

THE BASIS OF OUR RELATIONSHIP IS PEOPLE. WHILE IMMIGRATION WAS DOWN SHARPLY LAST YEAR DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLDWIDE RECESSION, BRITAIN CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF HIGHLY SKILLED IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA. IN THE PAST DECADE NEARLY A QUARTER OF A MILLION PEOPLE HAVE COME FROM BRITAIN TO CANADA TO STAY. ADDED TO THESE ARE THE HALF-MILLION WHO COME AS VISITORS EVERY YEAR.

THESE PERSONAL TIES AND THE FAMILIARITY THEY AFFORD US ARE A GREAT ASSET AND WE MUST NURTURE IT. THEY CAN ALSO BRING WITH THEM THEIR SHARE OF PROBLEMS. WHEN I SAY THAT, I AM THINKING PARTICULARLY OF THE SOME 41,000 PENSIONERS IN CANADA WHO DO NOT BENEFIT FROM THE INDEXING OF THEIR PENSIONS THEY WOULD ENJOY IF THEY LIVED IN BRITAIN. CANADA IS ANXIOUS TO CONCLUDE A COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM WHICH WOULD PROTECT THE SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

OUR CLOSE HUMAN TIES ARE REINFORCED THROUGH EDUCATION. THERE ARE OVER FIVE HUNDRED CANADIAN STUDENTS IN BRITISH UNIVERSITIES IN ANY ONE YEAR. AS I CAME DOWN ON THE PLANE I RECALLED THAT ON MY POLITICAL STAFF IN OTTAWA THERE ARE THREE MEMBERS WHO HAVE STUDIED IN BRITISH UNIVERSITIES. MY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT STUDIED AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY AND TWO OTHER MEMBERS OF MY STAFF ARE RHODES SCHOLARS FROM NOVA SCOTIA, WHO STUDIED AT OXFORD. ALL THREE OF THEM I MAY ADD ARE FROM MY OWN ELECTORAL DISTRICT. A SLIGHTLY HIGHER NUMBER OF BRITISH CITIZENS ATTEND CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES, REVERSING THE TREND OF MANY YEARS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN MEASURES TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THE HARDSHIP CAUSED TO CANADIANS BY ITS FOREIGN STUDENT FEE STRUCTURE. I WELCOME THIS POSITIVE AND FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE AND THE WILL TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO IT.

IN BRITAIN, INTEREST IN CANADIAN STUDIES HAS GROWN. LAST DECEMBER IT WAS MY PLEASURE TO VISIT THE CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY IN THE COMPANY OF BOTH HIGH COMMISSIONERS. WE HAD A VERY EXCELLENT TIME AND I WAS PLEASED TO RETURN TO THE UNIVERSITY BECAUSE I WAS THERE IN THE 1970S WHEN THE CENTRE FOR CANADIAN STUDIES WAS FIRST INAUGURATED. ONE OF THE PERSONS WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING OF THOSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WHO LATER HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING THE CENTRE WAS LORD TREND WHO WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE COLLOQUIUM. SO I WAS VERY PLEASED TO FIND OUT THAT THE CENTRE IS GROWING IN IMPORTANCE AND WE