

Canadian Support for South Africa

We intend to sustain our involvement and support for South Africa as it moves toward further momentous changes. John Diefenbaker said in 1961 that there would always be a light in the window for South Africa. We are keeping it there.

The support Canadians have given to those brave South Africans -- black and white -- who have carried on the assault on the immorality of apartheid reflects our consistency on these issues of human rights. It also reflects the generosity of the spirit of Canadians as they look outward to the world.

Canada's Role in the World

In fact, Canada is seen in the international community as a model of peace, tolerance, respect for diversity, equality and the protection of human rights.

What Canada brings to the international arena is a particularly Canadian view, steeped as much in our history and cultures as in our Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its predecessor documents.

To many people outside of Canada, the fact that we are currently undergoing such a gut-wrenching process of constitutional review is ironic, if not shocking. But if one looks closely at the elements of our internal review, one sees an intriguing parallel with what we are attempting to accomplish abroad.

Our search for essential Canadian values, modern and functional democratic institutions and practical divisions of power and responsibility corresponds almost directly with our international commitment to the development of human rights, democracy and good governance.

A Strong Canada

A strong and united Canada can remain a beacon for the practice of human rights to all the world's nations.

I won't hide my views or my feelings. A Canada without Quebec would be greatly diminished in the international corridors of power, and a Quebec without Canada would be greatly reduced in its ability to inject its unique perspective into international decision making.

The Canada of 1992 faces many of the same problems that confront the newly minted democracies of the world: questions of language; individual versus collective rights; minority rights; the treatment of indigenous peoples; regional versus national interests; the rights of women, children and disabled people; and the protection of the environment.