

LIVING TOGETHER

DESPITE THEIR IMPORTANCE, THESE ARE PERIPHERAL ISSUES. THE POTENTIAL FOR MISUNDERSTANDING, RESENTMENT AND CONFLICT IS MOST ACUTE WHERE THE TWO LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL GROUPS COME IN FREQUENT AND CLOSE CONTACT; WHERE THE ENGLISH OR FRENCH-SPEAKING MINORITY IS OF VERY CONSIDERABLE PROPORTIONS.

IN SUCH AREAS AND REGIONS, IT IS VERY MUCH A MATTER OF THE TWO LINGUISTIC GROUPS LIVING TOGETHER, AND THE UTMOST IN REASONABLENESS AND UNDERSTANDING IS CALLED FOR IN THE SEARCH FOR A FAIR AND PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION. SUCH UNDERSTANDING CANNOT IGNORE THE HISTORIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOMINATION OF MOST KEY ELEMENTS OF CANADIAN SOCIETY EVEN IN QUEBEC. THE INTANGIBLE EFFECTS OF THIS TRADITIONAL SITUATION ARE LEGION AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF TODAY'S INSTINCTIVE AND NEGATIVE REACTIONS ON BOTH SIDES.

THE FRUSTRATIONS, AND HENCE RESENTMENTS, CAUSED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS, MUST BE RECOGNIZED AND UNDERSTOOD. SUCH REACTIONS ARE PARTICULARLY ACUTE IN BILINGUAL AREAS WHERE JOB SECURITY AND ADVANCEMENT ARE SEEN AS BEING THREATENED; BUT EVERYWHERE IN CANADA THERE IS AN UNDERLYING CONCERN THAT FUTURE ECONOMIC AND OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE DENIED THOSE WHO ARE NOT BILINGUAL.