

UNRESTRICTED MOBILITY IN SEARCH OF ADVANCEMENT IS ONE OF THE LONG RECOGNIZED ADVANTAGES OF CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP; WE ARE, IN FACT, AMONG THE MOST MOBILE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. BUT, THIS PRINCIPLE OF UNLIMITED ACCESS RUNS SQUARELY UP AGAINST MANY OF OUR REGIONAL CHARACTERISTICS AND THE DESIRE AND NECESSITY TO KEEP TWO LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES, TWO DISTINCTIVE CULTURES ALIVE AND FLOURISHING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE WISH TO "KEEP QUEBEC FOR QUEBECERS" AND, INFERENTIALLY, THE REST OF CANADA FOR ENGLISH-SPEAKING CANADIANS, HAS AN ATTRACTION FOR SOME IN BOTH CAMPS BECAUSE OF ITS APPARENT SIMPLICITY. IT IS, HOWEVER, DANGEROUSLY SUPERFICIAL BECAUSE IT IGNORES THE SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH AND ENGLISH-SPEAKING MINORITIES WHOSE PROBLEMS WOULD BE SERIOUSLY AGGRAVATED BY SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. IT TENDS ALSO TO PROVIDE A TERRITORIAL BASIS FOR THE "TWO NATIONS" CONCEPT, INCOMPATIBLE WITH TRUE FEDERALISM.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT HAS BEEN LESS THAN UNIVERSALLY WELCOMED BY BOTH ANGLOPHONES AND FRANCOPHONES.

THE PROVISION OF FEDERAL SERVICES IN THE LANGUAGE OF CHOICE IS POSSIBLE BY PERSONS FROM EITHER GROUP WHO POSSESS THE NECESSARY COMPETENCE. AND, IT IS SURELY REASONABLE TO REQUIRE A SPECIFIC LANGUAGE CAPABILITY FOR CERTAIN JOBS IN