



Canadians continue to enjoy a rich natural heritage, a heritage that has shaped their perception of themselves and the rest of the world. The economic growth of the country has been and is still very dependent on developing Canada's natural resources. More and more Canadians admit that this growth has often been at the expense of the natural environment — they have been mortgaging it without thinking of the future. Governments have been able to react in time to solve the most pressing problems, but reaction is no longer enough.

The time has now come to anticipate and prevent. Canada seeks to tackle problems at their roots, as part of a global strategy of sustainable development. To meet this challenge, Canadians will have to change some of their habits and pay heed to the environment in their everyday life. The many environmental defence groups will take on a larger role. Institutions and industry will have to work together so that environmental preservation is an integral part of all economic, social and political decisions.

In so doing, Canadians will be allowing future generations to enjoy the environment, a healthy environment that will bear witness to the wisdom of their choices.