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FEATURED

11th Province Committee holds West End public consult

By: Joel Goldenberg The Suburban
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CaPQ leaders Colin Standish and Myrtis Fossey at Montreal West town hall with a Bonjour-Hi banner given to them by NDG's Alex "Trainman" Montagano.

Joel Goldenberg Photo

The Canadian Party of Quebec held a public consultation at Montreal West town hall Aug. 14 on the potential formation of an 11th province, in light of the possibility of a Parti Québécois victory in 2026 and their promise to hold a third separation referendum.

About 100 people attended the meeting, at which CaPQ co-leaders Colin Standish and Myrtis Fossey, and party board member Keith Henderson, spoke. The party says that if Canada is divisible, so is Quebec — a Stéphane Dion quote — and that the rules of the boundaries of an independent Quebec should “be laid down now, before any secessionist referendum, not afterward.”



The party has been calling for a federally-supervised referendum before a Quebec referendum “to give all citizens a chance to choose between Quebec and Canadian citizenship.”

The speakers, and many attendees who chose to speak, expressed their discontent with many of Quebec’s laws, especially the language law Bill 96, with one speaker criticizing the passivity of Quebec anglophones.

Attendee Michael Shafter differed from most, wanting provincial federalist parties to “form one united front” in the next Quebec election.

“Give some thought, not necessarily to a new province... we have an opportunity to make inroads and let’s do it together, please speak to the [provincial] Liberal and Conservative parties.”

The CaPQ’s next step is to finalize their platform regarding this issue.

“It’s a chance to remain Canadian, to remain here, in the historical birthplace of Canada and retain its rich history, but also make a fresh start by discarding all of the deadwood,” Fossey said. “We can prune away all the anti-constitutional laws and make room for new growth.”



Henderson asked attendees to imagine “a truly Canadian Quebec that signs Canada’s constitution and never uses the Notwithstanding clause; imagine a new Quebec, a west Quebec.... think of a bilingual Quebec, where both English and French are used and respected....think of a new Quebec province where tax dollars are spent not on language police, but on good French and English education for kids; where hospitals and municipalities are free to conduct their affairs in English or French, or whatever language best suits the patient; and where there will never be another referendum on independence!”

The Suburban asked Standish how federal parties that sought to curry favour with Quebec by overwhelmingly voting for Bill C-13 (the revision of the Official Languages Act that by reference recognizes Quebec’s language law and gives it application over federal areas of jurisdiction) will agree to a federal referendum prior to a Quebec secession vote.

“Behind the scenes, certainly in the Liberal Party of Canada, there are many MPs, and I’ve spoken to some of them, there’s a lot of discontent there,” Standish told *The Suburban*. “I think there’s a lot of movement there internally against Mr. Trudeau on C-13, on language rights, on federalism, on the state of the nation. They say very different things behind the scenes. I’m having those conversations. I hope this will percolate into something real. If Liberal MPs realize their populations may vote for someone else, they’ll start to move.” n

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