

The Annual Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs has made a notable contribution over the years to discussion and understanding between scientists and others of different societies on some of the fundamental questions involved in the maintenance of world peace. I welcome this opportunity to address this closing session of your conference in Banff, especially since it marks your return to Canada after an absence of 23 years. This occasion also enables me to renew my connections with the Pugwash movement which go back to the time when I was Premier of Nova Scotia from 1970-78 and used to go to speak to the Canadian-American Pugwash Conferences at the founding site in Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

It is relevant to recall that, when the first Pugwash conferences were convened at the Eaton Lodge in 1957 and 1958, there was a need to open channels of communication between the West and the East. Although more channels of communication exist today than 23 years ago, we must ask ourselves whether they are being used as effectively as they might be. Conferences such as this offer the opportunity for concerned scientists to discuss ways in which they may make realistic proposals which would assist their governments to move forward toward mutually acceptable arms control and disarmament agreements. Indeed the presence at this conference of so many distinguished scientists from the developing countries underlines the need for North-South as well as East-West dialogue.

It is important now, as it was 23 years ago, for scientists from all over the world to get together for discussion because of your concern over the risks entailed for humanity in an unbridled arms race, and the enormous expenditure of resources on armaments, resources which could be better spent for development and social objectives. The Canadian Government strongly supports the Pugwash objective of discussion among concerned scientists of all nations of the issues involved in maintaining world peace and security and pressing forward with international development. It