

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
RESOLUTION ON CANADA'S CONSTITUTION

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has introduced a resolution in the House of Commons respecting Canada's constitution, and

WHEREAS it is desirable that Canadian farmers express their views on this resolution, and upon other aspects of Canada's constitution directly affecting farmers, and

WHEREAS the NFU Statement of Purpose adopted at the Founding Convention in 1969 contained the words, "We are learning that as farmers we hold a common stake in the welfare of one another and our nation. We are learning that the pursuit of only individual self-interest leads inevitably to self-destruction," and

WHEREAS commodity policies adopted at annual conventions support establishing strong national agencies to market farm products at home and abroad, and when necessary, the transferral of power from provincial to federal governments, and

WHEREAS farmers have, for many years, supported the use of "declaratory powers" by the federal government (elevators, railways); and

WHEREAS resolutions adopted at conventions endorse the principle of equality of persons, of sharing, of individual rights in the fields of health, education, property and land use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this convention endorse:

1. That we regard Canada as one country with two official languages, French and English;
2. That our country be divided into provinces and territories that may become provinces;
3. That our constitution provide ways and means for citizens to elect representatives to form governments, federal, provincial and territorial;
4. That we support patriation of Canada's constitution and consider it necessary that provision be made for an amending formula prior to patriation;
5. That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of citizens to education in either official language where numbers warrant;
6. That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of all Canadians to use an official language in Parliament, in federal courts, and in communicating with any head or central office of the government of Canada;
7. That we support entrenching in the constitution the right of all Canadians to move freely from one province to another, to establish a residence, and to seek a job anywhere in Canada, and to enter, remain in, or to leave Canada;
8. That we support equalization, which involves the redistribution of wealth among the richer and poorer provinces, so that Canadians in all provinces can be provided with a reasonable level of public services, and we support entrenchment of this in the constitution;
9. That we consider fundamental freedoms and rights - except language and mobility rights, should not be entrenched in the constitution, but should be the responsibility of elected representatives in Parliament or the Legislatures.

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10. That we support retaining the right of the Government of Canada to legislate on matters of interprovincial and export trade;
11. That we support retaining the right of the Government of Canada to declare an asset to be a work for the General Advantage of Canada;
12. That we support ownership of natural resources be retained by the provinces but that the federal government must have a major role in the regulation of their development in the national interest.
13. That we consider an alert, informed and vigilant population to be essential if human rights are to be maintained regardless of Canada's laws or its constitution.