

WHICH CANADIANS SENT ALL GOVERNMENTS LAST SEPTEMBER 4th WAS THE CLEAR MESSAGE THAT CANADIANS WANT CANADA TO FUNCTION AS ONE COUNTRY, AND THAT THEY EXPECT THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO TREAT ALL REGIONS FAIRLY. WE CAN CLAIM TO HAVE MADE A GOOD BEGINNING ON ACTING FAIRLY -- WITH THE NEWFOUNDLAND ACCORD, THE WESTERN ENERGY AGREEMENT, THE EQUALIZATION DECISION, THE GENUINE ATTEMPT TO TREAT NATIVE CANADIANS WITH JUSTICE, AND THE ACTIVE COMMITMENT TO CONSULTATION, WHETHER ON THE BUDGET, OR THE GATT, OR SOCIAL OR FOREIGN POLICY.

BUT THAT ADVERSARIAL ATMOSPHERE WILL NOT BE BROKEN BY OTTAWA ALONE. WE ALL KNOW THAT THE HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY OR PROVINCE DEPENDS ON THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. WE KNOW THAT THE PROBLEMS IN CANADA HAVE BEEN DEEPER THAN ECONOMIC. WE HAVE A NATION TO HEAL, AS WELL AS AN ECONOMY TO REBUILD. THAT IS WHY I APPRECIATE SO PARTICULARLY THE INITIATIVE OF THIS AUTHORITY IN BRINGING PRIVATE, CIVIC, PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TOGETHER, IN A WAY THAT DEFINES US BY OUR COMMON CONCERNS, NOT BY OUR JURISDICTIONAL DIFFERENCES. WESTERN CANADA, IN PARTICULAR, HAS PAID A HIGH PRICE