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Abstracts

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ABSTRACTS

Gilles GAGNÉ et Simon LANGLOIS : *Le vote en faveur de la souveraineté du Québec, 1995-2000*

In order to understand the outcome of the 1995 referendum vote, a typology of citizens was developed. One of the groups – essentially the young francophone middle class – became highly mobilized in favour of the sovereignist option during the 1995 referendum campaign, whereas older francophones and those not in the labour force pulled back just before the vote. Québec society is divided on its future according to language, but also according to age and labour market status, two factors that characterize the ability to project one's future. The drop in enthusiasm for the sovereignist option observed in 1999 and 2000 is concentrated in the cluster of groups that provide the main support for the project. Also, the differences between men and women are becoming less pronounced, and have even disappeared in the latter cluster. Finally, the vote among anglophones and immigrants is not structured in the same way ; age affects the preference of the former group, and labour market status affects that of the latter.

Éric GAGNON et Andrée SÉVIGNY : *Permanence et mutations du monde bénévole*

Voluntarism is not omnipresent and takes various forms. Public policy has a determining influence on its nature and its mode of organization, but a definition of voluntarism must also take into account the meaning that volunteers ascribe to their work and the way in which their aspirations may be fulfilled through their activity. From this viewpoint, dimensions such as freedom to undertake the commitment, meaningful experience and proximity between volunteers and those whom they assist are central in today's volunteer movement. They lead us to a definition of volunteer work as a privileged moment for recognition of oneself and of others, and through the valuing of a situation or a form of conduct.

Nicole GAGNON : *Comment peut-on être Québécois ?*

The current debate on the national issue in Québec tends to dispose of the traditional conception according to which a nation is neither an ethnic nor a civic reality, but rather a historical one, with which the descendants of immigrants are

destined to identify. Under the effect of intercultural ideology and the influence of the Jewish model, the failure of the old Québécois nation to perpetuate itself through assimilation is thus transmuted into a victory for modern nationalism. Various proposals to rewrite national history are indicative of this drift. Based on a review of a number of recent writings, the text discusses those of Claude Bariteau and Gérard Bouchard, as well as Charles Taylor's idea of the « political nation ».

Jean LAFONTANT et Thibault MARTIN : *L'amour de la langue et les langues de l'amour*

This article presents the results of a study carried out on a sample of young Franco-Manitobans. The study focused on the language use habits of these young people in the various areas of their daily life, on the depth of their feeling of belonging to the French-language community, on their subjective cultural affiliations, and on the effects of these factors in their choice of partners in love relationships and ultimately in their choice of a future spouse. The analysis of the results suggests that the linguistic assimilation observed in Manitoba is not only the result of an increase in exogamy. Apart from the many structural constraints, of course, which must include the number and density of francophones as well as the extent and relative influence of their institutional network, assimilation is apparently the result of a broader phenomenon : the modernization of the French-Canadian communities, and their cultural adaptation to the values by which Canadian society characterizes itself, such as individual rights and freedoms and equal opportunity. Yet the adoption of modern values tends to undermine the substance of traditions, if not the ideological value placed on them, as well as the maintaining of homogeneous and endogamous *communities*, despite the official Canadian policy of recognition and promotion of official language minorities and of other cultural groups.

Sylvie PARÉ : *L'accès à la transaction immobilière : un des mécanismes du processus de ségrégation résidentielle ethnique*

Research on the role of real estate agents in residential segregation has revealed certain aspects of ethnic discrimination. One of the mechanisms by which this occurs enters into effect at a particular point in the agent-client social relationship. The ethnic group to which the real estate agent belongs, whether it is a so-called majority or minority group, appears to have an impact on access to real estate transactions. The differences in access to service and to the property sought by the client are introduced by the agent providing the real estate service for various reasons, which are explored in this article. The differences in the treatment of certain ethnic client groups are examined quantitatively and then qualitatively, based on a small number of in-depth interviews, which leads to a better understanding of the differentiation-discrimination process.