

Those are the feelings I get when I think about the unique privilege of being a Canadian. They represent a state of mind not easily attainable in most other parts of the world, where landscapes are becoming ever more limited, population densities ever more burdensome, society ever more volatile, democracy ever more fragile and dreams ever more distant. Therefore, it is critical in my view that in any vision for New Brunswick or for Canada, we always be mindful of the special reality of individual freedom which exists for every one of us here. That is a value above all others and should be the foundation for any vision of nationhood.

There are other exemplary values which New Brunswick models for Canada. Among the most obvious of these, of course, is the manner in which we have advanced the accommodation of our two official linguistic societies, English and French. In so doing, we have become Canada's only officially bilingual province, not just in a formal sense, but very much also in a practical context. While there do remain a few who have resentment and intolerance about language issues in New Brunswick, I believe that the overwhelming momentum is toward a future that will be enriched by the abilities of an ever growing number of our citizens to speak and to work in both official languages. Yet, it will also be a future where a full life can be found in only one, and either one, of those languages.

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I am frequently inspired and encouraged in these respects by the signs of the future to be found and seen in the youth of New Brunswick. The ability to speak both languages is ever-increasing, but what is even more important about our young people is that standards of goodwill and acceptance are growing and levels of intolerance are waning. Those are also fundamental characteristics on which to build any New Brunswick vision and ones on which to build a national vision as well.

Another value that is not unique to New Brunswick but always prevalent there is the entrepreneurial spirit. From our beginnings in the shipyards, the forests, the oceans and the farms, New Brunswickers have demonstrated the imaginative capabilities to create enterprises and the willingness to take risks in running them, which

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have led to a disproportionately high record of entrepreneurial success in this country.

It is not necessary to mention the family names of our citizens who have founded fortunes both within our province and elsewhere in Canada, but they do exemplify the spirit of enterprise which permeates our population.

Perhaps it is because we exist as a geographic link between Atlantic Canada, central Canada and the United States or for whatever other reasons, but New Brunswick has always clearly taken aggressive and positive directions toward economic growth that convinced me of our ultimate economic viability in a united Canada. We have had our successes and our failures, but we have never lost our sense of enterprise. For example, the province's solid support for the free trade agreement was an expression of that spirit.

It is also a fundamental value of any vision of ourselves and of Canada that prosperity and economic growth are part and parcel of Canadian unity.

I could go on about New Brunswick values, but my time is brief so I will close with a reference about the land both here in our province and throughout Canada. If ever there was a promised land, with clean water and clean air and great beauty and broad horizons and green forests and running rivers and rolling oceans, Canada is it and certainly New Brunswick is part of it. Nature has blessed our nation almost beyond imagination and, for me, a large part of the meaning of life has been found in the enjoyment of our natural environment and its resources. Those are values which are increasingly endangered around the world and ones which we must commit to preserve in every aspect of our vision. It is a vision, an area of our vision, with which New Brunswick has commenced to deal and one where we all must lead.

However, given the historic nature of our task, I do feel the need at least to declare in this debate my deep pride and affection for my province and my country and to try to convey some of the particular values which support those emotions within me.

In the final analysis, it seems to me that it is the spirit of Canada that needs renewal. If the will to be a nation can be restored, all else will follow. It seems to me also that this exemplary spirit is to be found in New Brunswick, and in Canada today; perhaps more faintly now than in the past, but it is here. If we can start by