive mandate. The September