

Canada is also a moderately-sized, open economy with an enormous stake in a liberal and effectively functioning global trading and economic system. With the world's ninth largest economy; with memberships in the Economic Summit, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Nations (UN), the Commonwealth, and La Francophonie; with a respected history of international activism including well established programs of development assistance and sixteen UN peacekeeping operations; and with cultural links to many countries through our two founding races and rich cultural mosaic -- with all of these enviable features, Canada is a nation with considerable potential for influence in the world. Though not a super power, Canada's middle-power status creates both global opportunities and responsibilities.<sup>2</sup> Despite the natural proclivity to compare Canada's attributes with those of the United States -- where Canada tends to suffer a 10 to 1 disadvantage -- it is important to stress that relative to most of the nations of the world, Canada has attained an impressive degree of economic well-being, stability and influence.