

1980, but by earlier having created the conditions that made that battle winnable.

"He gave French Canadians a more equal and genuine role in the governance of the nation by appointing them to key Cabinet posts that had previously been closed to them, and by increasing the proportion of francophones in the top echelons of the civil service from insignificant levels in the 1960s to nearly 20 per cent.

"And, through the Official Languages Act, he enabled French-speaking Canadians to deal with their national government and its agencies on the same basis as English-speaking Canadians — that is, in their own language.

"These measures enraged some elements in English Canada, especially in the West, and he at times lacked political deftness in dealing with the backlash. But had he not successfully insisted on doing what was necessary to demonstrate to French-speaking Canadians that all of Canada — not just Quebec — was genuinely their home, we quite literally would not have a country by now.

"Even if the preservation of national



*"The experience of being leader of our great Party has been one of the joys of my life...."*

*Following is the text of the letter which Prime Minister Trudeau sent to Iona Campagnolo, president of the Liberal Party of Canada:*

I wish to inform you of my decision to resign from the leadership of the Liberal Party. The experience of being Leader of our great party has been one of the joys of my life but I now feel this is the appropriate time for someone else to assume this challenge.

I want to thank each and every member of the Liberal Party for the support, loyalty and friendship I have enjoyed. I will always be deeply grateful to the Liberal Party for giving me the opportunity to serve my country.

I would like to ask you, as president of the Liberal Party of Canada, to take all necessary steps to arrange a national convention at an appropriate time and place. Until that convention has chosen by successor I will, of course, continue to serve as leader of the Party.

*Following is the partial text of a letter from Iona Campagnolo, president of the Liberal Party of Canada, addressed to Prime Minister Trudeau:*

Your leadership of the Liberal Party has been one of outstanding accomplishment for Canada and for Liberalism. The historic Official Languages Act and the patriation of our nation's Constitution with its entrenchment of a charter of rights and freedoms assures every Canadian a lasting legacy of liberty and personal freedom to choose his life's destiny. The many triumphs of your years as Prime Minister will soon become the inevitable stuff of history.

As one who has worked, for a time, at your side, both in the caucus and your Cabinet, I know that I speak for every member of our party when I say that we have an immense sense of pride and accomplishment in the momentous years in which you have been our outstanding leader.

If there have been some ignoble circumstances of our tumultuous times, you have transcended them; and as one of your favourite philosophers Lao-Tze has said: "But of the best of leaders, when their task is accomplished and their work is done, the people all remark: 'We have done it ourselves.'"

Canada is more a just and civil nation because you have led us to seek ever more excellence in ourselves.

unity had been Mr. Trudeau's only major accomplishment, posterity would have been in his debt. But he accomplished much more.

### **New Constitution**

"He has given us a new, made-in-Canada Constitution, with a charter of rights that for the first time enshrines firmly in law the rights and liberties we have always taken for granted.

"He served as an impressive and respected spokesman for Canada's interests in the international arena. Most recently, his peace initiative provided a desperately-needed voice of sanity at a time when growing tensions between the US and the Soviet Union were pushing the world toward the brink of disaster. Earlier, he established diplomatic links with China, thawed our relationship with the Soviet Union, forged closer ties with Latin America and the countries of the Pacific Rim, and asserted Canada's sovereignty over the Arctic.

"Though he never fully got a grip on the problem of foreign domination of our economy, he took two important steps forward in this vital area: the Foreign Investment Review Agency and the National Energy Policy which has increased Canadian control over one of our most vital resources.

### **Innovative appointments**

"His innovative appointments to key posts reflected his commitment to equality of opportunity for all Canadians: the first Jewish chief justice of Canada, the first governor general of neither English nor French heritage, the first female governor general, the first female lieutenant-governor of a province, the first native Indian lieutenant-governor, the first native Indian in a federal Cabinet.

"In recent months, much of the public's attention has focussed on Mr. Trudeau's weaknesses, chiefly his generally lacklustre performance as an economic manager, and the growing atmosphere of cynicism that seemed to permeate his government.

"But what we and future generations will recall much longer is a leader of shimmering intellect and fundamental generosity of spirit, who governed intelligently in difficult times; a man of real quality and substance, who always sought to challenge himself and us to excellence; and a consistent advocate of tolerance, understanding, sharing, and respect for the human person. We owe him much."