Reed: Feds in the driver's seat over the Quebec issue

By BRAD REAUME
The Champion

Canada's future with regard to the Quebec question is unfolding as it should, according to Halton North MP Julian Reed.

"The Supreme Court said what we already believed, however, we wanted a legal confirmation," said Mr. Reed, on holiday in the Maritimes. "Now the Prime Minister has begun to define the political questions."

Among other things, the Supreme Court decision gave Quebec the right to have a separation referendum. However the court also said the actual question and determination of the necessary majority required to allow such a fundamental change to the country would have to be political decisions.

Mr. Reed said the more these political questions are defined the further away from a referendum Canada will get. He agreed that the best thing for the country is to completely remove the potential for a referendum.

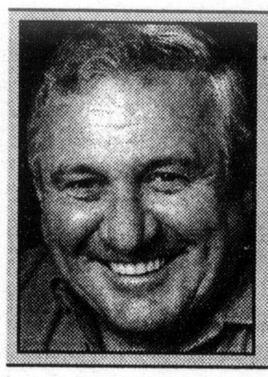
Prime Minister Jean Chretien has started to frame the questions by making reference to what qualifies as a sufficient majority to trigger negotiations for separation.

Speaking to reporters recently he referred to several formulas, suggesting a two-thirds majority is often reserved for serious decisions such as electing a pope, or amending the U.S. Constitution.

Quebec Premier Lucien Bouchard has staunchly held to the view that the required majority is simply 50 per cent plus one.

He told reporters after the supreme court decision that the judgment contains a paragraph suggesting majority requirements for getting out of the country should be the same as necessary for getting in. In the case of Newfoundland, only 52 per cent favoured joining Canada.

"Even Mr. (Jean) Charest, who supported 50 per cent plus one for his own reasons, agreed that it would be a terrible position to begin a separation negotiation," said Mr. Reed. "Such a split would leave no place to go."



"The Supreme Court said what we already believed, however we wanted a legal confirmation."

– JULIAN REED

Mr. Reed said the federal government's stance is that any question needs to be simple and clear.

He added that Mr. Bouchard is not on particularly sound footing to make an election call but is putting his spin on the ruling, which endorses negotiation in the event of a referendum favouring separation.

Mr. Reed chastised the Quebec premier, who suggested he hoped Canada would continue to respect the rights of French speaking Canadians outside the province of Quebec. Mr. Reed countered, saying Canada has always respected minority rights and Mr. Bouchard should respect minority rights in Quebec.

"Mr. Bouchard said he would not hold a referendum unless he was reasonably assured of winning it," said Mr. Reed, who questioned if there will even be another Quebec referendum.

Joyce leads walk

Halton residents are being asked to have a heart for women in general across the province.

On Sunday, Sept. 13 regional Chair Joyce Savoline will lead the Bay Heart and Stroke Walk.

Held at Spencer Smith Park in Burlington, the event will help raise awareness and funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario's Women, Heart Disease and Stroke initiative.

To obtain a pledge form for the walk, contact the local Heart and Stroke Foundation office at 634-7732.

Your tax dollars will pay for vandals' senseless acts

Crime Stoppers OF HALTON

Vandals targeted a Milton school twice in five days and Crime Stoppers wants to know who was involved.

At 4 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 1, someone was awakened by the sound of glass breaking at W.I. Dick School on Highside Drive and called police.

When patrol units arrived a few minutes later, they found 24 windows and four glass doors had been smashed. It appeared as though someone walked from the front of the school to the rear, forcing something through the panes of glass as they went.

During the day of Wednesday, Aug. 5, more damage was noted.

The initial police estimate to repair all the damage was placed at $1,500.

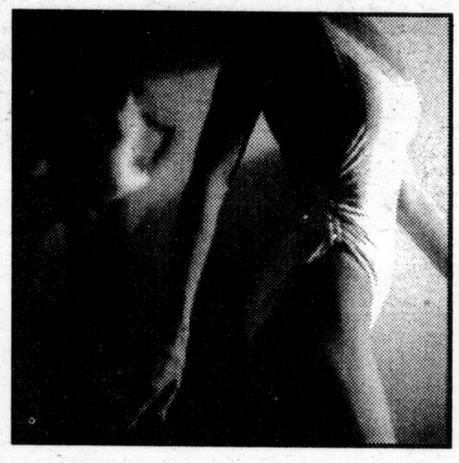
Vandalism costs all of us. Help control the cost by calling with the name of whoever was responsible.

If you have any information that leads to an arrest in this or any other case, you may be eligible for a cash reward of up to $1,000.

You need not give your name and your information can be taken with complete anonymity.

Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display.

Call 1-800-222-TIPS or 825-TIPS.



BEVERLY HILLS
Weight Management Clinics
PERSONALIZED WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Now Open!
The Weight Is Over!
$11.00/week
• excludes product
• based on full program

* Guaranteed Weight Loss of 2 lbs. a week
* Nutritionally Balanced Food Programs
* One-on One Counselling
* Safe and Effective for all ages

For a free consultation call:
550 Ontario St. S.
(Pizza Hut Plaza)
875-2889

IN A TOWN THIS BAD IT'S NO USE BEING GOOD.

WOODY HARRELSON
ELISABETH SHUE
GINA GERSHON

PALMETTO

Videoflicks®
Ramon & Pat thank all their valued customers
500 Laurier, Milton
693-8411

Super Specials...
1. New releases $3.48 and $2.99
2. $2.00 Wednesdays
3. 7 Catalogue Movies for 7 days = $10.00
4. We take Reservations any time

Videoflicks®
RENT ONE MOVIE GET ONE MOVIE... FREE
(Monday - Thursday)
693-8411