

# STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES



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## CANADA'S DUAL HERITAGE

Address by His Excellency Governor-General Georges P. Vanier during the Inauguration of the Programme of French-Canadian Studies at McGill University, Montreal, on November 26, 1963.

(Translation)

Mr. Chancellor and Mr. Principal,

My first duty, and a most pleasant one, is to congratulate you on the happy initiative that you have taken in establishing a programme of studies on French Canada. This is a warm gesture towards your French-speaking fellow-citizens, which I am sure they will not fail to appreciate. In addition to that gesture, you have very kindly invited me to address you in French. Need I say that I accept your invitation with pleasure.

The programme which has just been described is comprehensive and will assist the spread of the French spirit within the University. I also note that you have formed an Advisory Committee in which you have assembled university people not only from the Province of Quebec but also from other provinces. In this way you will have the invaluable co-operation of other universities, both French and English speaking.

The task that you are undertaking can contribute very considerably to unity in Canada, and thus to the greatness and prestige of our country.

You have understood that your University may play a part in acting as an interpreter of Quebec and the rest of Canada one to the other. This is the hope expressed here recently by one of your Governors, Mr. Arnold Heeney, at a dinner of the Faculty of Law:

"Upon one aspect, participation in public affairs, the direct service of the state, I can speak with more personal knowledge. Here it seems to me that the English minority in Quebec -- McGill men and women especially - have a special responsibility and a unique opportunity. This is true in both politics and the permanent public service. For who should be as well qualified to explain in Ottawa and elsewhere in Canada the core and meaning of French-Canadian aspirations? Or who, in Quebec, should be as well fitted to interpret the views of the rest of Canada...?"