



In July 1967 French President Charles de Gaulle set off a nationwide controversy when he shouted to a crowd in Montreal, "Long Live Free Quebec!"



Jean-Luc Pépin



John Robarts

status to both languages in Parliament and in government agencies.

In October 1970 the Front de Libération du Québec (FLQ) kidnapped British Trade Commissioner James Cross and Pierre Laporte, the Quebec Minister of Labour and Immigration. Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act on October 16, putting the province under martial law. On October 17 Laporte was killed. After his kidnappers were guaranteed safe conduct to Cuba, Cross was released.

In 1976 Canada's English-speaking airline pilots called an unauthorized strike against a decision to direct air traffic in Montreal in both French and English. They contended it would endanger lives. (In 1979, after exhaustive inquiries, a federal commission concluded that there was no danger and bilingual control was re-established.)

In 1976 the voters of Quebec elected René Lévesque and his Parti Québécois to run the provincial government. Lévesque ran on a good government platform and a promise to hold a Referendum on independence for Quebec.

In 1977 the Parti Québécois put Bill 101, "The Charter of the French Language," through the National Assembly. It made French the only official language in the province and required the use of French in businesses with more than fifty employees (special provisions were made for branches of multinational firms) and restricted enrollment in English language schools to pupils who meet at least one of four requirements: (1) a parent was a pupil in an English-language elementary school in Quebec; (2) a parent living in Quebec at the time of the bill's passage went to an English-language elementary school outside

Quebec; (3) the child was enrolled in a public English-language school in Quebec the year before the bill's passage; (4) the child's older brother or sister was enrolled in a public English-language school in Quebec in the previous year. (Bill 101 was similar in many respects to earlier bills passed by Liberal and Union Nationale administrations.)

Two years later the Canadian Supreme Court ruled that both French and English must be used in the legislatures and courts of Quebec and Manitoba, overturning some of the provisions of Bill 101 and an 1890 Manitoba law which had made English the only official language there.

In 1977 the Federal Government formed a Canadian Task Force on National Unity, headed by Jean-Luc Pépin, former federal Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, and John Robarts, former Premier of Ontario, which reached the conclusion that Canada had come to a "crisis of existence." The Task Force's far-reaching recommendations for change are still under consideration.

The Liberal Party of Quebec's Proposal

During the Referendum campaign, the opposition to the Quebec government's plan for sovereignty-association will be organized by a "No" committee, under the umbrella of the Liberal Party of Quebec. The party has proposed constitutional reform within the federal system.

Federal Council

It makes specific suggestions in the document entitled "A New Canadian Federation" (and popularly referred to as "the beige paper"). The Senate, the appointed second chamber of Parliament, would be replaced by a Federal Council with members named by the provinces. The Council would ratify appointments to the Supreme Court and to the top posts in the large federal agencies and major Crown corporations. Each province would be represented according to its population with two exceptions: Smaller provinces would be deliberately over-represented and Quebec (which