

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES

INFORMATION DIVISION  
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## CANADA'S PATTERN FOR PROGRESS

An address by Hon. Paul Martin, Minister  
of National Health and Welfare, Ottawa,  
June 17, 1948.

### 1. SOCIAL SECURITY AND HUMAN WELFARE

"The era of freedom will be achieved only as social security and human welfare become the main concern of men and nations."

That is the challenge to Canada that the prime minister made five years ago in addressing a great labour federation. The National Health Programme, announced a month ago, is the latest advance towards building in Canada that distinctive structure of social welfare measures that is so important in the Canadian pattern for progress.

No one who has read the history of the past century can fail to be heartened by the tremendous increase in productivity that has been experienced by countries like Canada that have brought all the techniques of modern science into full use in man's service. But as the productivity and wealth of this country have developed, it has become more and more evident to its citizens that there is no reason why all who are willing to work should not have a fair share in the national estate to which they are contributing. This has been the high purpose of social legislation - to see that every Canadian has a fair chance and reasonable protection against the unavoidable hazards and insecurities of our life.

### 2. THE BASIS FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

In any plan for national social security, first things must come first. The first essential is to create conditions in which there is the maximum of opportunity for private enterprise, within the bounds of responsibility. Every encouragement must be given both by private industry and by government measures to maintain employment and national income at consistently high levels. The next essential is to see that every Canadian who is willing to work can find work and can receive wages or returns for his primary products that are fair and sufficient to maintain his family income at a wholesome and stable level.

The secret and enduring strength of democracy is that it reflects the considered aspirations of the people. A democratic government cannot be static nor tied to any set formula. In Canada the growing popular conviction that the strength of the nation should support those who need help has brought into being the great social measures which so firmly buttress the Canadian economy. We must remember that we are living in a world of rapid change, and that our social welfare policies and goals must constantly be adjusted to the changing world around us.

It is a mark of our modern civilization that city life is necessarily much more dependent than rural life. Canada in the last generation has developed from a largely agricultural nation to a nation that is primarily industrial. In our economy more and more people are entirely dependent on their jobs, which can be affected by many factors