

DESPITE THESE CONCERNS, WE MUST BE PREPARED TO EMBRACE DEMONSTRABLY BENEFICIAL NEW APPROACHES; FOR CANADIANS AND THEIR LEADERS MUST FEEL THEY HAVE THE MEANS TO ACHIEVE THEIR OBJECTIVES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR LANGUAGE RIGHTS AND THOSE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP OUR SENSE OF PLACE AND IDENTITY WE ALL DESIRE STRONGLY, HOWEVER DIFFICULT THE TASK OF ARTICULATING THEM WITH CLARITY AND PRECISION.

THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM

THE LANGUAGE PROBLEM HAS ALWAYS BEEN AT THE CENTRE OF THE NATIONAL UNITY ISSUE. EVEN IF THE MANY ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED DEMANDS OF REGIONALISM CAN BE MET THROUGH A COMBINATION OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES AND CREATIVE PRAGMATISM, MILLIONS OF FRANCOPHONES WOULD STILL FEEL DEPRIVED IN THE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL SENSE. INDEED, GREATER ECONOMIC SECURITY ALMOST INVARIABLY BRINGS AN UPSURGE OF INTEREST IN CULTURALLY CENTERED OBJECTIVES AND THE DESIRE TO IDENTIFY MORE CLOSELY WITH ORIGINS OR "ROOTS". THUS, ALTHOUGH FRANCOPHONE FEDERALISTS AND SEPARATISTS DISAGREE PROFOUNDLY ON MEANS, ALL ARE SEEKING IN THEIR OWN WAYS, SELF-FULFILLMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR OWN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.