

*The Constitution*

terms of the community and the cultural diversity which exist in my own constituency.

Third, with respect to aboriginal Canadians, 83 per cent voted to recognize a role for aboriginal people in the Canada clause. There is a deep respect for aboriginal Canadians and a deeply felt need that our first citizens need to find their proper place in our Constitution and in our country. That is from people who live in close proximity and intermingle with native people in the constituency.

Fourth, with respect to a distinct society, respondents were more evenly split on whether to include a statement on the distinct character of Quebec in the Canada clause.

Regarding the Senate, 87 per cent wanted a reformed Senate that would elect senators and only 3 per cent wanted the Senate abolished. Views were split on whether the Senate should be able to veto or only review appointments and whether they should be able to reject or just to amend legislation.

Regarding interprovincial trade, an overwhelming majority favoured free circulation of people, goods, and capital, eliminating preferential buying policies, eliminating trade restrictions and eliminating barriers to practising some professions.

Regarding future constitutional change, people were split on who if anyone should get a veto.

Finally, regarding the division of powers, with the exception of communications, immigration, and unemployment insurance, the majority of respondents favour shared federal-provincial responsibility for issues such as education, fisheries, health care, housing, language, natural resources, environment, and training.

Generally, though, most of the comments that I have received in response to this questionnaire and in letters were positive, constructive and have exhibited great hope and optimism for Canada and for our future and a determination to make Canada work.

I received many letters, and I continue to receive letters on the Constitution expressing the need for us to get on with the business of resolving our constitutional difficulties and to build a better Canada. I would like to quote from a couple of these.

In addition, I also received a tape which is from a Mr. Carl Cann in Baddeck who expressed in a very moving

oral testimony what he thought was wrong with the current process. I would like to table this tape for the use of the committee.

I wish I had more time, but I will conclude by reading excerpts from a letter received from Robert MacRury who expresses a sentiment that is shared by many in my constituency.

He writes: "I want to remain a Canadian. My ancestors have been in this country since at least 1758 and we have fought for this country in every war and defensive action that she has ever been in.

My dad lost his best friend and first cousin in Belle-sur-mer, France and was one of the first Canadians killed on the beaches of Normandy. My uncle was shot up in Holland and he also got some shell fragments in his back and he survived these two wounds.

Many of my grand uncles were in the first war and my great-granddad was in the militia when they were preparing to fight the Finians. When he finally got paid for this 40 years later, he was one of the three of his unit that was still alive and able to collect his pay.

Some of my ancestors were United Empire Loyalists and they were forced to flee the U.S.A.

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I am sure that the people of Quebec and other parts of Canada have as deep and as long an attachment to this country as I have and that our differences are small and the things that make us the same are great just like Canada."

This reflects a sentiment that is shared by the vast majority of Canadians.

[*Translation*]

**Mr. Jean-Pierre Hogue (Outremont):** In fact, Madam Speaker, I would like to reiterate what my colleague has just said. It is a fact that you are known in this House for your kindness. Like he said, you are so kind. Congratulations.

I think the people of my riding of Outremont reflect just about all ideological positions in Canada. This riding is made up for the main part of French-speaking Canadians. However, in the western part of the riding, which is known as the Côte-des-Neiges district, live many Canadians of various ethnic backgrounds. Those can also be found in the eastern part of the riding as part of a