

There is a great deal of work underway now, as you might expect, to try to determine what issues would be most important for Canada to pursue through the process next year. The G7/G8 process is of course ongoing, but the annual Summit provides an event that does serve to force action on certain issues, and serve as a tool to advance the Government's Speech From the Throne priorities.

I would like in our discussion after my formal remarks to hear your thoughts on what we might most usefully discuss with our G8 partners. One of the issues that we must now confront in thinking about an agenda is how we communicate it to the public, and indeed how we engage the public in discussion of the issues that are on the table. In addition, we need to consider how best to engage non-G8 governments in a dialogue on these issues.