

Equally, developed countries are moving away from a smug isolation. They are recognizing that the problems of the developing world are their problems too. That a laissez-faire approach to the future of this planet won't work. The developed world is also recognizing that new partnerships are required.

For Canada, this hemisphere is a good place to start to build this new partnership, bilaterally and multilaterally. The opportunities are great. So too are the challenges. And so is our responsibility.

Mikhail Gorbachev has called for a 'common European home'. I think its time that we in North America begin to think - and act - in terms of a 'common hemispheric home'. For too long, Canada has seen this hemisphere as our house; it is now time to make it our home. That is the challenge now before us. That is the purpose of our policy.