

OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

It is time to take our bearings and to chart the broad lines of public policy for the coming years. Canadian domestic issues are unavoidably bound up with international developments. Accordingly, the policies we develop — foreign and domestic — must address both Canadian and international realities. The two are inseparable elements of a truly national policy.

In framing our policies, we are pursuing objectives that derive from our values and aspirations:

- unity,
- sovereignty and independence,
- justice and democracy,
- peace and security,
- economic prosperity,
- the integrity of our natural environment.

There are linkages between these objectives; balances must be struck between them. The emphasis we place on them shifts from time to time. At the beginning of the 1930s, for example, our preoccupation was the economy. By 1939, it was security. Today it is both.

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A constant of Canadian policy has been the protection of our national sovereignty. We make our own decisions on domestic and foreign policy. The Canadian people rightly demand that their government forcefully advance and protect their interests. But in an age of interdependence, Canadians recognize that sovereignty entails balancing national goals and international responsibilities.

Also constant is the determination of Canadians to make a contribution to a safer, more prosperous and more humane world.