

I, therefore, would like to leave with you three messages on the overall budget, on our defence policy, and on our contribution to world development. The first is the Government's unshakable commitment to attacking the deficit, because this is the way in which we can not only renew the basis for a strong Canadian economy, but also contribute to the overall global economy.

The second is that while there will be delays in implementing some defence policy goals, the principles of our policy remain and there will be real growth in the defence budget over the next five years.

And the third message is our continued dedication to international development. The fact that we have had to revise our volume targets for ODA is temporary. We are committed to continue the growth of our high quality program beginning next year.