

Sometimes, at international conferences, Canada is celebrated for what we are not. We are not a superpower, not an imperial power, not an aggressive nation. But we are a country deeply involved with the rights of minorities. That issue was present at our beginning, with our two founding peoples, and before our beginning, with our aboriginal people. Our future success as a nation, as with our past, will be determined by our treatment of this issue. The challenges are Canadian and international. I am honoured to have the opportunity to discuss them here with you.