

groups and communities" be replaced with the word "respect".

There was again a majority of support for the proposals outlined in both part 2 and part 3 of the federal package. There was significant agreement with both House of Commons and Senate reform. There were also a substantial number of comments made on the need to provide the west with greater political power and on the issue of transfer of power to the provinces.

After mentioning the general support that exists in my riding for many of the proposals, I feel it is important to acknowledge the strong disagreement that was expressed with regard to proposal No. 2, recognition of Quebec's distinctiveness and Canada's linguistic duality. The sentiment of equality of the provinces and the view that no province should receive special status was repeatedly expressed. Proposal 5 regarding aboriginal constitutional process was the other proposal which did not receive a majority of support.

Since the Four Nations of Hobbema are in my riding, I sought several meetings with the chiefs and councils to listen to their views. Unfortunately for me, they decided to reject all the proposals, preferring instead to support the Assembly of First Nations' position.

In a recent letter, one of my constituents wrote that if he disagrees with something it has to be proven to him that his position is wrong, that I should not just expect him to accept it. Thus, I would like to try and briefly respond to some of the concerns my constituents have expressed. I speak only as an individual member of Parliament who is also a treaty Indian when I share different quotes which express what I would like to say.

I recall the first meeting the Minister Responsible for Constitutional Affairs had with the National Chiefs when an elder, Chief Peter O'Chiese, said: "We have to lift each other up". That to me has since been of great significance during all our hearings, as have the four great values of honesty, kindness, sharing and strength. These values could perhaps be reflected in our Canada clause along with reference to the Great Spirit.

• (1920)

Perhaps too our preamble could state, as Lord Denning said in the 1970s in a court case in London, that no

government can break the treaties as long as the sun shines, the grass grows and the rivers flow. My own dad, a World War II veteran, used to say that these are the three principles on which our great country was built.

Mr. Speaker, I know you and my rodeo colleagues in the gallery tonight will agree with what I am about to say. The sport community in Canada also has a tremendous contribution to make to the issue of national unity. What is that fantastic feeling and positive spirit we have all experienced when we succeed as an athlete? That feeling is being Canadian. Coincidentally, we will all share that positive winner's feeling again during the next two weeks in Albertville when an athlete wins a medal or does their personal best on our behalf.

I am reminded of an outstanding brief I received from Margaret Barber of the Sports Federation of Canada. In her paper entitled "National Unity Through Sport", Barber writes that: "Canada identifies with its athletes, with its sports. Canada as a nation has been fortunate to count among its members some of the world's finest athletes both past and present. Those athletes came from a melting pot of cultures and backgrounds. They are by virtue of their diversity truly Canadian. The power of sport is real". She said: "There are a multitude of lessons to be learned as a nation from sports; understanding, tolerance, acceptance, respect, cultural identity, the ability to experience and share without losing that which makes each of us unique and individual. Perhaps it is time in light of the present problems facing the nation and our concerns on national unity to make better use of sport to understand ourselves as a nation and indeed to help keep us together".

A couple of days ago athlete Sylvie Daigle was selected to be a flag bearer in Albertville. She was quoted as saying: "I came here for Canada. Yes, it is hard but at the same time, we are all one country here. And if you win a medal it is for Canada".

Earlier at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles Alwyn Morris, the only indigenous athlete to win an Olympic Gold, held high an eagle feather.

Barber's brief echoes the sentiment that this image of success evokes: "If you have it in you to dream, you have it in you to succeed". She continues: "If you have enough dreamers left in Canada, perhaps we have enough left in us as a nation to succeed in our efforts to retain and