

If ever we needed to call on that strength, we need to do it now.

This is a country that has always said "YES" to each other.

"YES" -- (as we settled this land) -- we will help you to clear that field, or build a new barn if yours has burned.

"YES" -- we will help if you have a bad year in the mines or in the fishery.

"YES" -- we accept your right to speak your own language and develop your own cultures.

"YES" -- we will sit together and work out ways to accommodate each other's visions for Canada -- peacefully and honourably.

And this is a country that has always said "YES" to the world.

"YES" -- we will provide our brave sons and daughters to make peace and to keep the peace.

"YES" -- we will share our wealth and expertise with others who are less fortunate.

"YES" -- we will commit ourselves to international treaties and be bound by their provisions.

"YES" -- we will take our place at the United Nations, the Commonwealth, la Francophonie, the G-7, the Organization of American States, the Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance -- whenever and wherever we can be a force for peace and progress in the world.

October 26 is an important day for Canada, but it is also an important day for the world community because we are, as a country, a world standard for the promotion and protection of human rights; the development of democratic values and institutions; and the provision of responsible and responsive government and public administration.

The world truly is watching Canada.

We must overcome our differences and say "yes" to Canada. There will be no second chance. The world has other preoccupations. It has become too unforgiving for those countries that cannot recognize their own strengths.

Canada's strength lies in our own historic values and unity, built one step at a time over 200 years.