



THE JOHN MCKAY REPORT

**Member of Parliament
Scarborough-Guildwood**

Volume 19 Issue 4

A GLOBAL NETWORKS STRATEGY : PARTNERSHIPS IN NORTH AMERICA

Canada's geographic, economic and cultural advantages in a North American market of nearly 500 million people is one of our major strategic assets. Over \$1.5 billion worth of goods and services cross the Canada-US border daily in the largest commercial relationship between any two countries in the world. But it is a relationship about much more than exports and imports. Our integrated market means that more than just selling things to each other, Canadians and Americans make things together and sell them to themselves and the world.

THE "THICKENED" BORDER

However, the "thickening" of the shared border is undermining the vitality of the economic relationship.

Implementation of a range of security-related measures by U.S. has put into question cross-border business strategies.

Canadians understand and share the security concerns of the United States. We also know that more innovative methods must be found to integrate security with efficiency.

Every day, provincial officials, local mayors, business people, scientists, academics and average citizens from the two countries are interacting. We must take

advantage of these relationships and shared interests, which still transcend that thickening border. With



thousands of jobs in Canada depending on the Canada-US economic partnership, our economy cannot afford the steady decline of the past four years in our profile in the U.S.

A Liberal government will also explore the possibility of new

arrangements for managing the shared border, to reverse its "thickening" while maintaining the highest levels of security.

WORKING TOGETHER ON SHARED PERSPECTIVES

Canadians and Americans often share common perspectives. One example is the technical capability we contribute to multilateral efforts on nuclear non-proliferation, a high priority of the U.S. Administration, and nuclear disarmament. Another is the development of the international community's capacity in peace operations. The Canada-US relationship on energy is also very important. Canadian provinces export and import a variety of energy products, and collaboration with the US will strengthen continental and global efforts to reduce carbon emissions that cause climate change.

OUR OTHER PARTNER

Building our relationship with Mexico, our other North American partner, is another vital task. Some shared interests are: action on climate change, fighting protectionism in North America and supporting Mexico's progress on domestic security.

This is the fourth 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
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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

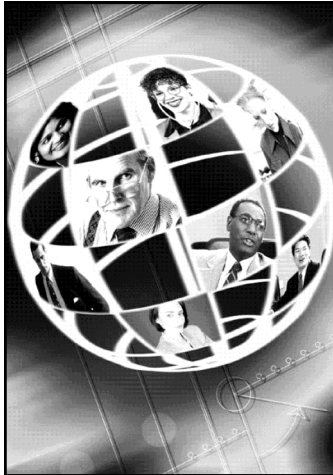
Lester B. Pearson invented United Nations peacekeeping. But we have gone from its leading practitioner to the world's 56th ranked contributor to peace operations today. During that shift, the practice has become vastly more complex – and dangerous - than in its earlier decades. Is Canada a peacemaker 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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