

Your university is a privileged instrument in this wide-ranging and demanding undertaking. Today it operates through its faculties of administration, arts, science and engineering, education, social science and law, its schools of domestic science and nursing, its university centres covering the three francophone regions of New Brunswick, its Master's and Bachelor's programs in fifteen or so disciplines, through the arm of adult education, courses on Acadian history, literature, Acadian sociology, society and language, through the Acadian Studies Centre, which was established in the interest of recovering the cultural heritage, and which includes a museum with almost 10,000 artifacts of Acadian culture, and through the publication of the university review, which has gone out beyond the borders of Canada.

It is our deep conviction that through its faculties, its schools and its programs, the University of Moncton is making an important contribution to the development of Acadia, the Maritime Provinces and the whole country. Need I mention the successful first world conference on the legal sciences which was held at your university?

This brief listing should convince those who need convincing how justified the Acadians were in founding this university. It has indeed become the main instrument for the socio-economic progress of your society, by training the specialists and technicians needed for its development. The strength of this society depends essentially on the dynamism of its university.

Not only is the university the gateway to higher learning, but by its very existence it gives you the autonomy and the confidence needed to face the challenges presented by the business world, the public sector and the academic community. It is no mere coincidence that over the past twenty years, we have seen many of your compatriots rise to prominence both nationally and internationally.

We therefore have all the more reason to admire those who are responsible for this success, beginning with the various employees right up to the Rector and his assistants. Your generosity during the subscription campaign is ample proof of your cooperative spirit. I am confident that with the cooperation of all, and with the active assistance of government, you will successfully meet the challenges of the eighties.