

Around the world, the unique concept that is Canada is admired without reservation or caveat. As the countries of Eastern Europe make the bold leap to democracy and the free market, they look to us for more than aid. They look to us as an ideal. They look to us for advice. They send their advisors and politicians to learn how we have done it so well.

And the countries of Western Europe, whose long history is littered with bloodshed and conflict - conflict in which Canadians have sacrificed thousands of lives this century - are embracing federalism for the first time. They have learned the lessons of selfish nationalism and the futile search for unilateral advantage. They are coming together in their own confederation, an old continent which is learning new ways, ways which have been a source of Canadian pride since Confederation.

I do not believe it is un-Canadian to be proud; to state that what we have done here has been done nowhere else; to believe that our accomplishment is one of excellence; to feel that we have a moral obligation to preserve what we have built - and to continue building.