

regions of the country and make it possible for all to share its benefits more equally.

- The renewal of the Federation must extend and strengthen solidarity among citizens of all regions and communities of the country.

- The renewal of the Federation must establish clearly the authority and role of the federal and provincial orders of government, recognizing their interdependence and sharing of internal sovereignty, with each order of government equally subject to the Constitution.

- The renewal of the Federation must produce a Canada that has the strong support of all Canadians and to which their loyalties can and will be firmly attached. A Canada strong in such support and loyalty will be best able to serve the interests of Canadians.

Renewal of federalism

Federalism is the only form of government consistent with the realities of Canada: it is neither too centralized nor too loose a union. The character of Canadian federalism has varied with time, so that today the federal and provincial governments are more interdependent than at any point in our history.

The Federal Government proposes the following objectives so that this interdependence may operate effectively while permitting each order of government to serve its citizens as well as possible:

- to bring about a less contentious federal-provincial relationship;
- to make the process of consultation more expeditious and less demanding of time and other resources;
- to ensure the greatest degree of freedom of action for each government to fulfil its constitutional responsibilities, including access to necessary financial resources through its own taxation or equalization payments;
- to permit greater accountability of each government to its legislature, and to its electorate;
- to enable the intergovernmental process to be better understood by taxpayers, by citizens and by those engaged in it;
- to eliminate wasteful duplication of legislation, regulation, policies, programs or services, and generally to make the effective provision of services by governments less costly.

The Federal Government commits itself to work with the provincial governments to achieve these objectives. In particular, it undertakes the following:

- To take deliberate steps to ensure that, for its part, the Federal Government takes fully into account the constitutional responsibilities and priorities of provincial governments, by consulting the provinces when preparing a legislative proposal, formulating a policy, or designing a program that is in an area of shared jurisdiction or that could have a significant effect – financial or other – on an area of provincial responsibility or an activity within that area.

- To request that the provinces, in the same spirit, consult the Federal Government when preparing legislative proposals, formulating policies, or designing programs that are in areas of shared jurisdiction or could have a significant effect – financial or other – on an area of federal responsibility or an activity within that area.

- To develop with the provinces ways to make the federal-provincial consultative process more expeditious and more effective.

- To clarify with the provinces existing responsibilities, on a sector-by-sector basis and to the extent possible, so that governments, legislators, public servants and, most important of all, the public will have a much clearer knowledge of where responsibilities lie.

- To study jointly with the provinces, as a matter of high priority, ways in which wasteful duplication of activities between the two orders of government can be eliminated or avoided, including the possibility, in appropriate cases, of providing programs or services through jointly-sponsored agencies.

New Constitution

The Government has resolved to provide Canada with a new Constitution by the end of 1981.

To do this it will use all of the powers at its disposal and, in doing so, will consult the governments of the provinces.

It urges the provinces to co-operate with it in order to renew the constitutional provisions which cannot be amended without their co-operation.

The Government sets only two conditions for the renewal of the Constitution.

The first is that Canada continue to be a genuine Federation, that is, a state in which the Constitution establishes a federal Parliament with real powers which apply to all parts of the country, and provincial legislatures with equally real powers within their respective territories.

The second is that a Charter of Basic

Rights and Freedoms be included in the new Constitution and that it apply equally to both orders of government.

Deficiencies of present Constitution

We need only regard the remarkable progress of Canada in 110 years to realize that our Constitution has generally served us well. Nonetheless, our present Constitution has a number of deficiencies:

- It is based largely on acts of the British Parliament and has not yet been properly rooted in Canada.

- Its provisions are scattered through a large number of statutes, many of which are unknown to the general public.

- It has no preamble or statement of principles; its language is obscure, its style plodding and uninspiring.

- It has little educative value and Canadians find in it little which inspires patriotism.

- It makes no mention of basic rights or freedoms, and it is inadequate to protect language rights.

- Its division of legislative powers between the federal and provincial governments is neither as precise nor as functional as might be wished.

- The character of the Senate provides only limited capacity for the expression of regional and provincial concerns.

- The status of the Supreme Court is not set forth in the Constitution but is defined by a simple act of Parliament. This and the exclusive responsibility of the federal executive for appointing judges to the Supreme Court have sometimes detracted from the Court's standing as the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution.

- The amendment procedure is not adequately defined and for certain matters still requires the intervention of the British Parliament.

Major premises of renewal

...The Government believes the renewed Constitution should include the following elements:

- A Statement of Aims, designed to reflect what Canada means to us all. The Government will put forward a Statement to help in the search for the ideal words that will express what is in our hearts.

- The Government will propose a Charter which would embrace political and legal rights and freedoms, many of which have already been recognized in various federal and provincial statutes, as

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