

organised a two part discussion on the international aspects of federal systems. The results included a widely published paper by Will Kymlicka and Jean-Robert Raviot (Kymlicka and Raviot 1997), impetus for the creation of the Forum of Federations and the 1999 Mont Tremblant International Federalism Conference.

The Larnaka Roundtable offers an opportunity to bring the two tracks together. The Roundtable has three key goals:

1. To share knowledge and insights.
2. To see whether the Canadian experience, including federalism, could be valuable.
3. To explore elements of living together at a moment when many countries are attempting to accommodate diversity.

Steve Lee drew attention to three themes that define the Canadian experience:

1. History and historiography. He reminded participants that Canadian history is marked by conquest, occupation, fear of another country, deep connection to the mother country and fear of minorities. Two dominant narratives, in conflict with each other, have developed in Canada: "Brittanic" and "Catastrophic." While the former perceives Canada as an extension of British civilisation, the later interprets history as a struggle for survival against English culture, beginning with the fall of New France to the British. These contradictory narratives have persisted in Canada until today.

2. Federalism. Federalism in Canada is seen as a tool, not a solution, for living together. It serves two main purposes: accommodation of national groups and managing decentralisation of governance. Elements of Canadian federalism include: concession, self-governance, moderation (through isolation of extremes), participation (of minorities) and multiple identities. A sense has developed in Canada that majorities have an obligation to listen, understand and concede to the minorities (to recognise minority claims as reasonable). Today, we can see this in a broad willingness to address the grievances and concerns of Aboriginal Peoples (who account for about 1% of the population).

3. Symbols and identity. Manifested by shifts in loyalty or in approaches to the minority-majority relationship, Canada has consciously and continually altered its identity over time. This was achieved through various instruments including: political discourse, changes in institutions and symbols (i.e., flags, street names, etc.) and other responses to identity adaptation.

The Chair then outlined the basic rules of discussion and reporting.

Costas Melakopides (Host, University of Cyprus) suggested that the solution to the Cyprus problem lies within the framework outlined by the international community, which according to him, "speaks with all but one voice." He drew attention to three points on which there is international agreement: