

Now, in this last decade of our first century, we are once again on the threshold of a new era that can be as exciting and challenging as was the settlement and development of the Canadian West. Maximum development of the North will demand the same courage, faith and hard work. It will require action by government directed to the national interest and must be related to the legitimate claims of all areas and have the confidence and backing of private enterprise.

Within this framework I am convinced that through the partnership of public and private endeavour there can and will be a tremendous development in Canada's north in the next decade. That vast, and as yet largely undeveloped north, contains great forest wealth, much land suitable for agriculture, large untapped hydro-electric resources and, above all, a mineral wealth that will one day dwarf the giant developments that have already taken place in any now developed parts of this country. The open-sesame to it all is roads: not necessarily good roads - a statement I hesitate to make before this audience - but roads, passable roads, the most miles we can get for our dollars - roads that will lead on to resources and untold riches.

In closing I cannot fail to take account of the sobering fact that all our future is today threatened by the ever-present possibility of world conflict. Even as we plan for the development of a greater Canada - a Canada that will prove the prophecy that this was to be our century - we must recognize the fact that we are living in troublous times. We cannot blind ourselves to the fact that all about us, the cross-currents of two competing philosophies are seeking to direct the future course of mankind's history. If this fundamental cleavage in human thinking is to be resolved, there is an important role for nations such as ours which reverence freedom and honour the dignity of the individual.

And so, plan we must for good roads that will lead to greater national development, but over and above our national aspirations we must recognize our broader responsibilities to the world at large and be prepared manfully to do our part to help lead the nations along the good road that leads to progress and prosperity in a world at peace.