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Agenda for Canada's Twenty-Ninth Parliament

The Speech from the Throne on January 4 opening the first session of the Twenty-Ninth Parliament of Canada began by announcing that Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh would visit Canada twice during 1973 – in June and July for three anniversary celebrations: the centenary of the entry of Prince Edward Island into Confederation, the tercentenary of Kingston, Ontario, and the centenary of the founding of the North West Mounted Police (today the Royal Canadian Mounted Police), and in August for the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government. The speech went on to assure Canadians of their Government's concern with the forthcoming Conference on European Security and Co-operation and with the second round of the Strategic Arms Limitations Talks (between the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Warsaw Pact countries). Canada was said to be "sensitive to every development in world trading patterns and world monetary arrangements" – specifically, the reform of the international monetary system and the entry of Britain into the European Common Market.

The following is a partial text of the balance of the Throne Speech:

At home, the Government remains fully committed to two pre-eminent goals, national unity and equality of opportunity for all Canadians.

In pursuit of these goals, the Government assigns the highest priority to two policy areas:

- economic policy, to reduce unemployment, contain inflation and strengthen the economy generally
- social policy, to bring about, in consultation with the provinces, a re-organization of existing social security programs.

In the area of economic policy, the Government has four main objectives:

First, to expand job opportunities at a rate that will bring about as rapid as possible a decline in the numbers of unemployed.

Second, to promote stable economic growth at a rate that will sustain rising standards of living for all citizens and provide for more satisfactory realization of the potential of the economy.

Third, to attain reasonable price stability.

Fourth, to ensure that all regions of the country benefit from the prosperity brought about by the expanding economy.

To attain its economic objectives, the Government has set in motion a two-part program.

The first part consists of measures to provide more jobs immediately by strengthening and broadening existing programs. These measures have been announced and are already taking effect:

- increased funding for the Local Initiatives Program...
 - a substantial seasonal capital works project to be undertaken in co-operation with the provinces and municipalities
 - special funding to increase direct employment by the Federal Government in labour-intensive projects.
- The second part consists of measures that will add to the fundamental strength of the economy, can be acted upon this session and can be expected to have effect with a minimum of delay:...

- aid to small businesses through new initiatives to strengthen management and consulting services and to improve access to financing facilities...
- measures to assist in the development of the tourist industry in Canada...
- assistance to co-operatives and credit unions
- renewed measures to reduce deeply-entrenched regional economic disparities. The Department of Regional Economic Expansion will