

On this important issue other proposals have been put forward that merit the attention of First Ministers. These include the question of "where numbers warrant" and the control and management of schools in section 23 of the Charter; and an examination of the concept of a "Code of Minority Language Rights" put forward by witnesses and the Government of Quebec.

- 7. In any event, your Committee suggests that minority language rights require continuing deliberation and should be included on the agenda of the Annual First Ministers Conferences on the Constitution.**

The Meech Lake Accord provides for provincial involvement in the appointment of Senators and Judges of the Supreme Court. The First Ministers who signed the Accord took the position that it should be passed, unchanged, unless there was some "egregious error". The body of evidence presented to your Committee is that most Canadians perceived at least one such oversight and that was the failure to include the Yukon and the Northwest Territories in the selection process.

- 8. The New Brunswick Companion Resolution would address the Meech Lake Accord's omission of the Yukon and Northwest Territories in the selection of Senators and Judges of the Supreme Court by involving the two territories in the selection process. Your Committee is convinced this oversight should be corrected.**

The Meech Lake Accord would also change the amending formula required for the creation of new provinces from the 2/3 of the provinces with 50% of the population to unanimity. Prior to 1982 the process for admission of new provinces was the sole responsibility of the federal government. New Brunswick has proposed a return to the pre-1982 situation thereby ensuring that the two territories could aspire to provincehood under the same conditions as other provinces created since 1867. Your Committee has heard compelling evidence on this issue as it travelled throughout Canada and more particularly in the northern territories.

- 9. Your Committee agrees with the position of New Brunswick and the territories on the creation of new provinces and recommends this be dealt with in a Companion Resolution.**

New Brunswick also proposes to add an agenda item to the Annual First Ministers Conference on the Constitution. It would deal with constitutional matters that directly affect the aboriginal peoples of Canada, including the identification of the rights of those people. Representatives of aboriginal groups testified that instead of being one of the items on the agenda of annual First Ministers Constitutional Conferences, a separate process be devoted specifically to aboriginal matters. They recommended that these conferences would be held every three years.