

[Translation]

As for the content of the constitutional statement, it is interesting to note that 96 per cent of the respondents to our survey want a clause preserving our two official languages. Eighty-six per cent find that the diversity of our cultural heritage is important and 80 per cent want the role of aboriginal peoples to be recognized.

It is also essential to recognize the distinct character of the Quebec society for 67 per cent of them and that in a multi-ethnic constituency. Those sole percentages already show that the men and women of Saint-Laurent—Cartierville wish Canada to be a country that recognizes its history and lives for its future without rejecting its past.

[English]

While the people in my riding consider the constitution issue as a priority, they are telling me that the economy is even more paramount. Ninety-seven per cent of the respondents to my questionnaire said they believe that the free circulation of people, goods and capital is an important objective if we are to improve Canada's sagging economy.

Many Canadians believe that people with skills and products must be able to circulate without barriers in our own country if we seriously want Canada to be competitive in the global market.

The elimination of provincial buying policies for 62 per cent, the elimination of interprovincial restrictions on trade for 76 per cent, and the elimination of interprovincial restrictions on professions for 72 per cent of respondents are essential, in their opinion, to make Canada more effective.

It is only by free circulation of goods and services that we will be able to answer the working needs of so many and thus boost the economy to a healthier tomorrow for all.

[Translation]

In spite of all these data and all these consultations, it really seems like the country is rapidly disintegrating. Bankruptcies are common. So too are lay-offs and the Constitution is the topic, again and again. People are

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tired, if not fed up with the word Constitution. They are disgusted with words like unity, separation, amendments, proposals, and consultations. These are only words and they will not necessarily lead somewhere. They are fed up with paying, because their tax money pays for all these consultations which seem to carry on endlessly throughout the country. While the government is spending, sometimes through mismanagement, the country is economically disintegrating. More and more permanent jobs are being lost—in fact, they are becoming a rarity—and, for the most part, they are being lost for good.

The government keeps talking about labour force training programs. But what is the use of this nice training if there are no jobs to go to? If it is important to have a united Canada, it is essential to have an economically sound Canada.

The Liberal Party does not wait to be in office to offer concrete solutions to the economic problems of Canadians. As soon as January 1992, it proposed a one-year emergency economic plan which includes the following: a 5 per cent downpayment on a first home purchase.

On that point, I would like you to note that the Conservative government had the good idea—it happens sometimes—to put that proposal into effect as soon as the House opened, that is at the beginning of February.

Our second proposal deals with the possibility of using a RRSP to buy a first home. The third one is cost-shared programs to modernize the infrastructure. The fourth one is the enhancement of labour force training. The fifth one is an emergency federal aid to food banks.

• (1850)

[English]

People are ready to give Canada a chance. They are ready to support leaders that will make this country an economically healthy place again. They are ready to work and it is up to the Prime Minister to start answering their basic demands if we are to survive.

[Translation]

All Canadians must once again be proud of their country. If the existing government cannot meet this challenge, there is no doubt that the Liberal Party can. And it will be proud to prove it after the next election.