



Pierre Trudeau and René Lévesque at the 1977 Grey Cup football game.

French Canadians are preoccupied with a need for cultural and economic equality; other Canadians are preoccupied with Quebec. The CBC documentary film "The Champions" focuses on René Lévesque, who would take Quebec out of the Confederation, and Pierre Trudeau, who intends to keep it in. They appear first as rivals in the same camp, then as champions of opposing ones. We have paraphrased the script below. If you get the opportunity, you should certainly see the movie.

Some citizens in Quebec believe the province should be a separate nation-state. They are led by Premier René Lévesque. Other citizens, in Quebec and throughout the nation, believe Quebec can achieve more within the federation. The most forceful proponent of this view is Pierre Trudeau, Canada's prime minister.

Lévesque, the son of a successful lawyer, grew up in New Carlisle, a remote town on the Gaspé coast. He learned to read in both French and English before he was five. Pierre Elliott Trudeau's father was a self-made Montreal millionaire, and he too was bilingual from childhood.

Lévesque went to the Jesuit college in Quebec

*The 1949 asbestos strike was a milestone of the Quiet Revolution.*

