



# THE JOHN MCKAY REPORT

Member of Parliament  
Scarborough-Guildwood

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## A GLOBAL NETWORKS STRATEGY : WHY CHANGE IS NEEDED

What happens in the world matters to Canada more than ever before. In the 21st century, decisions and events across the planet have direct impacts on our communities, our stores, factories, schools, and our governments. And the globalized world offers as much opportunity as peril – for those who understand how it works, and are willing to lead.

### CANADA'S ECONOMY DEPENDS ON TRADE

We are among the most trade-reliant nations on the planet, and stand at the geographic and cultural crossroads of goods, people and knowledge flows linking the emerging giants of Asia, and the mature economies of Europe, with the North American market of nearly 500 million people. Our cities are brimming with courageous immigrants from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, people among the world's most talented and hard working.

### WE ARE LOSING GROUND

Governed by Stephen Harper, an ideological tactician who did not travel outside North America before becoming Prime Minister (except for one trip when he accompanied Prime Minister

Paul Martin to a World War II commemoration), Canada has stood still in a fast-paced world. There is a long list of missed opportunities, such as: our delegation's conflicting views on climate change at the Copenhagen summit; the PM's 4 year delay in going to China and India; a simplistic approach to the Arab-Israeli conflict; our stance on maternal health in the Third World; our mishandling of a meeting of Arctic countries by excluding some.



### WE LIVE IN A COMPLEX WORLD

Afghanistan is a significant exception. Canadian troops have fought bravely and effectively alongside our NATO allies. Our diplomats and aid workers have also distinguished themselves in very difficult circumstances. But in every other region, and every other field of

endeavour, Canada is losing ground. Our 20th century reputation as constructive players on the international scene has faded from view.

Today's world is more complex than ever before. There are new centres of economic and political power in a multi-polar world. In the last century, we could focus on simple exports and imports. But today, deeply integrated global value chains drive business strategies and investments in which all the elements of a finished product - research, development, design, manufacturing, marketing and distribution - are located for lowest cost around the planet and reintegrated with the use of cutting edge information and transportation technology.

Those able to work across boundaries, across oceans, within global partnerships, connecting between governments, business, and civil society, bridging cultures, speaking languages, embracing diversity and mediating difference – *those* people will excel in this century. And those people are Canadians.

This is the first in a series of twelve articles on the Global Networks Strategy which is part of the Liberal platform.

Other articles in the series are available on request from my Constituency Office.

- 1 - Why change is needed
- 2 - What and how to change
- 3 - Agreements with China and India
- 4 - Partnerships in North America
- 5 - The Arctic region
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- 7 - Human development
- 8 - Canadian Multilateralism
- 9 - Branding Canada for success
- 10 - Energy, environment and economy
- 11 - Federal government capacity
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## A GLOBAL NETWORKS STRATEGY: OPENNESS TO THE WORLD

**Canadians embrace the world with confidence, optimism and a blend of new-world idealism and old-fashioned practicality. Doing well in the world, and *with* the world is part of who we are. We want to contribute to progress, leave things better for our children, and right wrongs where we can. A modest population spread across a vast geography, Canadians understand those ambitions require working with others, beyond our borders. Blessed with the prosperity of a developed, Western economy, but unburdened by any history of conquest, we are welcomed by many, often envied, but seldom resented.**

This is what we tell ourselves. We see ourselves this way because of our past. But in a rapidly changing world, it is now essential that Canadians re-examine our role, our manner of contributing, our way of pursuing our interests and applying our values.

### **WE NEED TO ADAPT TO CHANGE**

The world has changed in ways to which we have not yet adapted, and at a pace that we have yet to confront. It is not that our history in international affairs, of which we are justifiably proud, is irrelevant. But it is the past, and its lessons must now be applied to the future with fresh thinking to move beyond old debates and answer the next decade's questions.

### **CANADA AND PEACEKEEPING**

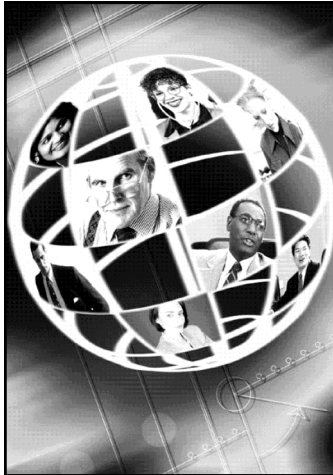
Lester B. Pearson invented United Nations peacekeeping. But we have gone from its leading practitioner to the world's 56th ranked contributor to peace operations today. During that shift, the practice has become vastly more complex – and dangerous - than in its earlier decades. Is Canada a peacemaker and conflict preventer of the future? If so, how should we go about it in the years ahead?

### **CANADA AND CHINA**

Pierre Trudeau led the world's opening to China, with Canada crafting a careful diplomatic recognition in 1970 that was emulated by other countries in subsequent years. Since that time, China has gone from an isolated, backward economy to a global powerhouse, forecast to become the world's largest economy in the next two decades. Will Canada again be a leader in innovative engagement with China, or continue sliding off the radar screen of Asia's emerging giants?

### **CANADA AND APARTHEID**

Brian Mulroney put Canadian values into practice when he played a leading role in the



Commonwealth to end Apartheid in South Africa. Those efforts contributed to the high regard many Africans have for Canada, and yet the current government has removed a number of African nations from among its priorities, reduced commitments to African development assistance, and shifted its limited attention elsewhere.

### **CANADA AND THE WORLD'S POOREST**

Does Canada still care enough to stand with the world's poorest in the years ahead, and partner with a changing Africa? If so, should the debate be

about the right amount of money to devote to aid, or is it about finding innovative new ways to build capacity and eradicate poverty?

### **QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED**

These are the kind of questions to be answered as Canada looks to the future, and rethinks its objectives, interests, values, challenges and advantages in an ever more complex world. Canada was once a credible player in the world's debates, a source of knowledge and fresh thinking. Canadians want to play such roles again, and we can.

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