

# FOREWORD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

Remember: There is no contradiction between Canada doing well and Canada doing good. Canada benefits directly when the world is more secure, more prosperous, more healthy, and more protective of the natural environment. If we are to take our responsibilities seriously to ourselves and the Canadian generations to follow, then we must take our responsibilities to the global community seriously as well, not only with noble sentiment and rhetoric—we must also earn and perhaps re-earn our way. This will take effort and it will take dedication.

Why is the time right for a review? Because we are now in a position to reinvest in our international role. For decades, there was a slow erosion in Canada's commitment to its military, to international assistance and to our diplomatic presence around the world. Then, during the nineties, there were more cutbacks as our government made tough decisions to save the country from financial calamity. As a result, our international presence has suffered. But thanks to the sacrifice and resolve of Canadians, we have restored our fiscal sovereignty and have spent the past year renewing our investments in domestic priorities, such as health care. Now is the time to rebuild for Canada an independent voice of pride and influence in the world. It won't be easy. We will have to earn our way in defence and security. We will have to earn our way in international assistance and global commerce. And we will have to understand that we can't simply recreate what we once had. Instead, we must build today for the world of tomorrow. That is what we are dedicated to doing.

## Canada in North America

Our security, our prosperity, our quality of life—these are all dependent on the success with which we help to manage the North American continent. All Canadians understand that our most important relationship is with the United States. As a government, we treat it that way, devoting energy and effort to ensuring the relationship remains strong, sophisticated, productive and focused on common goals, such as the security of our borders, the health of the North American economy and the free flow of trade between our nations. The fact that most of our trade crosses the border each day free from dispute does nothing to shake our determination to improve the existing dispute resolution mechanism, which has come up short too often.

Living in proximity to the world's only superpower has engrained in Canadians both a pride in our friendship and a determination to set our own course in the world. We share many goals, both within our continent and within the world, but our societies are different. Our perspectives and our values sometimes diverge. It is natural that even the closest of friends have their respectful differences. Indeed, Canada has always chosen its own way, and it will continue to do so.

More broadly, we understand that within North America, Canada, the United States and Mexico each face unique challenges, and they each look at the world in their own way. What is increasingly obvious in the 21st century, however, is that there are more and more challenges that affect all of North America—challenges that require North American solutions that respect our differences as sovereign countries, but that also recognize our profound interdependence as neighbours on this continent.

Thus, on March 23, President Bush, President Fox and I signed the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America that establishes the way forward on our continental agenda for security, prosperity and quality of life. It is a partnership that respects the past but is devoted to building for the future, to ensuring that we as North Americans are able to continue to thrive in a world in which China and India have emerged as economic giants.

## Defence and International Security

The first duty of government is to protect its citizens. That responsibility today has been complicated by the emergence of new threats: rogue states, failed and fragile states, international criminal syndicates, weapons proliferation, and terrorists prepared to act with no concern for the cost in human lives, including their own.

The Statement sets out the steps we are taking and will take to defend Canada against all threats, to protect the northern portion of our continent and to preserve our sovereignty, including that of the Arctic. Among the reforms is a fundamental restructuring of our military operations under a unified "Canada Command"—a change that will make certain that in a time of crisis, Canada's military has a single line of command and is better and more quickly able to act in the best interests of Canadians.