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## Membership in NATO also assists Canada in the pursuit of several of its most important foreign policy objectives:

- it provides the collective security framework essential to enhance the security of Canada;
- it is critical to the maintenance of stability at a time of fundamental change in Europe;
- it is a forum for transatlantic relations, and for transatlantic consultation on security issues;
- it provides a transatlantic framework for the pursuit of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation issues; and
- it encourages democratic development and stability in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

With regard to the last point in particular, Canada views all NATO partnership arrangements — such as the NATO–Russia Permanent Joint Council, the NATO–Ukraine Commission, the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council and the Partnership for Peace — as well as the admission on March 12 of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland as vivid illustrations of NATO's continuing utility. ●—

For more information about Canada and NATO, visit the following Web sites:

[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/nato-otan](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/nato-otan)

[www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/foreignp/nato/nato-e.htm](http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/english/foreignp/nato/nato-e.htm)

[www.dnd.ca](http://www.dnd.ca)

[www.nato.int](http://www.nato.int)

[www.nato.int/nato@50](http://www.nato.int/nato@50)

» [web.idirect.com/~atlantic](http://web.idirect.com/~atlantic)

### Member countries

 Belgium	 Luxembourg
 Canada	 Netherlands
 Czech Republic	 Norway
 Denmark	 Poland
 France	 Portugal
 Germany	 Spain
 Greece	 Turkey
 Hungary	 United Kingdom
 Iceland	 United States
 Italy	

## Interview with

On April 23, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will go to Washington for a well-deserved celebration.

He and his counterparts will gather to mark the 50th anniversary of a military and political alliance that has stood the test of time and contributed in no small way to the longest period of peace, stability and prosperity among its member states.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization has served Canada's interests well, and Canada was and is an active and valued partner in the Brussels-based Alliance. NATO is one of the foundations of Canada's foreign and military policy.

But the world has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War. The threats that prompted NATO's founding members to set up a strong military and political alliance to defend themselves in case of aggression no longer exist. Because of today's new realities and challenges, NATO now has to redefine its role and mandate. For that reason, the Washington Summit may well be a turning point in the Alliance's history.

**Canada World View** asked the Prime Minister for his thoughts on the future of the Alliance.

### Canada World View

Prime Minister, looking back at NATO's first half-century, would you say that the Alliance has served Canada's foreign policy and military interests well in the past 50 years?

#### Prime Minister Chrétien

I certainly think so. First of all, simply look at a world map and you will realize that for such a vast country with such a small population, we have developed a much wider and deeper set of defence partnerships through NATO than would have been possible otherwise. Second, NATO provided us with an invaluable forum to exert international influence, advance Canada's security, economic, scientific and cultural interests, and promote our democratic values. And when you consider the large number of NATO military personnel that come to Canada each year to train at facilities in every part of the country, you realize that our membership in NATO has brought, and still brings us, tangible economic benefits.