

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure to be here today. The Salvation Army, in its ideals and the dedication of those who serve in it, has firmly established itself as a leading institution of Canadian society. Those who founded the Salvation Army in Canada would surely be enormously proud that the organization they founded 104 years ago is still reaching out so effectively to the disadvantaged and dispirited. I wish your campaign the greatest success.

I wanted to speak to you today about our place in the broader community - the world around us. In particular I wanted to map out for you some of the major changes taking place around us and how we will respond to them.

Canadians by tradition are an outward looking people. Canadian society derives its values, its sense of what constitutes good citizenship, from a national inheritance drawn from every corner of the globe. Our economy is one of the most open in the world. Good Canadian citizens are good international citizens because we want to be, and because we have to be.

Canadians are also a forward-looking people. We understand that the world around Canada is changing, and, these days, changing quickly. Canadians know we must move with global change and benefit from it. Everything we deem vital - our freedom and security, our economic competitiveness, our humanity and physical environment - depends on our ability to manage change rather than to be its victim.

That is the way we see ourselves, and that is how those outside our country see us. Canada has earned and retains an enormous respect abroad as an influential, and pragmatic country, one which uses its influence to create a safer, more humane and more prosperous world.

We are building on a very solid record. In our first mandate this Government set out to accomplish several major objectives internationally. First, we had to secure Canada's longterm competitiveness in world markets. We had to make sure we would have access to the investment and technology we require to remain a prosperous society. The Free Trade Agreement is the testament to our success in this area. It was an enormous and historic undertaking. It will not only give us more secure access to U.S. markets, but will strengthen us to compete globally.

Free Trade was also part of a bigger strategy to promote open global markets. In the past four years, Canada has been at the forefront in pursuit of the crucial Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations. We have pursued an aggressive trade promotion strategy, especially in the booming markets of the Asia/Pacific region and Europe.