

the rights of our aboriginal peoples to be entrenched in our Constitution. The third conference in this series will be held next month.

This Government is also committed to new efforts to assist women to achieve a level of true equality in Canadian life. This will require, as I have said, some positive measures which will favour women as a community, in order that they may make their full contribution to the society at large. Our constitution now contains a provision guaranteeing fundamental rights and freedoms equally to men and women. A report commissioned by the Government has just been published on equality in employment, and a parliamentary committee will soon examine the question of child care. Here again we find ourselves working in parallel with international efforts. Only a few weeks ago Canada presented in Vienna its first report on how we were implementing the Convention on Discrimination Against Women. We also cooperate closely with other states on particular aspects such as the vital role of women in development.

These are domestic concerns, having their reflection in the international field, but the promotion of respect for human rights in other states must also concern us. Many Canadians have family ties in Eastern Europe. They expect that their relatives will be able to visit them, and that their ancestral countries will adhere to standards of human rights set out in international agreements such as the Helsinki Final Act. The Government must continually consider how best to support their human rights. It is important to remember that what may be satisfying to say in public is not always effective in reducing the suffering or in relaxing officially sanctioned repression. Canada has always used bilateral and multilateral meetings to advance human rights, including minority rights, and this will continue to be the case. I would like to note our pride that the first Human Rights Experts Meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe will be held in Ottawa this May. It is the only CSCE conference to take place in North America, and is being held at Canadian initiative. I hope it will provide an opportunity for an orderly and productive discussion of these problems.

Minority rights concerns are not, of course, limited to developed countries. Emerging from the crucible of colonialism, many developing countries have had to confront the challenge of reconciling the coexistence of