

UNIT 4

WE'RE CANADIANS, EH?

READING A

One Canada – or Two?

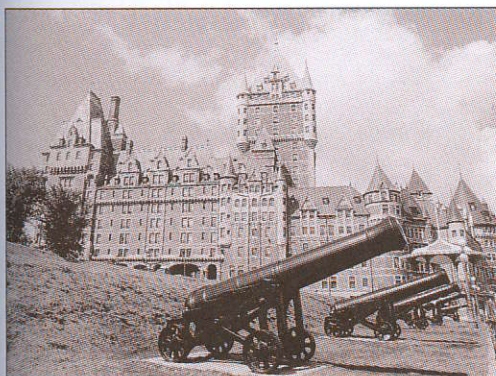
1 Read these statements about Québécois and decide whether they are true or false. The statements are based on the 1997 nation-wide survey.

1. The majority of Québécois consider it totally unacceptable for someone in a long-term relationship to have an affair.
2. Québécois are more likely than other Canadians to think that it would be foolish to hand in a wallet full of money to the police.
3. 15 per cent of Québécois think it acceptable to cheat on income tax. This is the highest percentage rate in Canada.
4. 58 per cent of Québécois describe themselves liberal in their views and behaviour.
5. They are more likely than other Canadians to place a high importance on having a fulfilling job.
6. Considerably fewer Québécois than Canadians elsewhere ranked making lots of money as important.
7. Fewer of them oppose abortion on moral grounds, compared with the rest of Canada.

2 Read the following text with special attention to the words in bold.

In Canada's province of Québec the mother tongue of four out of five people is French. Nationlike in size, Québec operates with an autonomy **unsurpassed** among Canada's nine other provinces. Six million

Québec



Francophone Québécois live in an area three times the size of France. Descendants of the New France empire builders who were defeated by Great Britain in 1760, they have long sought greater recognition in an essentially English-speaking land. Given that Québec's language and culture have helped contribute to the richness and uniqueness of Canada, many Québécois feel that it is **appropriate** that these contributions be valued and preserved. They want to be acknowledged as different and respected as such.

To this day, many in Québec tend to think of themselves as a nation; as a distinct people whose interest may not be identical with Canada's interests. They are asking the rest of Canada to recognise the

3 Translate the following sentences into English. Use as many words and expressions from the reading as you can.

1. Québec nagyobb autonómiát élvez, mint a többi kilenc kanadai tartomány.

2. 6 millió francia anyanyelvű québeci él egy három Franciaországnyi területen.

3. A québeciek azt akarják, hogy a különbözőségeiket ismerjék el és tiszteljék.

4. A québeci nacionalizmus hol fellángolt, hol lelohadt, de eddig még sohasem tűnt el.

5. Így az az alapvető kérdés, hogy Québec része marad-e Kanadának vagy sem, valószínűleg

átüződik az új évezredbe.

provinces' right to decide its own future. Nationalism in Québec has ebbed and flowed, but has never shown any signs of disappearing. So the dominant question of the past 100 years – will Québec go or stay? – is likely to continue to reverberate into the new millennium.

Yet English Canada has grown both more fatigued and impatient with what it sees as a never-ending series of demands from Québec for concessions and special rights. The sovereignty problem is getting smaller in the mind of the Québec public as well. They want the government to take care of the real problems, the economic and social issues. People know that a division cannot be accomplished without great social and economic costs. Many believe it would be national suicide to cut Canada into two unconnected parts.

Psychologically Québec and Canada have already separated. Perhaps one true measure of Québecers' distinctiveness is their dedication to the pursuit of happi-

ness. Québecers are more likely to go to the theatre, take in a concert or a movie, watch or play sport, or eat out at a good restaurant, and they are less likely in general to judge their neighbours. They exhibit a live-and-let-live attitude on a range of issues.

Canada as the product of the founding peoples, the English and the French, is not untrue but incomplete. The aboriginal peoples were there first and there is no historic or moral ground to oppose them on this point. The West was largely settled by peoples from continental Europe. More than 50% of immigrants today arrive from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. In any case, the history of much of Canada is one of multiculturalism in the first place. Minority populations across Canada will total 5.7 million (17.7%) by 2001. It is projected the 54% of Toronto's population will be visible minorities by that time. Most immigrants in the last several decades have selected the major cities as their home.

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