

FOREWORD

Canadian citizenship is in many ways a treasure to discover. The present study has unearthed but a few of the elements for a modern conception of Canadian citizenship in the world of the 21st Century.

In late 1991, the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, meeting under the Chairmanship of our esteemed friend and colleague, Senator Paul David, took note of the fact that, while the Senate had examined multiculturalism, it had never asked itself exactly "what it means to be a Canadian citizen". Thereafter, on 11 December 1991, the Senate authorized the Standing Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to examine and report on the concept, development and promotion of Canadian citizenship.

We viewed this inquiry as an opportunity to ask some fundamental questions and to think of ways in which Canada's **Citizenship Act** could be amended to strengthen Canadian citizenship, and enhance its value for our country, ourselves and our children.

In conducting its inquiry, your Committee held 11 meetings and heard from 42 witnesses during the period from March 1992 to February 1993. As well, original research was conducted on the subject matter and the results analyzed by the Committee. Added to this were numerous written briefs, papers and documents.

A special note of appreciation is extended to Ms. Sandra Harder and Mrs. Helen McKenzie of the Research Branch of the Library of Parliament, for organizing and getting our study off the ground, and to Dr. Wolfgang Koerner for his assistance in the drafting of the final report. We would also like to thank our Clerk, Mr. Tônu Onu, for his organizational help.

We began our study by examining the concept of citizenship and tabled an Interim Report on 23 June 1992. Early in our deliberations it became clear that citizenship is an area of major importance and that it is not receiving adequate attention. In the final instance, we must ensure that "Canadian citizenship" speaks to all Canadians - native born and naturalized alike.

The Honourable Noël A. Kinsella

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