

All of which says something, of course, about the role which the CBC will be expected to play during the debate - its importance, its difficulty, its sensitivity, its responsibility. The CBC, more than any other organization, in my judgment, will be looked to by Canadians to present with fairness and with integrity the information they will require and the arguments they will have to hear in order to settle this question of Canadian nationhood. They will expect us to be fair and dispassionate and honest in what we reflect on our airwaves - even though what is reflected will often be charged with emotion. They will expect us to be thoughtful and considered in how we reflect what we do - even though what is reflected will sometimes be tendentious or even acrimonious.

I am convinced, in short, that Canadians will want a CBC which they can trust - a CBC with utter integrity and credibility.

The Role of the CBC During the Referendum Debate

This is the kind of CBC, I am sure, which the Parliament of Canada intended when it wrote the Broadcasting Act.