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November 24, 1980

Joint Clerks  
Special Joint Committee on the  
Constitution of Canada  
P.O. Box 1044  
South Block  
Parliament Buildings  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A7

Dear Sirs,

The problem of language in Canada may doom the constitutional efforts in which you are engaged. The Committee for Language Regions offers a compromise solution that could avoid a tragic impasse.

We believe that the Constitution as well as the laws of Canada and of the provinces should recognize that in Canada, there are three kinds of language regions:

- 1° unilingual French regions in which French only pre-dominates in common use, socially and commercially;
- 2° unilingual English regions in which English only pre-dominates in common use, socially and commercially;
- 3° dual language regions in which both French and English are in common everyday use.

To test popular opinion towards the dual language regions concept among the people involved, a research organization engaged a professional polling organization. The region chosen for study was the western half of the island of Montreal, where approximately one million people live -- 40% Francophone, 60% non-Francophone (largely English, but with very substantial pockets of Italians, Greeks, Germans, etc). The survey was conducted in the period immediately before the referendum.

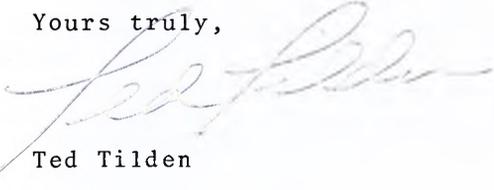
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A key finding of this survey: "There is wide agreement (86-88% French, 95-97% non-French) that even if linguistic equality is not possible in either the whole of Canada or the whole of Quebec, it would still be desirable in areas wherever there are large proportions of both language groups".

To test the reaction of western Canadians to the Language Regions concept, one of our members, Lionel Albert, addressed crowded audiences in service clubs in Winnipeg, Regina, Saskatoon, Edmonton and Vancouver. Both the audiences and the press were warmly receptive in accepting Language Regions as a reasonable solution to the language dilemma.

I am sending a copy of the full survey and a sheet outlining our thinking on the implementation of the plan we propose.

Yours truly,



Ted Tilden

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