

Scotia for a comparable initiative in that province. Enabling legislation was passed to authorize federal involvement in the restructuring of the Atlantic fishery. The Government has also taken action to help fishermen benefit more fully from the 200 mile zone by increasing the severity of penalties for foreign fishermen who break Canada's coastal fishing laws.

In forestry, one of the country's largest employers, Government support has been extended in the form of enhanced federal forestry facilities in St. John's, Fredericton, Ste. Foy, Sault Ste. Marie and Victoria; Unemployment Insurance funds to subsidize forestry jobs when world demand for forest products softened; assistance to forestry schools; and purchases of new water bombers.

Support has been provided to assist research and development in the mining sector. The industry has been given access to facilities of the Canadian Centre for Energy and Mineral Technology, whose work has led to important breakthroughs in occupational health and safety.

In recognition of the growing number of countries which prefer to make food purchases on a state-to-state basis, a new Crown corporation, Canagrex, has been established that will help agricultural producers expand their export markets. Other new legislation affecting farmers includes the Meat Import Act, which protects both producers and consumers, and an Act which enables the Farm Credit Corporation to borrow on financial markets.

#### *Strengthening National Institutions*

The fourth government goal set forth three years ago was the strengthening of national institutions and our country's unity.

In 1980, residents of the province of Quebec voted "no" to sovereignty-association in the Quebec referendum and the federal Government promised a process of federal renewal.

Clearly, the greatest achievements in this area have been the patriation of our Constitution with an amending formula, and the entrenchment of a Charter of Rights and Freedoms. These actions completed the final steps towards Canadian sovereignty and formally guaranteed every citizen certain basic rights and freedoms.

The task of strengthening the rights of Canadians will proceed. To this end, Parliament recently adopted a resolution urging the Manitoba Government to take early action to ensure that treatment of the province's official language minority conforms with constitutional requirements.

An important part of the process of renewal is to ensure that Canada's native peoples are able to realize their rightful aspirations within Canadian society. The First Ministers' Conference on Aboriginal Constitutional Mat-

ters last spring produced agreement on an amending resolution guaranteeing aboriginal and treaty rights equally to native men and women, and including land claims settlements under treaty rights. That amendment has now been ratified by Parliament and the required number of provincial legislatures, and will be incorporated into our Constitution next year.

Various native claims settlements have been reached within the last three and a half year. A Native Economic Development Fund was created to assist native peoples in the pursuit of their own economic development objectives. Funding for native housing programs and friendship centres has been increased. A new northern broadcasting policy is being implemented to increase native involvement in broadcasting in northern areas.

Other achievements of the past three years have contributed to the strengthening of our national institutions.

Amendments to the Federal-Provincial Fiscal Arrangements and Established Programs Financing Act have provided a new equalization formula and authorized transfers to the provinces of nearly 100 billion dollars over five years for equalization purposes and to help fund post-secondary education and Medicare. The federal government last year paid more than half the total cost of post-secondary education and of insured services under Medicare.

The House of Commons adopted a new experimental set of rules designed to enhance the role of the Member of Parliament and to improve the speed and efficiency of the institution.

A Joint Parliamentary Committee was established to consider options for Senate reform, and a Green Paper examining this issue was published.

Access to Information legislation was adopted to give the public wider access to government documents, and a new Privacy Act was passed with stricter controls on the transmittal of personal information.

The Post Office has been turned into a Crown corporation, and the process of streamlining its operations is well underway.

The Canada Elections Act was amended to shorten to 50 days the period required to hold elections, and to ensure a more equitable financial basis for all candidates.

"O Canada" was officially adopted as our national anthem, and July 1st officially designated as Canada Day.

#### *Pursuing a Vigorous Foreign Policy*

The last of the five major commitments made three years ago by the Government was to pursue a vigorous and active foreign policy.

The Government has pledged to fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization by increasing real defence expenditures by at least three percent annually. For the last three fiscal years the