



OUR READERS WRITE

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

7—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, October 14, 1992

We're all equal as Canadians

Dear Editor:

I have read the literature on the amendments to the Constitution and as an adopted Canadian I am greatly alarmed at the direction these amendments are taking.

There seem to be three sets of rights — those of Quebec, those of the native peoples and those of the rest of us. Anyone who is voting 'yes' just to get rid of the issue had better think again. In the course of time we could see applications for special status for other ethnic groups with a large population in this country, and could you blame them? In any case, you can never appease either a blackmailer or a prima donna. They will be back some time, some how.

No matter how regrettable, the native peoples and the French in fact 'lost the wars'. Where else in the world would they be able to even consider special privileges?

This may be a hard pill to swallow for a lot of people, but those choosing to live in Canada had better decide that they are Canadians first, and their original cultural heritage is their own personal affair.

At this time we may lose a province, we may upset a few people, but if we don't ensure now that we are only one nation — Canada — I see this wonderful land fragmenting in the course of 20 years.

If you indeed say yes to Canada, vote 'no'.

Ernie Taylor
R R 1 Campbellville

Get to know the Charlottetown Accord

Dear Editor:

There's now just a short time left until Canadians vote in the referendum. Frankly, I have no idea of what the outcome will be, or what exactly a national "yes" or "no" vote will yield in the future.

But the last two weeks have been extremely interesting, as I traveled around the riding I represent, talking to people about their perceptions, fears and hopes. In the last nine days I've spoken to just more than 2,100 people in Burlington, Brampton, Caledon East, Alton, Nassagaweya, Georgetown, Milton and Bolton.

My report:

At the meetings, the majority of people are quiet and attentive. They are clearly coming out for as much information as possible on what all the changes would mean. I have the feeling most voters don't know how they'll be marking their ballots yet. Many others are looking for reasons

to vote yes. Those who have already decided to vote no are working hard to persuade others to follow them.

The question asked the most often: Is this referendum binding? And my answer: Legally, there is no way the constitution can be changed by a popular vote. But I can't imagine the federal or provincial governments not following the results of the vote — after all, why hold this referendum if the voice of the people is not to be obeyed?

Anyway, in Halton-Peel, the MP is going to vote in Parliament according to the results of this referendum. If the riding says yes to the Charlottetown accord, then so will I. If you say no, then that will be my vote, regardless of what the party or prime minister wants.

The second most common question: What are the consequences of a yes or a no vote? My answer: With a yes vote, governments will start implementing the 20 pages of the accord. We'll get a reformed Senate, more MPs in Ontario, native self-government and a transfer of some powers to the provinces with a leaner federal government.

With a no vote, I have no idea what will happen. Pierre Trudeau and Preston Manning say nothing will change. The Royal Bank and the Canadian Federation of Small Business say the economy will end

Mary Long grateful for coverage?

Dear Editor:

For the last 18 years I have lived in Milton and have been a businesswoman and a person involved in numerous successful community events.

I have an indomitable spirit and stand out as an extraordinary individual.

I must thank you for making me the highest profile person in any Metroland community newspaper over the last few years. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude, first to Rob Kelly for lifting the news level from mundane to absolutely exciting as he described the most famous Milton personage. Secondly to Karen Smith for her endless hours of waiting in out-of-town courtrooms just to glean tidbits of information to add spice to the otherwise humdrum items which are usually served up as the news.

I am gratified to boost sales of *The Canadian Champion* over the many years.

I look forward to the future, whatever it may hold for us — Metroland and myself.

Mary Long
Britannia Rd., Milton

up in the dumpster. Truth may lie somewhere in the middle.

The most common complaint: That some politicians and groups are trying to scare people into voting yes. People don't want to be bullied or pushed. They are tired of threats about Canada breaking up. This is almost becoming a moment of final decision — when voters will make up their own minds based on the information they've received.

To that end, my job as the member of Parliament is to provide all the help I can. The packed rooms each night tell me that people will do the right thing for Canada when they feel they understand the issues, and the stakes.

I hope to see you at one of the remaining Town Hall meetings. They all start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 14 Lions Hall, Campbellville; Thursday, Oct. 15 St. Joseph's

School, Acton; Friday, Oct. 16 Community Centre, Palgrave; Monday, Oct. 19 Channel 4, Halton Cable — Live phone-in show; Tuesday, Oct. 20 Notre Dame School, Burlington; Wednesday, Oct. 21 North Halton Golf Club, Georgetown.

Thank you for caring about Canada.

Garth Turner, MP
Halton-Peel

Spreading the word

Dear Editor:

A note of thanks for your promotional support of the Ontario Agricultural Museum's 1992 season. Visitors enjoyed our eight annual events and viewing the "Ontario Agricultural Museum Quilt Collection" in its new prestigious gallery.

Your coverage of the Museum's special events assisted our efforts in promoting our programs to new and returning visitors. It is always appreciated, your interest and support of the Ontario Agricultural Museum.

Have a good fall and winter season, and we look forward to working with you next summer.

Dorene Collins
Promotions and
Public Relations Co-ordinator
Ministry of
Agriculture and Food

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