



# THE JOHN MCKAY REPORT

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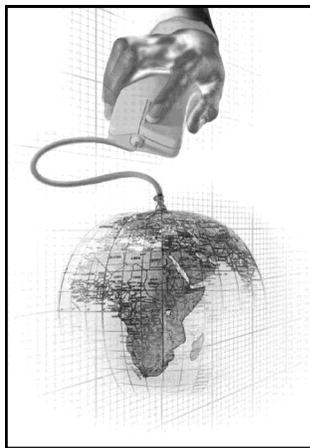
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## A GLOBAL NETWORKS STRATEGY : CANADIAN MULTILATERALISM

Multilateralism is not a policy choice, but a recognition of the world as it is. More than ever before, both our threats and our opportunities are trans-national. Terrorism, cybercrime, pandemics and instability in international finance threaten our way of life. On the other hand, trade, investment, clean technologies, higher education, are all fundamental to our long-term prosperity. And all are global in scope.

### G-20 AND THE CHANGING WORLD

The transition taking place from the G-8 to the G-20 as the world's leading body for economic cooperation is an example of institutional change. The Harper government doesn't seem to realize that the G-20 must replace the G-8 as the world's preeminent body for economic cooperation. The members of the G-20 represent 90% of the world's gross national product. No leader who is serious about the future can believe that global challenges ranging from economic stability to climate change, to food insecurity and poverty can be properly



addressed without countries like Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, Indonesia, South Korea, China and India at the table.

### A PERMANENT G20 SECRETARIAT

A Liberal government will support a permanent G-20 secretariat hosted in Canada, to conduct policy research, engage civil society and private sectors, and advance long-term issues of concern to G20 members. The cost of this secretariat will be less than 1% of the Harper government's outlay for the June 2010 summits, and will produce lasting benefits for Canada and the

other G-20 members.

### STRONG TIES WITH EUROPE

Canada's ties to Europe are deeply rooted in our past, and important for our future. The future of these ties can be even more compelling, with free trade negotiations currently underway. Healthy relations with Europeans in NATO are key to Canada's interests in many areas. As part of the Global Networks Strategy, relationships with European partners at all levels will continue to be essential to Canada's prosperity.

### COLLABORATION WITHIN CANADA

Provincial premiers and mayors have become increasingly active internationally. Provinces have legitimate interests, expertise, and valuable relationships in the international sphere. This is especially evident on Canada-US issues, for example in the ongoing work of the Eastern Canadian Premiers and US Governors, and the groundbreaking partnership of the Western Climate Initiative. Of course, the prime minister and the federal government have unique responsibilities internationally. But they will be much more effective if they act in coordination and partnership with provincial premiers and others.

A Liberal government will recognize the interests and expertise of provinces and put in place processes to involve them in the preparation of relevant multilateral events.

This is the eighth 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
- 6 - Partnership with Africa
- 7 - Human development
- 8 - Canadian Multilateralism
- 9 - Branding Canada for success
- 10 - Energy, environment and economy
- 11 - Federal government capacity
- 12 - Liberal commitments



## 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**

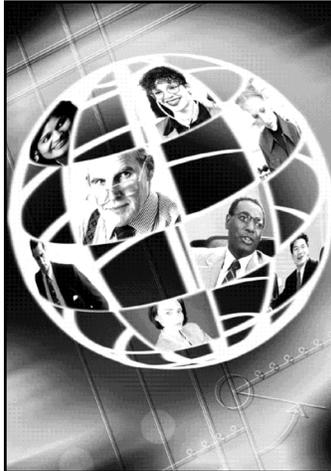
Lester B. Pearson invented United Nations peacekeeping. But we have gone from its leading practitioner to the world's 56th ranked contributor to peace operations today. During that shift, the practice has become vastly more complex – and dangerous - than in its earlier decades. Is Canada a peacemaker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