

SHARPER FOCUS. CANADIANS HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO CONFRONT A VERY FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE AND MANY HAVE BEEN UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE ASSIGNMENT. LATENT PREJUDICES AND CONCERNS WERE AROUSED AND FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES REVEALED BETWEEN ANGLOPHONES AND FRANCOPHONES IN THEIR PERCEPTION OF THE ACT'S OBJECTIVES AND MORE BROADLY, OF JUST WHAT IS NEEDED TO GIVE FRANCOPHONES A GENUINE AND PERMANENT SENSE OF BELONGING.

NO REASONABLE PERSON CAN QUARREL WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT CONFIRMING AS IT DOES THE RIGHT OF ALL CANADIANS TO SERVICES, FALLING WITHIN FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY, IN THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THEIR CHOICE AND OFFERING AS WELL THE ASSURANCE OF FAIR ACCESS TO FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT. DISAGREEMENTS AND APPREHENSIONS ARISE BECAUSE MANY ANGLOPHONES REMAIN CONVINCED THAT MORE IS INVOLVED. THEY BELIEVE THE ULTIMATE RESULT OF THE POLICY WILL BE A MORE BILINGUAL CANADA IN A MUCH BROADER SENSE WITH A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN THE NEED FOR CANADIANS OF ALL BACKGROUNDS TO KNOW AND USE BOTH OFFICIAL LANGUAGES.

IT IS TOO EASY TO INTERPRET THIS VIEW AS A REFLECTION OF ANGLOPHONE BIGOTRY AND A STUBBORN DETERMINATION TO RESIST "HAVING FRENCH RAMMED DOWN THEIR THROATS". SOME OF THIS