



Jean Marchand (left) and Gérard Pelletier were among the young Quebec leaders of the fifties.

City, Trudeau to the Jesuit Collège Bréboeuf in Outremont, the schools of the French-Canadian elite.

In 1933, Pierre Trudeau, 14 years old, toured Europe and saw marching Nazis in Berlin. He returned to Montreal, finished Bréboeuf, entered the University of Montreal law school and became a notable man around town. "He was always dressed contrary to what people are—if it was time to wear jeans, Pierre was wearing almost black tie. If it was supposed to be black tie, Pierre was wearing jeans."

Lévesque enrolled in the law school at Laval. The law enchanted Trudeau; it bored Lévesque. "He was the champion of absence to lectures."

The universities were small—Laval had only 800 students—and the students were Quebec's future leaders. Trudeau, Lévesque and their classmates, Gérard Pelletier and Jean Marchand, were youths to be reckoned with, but not just yet.

Trudeau went on to Harvard, to the London School of Economics and the Sorbonne, to Asia and to Jerusalem, wearing sandals and carrying a pack. In 1949, back in Quebec, he joined the strikers on a picket line in the town of Asbestos.

"Our problems also have sociological and economic causes which will require a certain amount of time to correct. In this connection, considerable progress has been made in recent years, but this has not yet been perceived by the people. For example, there is the matter of Francophone representation in the federal public service. At the end of the 1940s the proportion of Francophones was around 13 per cent. It had risen to 18 per cent by the end of the sixties, and last year it was 26.6. This corresponds exactly to the proportion of Francophones in Canada's population."

MARC LALONDE, Minister of State for Federal-Provincial Relations, 2 December 1977

The strikers "called him St. Joseph because of his beard."

René Lévesque covered World War II as a correspondent for the US Office of War Information, then married and became an international news specialist for the CBC. Quebec was having its Quiet Revolution. Marchand, a union leader, and Trudeau and Pelletier—publishers of *Cité Libre*, an intellectual newspaper—were among the conspicuous critics of the old and autocratic regime of Premier Maurice Duplessis.

Lévesque became the TV star of *Point de Mire*, lecturing on international events with a pointer, a blackboard and a husky, rasping voice. Trudeau was also on CBC, less conspicuously. They met in the CBC cafeteria. Trudeau: "You talk very well, I watch you on the television but can you write?" Lévesque: "If you're a god-damned intellectual, I don't want to talk to you." The tone of their relationship had been set.



Jean Lesage

The French-language producers in the Montreal studios of CBC went on strike, and Lévesque looked closer to home. When Duplessis died, Lévesque became a Liberal candidate for the Quebec assembly. His party, under Jean Lesage, won easily. He was soon a minister, planning government ownership of the province's power companies.

Pierre Trudeau missed the triumph; he was in China. He came home to new opportunities and became a law professor at the University of Montreal.

Lévesque, Trudeau, Pelletier, Marchand and André Laurendeau, the editor of *Le Devoir*, met weekly at Pelletier's house. "Trudeau was opposed to the nationalization of Shawinigan Water and