



Read the following quotations. Summarize the main idea of each quotation in your own words. Select two or three quotations that best reflect the nature of Canada.

### **Constitution Act of 1867, Section 91, Powers of the Parliament**

It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate and House of Commons, to make Laws for the Peace, Order, and good Government of Canada, in relation to all Matters not coming within the Classes of Subjects by this Act assigned exclusively to the Legislatures of the Provinces...

### **Section 9 Executive Power**

The Executive Government and Authority of and over Canada is hereby declared to continue and be vested in the Queen.

### **Section 17, Legislative Power**

There shall be One Parliament for Canada, consisting of the Queen, an Upper House styled the Senate, and the House of Commons.



"Not life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, but peace, order, and good government are what the national government of Canada guarantees. Under these, it is assumed, life, liberty, and happiness may be achieved, but by each according to his taste. For the society of allegiance admits of a diversity the society of compact does not, and one of the blessings of Canadian life is that there is no Canadian way of life, much less two, but a unity under the Crown admitting of a thousand diversities."

~ W. L. Morton, historian, *The Canadian Identity* (1961), referring to the difference between the American and Canadian constitutions

"Our founding principles are diversity and unity: Canada is a federation, not just a nation, and that says it all."

~ Bob Rae, former premier of Ontario, "An Unfounded Nation," *National Post*, 3 July 1999.

"This is a difficult country to govern."

~ Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister, as quoted in the *Toronto Star*, 25 February 1993.

"Canada is divided by great mountains, great prairies, Great Lakes, and eleven governments that really grate."

~ Hugh Arscott, *Hugh's Views* (Volume I), 1998.

"Federalism is by its very essence a compromise and a pact. It is a compromise in the sense that when national consensus on *all* things is not desirable or cannot be readily obtained, the area of consensus is reduced in order that consensus on *some* things be reached."

~ Pierre Elliott Trudeau, *Against the Current: Selected Writings, 1939 - 1996*, p. 196- 197

"I greet you as your Queen. Together we constitute the Parliament of Canada."

~ Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, first reigning monarch to open the Canadian Parliament, Ottawa, 1957.

"We did not elect the provincial premiers to undo national programs; we elected the federal government to apply strong national standards, and provincial governments to deliver services."

~ Maude Barlow, chair of the Council of Canadians, interviewed by Graham Fraser, *The Globe and Mail*, 9 December 1998.

"When I think of the way we run our economy and our governments, I'm reminded of those startling photographs that sometimes emerge from a Canadian spring - interlocking skeletons of two stags who have locked horns, gotten stuck, and died when unable to eat and survive the winter. I sometimes wonder how different we really are from those Canadian deer."

~ Bob Rae, Ontario Premier, as quoted in the *Toronto Star*, 10 October 1981.

"Why, in Canada, can the federal government designate twenty percent of the land mass for future parks, but not have the same political will to designate twenty percent of the total land mass of Canada for Indian people? Why this double standard?"

~ Ovide Mercredi, National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, quoted by André Picard in *The Globe and Mail*, 6 November 1991.

"If you're a mayor and you have a problem, what do you do? You blame the provincial government. And when you're the provincial government and you have a problem, what do you do? You blame the federal government. And for us, we cannot blame the Queen anymore, so we blame the Americans once in a while."

~ Jean Chrétien, Prime Minister, referring to criticism of the federal budget, 2 March 1995, quoted by Susan Delacourt in *The Globe and Mail*.

"...We continue to exercise the rights and fulfill the responsibilities and obligations given to us by the Creator for the land upon which we were placed. The Creator has given us the right to govern ourselves and the right to self-determination. The rights and responsibilities given to us by the Creator cannot be altered or taken away by any other Nation."

~ Statement of the Assembly of First Nations, 2001:  
<[www.afn.ca/Assembly\\_of\\_First\\_Nations.htm](http://www.afn.ca/Assembly_of_First_Nations.htm)>

"While espousing partnerships, Ottawa will largely do what it thinks best, while proclaiming solidarity, provinces will act in their own individual self-interest."

~ Jeffrey Simpson, columnist, "Show of Solidarity," *The Globe and Mail*, 10 December 1997.

