

Speech from the Throne

limit the environmental impact of toxic chemicals through the development of regulations for the Canadian Environmental Protection Act;

improve the quality of our water, through new legislation;

protect the environmental integrity of our arctic regions; and

improve the quality of the atmosphere through the negotiation of an acid rain accord with the United States, the implementation of the Ozone Protocol signed in Montréal in 1987, and the pursuit of further international efforts to control toxic emissions and to stimulate the evolution of international institutions in environmental matters.

In order to promote the restoration and enhancement of the environment, my government will proceed with initiatives to clean up the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and, together with the provinces, to further the process of cleaning up dangerous land sites.

Furthermore, my government will continue to encourage the expansion of Canada's environmental industry and, through sound scientific research, will continue to encourage the development and adoption of clean and efficient production processes. Technology, services, and environmentally friendly products are the key components of this industry. And the opportunities for domestic application and international export of equipment, knowledge and goods are considerable.

Individual Canadians will be encouraged to become more aware of environmental matters with the establishment of the Environmental Partners Fund. This fund will assist them in actively enhancing their environment by initiatives promoting the production and consumption of environmentally sound products, and with programs to encourage recycling.

Legislation will also be introduced to ensure an appropriate environmental assessment review process.

A Caring Nation

Canada's social policies touch the lives of all Canadians. These programs and services give shape and substance to the special quality of Canadian life. And they reflect the distinctive values that give to the Canadian people their sense of uniqueness.

In responding to future challenges and needs, Canada's social goals and programs will continue to be determined in Canada and by Canadians, in conformity and harmony with values they have historically nurtured.

My government believes fundamentally in those social benefits which support the family and the elderly, while recognizing the need to direct more assistance toward those with low incomes.

The government remains committed to a national child care program.

My government will continue its initiatives to reduce violence in the family and the abuse of children. It will renew its fight against AIDS and drug abuse. It will encourage research into diseases associated with aging, so destructive of human dignity and family life.

My government will introduce further legislation to reform Canada's legal system and sentencing practices. This will require a review of the current Young Offenders Act in order to ensure that it better protects the rights of society, while advancing the rehabilitation of young offenders.

My government is considering the implications of the latest jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Canada on the subject of abortion, so as to carefully weigh the appropriate course of action in relation to this sensitive matter.

Advances in medical and biological science have created in Canada, as in other countries, a variety of new reproductive technologies: artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization, embryo transfer and surrogate parenting. There is concern that these scientific advances will outpace our ability to deal with their moral, ethical, legal and social implications. My government will therefore mandate a royal commission to inquire into the implications of new reproductive technologies for Canadian society.

Canada's International Role

Canadians are, by vocation, world citizens. They helped form the United Nations, and are among its most creative and consistent supporters. Forty years ago this week, Canada played a pivotal role in the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Canada retains that active commitment to freedom and to Europe. Canada is active in the Commonwealth, la Francophonie, the Economic Summit, GATT, and in other initiatives to improve the standards and security of the international community.

Canadians prize freedom and tolerance at home, and pursue those values in the world.

My government will continue to take a strong stand in defence of human rights. It will continue to be among the leaders in peacekeeping, in international development, in strengthening international organizations, and in relieving the devastation of famine or of natural disaster. It will apply firmly and fairly the new legislation on refugees, and will expand overall immigration levels.

We are a northern nation, proud of our arctic frontier, and determined to work with our northern allies and neighbours to develop a new co-operative ethic in the Arctic.

Canada is the immediate neighbour of both superpowers, and my government will apply Canada's influence to increase understanding and co-operation between East and West. The government will continue its support of progress toward the reduction and control of arms, and will continue to help resolve regional disputes.

Modern economic, social and environmental realities draw the world together dramatically. In these new circumstances, Canada has special contributions to make, and legitimate interests to advance and defend.

Canada's efficient agricultural producers cannot compete fairly in a world in which trade-distorting subsidies wreak havoc with market disciplines, while bringing undue pressure to bear on the nation's treasury.

Canadians who fish for a living find their catches reduced by predatory over-fishing outside the 200-mile limit, where Canadian regulations cannot be enforced. My government will intensify its international efforts to put an end to these practices.

Canada's National Identity

Canadians define who they are — as a people — by what they have done.

Today, Canada stands as one of the most dynamic, peaceful and promising nations in the world. This has been achieved by a people who have placed the highest priority on the need for tolerance, compassion and fairness. Canadian society cares about the quality of its national life, its health, education, human welfare and environment. Canadian values, formed and developed by Canadians, have produced a unique national identity of which Canadians are justifiably proud.

This has been the exceptional achievement of little more than a century of history. The people of Canada, therefore, have cause for