

Canada is literally remaking the face of American cities. Toronto-based Olympia and York, as well as other Canadian companies, are big investors in New York, Washington and Los Angeles, not to mention Denver, Minneapolis, Houston and Dallas. Canada is investing more equity capital in absolute terms in the United States than almost any other country is; we are also investing more money in the U.S.A. on a per capita basis than anyone but Americans themselves.

We export, not just the art of Antonine Maillet, Anne Murray, Robert Charlebois, Robertson Davies, Le Cirque du Soleil, Margaret Atwood, Ginette Reno, but, as well, the architecture of Carlos Ott, Arthur Erickson, Barton Meyers and the Parkins. Some of our fashion designers are as famous in Paris as in Toronto and our scientists are among the world's leaders in fields as diverse as muscular dystrophy and neurology.

We are home to some of the pioneer thinkers of the twentieth century -- people whose ideas have changed us, changed the world and changed the way that people think about that world. Certainly, that is true of the works of Marshall McLuhan, Northrup Frye, and Barker Fairley.

We are involved in new concepts of relationships with indigenous peoples and, if the process is sometimes difficult or frustrating, it is because we are exploring avenues never used before. We have changed our concepts of gender equality; our family laws, federal and provincial, are breaking new ground in many areas. Two of our distinguished Supreme Court Justices are women and our Constitution assures women legal equality and justice. We are among the most vigorous champions of reform of the United Nations, including the campaign that led to the appointment for the first time (after forty-one years of establishing standards to other people), of a woman Under-Secretary-General. We take some pride in the fact that that first appointment was a Canadian, Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, as a permanent Under-Secretary of the UN.

This country has changed in ways impossible to imagine a decade ago. I can't tell you whether reciprocity would have been a good idea in 1911. I'm not even interested now in debating whether the establishment of the Foreign Investment Review Agency was a good idea in 1973. That isn't the issue. That was then. This is another time. The issue is not Canada's past but the strength of its future.