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Excerpts from a Speech by Prime Minister  
John G. Diefenbaker to the Civil Service  
Association of Canada, Thursday, May 1, 1958

... People everywhere these days expect much of governments. The days are gone when it was merely a matter of maintaining peace and order and ensuring the role of law. While modern society is still founded and will remain founded on the rights and responsibilities of the individual, on private initiative and private enterprise nevertheless it is a society that expects positive government -- government that is active and taking the initiative in many fields. This kind of government can only be carried on with the aid of many Civil Servants -- Civil Servants of ability and zeal.

Ours is a constructive task; a dynamic task -- comprehensive, varied and changing. We must recognize it as being not simply to administer Canada as it is but to carry forward and to promote the development of this nation. In co-operation with those directly engaged in development, and with provincial governments, we must help it and give it such guidance and direction as will ensure ever-widening opportunities and prosperity for the Canadian people over the next generation.

To accomplish this we must continue to push back our frontiers. It is in the opening up of the north that we shall see exemplified in this generation the sense of adventure and destiny which guided Canadians through several of their great periods -- first in the original settlement of this country and then in the opening of the west:

We have still many resources to be developed; much to be done in making the most of our heritage, in founding prosperity on our national wealth. Then too, to encourage the wise use of these resources is one of our major purposes.

Our national development must include advances in science and technology. To such advances we owe the revolutionary changes which many of us have seen in our own lifetime. These advances have been going on at an increasing rate in recent decades; have been paying increasing dividends not only in making our work lighter and our products better, but in helping to ensure that pace of economic progress which maintains our level of employment and incomes.

This advance in science and technology must be firmly based on our universities and on business. But much of it also takes place in government departments and agencies and is carried out by Civil Servants.

Our development includes not only these material things however. Our own institutions and social arrangements are changing and must be improved. In this continuing social evolution, in such fields for example as social security and labour legislation, modern government finds tasks that require the co-operative effort of those elected to public office and Civil Servants.