

---

## **There is a Strong Consensus for an Active Canadian Foreign Policy**

- The Government has listened carefully to Canadians over the past year for their views on the directions we should collectively pursue. Their views and priorities, in all their diversity, inform the directions outlined in this Statement.

The **first** major message from Canadians is that they want to remain actively involved in the world. They understand that our vital interests are engaged in the highly competitive global economic system. They are clear that our security and sovereignty must continue to be assured in a world under stress.

The **second** is that Canadians are confident in their values and in the contribution these values make to the international community. As the Special Joint Committee noted: "Foreign policy matters to Canadians. They have deep-rooted values that they carry over into the role they want Canada to play." Our principles and values - our culture - are rooted in a commitment to tolerance; to democracy, equity and human rights; to the peaceful resolution of differences; to the opportunities and challenges of the marketplace; to social justice; to sustainable development; and to easing poverty. Canadians wish these values reflected and advanced internationally. They also understand that culture helps to bind societies together at a time of rapid change and of the emergence of new threats to security such as ethnic strife rooted in exclusionary visions of civic life.

The **third** is that they understand the importance in their daily life of our success in the world. It is a success that relies on our shared values, but is only possible because we are an influential nation, asserting our interests directly around the world, including at the highest tables reserved for the few, such as the Quadrilateral Group of the world's leading traders and the G-7.

They understand, in short, that only a strong, united Canada can pursue our objectives effectively in this new international environment.

### ***Canadians also understand the constraints.***

- While Canadians strongly support an active foreign policy, they also have a realistic view about the challenges ahead and the constraints - especially financial constraints - that we face. In particular, they understand that until we get our own financial house in order, we will be seriously limited in our ability to act abroad to further Canadian objectives. Canadians recognize that we cannot do