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ABSTRACTS

Charles CASTONGUAY : *Évolution de l'assimilation linguistique au Québec et au Canada entre 1971 et 1991*

In light of the connection between linguistic assimilation and the Canadian unity crisis, on the basis of census data, we examine the trends toward assimilation in the case of allophones in Québec and Francophone minorities in the other provinces. The study identifies a relative degree of French-language assimilation among recent immigrants to Québec, attributable to increased immigration from countries where Latin languages are spoken, or from other French-speaking countries, and to a lesser extent, to the obligatory French-language education provided under Bills 22 and 101. In contrast, English-language assimilation was stronger than in 1971 among long-established immigrants and among allophones born in Québec. Elsewhere in Canada, English-language assimilation of Francophones is on the increase, except perhaps in New Brunswick. The unfavourable trends where French is concerned call for a major review of Canadian policy regarding the language, culture and nationality of French Canada.

Fernand DUMONT : *Essor et déclin du Canada français*

Right after the appearance of his *Genèse de la société*, in 1993, Fernand Dumont began writing what was to have been its sequel under the title *L'avènement du Québec contemporain*. He knew that it was an extremely demanding undertaking, and as revealed in his memoirs, he had the foresight to know that he might not carry it through to its completion ; that it would remain a project under way, like many other projects of authorship.

While continuing his battle against cancer, which took his life on May 1, 1997, Fernand Dumont nevertheless succeeded in completing the drafting of what was to have been the first chapter of *L'avènement du Québec contemporain*. This text on the growth and decline of French Canada itself forms a whole, but it would certainly be of interest to read it while keeping in mind the methodological principles set out in the appendix to *Genèse* entitled « Présupposés et justifications ». The introduction that he had drafted to *L'avènement du Québec contemporain* indicated that the same principles inspired the design of the project under way.

Michel PAILLÉ/Marie MC ANDREW et Marianne JACQUET : *Le milieu de l'éducation face à l'immigration : comment peut-on déceler un discours « alarmiste » quand la réalité devance déjà les projections démographiques ?*

An examination of the briefs from the educational sector, concerning immigration, submitted to the Québec Government in 1991 reveals that they were very little influenced by the demographic projections which forecast a reduction in the relative proportion of Francophones on Montréal Island, together with an increase in the proportion of allophones. Moreover, a comparison of the data from the 1991 census with the results of forecasts published shortly before shows that the latter remained well below the reality, and therefore could not have given rise to an « alarmist » discourse in educational circles.