



Canada 125



Prime Minister Mulroney.

CANADA 125

THIS year is the 125th anniversary of Canadian confederation. It was in 1867 that four provinces joined to form what was to grow to become present day Canada. Throughout Canada, Canadians are celebrating this historic occasion with 125 days of special events. Most of these events are community-based and people-inspired. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II is visiting Canada from June 30—July 2 to preside over the festivities. Children from each province will present her with flags signed by the young people of Canada.

Many of the celebratory activities are being conducted under the auspices of the Canada 125 Corporation, a non-political, non-governmental organization — set up at arm's length from government — that is dedicated to helping Canadians recognize their achievements and fellow citizens and has the mandate to encourage and mobilize grassroots support for community-based activities that celebrate Canada's 125th birthday.

Under the theme "THE FUTURE BEGINS WITH YOU", Canada 125 activities are designed to reflect 5 common Canadian values: the freedom and opportunity Canadians enjoy; a concern for the environment; the desire to help one another; the wish to get to know one another better; and a pride in Canadian achievements. The many noteworthy events include:

* A Discovery Box project which will enable Canadian students across the country to exchange information about themselves and their communities. The project will match classrooms and students will create and send "discovery boxes" to their counterparts in other regions.

* A series of National Neighbourhood Parties with a nationwide toast.

* A Kinsmen and Kinette Club sponsored tour of flags that have flown atop the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The flags will be flown at city and town halls of more than 600 communities across Canada.

* Four major national bicycling events, including the Tour de l'Île de Montréal, the world's largest cycling event.

* A community supper of South Asian cuisine in Atlantic Canada.

* School runs in Newfoundland to raise money for world literacy. Cdn \$25,000 have already been raised.

* Week long visits of 25 students from each of the 295 parliamentary ridings to a twinned riding.

* The release of 12 new 25 cent coins representing each of the provinces and territories, by the Royal Canadian Mint. (The Royal Canadian Mint has provided Bangladesh with many of its coins.)

* A hands-across-the-bridge picnic between Ottawa (Ontario) and Hull (Quebec).

In addition, communities across the country are celebrating with picnics, barn dances, environment clean-up drives, pancake breakfasts, rodeos, pioneer days, food drives, parades and similar events, too many to number. Happy Birthday, Canada!



MESSAGE

Today marks the 125th anniversary of Canadian Confederation. From coast to coast, Canadians are enthusiastically celebrating this historic birthday with 125 days of special events ranging from a cross-Canada exhibit of flags that have flown on top of the Parliament Buildings to a series of national neighbourhood parties to cross-country bicycle rides. It gives me great pleasure to share the joy of this celebration with the people of Bangladesh, a country with which Canada enjoys a history of warm friendship and cooperation.

At first glance, it would appear that the differences between our two countries could easily outweigh the common bonds. We are separated geographically — sitting on opposite sides of the world. Bangladesh has a population more than four times that of Canada but occupies a land mass sixty times smaller. Canada is an industrialized country blessed with abundant natural resources. Bangladesh is predominantly agricultural.

Despite these differences, over the past twenty-one years we have forged a strong and deep bilateral relationship, based on common shared values. As fellow members of the Commonwealth, we benefit from a rich heritage of traditions and common approaches. Both countries ascribe a high premium on working constructively towards pragmatic, realistic goals in international organizations. Our mutual commitment to a less fractious, more productive world is reflected in that fact that both Canadian and Bangladeshi personnel are active participants in peacekeeping activities conducted under the umbrella of the United Nations. Canadians warmly greeted Bangladesh's change toward a democratic, parliamentary government and look forward to the continued strengthening of parliamentary institutions and democratic values.

A major element in our relationship is Canada's commitment to assisting Bangladesh to meet its development objectives. Our development assistance programme is Canada's largest bilateral programme, currently amounting to over \$103 million per year. It includes bilateral assistance, the provision of food aid, relief and rehabilitation, support to non-governmental organizations and includes industrial and educational linkages. Canada also supports many of the multilateral agencies and institutions working in Bangladesh.

The range of Canadian assistance covers large infrastructure projects in transportation and energy, as well as activities in health and population, agriculture, irrigation and support for the Bangladesh Flood Action Plan. We also supply substantial quantities of wheat, fertilizer and industrial commodities. Canada targets a large percentage of its aid programme to the poorest elements in society — notably, women with limited means of support and the landless. We are currently also involved in a number of innovative programmes which assist people to help themselves towards an improved standard of living.

Commercial relations between our two countries have substantial scope for growth. In 1990-91, Bangladesh exports to Canada totalled approximately \$36 million, with Canadian commercial exports to Bangladesh being in the \$5.6 million range. An increasing number of clothing items from Bangladesh are being found in Canadian shops. Canada looks forward to an expansion of trade in both directions.

The human link is, of course, all important. A community of over 8000 Canadians of Bangladeshi origin, in communities across the country, are making their own creative and industrious contribution to Canadian life. A number of Bangladeshi students — many on Commonwealth Scholarships or funded by CIDA — are studying at Canadian universities. There is also a community of over 300 Canadians living in Bangladesh, most of whom are involved with the development assistance programme.

As we Canadians celebrate our 125th birthday, we give recognition to the warm, mutually respectful relationship we enjoy with Bangladesh and to all that our two countries can achieve by working together even more closely in future years.

Emile Gauvreau
High Commissioner in Bangladesh

SINCE December 11, 1931, when the Statute of Westminster formally recognized Canada's independence in international relations, Canada has sought to protect and enhance its security and prosperity through social and economic justice and the rule of law in an atmosphere of moderation and tolerance. Over the past 60 years, Canada's active commitment to peacemaking and peacekeeping, to Third World assistance and development, and to freedom and human rights has earned the country respect throughout the world.

These values have helped Canada contribute substantially to international peace and progress. This has been done through the world's leading multilateral organizations: the United Nations, the Commonwealth, La Francophonie, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the Group of Seven leading industrialized countries (G-7).

Canada, in fact, is the only country to be a member of all these organizations. This membership has given Canada the opportunity not only to pursue its own interests in the world, but also to influence the course of world events. Canada will continue to pursue its security and prosperity by focusing on these organizations, as well as on key relationships with the United States, the European Community, Japan and other important emerging players on the world stage.

The world as it was known for more than 40 years no longer exists. The walls be-

Working for Peace, Democracy and Progress

Canada's Foreign Policy Priorities in the 1990's

tween East and West are crumbling under the pressure of profound political and economic change in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly the former USSR. New economic superpowers, such as Germany and Japan, have emerged. Communications and transportation technologies are transforming the world's financial, trade and investment communities into a worldwide market place, making borders increasingly porous and individual countries more dependent on each other than ever before.

What is emerging is a new world, which holds the promise of peace and progress through international co-operation. At the same time, it is a world where old hatreds and ethnic hostility are on the rise, where there are new threats to security (drug trafficking, terrorism and uncontrolled mass movements of people), and where disease, illiteracy, poverty and environmental problems are still to be solved.

All the communities of the world, including Canada, are experiencing the immense pressures of rapid and often unpredictable change. Managing Canada's interests effectively in such circumstances requires vision, adaptability and leadership. Above all, it requires a definition of priorities and reliance on strong national values to guide the deci-

sions made and the actions taken.

Canada is committed to continue to act as an agent for international peace and progress. In a recent speech, the Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, said that Canada will focus on the following priorities to guide its foreign policy through the turbulent waters of the 1990s: strengthening co-operative security, sustaining a high standard of living, and securing democracy and respect for human values.

"We must turn our minds instead to the future, to find the right mix of policies to ensure stability and prosperity at home, and over time to help create a more predictable, more stable, and safer world," said Mrs McDougall.

The Gulf War, the conflict in Yugoslavia and recent developments in the former USSR have shown how fragile international peace and stability are and how suddenly they can give way to instability and confrontation. Security remains a vital priority for Canadian foreign policy, particularly the establishment of a more cooperative world order based on the rule of law.

Canada will continue to offer official development assistance to reduce poverty, enhance human rights and, in turn, build stable political enti-

ties. As a medium-sized country with limited fiscal resources, it is vital that Canada operate in a stable international economic system that is based on rules and this will be reflected in Canadian foreign policy. During the past few years, there have been democratic revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe, as well as solid democratic progress in Latin America and parts of Asia and Africa. The

international movement, toward democracy and greater respect for human rights has never been greater. To help sustain that momentum, Canada's foreign policy will focus on securing democracy and human rights.

In the years to come, there can be no doubt that there will be high expectations by the international community for an active Canadian presence and involvement. Canada is com-

mitted to a global foreign policy with priority given to its key bilateral relationships. Canada's ongoing development assistance efforts will be challenged by emerging issues of importance, including environmental demands.

Indeed, Canada's foreign policy will prove challenging. In the words of Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, "There is no map to the future, no instruction book to the new world order — we have only our values and the hard-earned lessons of the past to go on."

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Inuit, Baker Lake, Northwest Territories.

CANADA ECONOMIC INDICATORS

| AT A GLANCE | | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | Latest Data | 1991 |
|--|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Period | SAAR |
| 1. Gross Domestic Product | (\$B) | 605.1 | 649.1 | 671.6 | Jan - Dec 91 | \$679.2 B |
| 2. Real GDP Growth | (%) | 4.7% | 2.5% | 0.5% | Jan - Dec 91 | * 1.5% |
| 3. GDP Per Capita | (\$) | \$23,468 | \$24,872 | \$25,388 | Jan - Dec 91 | \$25,312 |
| 4. Trade Balance on Goods & Services (BOP) | (\$B) | 4.8 | 0.1 | 2.0 | Jan - Dec 91 | (\$3.4) B |
| 5. Merchandise Trade Balance | (\$B) | 10.4 | 7.1 | 10.9 | Jan - Dec 91 | \$7.4 B |
| 6. Trade Balance on Services | (\$B) | * 5.6 | * 7.0 | * 8.9 | Jan - Dec 91 | (\$10.8) B |
| 7. Exports of Goods & Services as % of GDP | (%) | 26.4% | 25.2% | 25.2% | Jan - Dec 91 | 24.3% |
| 8. Terms of Trade (1986 = 100.0) | Index | 105.5 | 107.0 | 104.9 | Jan - Dec 91 | 102.6 |
| 9. Federal Budget Deficit (FY basis) | (\$B) | * 29.0 | * 29.0 | * 30.5 | FY91/92 Est. | (\$31.4) B ** |
| 10. Federal Government Deficit (National Accounts) | (\$B) | * 20.9 | * 23.1 | * 25.0 | Jan - Dec 91 | (\$29.6) B |
| 11. Federal Government Deficit as % of GDP | (%) | 3.4% | 3.6% | 3.7% | Jan - Dec 91 | 4.4% |
| 12. Federal Government Expenditures as % of GDP | (%) | 21.1% | 21.2% | 22.3% | Jan - Dec 91 | 23.5% |
| 13. Federal Public Debt Service as % of Revenues | (%) | 29.1% | 32.1% | 33.0% | Jan - Dec 91 | 31.8% |
| 14. CPI - Rate of Inflation | (%) | 4.0% | 5.0% | 4.8% | Dec 91 | 3.6% *** |
| 15. Unemployment Rate | (%) | 7.8% | 7.5% | 8.1% | Dec 91 | 10.3% |
| 16. Employment Growth | (%) | 3.2% | 2.0% | 0.7% | Jan - Dec 91 | -1.8% |
| 17. Immigration | (Persons) | 161,929 | 190,342 | 214,230 | Jan - Dec 91 | 224,551 *** |

* Aggregated Quarterly Averages - Seasonally Adjusted at Annual Rates
** Fiscal Year Basis
*** Not Seasonally Adjusted

| | | FY 1988-89 | FY 1989-90 | FY 1990-91 | FY 1991-92 |
|---|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 18. Official Development Assistance (ODA) | | | | | |
| Total Disbursed | (\$B) | 28 | 27 | 26 | 26 |
| Gross ODA Commitments as % of GNP | (%) | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| Total Planned Disbursement | (\$B) | | | | \$2.6B |

20 YEARS OF CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH

Canada has been involved in development cooperation with Bangladesh since 1972. Our Development Assistance is administered by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Canada provides assistance to Bangladesh through our Government to Government (for bilateral) channel and through our partnership arrangement which provides funds to both Canadian and Bangladesh non-governmental organizations. Canada is also a member of many multilateral institutions which assist Bangladesh.

The major areas of Canadian aid involvement to Bangladesh include transportation, health and population, energy, agriculture, water management, rural development and food aid. All development assistance to date is approximately 2.0 billion Canadian dollars. To ensure that our aid programme remains relevant, Canada will continue to review its aid priorities to ensure that they are consistent with those expressed by the Government of Bangladesh. In this regard, the role of women in development and the environment will remain key elements of the programme.

The Canadian Development Cooperation programme in Bangladesh is Canada's largest and Canada is one of the larger bilateral donors in the country. Canada's programme focuses on improving the conditions of the rural poor, providing balance of payments support, and providing employment opportunities, and is implemented through a broad range of partners, which includes the agencies of the Government of Bangladesh, Canadian firms and Canadian and local non-governmental organizations.

Canada and Bangladesh maintain a broad ranging dialogue on a number of important policy issues which face the country. These have recently included the level of investment in education, health and population, enhancing the developmental impact of food aid and seeking more effective ways to ensure that our interventions result in sustainable development. Canada looks forward to continuing these discussions and to participating in Bangladesh's development efforts.