

*The Constitution*

to be continually ghettoized on reserves or condemned to lives on the welfare rolls.

My constituents have also expressed themselves on natural resources and environmental jurisdictions. Not surprisingly 70 per cent believe the jurisdiction over natural resources should be mostly or exclusively provincial. On the other hand, most, some 75 per cent, believe that environment should either be a joint responsibility or it should be in the exclusive hands of the federal government. This is clearly an indication that my constituents in Calgary North, at least, want the federal and provincial governments to come to a clear understanding on the sharing of responsibility for the environment.

When it comes to agriculture, my constituents see that largely as a provincial responsibility. Some 86 per cent want to see agriculture as either an exclusive provincial responsibility or as a joint federal-provincial responsibility.

I also asked my constituents about the justice system. Although many of the comments did not relate to the constitutional issue but to the Young Offenders Act and extradition, I am pleased to report to my constituents that the Solicitor General and the Minister of Justice have already taken action on their concerns by proposing dramatic changes to the Extradition Act and significant improvements to the Young Offenders Act. In the constitutional area, my constituents were largely in favour of the *status quo* of shared responsibilities for the justice system and law enforcement.

On the all important issue of structural reform, that is reform of the Senate, my constituents are firm in their demand that all provinces be treated equally. They are aware that our constituency has 140,000 people and only one member of Parliament, compared to Prince Edward Island with some 100,000 people and four members of Parliament and four senators. While they may feel that members of Parliament should be distributed as nearly as possible on a population basis, they also feel strongly that each province must be equally represented in the Senate or at least have similar authority through other means

such as the changes in the rules for passage of items through the Senate.

• (2010)

On the over-all issue of constitutional relationships some 70 per cent of my constituents really do not want to change things very much. They would like federal-provincial relationships to be left much the same as they are, or they want them to be moderately shifted toward either a more centralized or more decentralized system.

We like Canada the way it is. Only 9.5 per cent of my constituents want a federation of sovereign states and 12.5 per cent want a stronger or unitary state.

There is also a very real desire within the constituency to see the federal government continue to focus on streamlining its operations, to cut the cost of federal services, and by so doing contribute to the competitiveness of this country. This translates to support for economic union within Canada.

Calgary North is a constituency made up largely of families. This community, as do many communities in Canada, sees the family as a fundamental building block of society. It is the foundation of social structure and organization. It is in the family that values and traditions we as a nation hold dear are nurtured.

Given the significance of the family to my constituents, it is important that the family be recognized within the Constitution as an essential part of the make-up of our society. This recognition will ensure that future governments will consider and protect families in all their objectives and endeavours.

The over-all impression I get from the people of Calgary North is that they are Canadian first and foremost. They want all their fellow Canadians to celebrate with them the joy that they find in this great land. They want to live and let live and in this regard they do not mind if others of their fellow Canadians preserve and rejoice in other traditions, languages or cultures. Above all, they want a Canada in which every citizen feels at home and equal.