

Prime Minister Brundtland, Mr. Roderick, Dr. Ford, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is a very great honour for me to come here today to accept the International Environment Bureau Award. I accept it on behalf of the Canadian people, who are in a very real sense the authors of the environmental progress we have made to date in Canada.

We, Canadians, care deeply about our natural environment. Our national soul breathes its life from our lakes and forests and plains and trees. They are part of us and we are part of our environment.

In Canada the environment is a powerfully unifying force. The environment is fundamental to our identity. Preserving the environment for future generations is not merely a question of social responsibility; it is an act of national fulfilment.

I am honoured to receive this Environmental Award in the presence of Prime Minister Brundtland, its first recipient. Madame Prime Minister, you and your colleagues on the World Commission on Environment and Development succeeded in articulating one of the seminal truths of our times -- that good environmental policy is sound economic policy; that the two are not mutually exclusive but mutually reinforcing.

You have shown that the management of the environment is the management of our future. You have shown, also, that enlightened leadership on transcendent issues can rekindle mankind's hope, stimulate its ingenuity and galvanize its effort.

I would also like to thank Mr. Roderick and members of the International Environment Bureau for honouring me and my country with this award.

The creation of the IEB by the International Chamber of Commerce was an act of environmental leadership, perfectly suited to the spirit of our times. Our times certainly demand leadership.

The possibility, for the first time in 70 years, of normalcy in East-West relations; the rise in economic prosperity; the advance of democracy; the information revolution -- ours is an age of extraordinary promise. The prevalence of poverty and ignorance; the persistence of disease; the increase in population -- ours is also an age of extraordinary challenge. Nowhere is the challenge more complex or more important than the pressure mankind is putting on the environment.