

With this in mind, we wish to benefit from the knowledge and experience of Canadians. Our fellow citizens care about their country's foreign policy.

We must listen to Canadians. They can best tell us what values and interests this country must promote abroad, and how we can best contribute to the international community. For our part, we must be sure to share the new global changes with Canadians.

Foreign policy matters to Canadians. There are few areas of our national life that are not directly or indirectly affected by developments beyond our borders. The Government is engaged in these questions every day, and is moving forward on a number of issues.

This government wants a genuine inquiry into Canada's foreign policy. We want to encourage imagination and innovation. We want a foreign policy of ideas, not of improvised reactions.

It is high time to question institutional mechanisms and our traditional ties, and to rid ourselves of outmoded procedures. It is time to chart a new course for Canada. All our new initiatives must be pragmatic; they must be well-considered and capable of giving new life and hope to the world system.

Our policies must of course be realistic. They must reflect the values and interests of Canadians. Unfortunately, we will not be able to do everything we want to do, so difficult choices will have to be made. Our resources are limited, and we must focus our efforts where our contribution will have the greatest impact.

Although no single issue is off-limits in this debate, the Government must give some indication of its own thinking on major foreign policy questions. These are some of the broad directions the Government wishes to follow:

- the pursuit of international peace and security;
- defining Canada's place in a world where the role of regional associations is growing stronger; and
- linking Canada's values and interests, including our economic and trade interests.

Peace and Security

Canada has centred its security policy on two multilateral institutions: NATO, to contain the threat of Communist expansion and to protect democracy; and the United Nations, to promote the values of dialogue and co-operation to resolve or prevent conflict. The demise of Communism has reduced NATO's importance as a military alliance. However, much can still be done by NATO. In the unstable new Europe, NATO must transform itself into a