

Canada's development assistance programme is an integral and important part of her overall foreign relations and one which has been steadily evolving. Development is not something taking place in what we refer to as "developing" countries but a process we are all involved in as individuals and as nations. Development is a matter of degree and the pattern of development one of national preference. All countries are "developing", economically and socially, all countries have "underdeveloped" areas. We can no longer assume that the industrialized countries have reached some plateau of progress from which knowledge and assistance is dispensed to those struggling to reach our level. Our role is not to impose our methods and preferences on other countries, but to assist them where our capabilities and their needs coincide. Development assistance is being recognized increasingly as a reciprocal and responsive process. If we are prepared to be innovative, we can gain much knowledge from the development assistance relationship.

Development assistance is in the Canadian interest. We cannot exist in isolation, and our life is enriched by contact with other cultures. There are also specific Canadian interests which benefit from the development assistance programme. The programme can provide an