

Commonwealth Summit is held in Vancouver, one month or so after the Francophone Summit.

I have already alluded to Mr. Mulroney's courage and vision, which allowed the birth of the new international forum that the Francophone Summit would become. But we must also pay tribute to the determination, the perseverance and the wisdom demonstrated by several generations of Canadian Francophones.

Very early in their history, the Francophones of Canada understood the need for solidarity if they were to preserve their cultural and linguistic heritage. The Franco-Ontarians, for example, are aware of the potential influence of cultural, economic, educational, corporate, humanitarian and regional associations. The Richelieu clubs are a shining example of the desire to join together which unites those Francophones living in provinces where French is not the language of the majority.

While the Francophones of Quebec were asserting the originality of their culture with ever-growing assurance, Francophones in the other parts of Canada were resolving to make their voices heard with greater firmness, for example in 1975 when their