

capita amount to which a Province would be entitled would thus correspond to the per capita national expenditure, and additional expenditures by a Provincial Government would in no way increase the Federal grant to that Province.

#### *Chapter 21—Intergovernmental Relations*

59. More communication and fuller cooperation among all levels of government are imperative needs. The achievement of these ends involves the improvement and simplification of the means of liaison and, where necessary, the creation of new mechanisms.
60. The Constitution should provide for a Federal-Provincial Conference of First Ministers to be called by the Prime Minister of Canada at least once a year unless in any year a majority of the First Ministers decide to dispense with the Conference.
61. The Federal Government should appoint a Minister of State for Intergovernmental Affairs to respond to the political challenges and opportunities resulting from closer intergovernmental relationships.
62. A permanent Federal-Provincial secretariat for intergovernmental relations should be established.
63. A tri-level conference among Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments should be called at least once a year.

#### *Chapter 22—Municipalities*

64. While we recognize the difficulties of larger cities in providing for their needs, financing their programs and determining their own priorities, as well as in negotiating with the Provincial and Federal Governments on works which seriously affect municipal planning, and also their need for more status and more autonomy in order to achieve these goals, we do not see how these matters can be entrenched in the Constitution. They should be negotiated between the cities and the Provincial Governments under whose jurisdiction they fall.
65. The municipalities in each Province, in conjunction with their provincial and national bodies, should determine which representatives from what municipalities would attend the annual tri-level conferences we have recommended in Recommendation 63.
66. Such tri-level meetings would not have the power of veto over any Federal or Provincial programs but would rather operate by way of moral suasion.
67. In the light of the injustice done municipalities by their having to rely on the property tax for the bulk of their revenue, there should be a sharing of tax fields between Governments that would allow municipalities direct access to other sources of revenue.
68. Where feasible, representatives of municipalities should meet with other levels of government to discuss common problems particularly in the area of economic planning through representation at meet-

ings of the Ministers of Finance and Provincial Treasurers.

#### *Chapter 23—The Territories*

69. The objective of Government policy for the Yukon and the Northwest Territories should be the fostering of self-government and provincial status.
70. The provisions of the British North America Act, 1871, section 2, which provide for the admission of new provinces by action of the Federal Government alone, should be continued, provided that no territory should become a province without its consent.
71. The Yukon and the Northwest Territories should each be entitled to representation in the Senate.

#### *Chapter 24—Offshore Mineral Rights*

72. The Federal Government should have proprietary rights over the seabed offshore to the limit of Canada's internationally recognized jurisdiction, and the Federal Parliament should have full legislative jurisdiction over this subject matter.
73. There should be no constitutional provision as to the sharing of the profits from the exploitation of seabed resources. Nevertheless, we feel strongly that the Federal Government should share the profits of seabed development equally with the adjacent coastal Province rather than with all of the Provinces.
74. Sable Island should be recognized by the Constitution as part of the Province of Nova Scotia.

#### *Chapter 25—International Relations*

75. Section 132 of the British North America Act should be repealed.
76. The Constitution should make it clear that: the Federal Government has exclusive jurisdiction over foreign policy, the making of treaties, and the exchange of diplomatic and consular representatives.
77. All formal treaties should be ratified by Parliament rather than by the Executive Branch of Government.
78. The Government of Canada should, before binding itself to perform under a treaty an obligation that deals with a matter falling within the legislative competence of the Provinces, consult with the Government of each Province that may be affected by the obligation.
79. The Government of a Province should remain free not to take any action with respect to an obligation undertaken by the Government of Canada under a treaty unless it has agreed to do so.
80. Subject to a veto power in the Government of Canada in the exercise of its exclusive power with respect to foreign policy, the Provincial Governments should have the right to enter into contracts, and administrative, reciprocal and other arrangements with foreign states, or constituent parts of foreign states, to maintain offices abroad for the conduct of Provincial business, and generally to