

History is merely a record of our successes and our failures in these areas. But we shape what the next chapter of that history will be. We can, like the great jurists and diplomats who have gone before, inject our own human qualities into the process of history making.

Those of you who attended any of the five regional constitutional conferences recognize the power of the "ordinary Canadian" to restore a sense of perspective to the discussion.

As with our efforts internationally, we must find a safety and comfort zone for all Canadians through a redefinition of our values, our institutions and our systems of government.

Human rights, democracy and the principles of good governance are the framework for freeing the human spirit. Commitments to such a framework are vital to realize progress internationally. Canada is a principal mover in these efforts; people elsewhere look to us for direction and inspiration.

I have great faith in the Canadian spirit; I have great faith in Canadian instincts and values. Open minds and, more importantly, open hearts are the key to our future as a nation. We have demonstrated these qualities time and time again in support of peoples around the world. We must now recharge our batteries at home.

Our strength, we will find, comes from the fundamental energy that has surged through the veins of the people who have chosen to live in this country. We will find that the energy source is not language or culture or region; the energy source is the human spirit. That was the basis for the incredible momentum that has led to new freedoms and democracy for millions, even billions, of people around the world; it will also be the basis for a renewed Canada.