

The 150th anniversary of Confederation

THE DREAM THAT I SHARE..

We will be celebrating in just a few months the 150th anniversary of the Confederation. We have so many reasons to celebrate: Canada remains one of the safest countries in the world; our quality of life is unequal. We are known throughout the world as a gentle, humble, generous and caring people to name but a few of our best attributes.

Great events will mark our celebrations. Unfortunately, for some of us this anniversary will be marred by a certain amount of sadness for a lack of sensitivity to a dream that many of us share. So far, our dream of designating this great capital of ours officially bilingual and having it entrenched in provincial legislation has been ignored by the Ottawa City Council.

It is first and foremost for the symbolic value that it represents that Ottawa must adopt an official bilingual policy and have it entrenched in provincial legislation. It will not only confer legitimacy to the policy but it will also be another way of showing our mutual respect towards our two founding nations.

To phrase it differently, adopting this important legislation will be an additional source of pride for all Canadians and it will strengthen our sense of belonging as well as contribute to a rapprochement between *our two solitudes*.

Unlike any other city of our proud country, the national capital holds a special place in the minds of Canadians and in this vein, it should be *an inspiring source of pride for all Canadians* much like our other symbols of our *canadianness*.

Over the years, our various levels of government have demonstrated on numerous occasions their ability to adapt to changing needs of the time. It is my hope that we will once again stand united on this issue and act in our collective interest by making this dream a reality.

Jean-Serge Lauzon