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## Moving forward from the election - together

The recent federal election was highly competitive, with the Liberal Party securing 2.4% more votes than the Conservatives. Liberals dominated Atlantic Canada, Quebec and the North, while the Conservatives led across the Prairies. In Ontario and BC, the two parties were nearly evenly split, and rural-urban voting patterns varied significantly within most provinces. Given these outcomes, Canada presently faces a pivotal question:

How can we ensure that the country pulls together in these testing times?

If politicians succumb to partisan divisions, ideological battles, and turf disputes instead of focusing on real solutions, Canada risks deepening fractures at a moment when unity is essential. It is no secret that President Trump seeks a weaker, divided Canada. Rather than playing into that agenda, Canadian leaders must work together as we confront economic aggression and existential threats to our nation.

Canadians should expect political leaders to identify key areas for collaboration and set aside partisan divisions—at least during this unprecedented moment—to make tough decisions that strengthen our economy, invest in national security, and safeguard our sovereignty.

Liberals and Conservatives can find common ground on several shared priorities: eliminating interprovincial trade barriers, investing in export infrastructure, leveraging clean and conventional energy resources, supporting the military, building more housing, and expanding trade with reliable global partners.

### Reasons for optimism

Despite challenges posed by President Trump's leadership, there are reasons for optimism. Over the past months, Canadians have deepened their appreciation for national values, strengthening their commitment to

protecting what makes Canada unique. Managing our complex conversation with the U.S. requires a coordinated strategy that embraces economic growth, productivity, climate action, and resilience.

- Eliminating interprovincial trade barriers can drive economic growth and expand opportunity at home.
- Strengthening trade beyond North America will reduce reliance on the U.S. while fostering economic independence.
- Investments in clean energy, manufacturing, and technology can enhance Canada's global competitiveness.
- A diversified economy, robust infrastructure, and forward-thinking leadership can position Canada to thrive, even amid shifting geopolitical dynamics.

### Bold national projects

This is a time of great challenge—but also great possibility. Canadians have a proud history of rising to meet significant challenges with ambition and determination. Whether building a transcontinental railway, standing strong in two world wars, or pioneering universal healthcare, Canadians have united behind bold national projects before.

Now is the moment to embrace perhaps our most ambitious project yet - transforming Canada's economy into one that is more resilient, sustainable, and less reliant on any single partner. At a time when Canada faces serious challenges, it is imperative that Canadians, regardless of political affiliation, come together with grit, optimism, and unwavering resolve to protect our nation and secure its future.

I am, above all, a Canadian. This country is the best in the world, and it is worth defending.

We can do this.

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