

Two great races linked together their loyalties and labours to build this nation. Enemies of old, they have achieved a common destiny on the broad, fair soil of Canada and have given to her the incomparably rich heritage of two cultures. Intolerance and enmity would have denied Canada this destiny; good will triumphed over these divisive forces. Canada owes its creation and existence as a nation to the spirit of tolerance and mutual respect among men of different tongues, cultures and creeds. Unity and uniformity are not the same thing, and Canadian unity is not and never will be based upon uniformity.

With these two principal racial strains has been mingled in more recent times the blood of men from many other lands. The Canadian family has been strengthened by their inclusion; the Canadian culture has been enriched by their contributions.

The march of Canada to full nationhood is as notable a record as her physical march to expanding frontiers. Her assumption of the attributes of nationhood reached its climax when in 1919 the wartime Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, signed the Treaty of Versailles on behalf of His Majesty in the name of Canada. It was the first time that Canada had entered into an international treaty in her own right and her own name. It is said that as Sir Robert signed that historic document his eyes filled with tears and he remarked that he felt that he was signing the treaty in the blood of 60,000 young Canadians who had given their lives in the Great War.

From that point forward Canada has gone forward to achieve an ever-increasing measure of recognition in the eyes of the world. To this end have contributed various factors — her resources, the part she has played in the evolution of the Commonwealth of Nations, her close relationships with the United States of America and the fact that historically she has had nothing to live down. The world's recognition has given Canada great opportunities. It has also brought to her vast challenges.

Considering their relatively small population Canadians are an outward-looking people to a degree not exceeded by any other nation in this hemisphere. The fact that we are a young nation has not meant that we are an immature people. Our external policy is built upon four bases — our memberships in the Commonwealth of Nations, the United Nations and NATO, and our very close, almost unique, relationship with the United States of America. Our attachment to these four bases is strong and solid. Withal, Canadians are a sturdy, self-reliant people who cherish their independence.