

The government has been acutely aware of the need to adapt to changing circumstances, nationally and internationally. A few examples are:

- negotiation of the Free Trade Agreement and a strong role in the Multilateral Trade Negotiations,
- increased support for research and development,
- initiatives toward native self-government, and
- increasing the participation and progress of women in the public service, including expanded roles in the Canadian Armed Forces.

This government has given high priority to re-building national unity, including:

- a greatly improved climate of federal-provincial relations,
- strong support for official bilingualism including the amendments to strengthen the Official Languages Act, and
- major constitutional reforms through the Meech Lake Accord, which brought Quebec into agreement on the Constitution.

This government has been active in building on our traditional roles in collective defence, peace-keeping and international co-operation. We have:

- re-equipped our armed forces so that they can once more play a credible role in NATO and in protecting Canada's sovereignty,
- made a major contribution to peace-keeping, particularly in the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq,
- taken an activist role in the work of the United Nations, the Commonwealth and the Francophonie; and
- achieved new prominence and influence for Canada in major international economic institutions, like the "G-7", the Economic Summit and the International Monetary Fund (e.g. in relieving Third World debt).

This government has been active, as well, on issues of social and cultural development. Examples include:

- the \$5.4 billion child care initiative,