

*The population of Canada is no more than a million and is divided into two hostile nations. The rigours of the climate limit the expansion of the territory and shut its ports for six months of the year.*

- Alexis de Tocqueville, French traveller, *Democracy in America* (1835) translated by George Lawrence and edited by J.P. Mayer and Max Lerner in 1966.

*In geographical area, this Confederation of the British North American Provinces is even now large - it may even become one day second only in extent to the vast territories of Russia.*

- Lord Carnarvaron, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, opinion in the passage of the BNA Act, 1867, as he recalled on his visit to Québec, 1 September 1883.

*Late events have shown us that we are made one people by that road, that that iron link has bound us together in such a way that we stand superior to most of the shafts of ill-fortune. . .*

- Sir John A. Macdonald, in a speech in June 1885, referring to the Canadian Pacific Railroad, quoted by Pierre Berton in *The Last Spike: The Great Railway, 1881-1885* (1971).

*Aboriginal people are both Canadian citizens and citizens of their particular nations. Thus they hold a form of dual citizenship, which permits them to maintain loyalty to their nation and to Canada as a whole.*

- *Restructuring the Relationship, Volume 2, Part One: Report of the Royal Commission in Aboriginal Peoples*, chaired by René Dussault and Georges Erasmus, 1996.

*There should be a law that Canadians would not be granted citizenship until they've crossed this country by car, or, if they can find one, by train. That kind of odyssey would serve to remind us that even if we've always suffered from constitutional indigestion, our forefathers performed a series of miracles to originally settle this country.*

- Peter C. Newman, *Maclean's*, July 6, 1992.

