

The 1999 Strategic Concept re-iterated the longstanding role of the Alliance in promoting the security of its members and the stability of the Euro-Atlantic region. Yet it also acknowledged that the Alliance had a role to play in consolidating and preserving the positive changes that took place in the last decade and that it must safeguard common security interests in an environment of further often unpredictable change.

The Concept guides the Alliance as it faces new challenges. I would like to explore some of these challenges in greater detail. I do so because each challenge, and each Alliance response, highlights NATO's continuing relevance for Canada.