

MR. PRESIDENT
(MR. MINISTER)
MR. MAYOR
MR. AMBASSADOR
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO ALL OF YOU ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA.

I WAS VERY PLEASED TO ACCEPT YOUR INVITATION TO THIS FIRST CONGRESS OF THE WORLD UNION OF LIBERAL PROFESSIONS.

I AM ESPECIALLY PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE BEAUTIFUL CITY OF MONTREAL TO HOLD THE MEETING INAUGURATING YOUR UNION.

I WILL NOT DWELL ON THIS POINT, BECAUSE I AM SURE THAT THE MAYOR'S ENTHUSIASM ABOUT THE APPROPRIATENESS OF MONTREAL WILL EXCEED MINE.

IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CANADA.

LAST SEPTEMBER, I TOOK PART IN A CANADIAN FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL-TERRITORIAL MINISTERS' MEETING ON HUMAN RIGHTS, HELD IN TORONTO.

THIS CONFERENCE WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN THAT IT TOOK PLACE JUST BEFORE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

THIS CONFERENCE HAS GIVEN THE MINISTERS WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PORTFOLIOS WITHIN THE VARIOUS JURISDICTIONS, NAMELY THE FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS, AN OPPORTUNITY

- TO CONSIDER THE PRINCIPLES OUTLINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION,
- TO LOOK AT CANADA'S INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN THIS AREA,
- TO STUDY THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY CANADA IN THE PROMOTION OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS, AND
- TO INITIATE NEW ACTIONS TO IMPROVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION AFFORDED BY OUR SOCIETY.

THE CONFERENCE HAS ALSO BEEN A TIME TO EXAMINE THE CANADIAN CHARTER OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS AND THE PROGRAM THAT AFFORDS CANADIANS LEGAL RECOURSE WHEN THEY FEEL THAT THEIR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. DURING THIS MEETING, THE MINISTERS HAVE CONSIDERED SPECIFIC MATTERS SUCH AS THE PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PEOPLE, HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION, THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS OF CERTAIN MEDICAL QUESTIONS, AND THE STRUGGLE TO COMBAT RACISM.