

Because of the general terms of reference of our Standing Committee, the last two recommendations were particularly relevant. In the first case, we recommended that national cultural policy be implemented through a *Canada Cultural Accord* as a means of *institutionalizing* federal-provincial relations in this field, rather than *constitutionalizing* them. In the second case, we recommended the continuation of a *single, federal authority* over broadcasting and telecommunications, *with provincial and regional consultation* in the national application of a comprehensive communications policy.

Thus, the main recommendations contained in this report (apart from Appendix B) are addressed to the *future* for culture and communications in Canada, in what we have termed "*fulfilling the promise of the constitution*". They are based on the broad overview of knowledge and information about these sectors which we have gleaned from our hearings. We believe they offer important considerations to the Government of Canada for future policy directions in these essential areas of culture and communications, as our country moves forward to meet the challenge of constitutional renewal.

CHAPTER ONE: IDENTITY, DIVERSITY, UNITY

Throughout this report, we have endeavoured to emphasize the high priority which culture holds in Canadian society. Indeed, culture is at the very soul of our society, in the sense that it reflects our beliefs and convictions, our way of life and our perception of the world around us. In our cultural activities, we express the diverse values we hold both as individuals and as collective groups.

We have also emphasized the critical worth of our communications systems to Canadian society. In a land so vast as Canada, it is absolutely essential that we develop and apply the most modern communications technology available, in order to share the cultural diversity of our country as fully as possible with every citizen. Culture and communications are pursuits which together express and reflect the Canadian reality.

Early in the report, we identify three special considerations which characterize Canadian society, and which significantly affect our search for constitutional renewal: (i) the natural desire to establish and maintain *identity*, both as individuals and as collective groups of people; (ii) the realities of Canada's profound *diversity*, in cultural, linguistic and geographic terms; and (iii) the goal of political *unity*, in a confederation of ten provinces and two territories, over a vast territory, as a single nation.

At the foundation of our thesis is the belief that the cultural identity of any Canadian need not be threatened by the diversity of Canadian society; nor should that individual's identity be endangered or sacrificed in the renewal of Canada as a unified country. The same holds true for our collective identities, whether as families, communities, provinces or regions. Rather, Canada's cultural diversity should enhance and enrich our potential for cultural growth and identity, both individually and collectively. The opportunities for broad and dynamic cultural development in Canada are unparalleled in any other country of the world.