

step towards these objectives, my government will host this month an international symposium that will explore means of improving verification techniques.

My government recognizes that security is the surest safeguard of liberty. Accordingly, my government has taken steps to modernize and renew the strength of our Armed Forces and increase our NATO contingent in Western Europe.

The government asserts complete sovereignty over the Canadian Arctic and recognizes that sovereignty requires a vigorous national presence. My government has drawn straight baselines around the perimeter of the Arctic archipelago to preserve Canadian sovereignty over the land, sea, and ice of the Canadian Arctic. Canada will construct one of the most powerful icebreakers in the world to enhance our sovereign rights and to contribute to the development of the North. Other measures have been taken or will be initiated to support this vital national purpose, including more research on polar conditions, defence training exercises in the Arctic, and the establishment of a National Park at Ellesmere Island.

IV. *Social Justice*

A dynamic and changing society poses new challenges for social policy. Existing programs are not always wholly successful in meeting their objectives. They must be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate to today's circumstances and they must be strengthened where necessary. At the same time, new circumstances require the development of new programs.

My Ministers are well aware that social policy concerns are more satisfactorily met in a strong and growing economy that, in turn, requires steady progress in restoring fiscal health to our nation's finances. But fiscal responsibility is fully compatible with social responsibility.

My government will continue to enlist the support of all in pursuit of the common goal: a modern, tolerant, and caring nation in which its citizens are secure and prosperous. Canadians would want their governments to give the highest priority in social policy to those who are in greatest need. As well, Canadians expect to enjoy the highest quality in health care and other social benefits that have become fundamental to our national quality of life.

My government is resolved to defend and strengthen the institution of the Canadian family. Only now is our society beginning its effort to adjust to the evolving changes in family relationships and responsibilities, particularly concerning working parents.

My government recognizes that adequate, quality child care must become available. Following the report of your committee, my government will initiate discussions with the provinces, business and labour with a view to implementing a concerted approach to child care.

As a national priority, we must continue to remove the barriers that have prevented women from participating freely and equitably in the mainstream of Canadian society. My government regards the recent significant increase in appointments of women to the highest levels of the public service and to federal boards and commissions as only a first step towards

full equality. My Ministers hope and expect the private sector will regard this progress as an example to follow.

In its desire to further the advancement of women in government, my Ministers will continue their efforts to correct inequitable wage rates in the public service.

My government will take effective action against child sexual abuse, violent forms of pornography involving women and children, child prostitution, and the grave and growing threat posed by the traffic in illegal drugs.

A national drug strategy and a comprehensive program dealing with impaired drivers will be brought forward to support the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse. My government will continue to provide domestic and international leadership in controlling drug abuse in amateur sport.

Reforms to the Criminal Code will be continued during this session of Parliament, reflecting the importance Canadians attach to such values as respect for the law and the protection of innocent citizens.

Measures will also be put before you designed to protect and assist victims of criminal violence. Further action will be proposed to assist in finding missing children.

Canadians are becoming increasingly aware of the suffering of battered women. This intolerable affront to human dignity and personal security compels my government's commitment to work with the provinces to implement on an urgent basis the most effective means and methods of action.

After a decade of debate, an historic agreement with the provinces has been reached that will improve benefits under the Canada Pension Plan, beginning on January 1, 1987. It will also put the plan on a sound financial footing for the future.

The federal Pension Benefits Standards Act, which sets standards that employer-sponsored pension plans must meet, has also been completely revised. The changes introduced will be of fundamental significance for wage earners, especially women in the labour force, and for the spouses of pension plan members.

The introduction of the new Canadian Jobs Strategy, which for the first time sets targets for women's participation, has helped women, particularly immigrant women, and the unemployed in their search for lasting and productive employment.

My government is encouraged by the decline in youth unemployment. However, much remains to be done. My Ministers are committed to federal-provincial and private sector cooperative action that will enhance job opportunities and encourage greater participation and involvement of young Canadians in productive and challenging initiatives.

Canadians recognize the courage and talent of our disabled citizens. Inspired by the example of Rick Hansen, we are made more aware of the potential for new directions and initiatives to aid the disabled.

My government will work with the provinces, the private sector and voluntary organizations to develop measures to