

## Canadians need to ponder their place in the world

The pressure is on for Canadians to act as citizens of the world, to mobilize around issues like global warming and terrorism.

During the final year of the initiative, organizers will communicate the messages they will have gathered to governments and media, "with the aim of modernizing our international policy and enhancing Canada's leadership role internationally."

While Canada is a modest middle power with a relatively small population, it's unquestionably an integral player on Mother Earth.

The Canada World website outlines a series of "new realities" that make it ever more important for average Canadians to bone up on the goings-on beyond our borders.

One is that Canada is an energy behemoth on a planet facing the negative impacts of global warming.

Another, Canada yearns to play a role abroad as a peacekeeper, yet there's not much peace to keep.

In a world needing cultural translators, this is a country with a population that derives from points all over the globe.

Canada is the closest neighbour of the U.S. in a world where global power is shifting.

Resource rich and possessed of a healthy manufacturing sector, Canada is a trading nation and relies on the world to buy its goods.

Recent political events suggest the backers of Canada's World are on to something.

Yet even