



Cap sur l'indépendance

## Communiqué de presse

### **The British monarchy initiated a linguistic cleansing that the Canadian Government continues to pursue**

**Montreal, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011** – On the occasion of William and Kate's visit at Sainte-Justine hospital, the Cap sur l'indépendance Network held a press conference to issue an address to the representatives of the British monarchy. A strong majority of Quebeckers wish to get rid of the monarchy, an obsolete institution that reminds us of our nation's subordination to another nation for which we are forced to pay a tribute of about 10 million dollars to finance an institution of the Canadian constitution that was never approved by the people and signed by the successive Quebec governments since 1982. The British Crown decided, sometimes initiated, other times approved, systematic actions of linguistic cleansing that have almost succeeded in eliminating the francophone presence outside Quebec and that threatens since 1982 the support to the French language in Quebec initiated by Bill 101.

#### **Address to the representatives of the British Monarchy**

To William and Kate,

As representatives of the British Crown, your visit in Quebec is not welcome. It reminds us of the history of destruction and despicable acts which your institution perpetrated against our nation. The institution that you represent costs us approximately 10 million dollars per year. We finance our own subordination to the Canadian nation. Recent surveys have shown that a vast majority of Quebecers wish to abolish the institutions inherited from the monarchy and to cut links completely with the British Crown.

In 1755, more than 12,500 Acadians, out of a total population of 15,000, were deported by order of the British Crown. Between 7,500 and 9,000 died trying to escape or following their exile. You have graciously recognized in 2003 the "human tragedy of the deportation", through your Governor General, Adrienne Clarkson. You recognized it, but never apologized for it or repair the immense damages made.

This violence persisted with the Patriot movement that you bloodily repressed in 1837-38. The Patriots called for a democratic Parliament and national emancipation. Then your provincial Governments outside Quebec systematically banned education in French. For more than a century, in some cases, Canadian provinces with an English majority passed and maintained laws that forbade education in French, or even the teaching of French as a second language in public schools. In Ontario, in particular, it is only in 1968 that public

French high schools were instituted, and it took 30 more years before the French-speaking communities were allowed to administrate their own school institutions. It was much too late. Assimilation had already solidly set in.

Finally, the British monarchy was an accomplice to the imposition in 1982 of a new Canadian Constitution that Quebec has never signed. This illegitimate and, indeed, illegal Constitution is filled with many restrictions to weaken Bill 101, a law that simply sought to establish the linguistic rights of Quebec's French-speaking majority.

The following additional examples of assimilationist measures, taken from the book of Pierre-Luc Bégin, *The Cultural Genocide of Francophones in Canada – A Synthesis of the Decline of the French Language in Canada*, are well-documented

- In Ontario, in 1912, Regulation 17, approved by the Federal Government, comes into force, abolishing education in French.
- In Manitoba, in 1890, the Manitoba Legislature passes the Official Language Act, suppressing the French language as an official language of the Province. In 1916, a new Education Act adopted by the Government of Manitoba, The Thornton Act, suppresses bilingual schools. Education in French is totally banned.
- In Saskatchewan, in 1902, French is banned as a language of instruction while Saskatchewan is a territory under federal jurisdiction. In 1929, there is complete abolition of French teaching in Saskatchewan, as a Canadian Province. In 1934, the Saskatchewan Government restores the teaching of French for one hour a day.
- In New Brunswick, in 1864, the Education Act (Tupper Act) abolishes Catholic schools, i.e., French schools in the Province.
- The *Public School Act* in 1877 bans Catholic schools in Prince Edward Island.

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The Cap sur l'indépendance Network groups the following organizations :

Ligue d'action nationale, Comité indépendantiste du Cégep du Vieux-Montréal, Comité souverainiste de l'UQAM, Conseil de la souveraineté du Québec, Fondation Octobre 70, Intellectuels pour la souveraineté (IPSO), Jeunes patriotes du Québec, Aînés pour la souveraineté, Libre marcheur, Mouvement des étudiants souverainistes de l'Université de Montréal, Mouvement national des Québécois et des Québécoises, Mouvement progressiste pour l'indépendance du Québec, Mouvement souverainiste du Québec, Rassemblement pour l'indépendance nationale, Rassemblement pour un pays souverain, Réseau de Résistance du Québécois, Société nationale des Québécoises et Québécois des Laurentides, Société nationale Gaspésie/Îles-de-la-Madeleine, Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de la Mauricie, Société Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Montréal, and Vigile.net .