

*Nobody ever said that living on half a continent with two official languages, composed of people who come from every corner of the earth, who have added themselves not only to the original French and English, but to the Aborigines who were here before us—nobody said it was easy; and that is why we say that it takes more courage to stay in Canada and fight it out and look for equality in the defence of our rights than to withdraw within our regional walls and say we will be among ourselves.*



- Pierre Elliott Trudeau, remarks made at the Quebec Municipal Convention Centre, May 7, 1980, as cited in *The Essential Trudeau*, ed. Ron Graham. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1998.

(Note that in this speech, Trudeau is referring to the Québécois movement to create a separate nation in Québec. Trudeau did not at all believe this was a solution; he believed in a strong central federal government. Protecting official bilingualism in the 1982 *Charter* was, to him, a very important key to keeping Québec as a province of Canada.)

*A country, after all, is not something you build as the pharaohs built the pyramids, and then leave standing there to defy eternity. A country is something that is built every day out of certain basic shared values. And so it is in the hands of every Canadian to determine how well and wisely we shall build the country of the future.*

- Pierre Elliott Trudeau, *Memoirs*, as cited in *The Essential Trudeau*, ed. Ron Graham. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1998.

### Questions to guide your discussion:

- What do you think are the things that make it difficult to live together in one single country called Canada?
- What do you think are some of the basic shared values of all Canadians, regardless of their ethnic origin? What do Canadians consider to be most important?
- How well do you think your school is doing in welcoming all people, regardless of differences among individuals and groups? Is your school an accepting place for everyone?

**Write 2 or 3 clear questions to help your group gather more information from members of your school about this topic.**