

Canadian affairs conference discusses Quebec

by dave macnaughton
brunswickan staff

WINNIPEG — Separatist leader Rene Levesque emphasized his argument for separatism at a Canadian affairs conference in Winnipeg two weeks ago.

Levesque pointed out that 14,000 French-speaking students would graduate from Quebec universities within the next two years. He said they would definitely want to be able to speak French in their daily, working lives.

He felt that unless the immigration policy of Quebec was changed to maintain the French nature of Quebec, the

Quebecois would be assimilated.

Levesque was speaking to delegates from some 20 universities during Canada 102?

The three-day conference began with an address from Manitoba minister of education Donald Craik emphasized the importance of a constitutional review.

In the field of provincial-federal relations, he said all provinces should be constitutionally equal. He proposed that the federal government take control of post-secondary education.

In discussing the French-English conflict in Canada and particularly in

Manitoba, he said that the Manitoba government supported the language bill in theory but thought it should be referred to the courts.

He said he was afraid of the backlash among English Canadians and he wanted to see where people wanted to go on the bill before taking a stand. He then described the form of gradualism he thought should be employed in dealing with both education and language problems.

He explained how the French in Manitoba had been given many language rights and equal schooling, etc. seeming to forget the Manitoba question. Few delegates were impressed with premier Walter Weir's education minister or his talk of a do-nothing gradualism.

Later on David Lewis, deputy leader of the New Democratic Party, gave an informative and entertaining

speech. He summed up Craik's speech neatly.

"The purpose of government is not to wait to see where the people are going and then run like hell to get out in front to lead them, but to provide leadership from the beginning," he said.

Donald Macdonald, Liberal House leader, gave a speech that was merely a resume of

what the Trudeau government is doing with regard to constitutional reform and the streamlining of parliament.

Arnold Edinborough, editor of Saturday Night, gave his views on Confederation and said that Canada had a tremendous opportunity to combine the French and English cultures and can make a strong, united country.

Swimmers break records

In the CIAU swimming and diving championships held at UNB over the weekend, new records were established in many categories and the University of Toronto headed the pack of point-scorers with 250. There were 9 Canadian intercollegiate records broken and 2 Canadian native marks snapped in the meet.

The outstanding new records that were established were 53.87 in the 100-yard butterfly by Bob Heatley battering the standing mark of 58.7, and 5:04.04 in the 500-yard freestyle by Carl Waterer, over the old record of 5:14.6. Heatley represented the University of Toronto, while Waterer was from Saskatchewan. In the diving

events, Ron Friesen of Saskatchewan captured both the one meter and three meter finals.

UNB came in thirteenth of fourteen overall, and third of four Maritime universities entered.

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