

Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation? 8 hand to the Minister of National Defence as This agreement has been approved by all ministers but British Columbia's. Rather than well. There are few policies that the waiting for unanimity, which is not yet Government can accomplish alone without the Carthamina the ministers wiesly desided t

	spending initiatives (that is, additional	guarantee that each government will clearly
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10 Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation?

NATIONAL UNITY AND PARADIGM SHIFTS

by
David R. Cameron
University of Toronto

Author's Note: The text presented below has

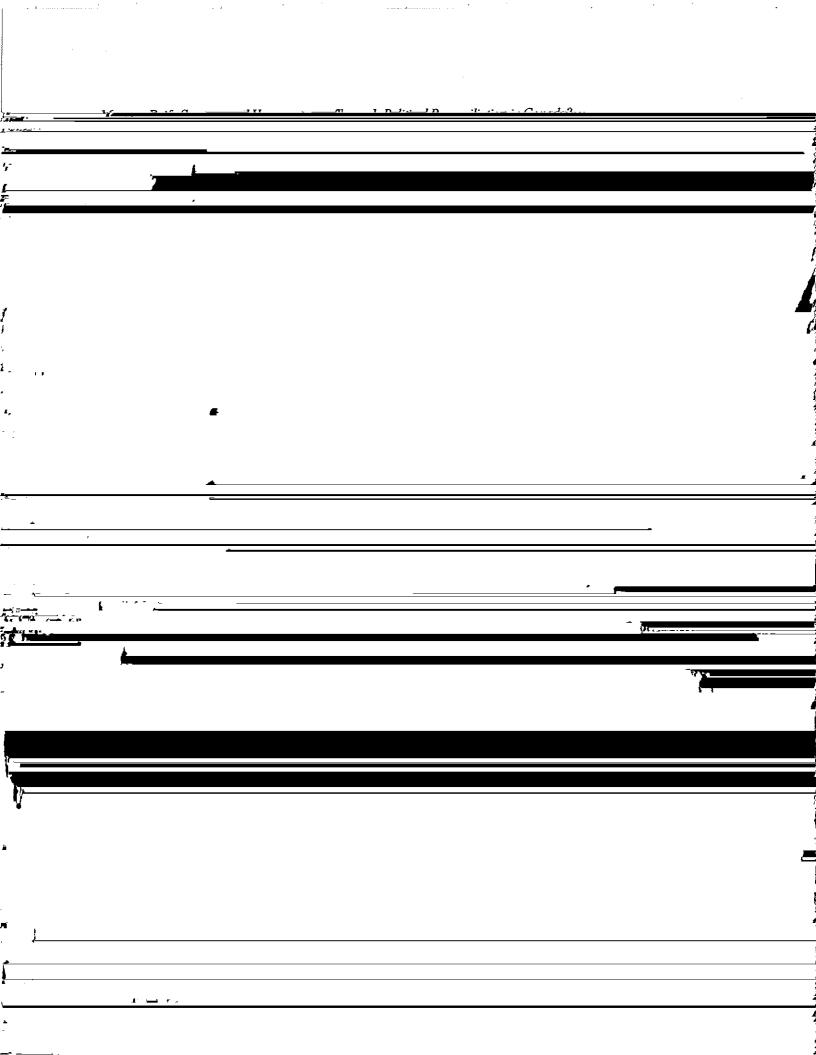
I am successful in making a case here, it will give the phrase "Just say no" new meaning.

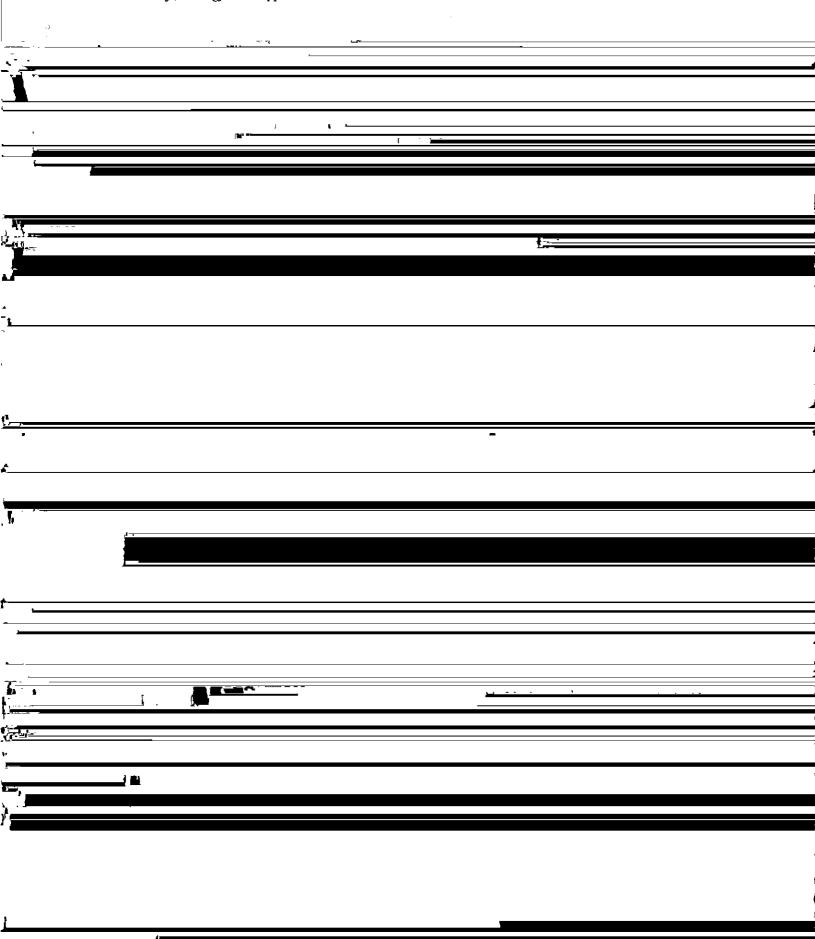
Before I begin, I should sketch briefly what a new era or a new national-unity paradigm might look like.

I am not talking just about the possibility -with Jean Charest at the helm of the provincial
Liberals of defeating the BO in the next

14 Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada? Canadians - inside and outside Quebec - find Quebec has not had in living memory a

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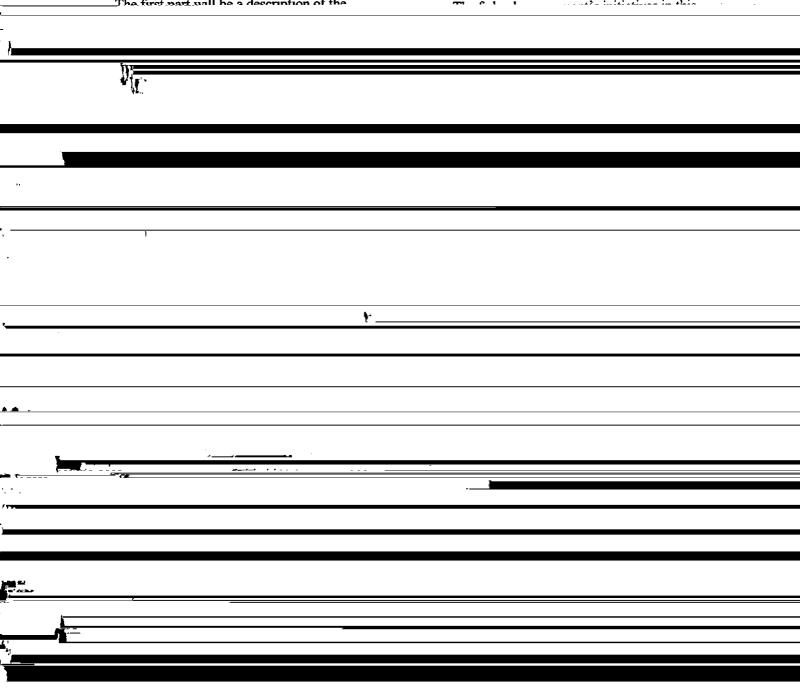
matter that I have been asked to speak on namely the federal strategy.

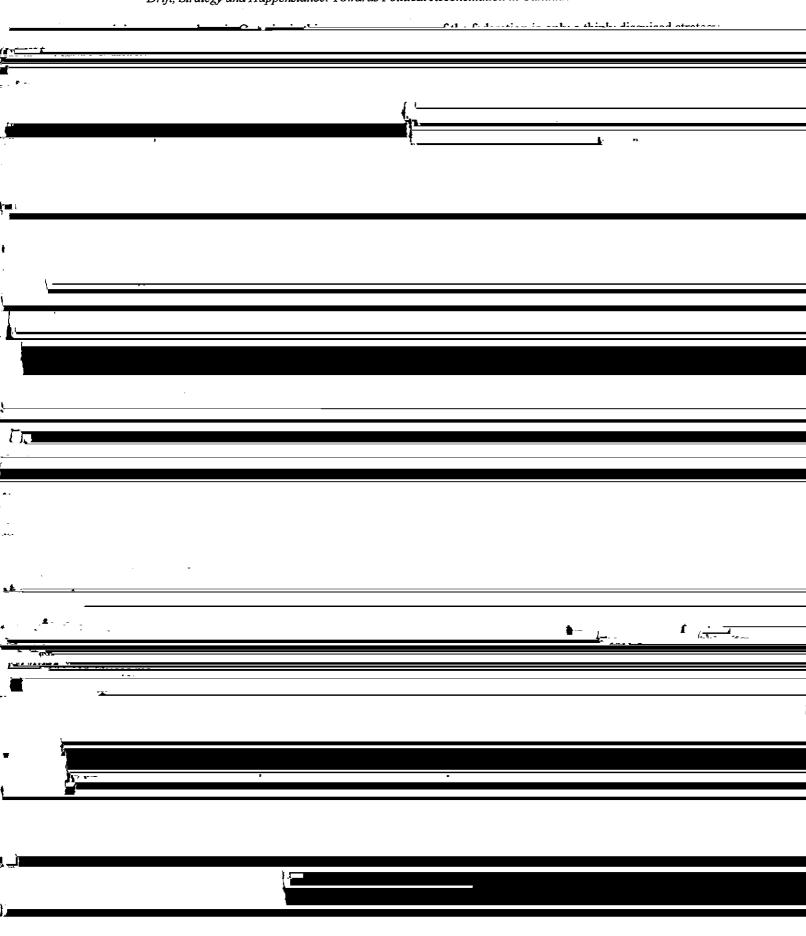
My presentation is divided into two parts. The first will describe what the federal government has done on the national unity file since the 1995 referendum. The second part will provide some commentary on how it's working and the implications. I would note also that this presentation, given the time limitation, is mostly Quebec centric.

The first part will be a description of the

changes in constitutional jurisdiction for Quebec will only be made with the consent of Quebecers."

The next day, in his address to the nation, he restated his commitment saying: "And I repeat tonight what I said yesterday in Verdun. We must recognize that Quebec's language, its culture and institutions make it a distinct society. And no constitutional change that affects the powers of Quebec should ever be made without the consent of Quebecers".





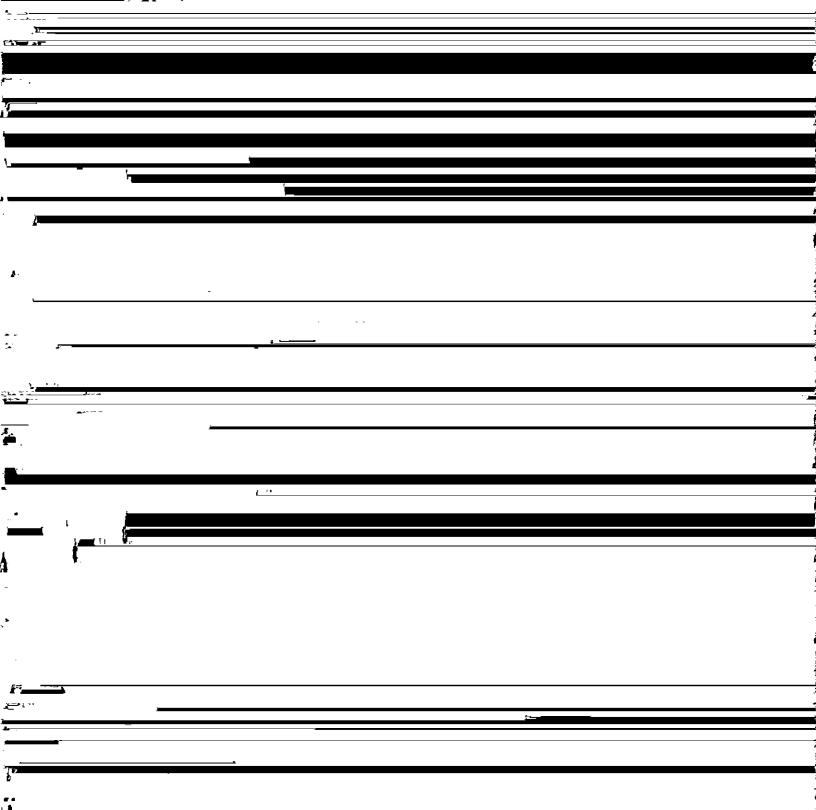
Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada? 20 last referendum a meeting between a dozen be held hostage by Quebec separatists who are

First, there is no way to know whether this whether Quebec would still elect MPs in Ottawa, 29% said YES; when asked whether Quebecers falling support for sovereignty is a direct result of

ultimately reduced to a simple thumbs-up or thumbs-down judgment ranging from a bumper sticker clip to a sound bite. Ministers are constantly facing a microphone. A scorecard of their successes and failures is kept on a daily basis.

As Brzezinski said "...I had an insufficient

sovereignty to the global economy, as they emerge from the straight jackets of deficit reduction, as new technologies change the communications landscape. The Quebec socio-economic profile has dramatically changed as Monique Forget noted recently: "There is now a French-speaking corporate elite in Quebec. Francophone



QUEBEC SECESSION REFERENCE

by
Daniel Soberman

We must remember that in 1981, the Supreme Court held that the Government of Canada of its own volition, could patriate our constitution by going to Westminster one last time, without

Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada? 24 would have entrenched the Victoria formula - and would give the National Assembly, legislature or government of Quebec the at that time, Quebec alone dissented.

Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada? 25 Amazian Civil XV = 9 Talintana all languages in the few decoder and it is compething of which we

Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada?

expression of Quebec's will to secede, Ottawa or one or more provinces refuses to negotiate in good faith towards separation? What if good faith negotiations simply reached an impasse

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to in advance. It is helpful here to quote further from her written response to question 4 posed by the Court:

37. ... it is wrong and unfounded in law to brandish the spectre of political im-

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i. F	to the previous question. By definition, such a doctrine applies only in exceptional,	Constitution Act, 1982. The Referendum Act (S.C. 1992, c. 30) authorizes the	
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!	avoid a legal vacuum. The contours of its	referendum on any question relating to the	
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30 Drift, Strategy and Happenstance: Towards Political Reconciliation in Canada? nonconformists. Will any student of Canada's government of Quebec have to play in protecting constitutional history forget W.A.C. Bennett, the unique character of Quebec society; and the --idalin-- Can the manage of muhlic commultations

sil-	support of a "united alternative" strategy (what	among them must be the current leadership in the	
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