

THE FRENCH CANADIANS



Old Montreal.

Photo: Jim Merrithew.

Canadians, French and English, have things in common with Australians: a vast country, rich and fertile in some areas, empty and impossible in others; a common federal system, a common inheritance of English political institutions and a Queen who is still Queen of Canada as well as Queen of Australia. What Australians don't have is a large, tightly-knit linguistic minority that speaks and lives in another language, French. In this issue of *Canada Today/D'aujourd'hui* we take a closer look at this distinct group of people who are no more French than Australians of English ancestry are English; they are French Canadians.

We look at the reasons why it has been and still is important for French Canadians to retain their language and culture, discuss the assertion that Quebec French is "not real French" and we look at French Canadian institutions and society.

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This issue of *Canada Today/D'aujourd'hui* was written by Professor Peter Waite, of Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, 1983 Visiting Fellow at Macquarie University, N.S.W.

Front Cover: Photo shows the famous Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City.