

majority, a unique culture and a civil law tradition. Also in the way of acknowledgement New Brunswick's two linguistic communities are given equal status including the right to distinct educational and cultural institutions in order to preserve these cultures. Aboriginal peoples were also given the freedom to practice and protect their languages, cultures and traditions, as ensured by the Charter. Aboriginal peoples are also given self-government, that interacts with the two orders of government. This is the Canada Clause in its most basic form.

Socially and economically this agreement entrenches many policies into the constitution. The social union includes a comprehensive, universal, portable and accessible health care system, adequate social services and benefits, high quality primary and secondary education and reasonable access to post-secondary education. It also protects the rights of workers to organize and bargain collectively and allows for the protection and preservation of the environment for the future. Economic goals are free movement of persons, goods, services and capital, full employment and development, all of which will lead to both a strengthened Canadian economic union and a reasonable standard of living for all Canadians.

The debate about the triple E senate has been raging for a while now, so unless you've been hiding out under a rock you'll know at least a little about it. According to the Charlottetown Accord, the senate will be elected, equal and effective. So, the senators will be elected either by the population or by their provincial or territorial legislative assemblies. The equal senate will initially have 62 senators,

six from each province and one from each territory. Aboriginal senators are above and beyond those of the province or territory and should have extra powers over the matters directly relating to Aboriginal issues. The effective senate is a senate which is obligated to deal with any bill approved by the House of Commons within thirty sitting days of the House of , and any bill defeated or amended by the Senate triggers a joint sitting with the House of Commons. The effective senate concept also states that bills which materially affect French language or French culture could only be passed with approval from a majority of Senators and a majority of Francophone Senators voting. The new Senate would also be involved in, by ratification, the appointments of heads of national cultural institutions, and federal regulatory boards or agencies and the Governor of the Bank of Canada. This ratification of appointments would be rejected by a majority vote against it. The final point of Senate reform states that Senators are not eligible for Cabinet posts.

The Supreme Court reforms have also been much debated over the past few months, although more for changes on a provincial level than a federal. Basically, the changes to the Supreme Court through the Charlottetown Accord entrench these things in the Constitution even though they have been done all along (well, more or less). The Supreme Court itself will be entrenched in the constitution as the general court of appeal within the country. This court will be composed of nine members, three of whom will be from Quebec. The reason for this is Quebec, having a different civil code, has a different type of court system than the rest of Canada. The reforms to the Supreme Court would require



*Selling the constitution*