

The East Coast fishery, which has provided a livelihood to thousands of families in the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, confronts significant challenges due to the groundfish resource collapse. The Government, working with industry and the provinces, will help those involved to become self-supporting. The Government will take the action required to ensure that foreign overfishing of East Coast stocks comes to an end.

[*Translation*]

The Government will vigorously pursue its commitment to strengthen the fabric of Canadian life. The Government will introduce measures to enhance community safety and crime prevention. There will be measures to combat the high level of violence against women and children. Measures will be proposed to combat racism and hate crime. The Court Challenges Program and the Law Reform Commission will be restored. Amendments will be proposed to the Canadian Human Rights Act; and the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Act will be proclaimed.

Canada's universal health care system is founded upon the principles of the Canada Health Act. The Government is deeply committed to these principles and rejects any measure which undermines them.

A National Forum on Health, chaired by the Prime Minister, will be established to foster, in cooperation with the provinces, a national, public dialogue on the renewal of Canada's health system.

A Centre of Excellence for Women's Health will be established to ensure that women's health issues receive the attention they deserve.

Prenatal nutrition programs for low-income pregnant women will be created and expanded.

[*English*]

The Government will forge a new partnership with Aboriginal peoples, particularly in respect of the implementation of the inherent right of self-government. Legislation to further the implementation of northern claims settlements will be put before Parliament.

The Government will allocate additional funds for the support of post-secondary education for First Nations and will develop an Aboriginal head-start program.

Our cultural heritage and our official languages are at the very core of the Canadian identity and are sources of social and economic enrichment. The Government will announce measures to promote Canada's cultural identity.

The Government will ensure that Canada plays an active, internationalist role in the global arena. In light of the radical changes that have occurred in international affairs in the last few years, the Government will ask parliamentary

committees to review Canada's foreign and defence policies and priorities.

This year will also mark the 50th anniversary of D-day, and I look forward, on behalf of the people of Canada, to participating in commemorative ceremonies to mark the valiant efforts of our servicemen and servicewomen who participated in the liberation of Europe.

[*Translation*]

The Government will work vigorously to fulfil its responsibilities to ensure that federalism meets the needs of Canadians, recognizing that all Canadians share in the responsibility for making Canada work. It will be the policy of the Government to seek to clarify the federal government's responsibilities in relation to those of other levels of government, to eliminate overlap and duplication, and to find better ways to provide services so that they represent the best value for taxpayers' dollars and respond to the real needs of people.

[*English*]

By working cooperatively to create economic opportunity; by restoring common sense to our public finances; by rebuilding a sense of integrity in government; and by pursuing a positive and innovative agenda for our society, my Ministers are convinced that Canadian unity will be preserved and enhanced. They believe that this Parliament can play a historic role in preparing Canada for the new century to come.

Members of the House of Commons:

You will be asked to appropriate the funds required to carry out the services and expenditures authorized by Parliament.

Honourable Members of the Senate, Members of the House of Commons:

May Divine Providence guide you in your deliberations.

The House of Commons withdrew.

His Excellency the Governor General was pleased to retire.

The sitting of the Senate was resumed.

RAILWAYS BILL

FIRST READING

Hon. Gildas L. Molgat (Deputy Leader of the Government) presented Bill S-1, relating to railways.

Bill read first time.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

CONSIDERATION AT NEXT SITTING

The Hon. the Speaker: Honourable senators, I have the honour to inform you that His Excellency has caused to be