

the brunswickan

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Extraordinaire typesetters this week

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The *Brunswickan*, in its 121st year, is Canada's oldest official student publication. The *Brunswickan's* offices are located in Room 35 of the University of New Brunswick's Student Union Building, P.O.Box 4400, College Hill, Fredericton, N.B., E3B 5A3.

The *Brunswickan* is printed with flair by Henley Printing, Ltd., Woodstock, N.B.

Subscriptions are \$20 per year. National and local advertising rates are available at (506) 453-4974. General phone 453-4983. News line 453-4973.

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OPINION...

The Meech Lake Accord ... Do you know what it is? Do you know what it will do? Do you know what it has the potential to do? No? Neither did I until just recently. The Meech Lake Accord, (M.L.A.) is an amendment to Canada's Constitution that will bring Quebec into the Constitution. This is great, and as a former resident of Quebec, I fully appreciate and support the *idea* of the amendment. What I strongly oppose however, are several points of the amendment.

- 1) The speed at which the accord is being processed.
- 2) The lack of clarity in the wording of the accord.
- 3) The lack of recognition of Sections 15 and 28 of the *Charters of Rights and Freedoms*. These sections deal with the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of sex, race, age, national ethnic origin, and physical or mental disability.
- 4) The right of any one province to veto any further amendment to the Charter. A delusion of Federal powers.

Some political figures feel that it is important to sign the accord as quickly as possible, and amend it later if necessary. This is absurd! The government has spent countless weeks on free trade talks with the United States, but imposes a six week deadline for amending its Constitution. It has further been implied that to be against the accord is unpatriotic! Let's not be ridiculous!! The Constitution is the very foundation of our legislation and if enough people voice their displeasure at amendments to our Constitution the federal government will be forced to realise that it is they who are being un-democratic in their procedures.

What is the rush for Québec to join the Constitution anyway? They haven't been a part of it since its implementation, a couple more months will not make that much of a difference. During this time the accord should be made distinct in its meaning and clearly understandable to people without the aid of a lawyer. It should also support the existing rights and freedoms that are purposely being left out.

When approached on the subject of the wording of the M.L.A. key figures say that it is a delicate matter. I ask you this: If it is such a delicate matter, how can it be expected to carry the burden of the Canadian peoples?

I object to the signing of the Meech Lake Accord in its present condition. I implore you to educate yourselves on the matter, and make a choice. Elections are near, candidates will listen, let them hear.

I remain,

Christopher Nakash

CHRISTOPHER NAKASH
CANADIAN CITIZEN