

in a federal-provincial conference, he has refused to negotiate. He will hasten up the normal development of Canada and Quebec relations and lead us all quickly towards total separation. Moreover, he will abandon your relatives and friends who, after at least three generations, have succeeded in recovering to a large extent the rights they enjoyed when they left Quebec for another part of the country.

He who reads the history of Canada cannot fail to notice that Quebec over various periods experienced very difficult times. Your fathers may tell you about the difficult years of the depression and World War II when unemployment was endemic. It is thanks to confederation and the Canada we knew then and we know now that a great many families were able to retain their dignity and seek elsewhere in Canada a place to earn a living, a place where more jobs would be available.

They settled in flourishing areas of northern Ontario, for example. In those difficult times, Quebec was welcome everywhere in Canada thanks to that freedom of movement that was possible in a country as vast and rich as ours. By settling outside Quebec, those families grew up nearly as if they were living in their own native province. In fact, today they have gone beyond the boundaries of their province of origin. Your parents, like mine, showed a lot of courage in deciding first to leave their native land and to settle in an area that looked strange at the time.

They proved they had a lot of guts and it is thanks to their perseverance that they brought Canada to the point where it is today, as the Fathers of Confederation had envisaged. Those same families participated in the economic and social development of the cities and towns they chose, so that today they own industries or run businesses through which they contribute significantly to the economic health of our province and our Canada. Far from limiting themselves to their little corner of the country, they opened markets outside Canada and even returned to Quebec to open new branches. Is that not today the very success of those citizens of Quebec who have acquired unequalled confidence not only in terms of their identity but also with respect to industry and high finance? Every day new markets are being opened elsewhere in Canada from the province of Quebec. Beauce and Gaspé suppliers are driving on the roads of northern Ontario like never before. The time has come when Quebec can compete on the same level as all others. Would things be the same, Quebecers, if you had been excluded from confederation without the protection of the federal government?

I think the Premier of Quebec is making a serious mistake in wanting to go back to a time in our history when parochialism prevailed. This feat of strength he is undertaking in wanting to turn Quebec into a ghetto within Canada and North America, in wanting to erect imaginary boundaries that will be more difficult to bring down than true boundaries and will jeopardize all progress made until now—if you look back a bit, Mr.

*The Address—Mr. Chénier*

Speaker, you will discover that northern Ontario and northern Quebec were linked by a rail line, by highways, by telephone, long before they were joined to the major centres of their own province.

I want to tell my brothers and cousins in Quebec that a Yes vote on next May 20 will put an end to the French Canadian heritage that their relatives were so proud to show when they settled outside their province only two or three generations ago. I believe that we forget too often that Canada as it now is has a short history. After all, Newfoundland joined the Canadian federation only 30 years ago and Alberta in 1905. One after the other, depending on their wealth, the poor provinces have benefited from the generosity of richer provinces, and this is why Canada has survived so well. Today's Alberta should not forget that it had its turn at benefiting from the wealth of Ontario.

Who could have predicted in 1867 that Canada today would be made up of ten provinces and two territories, that Alberta would discover a wealth of oil in its substratum, that Newfoundland would develop successfully its offshore resources, that Quebec would tame the energy of its majestic rivers and that northern Ontario, with its mineral wealth, would become an economically strong area? Who would have predicted at the birth of our country that there would be so many migrations of the Canadian people from east to west, from Moncton to Quebec, from Quebec to northern Ontario, to St. Boniface, to Gravelbourg? It is also because of all these events that we must all get along with each other and that all the provinces must agree on a new distribution of powers within a new constitution which would also guarantee the historic rights of both linguistic groups.

The provinces must continue to get along with each other, and it is only a strong central government which can ensure the Canadians of Prince Edward Island that they will be equal as Canadians to the people of Quebec or of Saskatchewan. It is also up to the Canadian government to undertake constitutional talks with all the provinces, as soon as possible after May 20, so that Canada can finally have a truly Canadian Constitution.

Canada's history is too short yet for anyone to conclude that it is too late to get along. Scientific and technological progress achieved in every area over a very short time have shaken Canada and in fact changed her lifestyle and direction. We recognize that, and it is time to consider some new arrangement with all the provinces rather than Quebec alone, in light of our evolution in those fields. A country is not known by its system of government or resources. The heart of a country beats to the way of life and the history of its people. Canadian identity traces its roots well beyond 1867.

At the time of colonization, Canada was called New France. We, the French Canadians of today, live according to the heritage transmitted by our ancestors since that time, from generation to generation, and therefore a major part of our