

through the Library of Parliament from the Department of Communications from which he is now retiring after a distinguished career as a senior official there. We wish to express our respect and appreciation for the long hours of work and the very thoughtful and perceptive advice which they have provided throughout our hearings and in the preparation of this report.

## **SUBMISSION TO SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE ON A RENEWED CANADA**

It was our original intention to address the constitutional proposals advanced by the federal government in September 1991 and to report to Parliament in those respects. However, we soon decided that our first priority should be to submit our views to the Special Joint Committee on a Renewed Canada, which had been given the responsibility to examine the constitutional proposals on a broad basis throughout the country, and which had scheduled its own report to Parliament for February 28, 1992. Our mission in this respect was accomplished on February 6, 1992, when we appeared before the Special Joint Committee to make our presentation.

Since the Special Joint Committee has now completed its work, with its report receiving serious consideration across the country, we attach herewith our submission to them, as Appendix B. This was endorsed by a majority of Committee members. In so doing, we wish to make it clear that we are not challenging or debating the conclusions and recommendations advanced by the Special Joint Committee. On the contrary, we fully appreciate the broader context of their mandate and the special terms of reference to which their deliberations were necessarily addressed, and we are satisfied that our submission was appropriately considered by the Special Joint Committee. It was our purpose to contribute to the substance of their considerations and, we hope, to their consensus, by conveying the special focus of the views and recommendations we had heard from representatives of the culture and communications sectors.

In that submission we affirmed our support for recognition of Quebec's distinct society and the important contribution which the French-language culture brings to all of Canadian society. We went on to set out 17 specific recommendations pertaining to the constitutional proposals which were presented to the House of Commons by the Prime Minister on September 24, 1991, in the document entitled *Shaping Canada's Future Together*.

Within those recommendations, we proposed a series of 15 principles or guidelines which, from a cultural and communications point of view, we believe should be the basis for considering and resolving the constitutional proposals, and for the role of government in these sectors. Next, we suggested a functional definition of culture for the purposes of constitutional consideration, recognizing the debatability of that definition when applied to culture in its full context. Having added these two general recommendations at the outset, we then addressed each of the constitutional proposals containing any connotation for culture and communications. Specifically, we addressed proposal 2 (Quebec's distinct society), proposal 4 (aboriginal self-government), proposal 7 (the Canada Clause), proposals 9 and 11 (Senate reform), proposal 14 (the common market clause), proposal 18 (training), proposal 20 (culture) and proposal 21 (broadcasting).