

confidence comes not only from this traditional willingness to adapt to changing circumstance or from practical necessity, as good and valid a reason as this can be. Canada will survive because of its people's innate sense of fairness and their willingness to recognize and correct matters when any group's basic rights are not being fully recognized. And over all, there is a deep-seated, though infrequently-articulated, sense of Canadian nationhood, embracing all Canadians in every region, which is stronger than the tensions, prejudices, and even physical distances, that have a natural tendency to divide.

No country has an inalienable right to exist if its people choose otherwise. History is strewn with the wrecks of nations falsely convinced of their immortality. But if a country as lavishly endowed as Canada cannot survive, then we must truly despair for the fate of less-fortunate lands. Such despair is not warranted. On this Canadian birthday, the traditional wish that there may be many more is coupled with my unshakable conviction and my determination that there shall be.

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