

Introduction

B'nai Brith Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate in the discussion of the Green Paper entitled, "Competitiveness and Security: Directions for Canada's International Relations". We commend Parliament on its establishment of a Special Joint Committee authorized to conduct hearings across Canada on the future directions of Canada's foreign policy. The government has shown wisdom and sensitivity by accepting that in a democracy the basis of a successful foreign policy lies in achieving consensus among our citizens.

B'nai Brith has a history in this nation extending back almost to the time of Confederation. As Canadian Jewry's senior volunteer organization, B'nai Brith, with its membership of 20,000 families, is involved in issues of concern to Jewish people at the local, national and international levels. Through the League for Human Rights, B'nai Brith Canada fights racism and bigotry, promotes inter-community relations and combats anti-Semitism at home and abroad.

International affairs and Canada's role in the world are of primary importance to the organization. B'nai Brith is an international organization which has branches in 46 countries and a world-wide membership of 500,000. The organization has Non-Governmental Organization status at the United Nations and participates in projects which ease suffering and promote justice throughout the world, the benefits of which accrue to all, regardless of race, colour or religion.