

Quebeckers ought not willingly tolerate this mockery of their adherence to fundamental values of freedom and human rights. There is time, and there is a means, a means which in itself upholds democratic traditions. Bill 62 can be challenged - in the courts and at the ballot box.

The Prime Minister last month affirmed that the Constitution must be obeyed, obeyed by the citizens and the governments of Canada. He said "...if in any case, a government, federal or provincial, does not obey that Constitution, it can be taken to court by any citizen who loses his protection by the action of that government".

You may recall that he went on to say that a principle has been established whereby the federal government may provide funds to assist citizens undertaking such appeals. It is not a blanket undertaking for every constitutional case that may be raised. Consideration would examine whether justice would fail to be done because the plaintiff did not have sufficient resources to pursue his own case.

What the Prime Minister has emphasized is that the Constitution must be obeyed. It is the law of the land. The courts must ensure it is obeyed, but of an even higher order, the people must see it is obeyed through their participation in the political process.

I think you will agree with me that it will be preferable if Canadians work together to make the Constitution a unifying force in our nation. I trust that in these few remarks tonight I have demonstrated that the personal rights and freedoms of individuals are respected and protected, and that we - diverse in origin or culture or language as we may be - that we Canadians are bonded into a common and dynamic society.