

## Quebec pre-referendum poll

One of the most comprehensive surveys taken on the constitutional views of Quebecers was made public September 27 by the province's Intergovernmental Affairs Minister Claude Morin.

The government-sponsored poll, conducted by the Centre de recherches sur l'opinion publique, provided for expressions of opinion on national allegiance, constitutional questions, the referendum and on the recent federal election. Slightly more than 1,000 people were interviewed in their homes for more than an hour and answered over 100 questions as part of the survey.

The survey found that 66 per cent of Quebecers interviewed believed it was advantageous to be part of Canada, while 17 per cent believed that it was a disadvantage.

Asked to list their preference for constitutional change, however, only 15 per cent said they preferred the *status quo*, while a majority of 39 per cent of respondents favoured a "renewed federalism". Another 19 per cent chose sovereignty-association, 11 per cent said they wanted independence and 7 per cent were undecided.

A total of 19 per cent said they would vote "yes" if the referendum question was simply, "Are you in favour of independence?"; 72 per cent said they would vote "no". In response to another question, 73 per cent said they hoped Quebec would remain part of Canada, while 22 per cent said that it should become "a country distinct from Canada".

Fifty-four per cent of Quebecers interviewed would vote to give the Quebec government a mandate to negotiate sovereignty-association. However, 59 per cent would say "yes" to this in the referendum only as long as Quebec remained a part of Canada.

Forty-one per cent of respondents were in favour of sovereignty-association if Quebec became a distinct country but associated with Canada, while an equal percentage said "no" and 18 per cent were undecided.

Thirty-two per cent of those questioned identified themselves first as "Québécois", while 38 per cent called themselves French-Canadian and 23 per cent Canadian; but 48 per cent of those aged 18-24 called themselves Québécois and 15 per cent called themselves Canadian.

"It emerges from this...that francophones are involved in an important process of change as to their socio-political labelling," Edouard Cloutier, political science professor at the University of Montreal and author of the survey, commented in his interpretative notes. "They prefer now being called Québécois rather than Canadians while not necessarily perceiving any incompatibility between the two," he said. In response to one question, 69 per cent said it was easy to be both a Canadian and a Québécois.

## Funds help Pakistan farmers

Canada has given Pakistan a \$30-million grant for an agricultural and land improvement project that is expected to double production in much of the country's underdeveloped North West Frontier Province by 1995.

Additional crops valued at \$50 million yearly and farm employment equivalent to about 10,000 full-time permanent jobs, as well as related non-farm employment, should result from the project known as SCARP Mardan. Mardan is the region's main town and SCARP stands for Salinity Control and Reclamation Project.

The SCARP approach was developed by Pakistan in co-operation with the World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as an integrated system of drainage and irrigation applied to an area of up to a million acres where crop yields are low due to salty soil or waterlogging.

The SCARP Mardan project area contains more than a quarter of the good agricultural soil in the North West Frontier Province, which has 15 per cent of Pakistan's population but only 2 per cent of its irrigated land. The area's inadequate water supply and poor drainage have combined to cause low agricultural productivity.

Half the Canadian funds are "untied" and will help cover local costs. The other half will be used to purchase essential equipment and services in Canada, such as vehicles, motors, graders, a dragline and maintenance shop, as well as Canadian consultancy services in the field of evaluation.

The World Bank estimates that the average two-acre farm will more than triple its income over the next 15 years because of the project. The region's large group of landless, unskilled and unem-

ployed workers are also expected to benefit through employment and training generated by the project.

Crops grown in the area — maize, wheat and sugar-cane — are used locally for food, rather than being exported. The increased production of these crops will probably bring the region closer to self-sufficiency.

CIDA provided about \$62 million in bilateral development assistance in 1978-79 to Pakistan, historically the second-largest recipient of Canadian aid. Canada has been the major source of assistance, largely through dams and transmission lines, in the development of Pakistan's power supply, much of which is used for agriculture — chiefly irrigation.

## Trade office to aid Third World

Canada will open an office in Montreal designed to help Third World nations overcome obstacles in marketing their products in Canada.

The office will provide information on problems exporters from developing nations may encounter in trying to penetrate the Canadian market and will develop specific projects and programs such as seminars, trade fairs and training to assist the poorer developing countries in their efforts to export goods to Canada.

The office has been established with an initial three-year mandate after which its activities will be reviewed. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will be responsible for its operation in co-operation with an interdepartmental advisory board with representatives from the departments of Finance, External Affairs, and Industry, Trade and Commerce.

Companies from Third World nations, particularly from the least developed countries, are often confronted by bewildering tariff, custom, tax and safety regulations. Marketing, sales, financing, insurance and transportation questions often add to their problems in marketing their goods to Canada.

The decision to open the office announced at the UNCTAD V forum in May, honours Canada's commitment to facilitate trade with the Third World made at the earlier UNCTAD IV meeting.

Canada joins several other nations such as Britain, the Netherlands, Germany and the U.S.S.R. which have already adopted similar policies.