

The Constitution

However, the Lake Meech Agreement is more than that. The First Ministers recognized the importance of our two main language communities for our national identity. It is perhaps because they sensed the delicate balance that they committed themselves to protect that reality.

In the future, the Constitution shall necessarily be interpreted with due regard for the existence of our two linguistic communities and for the fact that Quebec constitutes a distinct society. This is what is fundamental and this is what is important to us.

This agreement, Mr. Speaker, is therefore a victory for all members of official language minorities in Canada. It grants recognition to the two main communities and to their existence in every region of the country, and this is in tune with the

reality of Canada and the aspirations of Canadians. I am proud to see, Mr. Speaker, that our Prime Minister and our Premiers have chosen first and foremost to be statesmen rather than power hungry petty politicians: this is fundamental. So I say today that I am proud of you, Brian Mulroney, as a Quebecer, which you are, but also as a Canadian, which you are as well for all of us: I am very proud of you.

[*English*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Kempling): I am sorry to interrupt the Hon. Member. It being six o'clock, pursuant to order made earlier this day, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow at eleven o'clock pursuant to Standing Order 3(1).

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.
