

Lasting Values in a Changing World

The very existence of Canada — its languages, its cultures, its values, its tolerant spirit, its standard of behaviour — has represented an independent voice and has constituted something different, something special, for the larger world. By freely forging a united nation based on respect for diversity, Canadians bring a special sensitivity to other problems in the world.

***The Honourable
Barbara McDougall,
December 10, 1991***

Since December 11, 1931, when the Statute of Westminster formally recognized Canada's independence in international relations, Canada has sought to protect and enhance its security and prosperity through social and economic justice and the rule of law in an atmosphere of moderation and tolerance. Over the past 60 years, our active commitment to peacemaking and peacekeeping, to Third-World assistance and development and to freedom and human rights has earned Canada respect throughout the world.

These values have helped Canada contribute substantively — make a real difference — to international peace and progress. We have done this through the world's leading multilateral organizations: the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States, the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation forum, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and the Group of Seven industrialized countries.