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A new era for Canada promised in throne speech

Canada's thirty-third Parliament opened on November 5 with a speech from the throne read by Governor General Jeanne Sauvé that promised "a new era of national reconciliation, economic renewal and social justice".

The speech pointed out that, as all the regions of Canada were represented in the federal government, it was an opportune time "to build a renewed national consensus". In a three-part program of economic renewal, the government said it would remove obstacles to growth and attract new investment that would create new economic activity and additional federal resources. The government also said it would fulfil its social policy promises made during the election campaign. The throne speech of the first session of the new Parliament led by Prime Minister Brian Mulroney outlined the legislation that will be introduced by the government during the session.

Following are excerpts from the throne speech:

... First, you must critically examine the relationship of Parliament with the people of Canada. Members of the House of Commons will be asked to approve the appointment of a parliamentary task force on reform of that House. The central focus of this task force will be the enhancement of the role of the private member

Second, the massive undertaking that is the government of Canada must be made to respond to the individual citizen.... A committee of ministers headed by the deputy prime minister has begun a review of all government programs. The objective is to reform and simplify the operations of government. From the citizen's standpoint, government will be made more understandable, more accessible, and more sensitive.

The taxation system will be made simpler and fairer and more accountable to the people's representatives in Parliament. The rights of taxpayers must be protected. In particular, legislation will be presented to ensure that no taxpayer has to pay taxes in dispute before an impartial hearing has been concluded.

Thirdly, a priority goal of my ministers will be to breathe a new spirit into federalism and restore the faith and trust of all Canadians in the effectiveness of our system of government....

My government's management of federalprovincial relations will pursue three basic objectives: to harmonize policies of our two



The governor general reads the throne speech of the first session of Canada's thirtythird Parliament in the Senate to members of the House of Commons and senators.

orders of government, to ensure respect for their jurisdictions, and to end unnecessary and costly duplication.

National unity also demands that the two levels of government co-operate in supporting official language minorities and in fostering the rich multicultural character of Canada. My government is committed to ensuring that the equality of the two

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