

In the last four months, the Government of which I am a Member, has cut federal spending plans by \$4.2 billion; introduced Investment Canada to replace FIRA; managed a \$50 million fund for Africa; achieved an historic agreement with the Provinces on control of acid rain; and started to wind up CANAGREX, and the Canadian Unity Information Office, and Revenue Canada's practice of treating taxpayers as though they were guilty until they were proven innocent. Other significant changes in Canadian policy will be announced in the weeks ahead. Instead of discussing those particular actions today, I want to talk about a process which, at this stage in the life of this country, is as important as any individual policy change. That is the process of consultation, as an instrument of achieving public support for difficult changes the country must face.

Governments need not consult. For seven years, I was Leader of the Opposition in a Parliament where, for all practical purposes, the Government did not consult. That style created enduring divisions in our community - on energy, on budgetary policy, on federalism itself. What was worse, that confrontational style made us forget how important conciliation has been to Canada's success as a country. I am not talking about compromise, essential though that is. I am talking about reason and cooperation as a means of helping people move forward, and move forward together.

It is no accident that those are the qualities for which Canada is respected internationally, because they are habits we learned at home. This new Government, with a national mandate for change, intends to renew that Canadian tradition of coming together to face the future. Consultation makes change possible, and there will be a lot of consultation.

My particular responsibility is for Canada's international relations. We have promised a full public review of those relations, and that will start soon, in Parliament. There has not been a full scale Parliamentary Review of foreign policy before, and the fresh air alone will be helpful. But my more important purpose is to use this review process to make more Canadians aware of the dramatic changes in the world - changes which Canada must face if we are to regain our strength in the international community. I have some other motives, and admit them.