

The relation between Canada and Japan is becoming increasingly diverse and personal. Literally millions of our citizens meet one another each year, on vacations, on business, in Conferences. More Canadians are learning the language and culture of Japan, and exhibits like the Royal Tyrell Dinosaur display enlarge our understanding of each other. These personal connections are invaluable. They are the way nations become friends; and they require an extra effort, by all of us, to learn and value different cultures, to honour the spirit and the letter of the Agreements we make with one another, and to find new ways for cooperation between Canada and Japan, each in our way, giants on the North Pacific, each destined to play a decisive but different role in a new world that is building, each aware that the other can be a trusted but reliable partner.

I should not single out areas, because there are so many deserving of note. But I am particularly pleased at the cooperation between our two countries in peace-keeping and Official Development Assistance. Perhaps the most profound changes in the world are those which extend responsibility across a wider range of nations, as the superpowers lose their predominance, and call upon skills of conciliation and cooperation. We have the opportunity to build a new world that is different in quality from what we have known before. Canadians believe that our successful experience in making the international system work will be unusually important now, and we are honoured to work with Japan toward that goal.

For much of our history, Canada was an Atlantic nation. Most of our trade and immigration crossed that Ocean, and our basic values are European values. But in our consciousness, we have always been a nation of three great oceans - the Atlantic, the Arctic, which makes us a neighbour and a unique partner of the Soviet Union; and the Pacific, whose importance to Canada grows every day.

Naturally, with that background, we note some of the differences between what might be called the "Atlantic experience" and the "Pacific experience". We do that at a time when the institutions of Europe are changing, in ways that raise questions about the relation to those institutions of powerful nations that are outside geographic Europe. One obvious difference between the recent Atlantic and Pacific experience, is that while the countries of Europe and North America were building our armies and our ideologies, the countries of the Pacific were building an economic miracle that knows no equal.