

Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of a First Ministers' Constitutional Conference that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.

This would obviously include any discussion of changes to territorial boundaries.

- 20. We also recommend that the Prime Minister of Canada should invite elected representatives of the governments of the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories to participate in the discussions on any item on the agenda of a First Ministers' Annual Economic Conference that, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, directly affects the Yukon Territory and the Northwest Territories.**

Manitoba further suggested that the Meech Lake provisions dealing with immigration be reviewed every five years.

- 21. While your Committee agrees that a review mechanism of the immigration provisions is desirable, we believe that this is an administrative matter that may better be dealt with as required by circumstance.**

Manitoba, recognizing very early that this generation of Canadians would want to participate in constitutional reform, was the first province to require public hearings prior to ratifying amendments negotiated by its Premier with the other First Ministers. This interest is held in common with other Canadians including Premier Wells of Newfoundland and Labrador who expressed concern about the need for more public participation in the constitutional amendment process. Since the proclamation of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, many Canadians see the Constitution as belonging to themselves to a greater extent than ever before.

We have therefore endorsed the recommendation that public hearings become an integral part of future constitutional change. (See recommendation no. 13)

The Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador in testifying before your Committee also expressed his government's concerns relating to the issue of the federal spending power. Your Committee is particularly sensitive to the deeply rooted feeling of Canadians in the less developed areas that federal attention to their concerns might be reduced.

- 22. Your Committee urges the First Ministers to provide in a Companion Resolution reassurance that the federal spending power to promote equal opportunities for the well being of Canadians and to further economic development to reduce disparity and to provide essential public services of reasonable quality to Canadians (as set out in Section 36 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*), will not be impaired by the Meech Lake Accord.**