

The Constitution

However, things like small craft harbours, food inspections and ferry services are jurisdictional issues in the proposals that affect the daily lives of my constituents. These are the nuts and bolts of the Constitution and the thoughts of my constituents should be considered, not as a bottom line but as a recognition that they affect the lives of people.

Cardigan constituents want the federal government to remain strong, a government that is capable of overseeing Canada's needs in the international field. It is important that we have a federal government that is able to set national standards across the country.

We also need to draw on representation from the provinces. It is important to have people from all regions involved in the process. As I said, the people of Prince Edward Island have a strong interest in the Constitution.

I am very pleased to speak as the member of Parliament for Cardigan, Prince Edward Island. I am also pleased that the members of the House saw fit to allow us the opportunity to put forward the views of the people we have the honour to represent. It is here in the House of Commons that we should make those views known to all Canadians. On behalf of those we represent, I urge all hon. members to listen to the views not only of their constituents but also for the views of my constituents as well.

The issues affecting the people of Cardigan might not be major, but they are certainly very major for the people in Cardigan. It is very important that small craft harbours, when they get in the deplorable state they are in now, remain under the authority of the federal government.

As I stated before, it is very important that ferry services remain under the authority of the federal government. Also we must have inspection services across Canada that are the same for agricultural products so we can put a quality product on the market. Of course the major issues are a very great concern too.

Before I end, I would like to read from the lyrics of a song called *Sea to Sea* written by two Islanders, Steve Sharratt and Rolie MacKinnon. The chorus of the song makes a statement about how many Canadians feel about this great country of ours and I think it is a good way to end. The chorus goes like this:

Am I standing alone for this land and its pride
Are there none who will stand here with me?

Will I not hear a voice call for hearts joined in trust,
Can we not be as one, sea to sea?

I would like to table the full lyrics of this song.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Guy Saint-Julien (Abitibi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to present the submission prepared by Mr. Jean-Pierre Brunet on February 8 1992. Mr. Brunet is an engineer and he is president of the engineering and business consulting firm Bioptic Vision Inc. in Val d'Or.

It is my pleasure to inform you of Mr. Brunet's thoughts concerning the most recent constitutional proposals made by the federal government. I might also mention that Mr. Brunet is president of the Order of Engineers of Quebec, which has a membership of 35 000 engineers. However, it is not in that capacity that Mr. Brunet shares his ideas with us, but rather as a young head of a small business in a remote area. Mr. Brunet lives in my riding, which is the largest one in all 10 provinces.

The economic union in Canada is viable; it is doing well but it could do better if we got rid of the policies that stifle it. Here is, in my opinion, the best alternative, the one I propose, as well as the spirit with which I examined the constitutional proposals of the Canadian government.

The Constitutional Act of 1867 no longer meets the new needs generated by the social, economic and political evolution. The time has come to make important changes to our Constitution, in particular as regards the following topics, which are of special concern to me, since I live in what is called a remote area, the Abitibi region, which also has several aboriginal communities.

It seems to me there are very few proposals which can be accepted or rejected in full as presented originally. That is why I make some suggestions which I hope will improve the Canadian government's proposals.

Let us first talk about property rights. The first federal proposal to amend the Constitution Act of 1982 in the document entitled *Shaping Canada's Future Together*, proposes to amend the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms to guarantee property rights. I believe that this is a fundamental natural right. Indeed it is from nature that men and women received property rights so that everyone could support themselves and their family, and so that the goods are indeed used for their intended purpose.