



Canapress

*Prime Minister Brian Mulroney with Governor General Jeanne Sauvé before the reading of the throne speech, on November 5.*

official languages — so vital to our national character and identity — is respected in fact as it is in law....

### **Economic renewal**

First ministers will meet next week to discuss the agenda for a first ministers' conference on the economy. My government will soon announce the date of a national economic summit to bring together important groups in our economy.

At the table will be representatives of groups such as consumers, women, native peoples, business, labour and government. Their goal is to establish a new and productive climate and context for economic decision-making in Canada....

There are some important initial steps that the federal government can take to help generate economic renewal. The three-part strategy of my ministers is to restore fiscal responsibility, remove obstacles to growth, and encourage new investment.

Later this week the minister of finance will describe in detail the state of the economy and of federal public finances. He will announce a plan designed to reduce the deficit in an orderly, balanced and fair manner, and to control the growing burden of the public debt....

Second, my government will pursue approaches to improve the efficiency and flexibility of our capital markets; to improve job opportunities for Canadians through responsive market-oriented training programs; and to increase investments in research and development to improve our productivity....

Third, my government will introduce for consideration during this session proposals

to enhance risk-taking, innovation and reward among entrepreneurs, especially in the small- and medium-sized business sector....

### **Social justice**

My government is determined to ensure that social justice in Canada keeps pace with the changing needs and circumstances of our people. In this respect the most significant development of recent years is the greater participation of the women of Canada and their rightful claim to equality with men everywhere in our society....

Economic equality is the vehicle through which women will come to full partnership and participation with men in our society. Parliament has committed the federal jurisdiction to equal pay for work of equal value....

You will be asked to consider a number of important legislative initiatives, including removal of the discriminatory clauses in the Indian Act, amendments to the Divorce Act, and measures to control pornography and sexually abusive broadcasting. My ministers will shortly be initiating discussions with the provinces to establish a national system for the enforcement of maintenance orders. In consultation with the provinces, my government will take action to provide additional assistance to the victims of family violence.

My government has as a high priority measures to support and strengthen the Canadian family.... The need for accessible and affordable child care has in recent years come to the forefront of the social agenda

facing Canada. In an effort to reach a national consensus on options in this area, you will be asked to establish a parliamentary task force on the future of child care in Canada.

...It is time to recognize also the responsibility we all share to bring those amongst us who suffer from physical and mental disabilities into the productive mainstream of Canadian life.

My government will enter discussions with the provinces aimed at a comprehensive overhaul of the Canadian pension system, including such matters as portability, vesting, survivors' benefits, and pension coverage of women....

Consultations will also begin with the provinces to consider the most effective means of providing increased federal support for the improvement of community-based health care.

During the coming session, you will be asked to consider legislation to extend the income tested spouse's allowance to widows and widowers aged 60 to 64 regardless of the age of their spouse at death. My ministers will introduce measures to improve the financial situation of Canada's war veterans....

During this session, Parliament will be asked to consider amendments to the Criminal Code to deal more effectively with impaired driving, soliciting, computer crime, and sentencing. We will work closely with the provinces in the areas of family law, crime prevention and assistance to victims of crime....

### **Canadian internationalism**

In Canada's past there is a luminous tradition of internationalism. Canadians have fought in two world wars and in the United Nations action in Korea. Our armed forces have served in peacekeeping roles in distant lands. Our statesmen have been at the forefront in the founding of NATO and in the quest for arms control. Our country has successfully championed racial equality at critical moments in the life of the Commonwealth, and through private and public agencies contributed to international development.

It is the purpose of my government to renew this tradition of constructive Canadian internationalism.

Our relationship with the United States affects virtually every aspect of our national life. It is essential to our security and prosperity....

There are many areas where the national interests or the national policies of the two countries diverge or compete. There are, as well, numerous and as of yet untapped possibilities for fruitful co-operation between our two countries. Restoring a climate of good-

*(continued on P. 8)*

### **Throne speech highlights**

- Begin a "new era of national reconciliation, economic renewal and social justice";
- Work to bring Quebec into the constitutional accord and to end duplication in federal and provincial programs;
- Review foreign policy;
- Improve the child-care system;
- Hold a national economic summit, involving government, business, labour, consumer groups, natives and women;
- Move urgently to reduce the deficit;
- Simplify the taxation system;
- Increase employment opportunities for women in government and its agencies;
- Seek talks with the provinces to overhaul the pension system;
- Continue to improve relations with the United States;
- Ensure that Canada plays a full part in NATO;
- Tighten early prison release and introduce administrative measures to better protect the public and police.