

## STATEMENT OF THE

# OUR CANADA PROJECT



As organizations and citizens, we join together to express alarm that Canada is entering a new era that may change forever — and for the worse — our place in the world.

We are concerned that Canada is moving away from its great traditions of fairness, compassion, peace-keeping, and strong public programs toward a much closer relationship with the government of George W. Bush.

We want Canada to move in a very different direction. The Canada we want is a place in which:

- 🍁 Public health care is strengthened, not threatened by privatization and underfunding.
- 🍁 Our government is accountable and transparent, not a means for funneling public money to politicians' friends.
- 🍁 We invest the federal surplus in public programs such as pharmacare — a prescription drug plan — a quality national childcare program, and accessible public education. The government's current policy of gutting social programs is creating more inequality, especially for women, Aboriginal people, and minorities.
- 🍁 We create an economy that promotes innovation, sustainable development, and decent jobs, drawing on the creative talent of *all* Canadians — both those who were born here and new immigrants.
- 🍁 Aboriginal land, treaty, and inherent rights are recognized and implemented.
- 🍁 We strengthen civil liberties and freedom of the press.
- 🍁 We reduce pollution, global warming, and the health problems they cause, by rapidly implementing the Kyoto Protocol.
- 🍁 We provide long-term financing for our public broadcasters and artists so we can tell our own stories to each other, rather than allow foreign-owned media to take over our airwaves.
- 🍁 We invest in peace-keeping and the United Nations, not in President Bush's "Star Wars" program. (Star Wars will cost us billions and *undermine* international peace and security.)

We come together, in advance of an anticipated federal election, to appeal to Canadians of every political stripe to protect our country's integrity. We urge citizens to use the ballot box to affirm Canada's position as a peace-maker, environmental advocate, defender of universal social programs, and champion of human rights.

It is within our power to create a Canada that — both at home and abroad — leads the world in the advancement of equality and social justice and the elimination of poverty and violence.

Let us not be motivated solely by fear or by cynicism. Let us use the election as an opportunity to begin a grand discussion — stretching from coast to coast to coast — about how our country can be made magnificent.

## PROJECT TEAM

ACTRA Toronto Performers & ACTRA National	The Council of Canadians
Canadian Auto Workers	David Suzuki Foundation
Canadian Conference of the Arts	Friends of the Earth
Canadian Council for Refugees	Greenpeace Canada
Canadian Federation of Students	KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
Canadian Feminist Alliance for International Action	National Anti-Poverty Organization
Canadian Health Coalition	National Association of Women and the Law
Canadian Labour Congress	National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women	Peacefund Canada
Canadian Union of Public Employees	Physicians for Global Survival (Canada)
Centre for Social Justice	Polaris Institute
Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada	United Steelworkers, District 6
Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada	