

HAVING REJECTED THE FORTRESS MENTALITY OF SEPARATISM, FEDERALISTS MUST SEEK THESE GOALS WITHIN THE BROADER, MORE DIVERSE CANADIAN SOCIETY; A SOCIETY INCREASINGLY RECEPTIVE TO ACCOMMODATION BUT STILL UNCLEAR ABOUT WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

GREATER NATIONAL UNITY CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH ACTIONS IN TWO BROAD CATEGORIES: THOSE FLOWING FROM LAWS AND POLICIES AND THOSE REFLECTING A MORE UNDERSTANDING AND RESPONSIVE PUBLIC ATTITUDE. ALTHOUGH THE TWO ARE OFTEN MUTUALLY REINFORCING, THE PRINCIPAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RAPID, DECISIVE MOVEMENT LIE IN GOVERNMENT ACTION, THROUGH WHICH, IN FACT, MUCH HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ALREADY.

BUT, THE BETTER CLIMATE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE MOVES HAS BEEN MATCHED BY THE SIMULTANEOUS EMERGENCE OF INCREASED TENSIONS AND THE ELECTION OF A SEPARATIST GOVERNMENT IN QUEBEC. THIS PARADOX IS NOT CO-INCIDENTAL; NOR DOES THE EXPLANATION LIE IN ANY FAULTY IMPLEMENTATION OF MEASURES SUCH AS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT. UNDOUBTEDLY, THERE WERE MISTAKES; THERE HAD TO BE WITH SUCH A FAR REACHING POLICY. BUT THE HEIGHTENED REACTION WAS THE INEVITABLE RESULT OF BRINGING LONG SIMMERING, HIGHLY EMOTIONAL GRIEVANCES ON BOTH SIDES INTO