

The Constitution

strengthen our own national unity and identity. Perhaps sport can help us turn these dreams into reality”.

In conclusion, I want to declare my belief that this constitutional process will succeed. In the words of a citizen from Leduc: “I cannot express to you how important the successful conclusion of this endeavour is to myself, my family, my country”.

At a time when our country looks at itself to determine what make us uniquely Canadian, my daughter, Teddi, wrote the following words to help me in a poem called “The Rainbow”:

Long before Columbus
 Our grandfathers spoke of
 The white from the north
 The black from the south
 The yellow from the east
 The red from the west
 Hundreds of years later
 We live together
 but not in harmony
 Why can't we be like the rainbow?
 Red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet
 All one in peace with its own identity
 No conflict, no war, no prejudice
 Like the rainbow.

I believe we will come through 1992 and into the future as winners by dreaming of success, by focusing on our common strengths and by recalling positive feelings of sharing kindness and respect.

As a young person, Mr. Speaker, we have all probably tried to walk on one rail along the railway tracks. It is difficult. Yet if a friend walks along the parallel track and you hold hands together you find you can walk for miles together. Perhaps it is because you truly help each other by lifting each other up.

In this Canada round I believe just as when an athlete wins, when Quebec wins, when an Indian wins, all of Canada wins.

Mrs. Marlene Catterall (Ottawa West): Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have this opportunity to bring to the House of Commons the views of my constituents as they have expressed them to me in a number of forms and forums over the last year and more. I want to begin by saying that, as with the debate in this House, the debate

in Ottawa West is optimistic and pessimistic, full of hope and full of despair, but marked by a great will to keep Canada together.

The views on how we can do that differ as much as they would among any of us in this Chamber, but the will to keep Canada together is the strong and binding thread through all the submissions I have heard in person, in meetings, by phone, by letter.

My first couple of opportunities to discuss the Constitution in a concerted way with constituents was in two visits to schools. I thank those young people particularly for taking the initiative to organize the kinds of sessions where they were focusing on what they wanted the country to be for their future. They felt strongly that the diversity of this country, whether it is French and English, different cultures, different races from different places, the different geography of our country, the different regions of our country, are all something that is part of their Canadianism. They do not identify being Canadian with being somebody who happens to live in this particular region. The message I got very clearly from them was that all of Canada is part of their own identity.

They, too, like everybody else I have heard from had very differing views and I am sure it will come as no surprise to anybody in this House who has been talking to and listening to their constituents that aboriginal concerns and environmental concerns are at the top of the agenda for young people as they are for other Canadians.

We developed questionnaires that were distributed twice in the constituency, once to a group by mail and second, made available to everybody in Ottawa West through the means of my householder. We have had over 700 responses to that householder questionnaire. We have done an analysis of both groups of questionnaires.

What was a little more difficult to analyse was the time that hundreds of people took to write down their own thoughts, sometimes in a brief note, a brief comment on the questionnaire, sometimes in a letter of many pages, sometimes in a full brief, which a number of them have submitted to the committee. I think this level of response indicated a community that has been always very conscious of its role as the nation's capital. Yes, it is a community distinct from its federal role. I know it is hard for people outside the national capital region to realize