

The Constitution

The people of York North understand how fast the world is changing and are ready to deal with that change. They realize that trade barriers are coming down all around the world and they expect Canada to follow suit. Support for the principle of free movement of people, goods and capital was, for all intents and purposes, unanimous. My constituents know that Canadians will not win any trade wars outside our borders until we stop fighting trade wars inside our borders.

When we finally complete our constitutional puzzle, we will have a lot of ground to make up. We must realize that we will only make it up through concrete action.

York North residents are eagerly awaiting the challenge. Through our discussions, we all agree that a constitution must be supported by a government with vision. What this nation needs now more than ever is a government that has a realistic plan for improving the quality of life for its citizens and the political will to carry it out.

In the end, a Constitution tells us what we can be. Only men and women with imagination and conviction can bring that ultimate goal to reality and to fruition.

York North residents realize that Canada was founded on compromise. In 125 years, that has always been the source of our greatest strength. Now more than ever it is important for Canadians everywhere to put the demands of their specific interest groups in proper perspective and think of the common good.

It is extremely important to defend the needs of women, aboriginals, visible minorities, the disabled, youth, and every single Canadian. We all realize that the ultimate interest group in this constitutional talk to which we all belong is Canada.

In the present debate, groups and individuals must realize that sometimes it is necessary to sacrifice a little in order to gain a lot. The preservation of this great nation is something worth fighting for.

In conclusion, I would like to say once again how pleased I am to stand here today and share the opinions of my constituents with this House. I, like them, am

confident that we are approaching the long hoped for solution to the constitutional puzzle.

There is optimism in York North, and I know that Canadians everywhere are counting on this Parliament to come up with constitutional proposals that will reflect the aspirations of the nation. When we look at other nations, we cannot help but be grateful to live in this peaceful, prosperous country.

The realization that we are blessed teaches us to respect the opinions of others and to make allowances for the special needs. The land is strong, and its people have big hearts. Our history shows us that there is room for everyone here as long as everyone respects each other and gives each other a chance to prosper.

It is with that thought, it is with that progressiveness and fairness that I am convinced that we will guarantee the survival of this nation.

Mr. Bruce Halliday (Oxford): Mr. Speaker, I do not know how much longer we will have to keep talking to convince you that you have heard all of the arguments that are possible regarding the Constitution.

I want to take this time to thank the government for giving us this privilege over a series of evenings to talk about what has happened in our ridings. I want to report to you, Mr. Speaker, and to my colleagues a meeting we held in Woodstock in the constituency of Oxford two weeks ago tonight, February 3. My provincial counterpart, who belongs to a different political persuasion than I do, and I agreed that this was an issue that should be non-partisan and we agreed to work together on this. Kimble Sutherland, the local MPP for Oxford, and I approached the president of the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Robert White, a lawyer in Woodstock, who was very interested in recommending to his colleagues that they sponsor a public meeting where people from all across the riding could be heard. They in turn approached the recently arrived publisher of the *Woodstock Daily Sentinel Review*, the local daily newspaper, to see if he would chair the meeting. He agreed and did a superb job, bringing to it a kind of fellowship and jovialism that was very helpful in keeping people working together and on the subject.