

EXISTS, BUT THERE ARE UNDERSTANDABLE REASONS FOR MANY ANGLOPHONE ATTITUDES AND MISCONCEPTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ANGLOPHONE ASSUMPTION IS WIDESPREAD THAT MOST FRENCH-CANADIANS ARE ALREADY BILINGUAL AND "COULD SPEAK ENGLISH IF THEY WANTED TO". ANYTHING DESIGNED TO EXPAND FRENCH LANGUAGE USAGE IS NOT SEEN AS A NECESSITY, BUT AS AN ENCROACHMENT OR, AT BEST, AN UNNECESSARY COMPLICATION. YET, MOST FRANCOPHONES, PARTICULARLY IN QUEBEC, SPEAK ONLY FRENCH AND WOULD HAVE AS MUCH DIFFICULTY ACQUIRING THE SECOND LANGUAGE AS DO MOST ANGLOPHONES. THIS, OF COURSE, IS A BASIC CONCERN OF BOTH LANGUAGE GROUPS. EACH FEARS THE GROWTH OF BILINGUALISM BECAUSE OF A GENERALLY REALISTIC AWARENESS THAT SECOND LANGUAGE COMPETENCE IS UNATTAINABLE FOR MOST OF THEM AND WILL PROVE DIFFICULT EVEN FOR THEIR CHILDREN. THESE PRACTICAL PROBLEMS MAY BE SOLVABLE OVER TIME, THROUGH CHANGES IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS. EVEN THEN, HOWEVER, NEITHER ANGLOPHONES NOR FRANCOPHONES ARE LIKELY TO WANT BASIC CHANGES IN THE NATURE OF THEIR DISTINCTIVE SOCIETIES, CULTURES AND LIFESTYLES. THIS INESCAPABLE FACT BRINGS US TO THE HEART OF THE DILEMMA.

THE TWO CANADIAN LINGUISTIC COMMUNITIES

REASONABLE PEOPLE CAN SUBSCRIBE TO THE PROPOSITION THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO BARRIERS TO OPPORTUNITY IN A UNITED CANADA.