

ONE CANADA UNI INDIVISIBLE



MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT



PETER GOLDRING

Just before the recent election in Quebec, won by the Parti Quebecois, I had been in discussions about the reestablishment of the Special Committee for Canadian Unity with Lawyer Brent Tyler of Montreal, who in turn discussed this prospect with Keith Henderson of the Equality Party and other obviously favourable and likeminded individuals.

The concern was that a strong majority Parti Quebecois under Pauline Marois would have the federal *Clarity Act* disallowed in Quebec and then call for a referendum for separation.

My past involvement with Quebec has been substantial, from my military service with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the early 1960s being based in Lac St. Denis in Quebec guarding against the Front de liberation du Quebec during the earlier years of FLQ terrorism, to my eight years of employment with a Quebec-based company working in the

Toronto office then being sent to open and manage their new Alberta marketing office.

This was followed by my 25 years of association through my manufacturing company with Quebec-based companies that involved regular and frequent very pleasurable visits to Quebec over the years where I developed numerous friendships.

In 1995, I flew with my wife to Quebec City particularly for the October referendum to try to understand better the prevailing unity issues where we had a most enjoyable time with Quebecers. I was profoundly affected by the threat to my country by the indifference of Quebecers to the realities of succession, who believed that it was as simple as pulling down one flag and raising another then 'Voila!' - Independent nationhood.

Returning to Edmonton on the plane after the vote, I knew I had to act. I sought out and consulted with three political parties to decide which I would begin working with. At the same time I followed the work of several Canadian unity or-



Peter set up every year for almost 15 years on the Alberta Legislature grounds on Canada Day to promote Canadian Unity.



ganizations. After consultations, my wife and I decided on one, flew to Montreal to meet with them, and received permission and authority to personally Found, in Edmonton, the Western Canada Chapter of the Special Committee for Canadian Unity.

The aims of the SCCU are:

- One Canada uni indivisible
- To challenge unconstitutional actions in the courts of Canada
- To organize and encourage Canadians everywhere to spread the message and benefits of Canadian unity

Our Edmonton Chapter organized a Constitutional Committee in which we followed the creation of our Constitution of today from capitulations, the Treaty of Paris, Quebec Resolution, London Resolution to the 1867 Constitutional British North America Act. The committee consisted of three lawyers and I who studied Canada's Constitution. The thinking behind this committee is that if an average citizen – myself – could not understand the Constitution, it was too complex.

The work we accomplished through Edmonton's SCCU was considerable. On October 27, 1996, the first anniversary of the 1995 referendum, in spite of warnings of possible trouble, we raised funds for a group of 10 people to fly to Montreal to board The Canadian Unity Train to Quebec City. Our SCCU delegation

marched with several thousands of others, all with flags of Canada's provinces, to a huge rally at the Chateau Frontenac which was confirmation that Canadians support a Canada with Quebec.

Upon my return to Alberta, I asked for, and received, special permission of the Alberta Legislature in 1996 for my wife Lorraine, myself, and volunteers to promote the important apolitical message of Canadian unity on the

Legislature grounds in Edmonton. This was something I had done proudly on almost every Canada Day since, until this past year, when I was denied from setting up my Canadian Unity table as it was deemed to be 'too political'.

I entered the House of Commons in 1997 on a platform to promote Canadian unity, particularly against constitutionalizing the distinct society premise for

Quebec, and have worked to that end, for national unity and equality for all, ever since.

I attended and gave federalist support for Canadian unity at Van Horne Park in Montreal in 1997 at Howard Galganov's Canada Day festivities at the first Canada Day celebration ever held there and was the only Member of Parliament to do so.

I worked with Keith Henderson and Howard Galganov on many projects, one of which was to upset and express our outrage at Bou-



Peter shown addressing a large assembly at Edmonton City Hall regarding Canadian Unity on Canada Day, 1998.



chard's insult to Canadian War Veterans at the gates of old Quebec City.

Furthermore, through my work on the SCCU, I was able to collaborate with Montreal City Councillor Jacques Labbé. I gave him Canadian flags which homeowners near Dorval Airport put on their roofs so that passengers in planes taking off or landing would clearly see the support for Canadian unity. Initiatives such as this, supporting Canadian unity, were repeated many times throughout Quebec at a time when Quebec Members of Parliament would not.

Recently, in the lead up to the September 4, 2012 elections, leader of the Parti Quebecois, Pauline Marois, did her best to stir the pot for shameless political gain by drumming up as much support for the idea of separation as she could. By the time the election rolled around in September, separation sentiment was at a new high across Canada, helped greatly by the rest of Canada's shameful media coverage, encouraging Quebec separation.

Thankfully the pre-election polling had overstated and misinterpreted the public's voting intentions. Polls had shown that the Parti Quebecois was on its way to a strong majority government leading up to the election. However, the Parti Quebecois was awarded a weak minority mandate, taking merely 32% of the popular vote.

Election results aside, the shocking level of support Ms. Marois received from all parts of Canada on her renewed calls for separation was enough to reignite old debates. Seeing the disturbing support for separation across Canada leading up to the election, in August 2012 I got in contact with Brent Tyler, a Montreal-based lawyer and former leader in the SCCU, who shares similar sentiments of the importance for Canadian Unity.



Peter shown here with John Baker, the very first person to purchase an SCCU Western Canada Chapter membership.

He started looking at the idea of re-establishing the Montreal based Special Committee for Canadian Unity (SCCU). This would be in part used to counter balance expressions of support for Quebec to separate from across Canada, wherever these expressions may come from. Having the Western based Chapter reaffirmed, suggestion would also be a step in the right direction to

help Canadian unity. As would be an All Party Special Committee for Canadian Unity on Parliament Hill.

Following the Quebec election, I have been contacted by a group of likeminded individuals wishing to re-establish a Special Committee for Canadian Unity and Montreal.

This will be done in the wake of a Bill which the Bloc Quebecois put forward this past fall which called for the *Clarity Act, 2000* to be abolished. The *Clarity Act* is an important

piece of Canadian legislation, as it gives the federal government the final approval on wording of any future referendum questions to alleviate potential confusion. The legislation also highlights the requirement of a clear majority response from Canadians to separate and not just 50% +1. This Bill repeats this requirement 9 times – a clear expression of the will of the ‘population’ of a province, not just the clear expression of those who showed up to vote. This requirement is in place to ensure the will of ALL Canadians is being considered.

I also would like to put forth a Motion to Parliament calling on all Parliamentarians to indicate that they support Canadian Unity, but will discuss this further at the re-founding Special

Committee for Canadian Unity meeting.

A positive outcome will help to alleviate the underlying fear that the NDP could someday form government and abolish the *Clarity Act*, making it so a simply 50% +1 would determine separation.

The re-establishment of the Western Canada Chapter Committee for Canadian Unity, coupled with the establishment of a Parliamentary Committee for Canadian Unity, will play an important role in the future for ensuring Canada is a country defined as cohesive and not divisive.

Indeed – one Canada uni!

Update: On December 5, 2012, Mr. Goldring travelled to Montreal for the re-founding meeting of the Special Committee for Canadian Unity. He is pleased to report that the process is currently underway to establish an SCCU Parliament Hill Chapter as well as an SCCU Western Canada Chapter.

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This brochure series is intended to highlight special issues that Member of Parliament, Peter Goldring, has been involved in. If you wish to comment, please take a moment to fill out the survey below, write or call to the address above.

Your Opinion Matters...

Q1: Do you think it is important to support Canadian unity across Canada?

Yes

No

Q2: Do you have concern for the future of Canadian unity?

Yes

No

Comments: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
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