

in Canada this question has been addressed in part through policies of bilingualism and multiculturalism, the EU structure faces a similar challenge regarding the recognition of minority languages in its governing institutions.

In addition, the Canadian interpretation of the concept of federalism is of particular interest to European policy makers. In Canada, unlike in many centralized European states, federalism is largely seen as a unifying force. By contrast, many Europeans view federalism as a process that could destroy their national or regional identity. Therefore, the Canadian experience could help clarify some European misconceptions about federalism and its consequences.

CONTINUED CO-OPERATION ON QUALITY-OF-LIFE CONCERNS

Quality-of-life concerns, including an emphasis on a clean environment, health care, and a commitment to social justice, must be key areas for further Canada-Europe collaboration. For instance, Canada and European governments could share expertise on public health models.

DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGES: RESTORING CITIZEN CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT

Policy Options

Canada and the European Union continue to contend with diminishing public confidence in the democratic process and government institutions. Canada's expertise in civil society engagement would be helpful to European governments in their efforts to increase public confidence in government. However, despite Canadian gains in connecting citizens to governments, further partnerships should be initiated to prevent a "democratic deficit" in Canada, particularly among the youth. Thus, youth engagement, in Canada and Europe, is a crucial part of any solution to the problem of public disengagement with the democratic process.

DIVERSITY AND MULTI-ETHNIC SOCIETIES

While Europe grapples with the integration of 'old nationalities' and 'new nationalities,' Canada's 'two founding nations' model has been challenged by more recent waves of immigration from all over the world. Given the similarity of experiences, Canadian experience in accommodating diversity could be helpful to assist Europe in developing policies on immigration and diversity.

At the conceptual level, Canadians and Europeans may share a respect for diversity. However, at the practical level, some have argued that it has not translated into similar policies. On the contrary, the differing policies on immigration and cultural diversity practised in Canada and Europe could reflect a fundamental difference in values.

Policy Options

As Europe contends with a declining population and skills shortages, it would be useful to follow a Canadian model for government policies on immigration and diversity. In fact, the Canadian model has already been consulted in the development of new immigration policies in Germany, the