

*The Constitution*

what the people of Saint-Léonard think of the Constitution.

As regards the constitutional declaration on the nature of Canada, 74 per cent of those who participated in the exercise think that this declaration should include our attachment to both official languages. A majority of 70 per cent think that this declaration should also include the distinct character of Quebec. As well, 63 per cent of the participants think that this declaration should include a recognition of the role of the aboriginal peoples. This is all about the declaration on the nature of Canada, which defines our country.

Regarding the question as to whether we should promote the free flow of people, goods and capital in Canada, 87 per cent are in favour. The approach and details may vary but, on the whole, 87 per cent are in favour.

As to Senate reform, we asked this question: "In a reformed Senate, do you think senators should be elected?" Eighty-five per cent of respondents were in favour of elected senators. Of course, when you go into specifics, percentages and answers can be a little different, less clear cut. As I said when I started, these are the citizens of Saint-Léonard speaking tonight, not their member, so I will read exactly what they said.

There was a sub-question which asked: "If you answered yes, do you think that elections should be held on a fixed date?" Forty-seven per cent said yes; two per cent said at the time of provincial elections and 34 per cent said at the same time as federal elections. It is not clear cut, and I think we should wait and see whether the committee can come up with some suggestions on that.

About the role of the Senate regarding appointments to federal boards and agencies, 50 per cent of respondents thought that the Senate should have the power to review and 20 per cent said it should have veto power.

The role of the Senate in the legislative process. Forty-seven per cent said the Senate should be able to amend them, while 25 per cent said it should have the power to defeat them, and 14 per cent believe it should have the power to delay approval for no more than six months, which is called a "suspensive veto".

The seventh question, was the following: "Who, in your opinion, should decide whether or not a new

province should be established?" Forty-eight per cent answered that it should be up to the federal government and the population of the potential province; 30 per cent said the decision should be made by the federal government, with the approval of at least seven provinces, and 24 per cent that it should be made by the federal government and all 10 provinces.

As regards Supreme Court appointments, 71 per cent of those who responded felt it would be important that the provinces and territories be involved in the process. As a matter of fact, I think there is a nation-wide consensus on this point, judging from various statements that were made and the results of various surveys. The problem is this: in the event of a deadlock, who should decide? Forty-three per cent said it should be the Chief Justice, which I think is a new idea. That is why it is sometimes important that the people be consulted. As I said, 43 per cent think the Chief Justice should decide; 26 per cent said that it should be the province or territory and 25 per cent said that the federal government should settle the dispute.

Where it gets both interesting and complicated is when we deal with the distribution of powers. We asked this question: "In your opinion, which level of government would be best suited to have responsibility in the following areas: communications? Ottawa, 41 per cent; Quebec, 12 per cent; shared responsibility, 45 per cent. Education? Ottawa, 18 per cent; Quebec, 41 per cent; shared, 41 per cent. Fisheries? Ottawa, 39 per cent; Quebec, 24 per cent; shared, 37 per cent. Health care? Ottawa, 25 per cent; Quebec, 37 per cent; shared, 39 per cent. Housing? Ottawa, 12 per cent; Quebec, 55 per cent; shared, 33 per cent. I think housing is the only area the people of Saint-Léonard clearly felt should be a provincial jurisdiction. Immigration? Ottawa, 40 per cent; Quebec, 26 per cent; shared responsibility, 34 per cent. Official languages? Ottawa, 26 per cent; Quebec, 30 per cent; shared, 43 per cent. Labour market training? Ottawa, 24 per cent; Quebec, 58 per cent; shared, 39 per cent. There is no doubt in the minds of the people of Saint-Léonard that responsibility for labour market training should rest with the province of Quebec. Natural resources? Ottawa, 26 per cent; Quebec, 27 per cent; shared, 47 per cent. The environment? Ottawa, 28 per cent; Quebec, 17 per cent; shared, 55 per cent. Finally,