

## ROCK STEADY

## Canada's Rockies will be the backdrop for the Kananaskis G8 Summit

**I**n June, Canada will play host to presidents and prime ministers from the world's leading industrialized nations—France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States—along with the European Commission and Spain, which currently holds the presidency of the European Council.

Located southwest of Calgary in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies, picture-perfect Kananaskis, Alberta, is one of Canada's natural wonders: a spectacular ecological area that boasts several provincial parks and is famed for its pristine rivers and lakes.

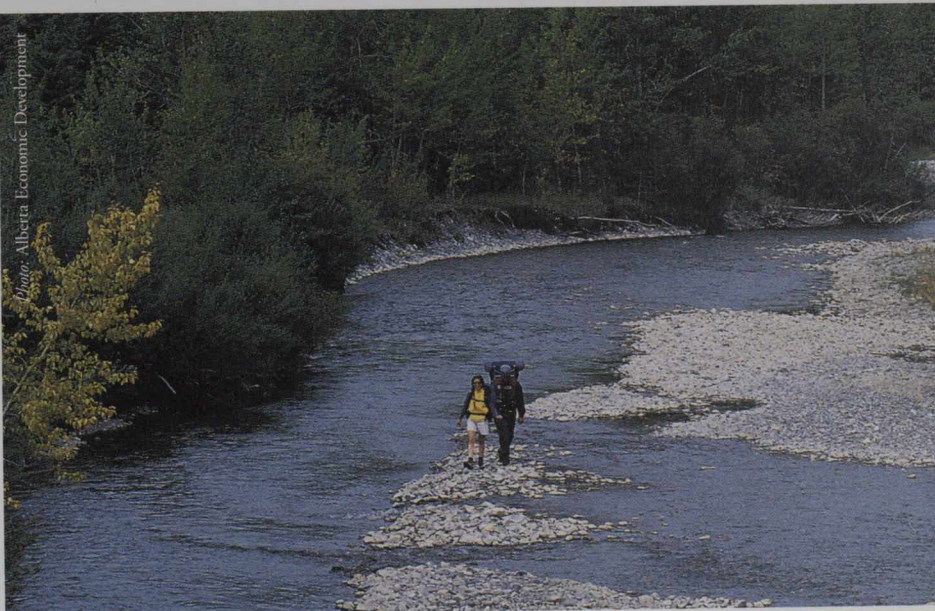
As chair of the G8 this year, Canada will use these scenic hills and lakes as a backdrop for a summit stamped with a unique character. While Canada has hosted G7 and G8 summits before, in Ottawa (1981), Toronto (1988) and Halifax (1995), this is the first one to be held in western Canada.

"The word summit tends to evoke images either of great pomp and ceremony or, more recently, of violent clashes in the streets between demonstrators and police," says Robert Fowler, Canada's ambassador to Italy as well as the Prime Minister's personal representative for Africa and the senior Canadian official responsible for preparing the Kananaskis summit. "It is for this reason that the Prime Minister has, with the agreement of his G8 colleagues, asked me to prepare a different summit, not just a summit done differently. A retreat-style summit that is focused—one of substance, not form. These are my marching orders for Kananaskis."

Informal. Focused. Substantive. These will be the hallmarks of the 2002 summit.

In order to keep the agenda focused and uncluttered, leaders will address three key global challenges: strengthening global economic growth, building a new partnership for Africa's development, and fighting international terrorism.

Of the three, the principal focus of discussion will be a new partnership for Africa. It is an issue close to the heart



Hiking in the foothills of the Canadian Rockies in Kananaskis Country, Alberta

of Prime Minister Chrétien, the dean of the group and a man personally committed to ending Africa's continuing economic marginalization. In April, he spent 10 days visiting six African countries in pursuit of a plan to work with African governments to build lasting peace and security, strengthen democratic governance, address health and education issues, and open trade and investment.

"Poverty is the worst form of violence," Mr. Chrétien told a gathering of the World Economic Forum in New York in February, quoting the pacifist Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi. "Nowhere is this more true than in Africa. The situation throughout much of the continent is bad, and getting worse."