

confront so as to assist them in deciding upon their future. The exercise of this responsibility calls for identifying and exploring the issues confronting Canadians fairly and objectively, comprehensively and accurately; and for reflecting differing views about these issues fully and fairly, and in a balanced manner.

#### The CBC's Information Policies and the Referendum Debate

Our news and current affairs programs must, in other words, serve as a kind of reinforcement of the free and democratic society which Canada is. They must provide the full range of information which Quebecers, and indeed Canadians generally, need to make a truly free decision - a decision which is untrammelled, free of manipulation, free of misleading or unfair influence. And that calls, I repeat, for news and current affairs programs which are fair and balanced, accurate and thorough, comprehensive and objective.

These, indeed, are the fundamental and continuing principles, or journalistic standards upon which the CBC's news and current affairs programming are based. And they are the policies and standards which are being applied, and will be applied during the referendum debate. They flow from the very public trust