

Canada's approach is coloured by our own experience. Canada began its history as an exporter of primary commodities. That is what attracted the first explorers. The exploitation of our natural resources helped to promote both growth and development within our economy. Over the years our economy changed to a more sophisticated structure, involving a balance between resource exploitation and industrial production.

Many factors have contributed to growth and development in Canada, including:

- substantial foreign investment;
- access to technology, mainly through commercial channels;
- access to markets for our products; and
- a general sharing of the rewards of resource production among Canadians.

The importance of these factors in our development has made Canada an outward looking country with high per capita exports, and a heavy dependence on foreign trade. It has also persuaded us that a reasonably free international flow of the factors of production, whether capital, materials or technology, is of central importance to the process of industrialization and the raising of living standards.

Nor has our experience led us to believe that there are simple answers to the problems of development, or simple formulae that will ensure equity in the relations between developed and developing countries. We are re-inforced in this scepticism about simple answers by our own efforts to reduce economic disparities between far-flung regions, and to reconcile the conflicting interests of industrialized and raw materials producing areas within Canada. We find the problem infinitely complicated, requiring a wide variety of approaches to achieve results.