

Quebec votes to keep Canada together

Bouchard urges secessionists to 'keep the faith'

MONTREAL — By a perilously narrow margin, Quebecers heeded pleas for national unity and voted against secession Monday, sparing Canada a traumatic fracture but leaving the French-speaking province split down the middle.

Losing by only 1 percent of the vote, the separatists quickly and defiantly vowed to try again for independence.

"To see it escape our grasp is hard to bear," said the separatists' charismatic leader, Lucien Bouchard. "Let's keep the faith, because the next time will be the right time. And the next time could come quicker than you think."

In nearly complete returns from 22,400 polling stations, the federalists led by 50.5 percent to 49.5 percent — 2,350,657 votes to 2,301,917 votes.

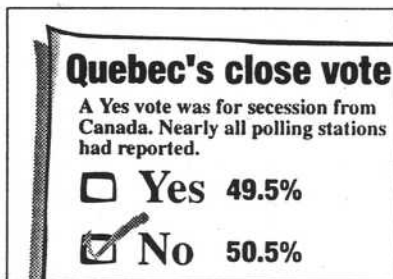
About 82 percent of Quebecers are French-speaking, and roughly 60 percent of them voted for separation. As expected, roughly 90 percent of English-speaking and immigrant Quebecers voted No.

Federalists celebrated raucously at their headquarters, waving Canada's maple leaf flag amid a flurry of balloons. Not all was civil: Hundreds of Yes and No supporters taunted one another in downtown Montreal, and a dozen came to blows after the results were announced.

Other separatist campaigners — who came closer than many had dreamed a few months ago — wept on each other's shoulders. But they came to life, cheering proudly, when Bouchard congratulated them for improving so dramatically from a 60-40 percent defeat in a 1980 independence referendum.

"We roll up our sleeves and we try again," said Bouchard's partner, Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau. "We won't wait 15 years this time. ... We want our country, and we will get it."

Even if another referendum is not



Source: AP

DN Graphic

imminent, there will be immediate calls for constitutional reform.

"Canada on paper may still be a country — but there's something wrong with this country," said Louise Beaudoin, culture minister in Quebec's separatist government. "We had 9 percent more than we had in 1980 — something has to be done."

Some leading backers of the federalist side also said the narrow result should fuel the nationwide call for reforms that would end decades of constitutional wrangling.

"We have to put an end to this business, the referendum," said

Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow. "We have to make accommodation with respect to the province of Quebec. My part of the world wants change."

Comments like that will place heavy pressure on Prime Minister Jean Chretien, a Quebecer committed to national unity, to develop some strategy to meet the demands for change. Chretien was to convene his Cabinet on Tuesday to assess the impact of the vote.

The vote will leave scars in Quebec. But it will hearten the throngs of Canadians from other provinces who joined marches, rallies and vigils last week beseeching Quebec to stay.

A separatist victory would have spelled economic turmoil for Canada — and perhaps the greatest political crisis of its history. It would have lost one-fourth of its people and one-sixth of its land — a fracture without precedent among prosperous Western democracies.

The turnout, after a passionate campaign, was exceptionally large: 92 percent of the roughly 5 million regis-

tered voters.

In Verdun, a working-class suburb of Montreal, unemployed Bertrand Fontaine, 48, explained his Yes vote.

"I worked 18 years for a company, and now I've been unemployed for two years," he said. "That's enough. Maybe with new companies here, I'd have new chances. I have nothing to lose."

Annette Dupuis, 83, said she was proud to cast a No vote in the Montreal suburb of Anjou.

"My country is Canada," she said. "This is very important to me. If the Yes vote wins... I will shed tears. It will be the death of Canada."

Bouchard said all Quebecers should take pride in the campaign — one of the few times in world history where citizens were offered a vote on whether to secede.

"We demonstrated in Quebec that we are a democracy, that we can talk to each other," Bouchard said.

House to peacemakers: Don't presume U.S. troops will go to Bosnia

WASHINGTON — Brushing aside administration objections, the House passed a non-binding resolution Monday telling Bosnia peace negotiators they should not presume U.S. troops will be available to enforce an agreement. The House acted two days before talks were to begin in Dayton, Ohio.

Before the vote, U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke said supporters of the House resolution were "doing grave damage to the national interests." He said the negotiations would open "without any assurance of success."

The resolution said it was the sense of the House "there should not be a presumption" that enforcement of a peace agreement "will involve deployment of United States armed forces on the ground in the territory of the Republic of Bosnia."

The resolution also said no troops should be sent to Bosnia "until the Congress has approved such a deployment."

The resolution was adopted on a vote of 315-103.

The House resolution needs no fur-

ther action and there was no comparable bill in the Senate.

At a news conference before he left Washington, the assistant secretary of state said his chances of persuading the presidents of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia to reach an agreement heavily depended on showing "some American and allied leadership."

"This kind of resolution is extremely unhelpful," he said. "It would weaken the United States."

But Rep. Stephen Buyer, R-Ind., a Gulf War veteran who was one of the principal sponsors of the resolution, said "U.S. troops will become targets" if they are sent to Bosnia.

Opposing the resolution, Minority Whip David Bonior, D-Mich., referred to reports of atrocities against Bosnian Muslims and asked, "Will the bloodshed continue? We have turned our backs long enough."

President Clinton has said he would commit up to 25,000 U.S. troops to a NATO peacekeeping force if all warring parties in Bosnia agree to a peace agreement. Clinton has said he would seek agreement for any deployment

from Congress, but said he did not believe he was required to do so.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., told reporters: "It would be nice if the president told us what he intended to do and asked our advice before he did it."

And Senate Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas said, "The president ought to persuade you, the American people."

Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana, the senior Democrat on the House International Relations Committee, said that over the weekend Secretary of State Warren Christopher and White House National Security adviser Anthony Lake tried to reach Gingrich.

"I am not aware their calls were returned," said Hamilton.

Holbrooke said there could be no peace in Bosnia without U.S. troops under NATO command and prepared to retaliate instantly if attacked. He rejected any comparisons to Vietnam, where he worked as a young foreign service officer.

"We are not going to send people into war," he said. "We are going to send Americans into peace."

One-third of protected species still losing numbers, report says

WASHINGTON — About one-third of the plants and animals protected by the Endangered Species Act are believed to be still declining in numbers, the Interior Department said Monday.

Most of the species continuing to decline are among those more recently listed for special protection and where recovery programs have not yet been fully implemented.

The law, however, has kept hundreds of species from becoming extinct. Only seven species listed between 1968 and 1993 are officially considered as extinct, said a report released by Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The fact that more than 99 percent of all endangered species continue to exist is one of the successes of the endangered species program," said Mollie Beattie, the agency's director.

The report said 58 percent of 106 species listed from 1968 to 1973 are considered "stable and increasing,"

"The fact that more than 99 percent of all endangered species continue to exist is one of the successes of the endangered species program."

MOLLIE BEATTIE

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

compared with only 22 percent of the 294 species listed from 1989 and 1993.

In many cases recovery programs have not yet had time to work among species listed in recent years, the report said.

The report "shows we can save endangered species, but it takes time," George Frampton, assistant interior secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, told reporters.

He criticized Congress for cutting money for species-recovery programs and for pre-listing of species that may be in the early stages of decline, calling this "wrongheaded" because it will

prevent officials from heading off future problems.

Asked for an overall assessment of endangered-species protection, Frampton said it's "a mixed picture" because of the proposed budget cuts being sought by the Republican-run Congress and legislative proposals to overhaul the Endangered Species Act.

Frampton said legislation introduced in both the House and Senate would "basically wipe out" recovery efforts and place the endangered species protection program "under a serious cloud."



Court to review rulings in crack cases

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court tackled a sensitive racial issue Monday, agreeing to decide whether federal prosecutors must respond to accusations that they discriminate against blacks in crack-cocaine cases.

The justices said they will review rulings that threw out federal indictments against five men who had been charged with trafficking in crack in the Los Angeles area.

The men said they were chosen for federal prosecution because they are black, and federal prosecutors initially refused to rebut the allegations.

The issue for the nation's highest court is not whether racially biased prosecution took place, but whether lower courts wrongly required the federal government to combat the selective-prosecution allegations. A decision is expected by July.

Yeltsin's political involvement unclear

MOSCOW — Boris Yeltsin's prime minister gave mixed signals about the hospitalized president's health Monday, insisting he was fine but disclosing that top Cabinet officials were no longer reporting to him.

Adding to the uncertainty of Russia's political scene, major parties were threatening to boycott Dec. 17 parliament elections to protest a ruling this weekend that disqualified a top reform party.

Yeltsin is hospitalized with heart trouble for the second time in four months, and it isn't clear how involved he is in government affairs.

"We coordinate on important issues," said Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin during a tour of a Moscow oil refinery. Yeltsin's wife, Naina, attended the opening of a cosmetic boutique and said, "He's better."

Doctors have allowed Yeltsin to see only family members and his politically powerful bodyguard. But his deputy chief of staff, Sergei Krasavchenko, insisted there was no "information barrier" between Yeltsin and his aides.

Volunteers try to douse Devil's Night

DETROIT — Hundreds of vacant buildings were razed so they couldn't be set on fire, and about 35,000 people patrolled the streets Monday in this year's drive against the destructive Devil's Night tradition.

"The primary thing is to keep the fires away, to protect lives and property," said Cliff Russell, a spokesman for Mayor Dennis Archer.

Devil's Night fires peaked at 297 in 1985, but declined after then-Mayor Coleman Young enlisted thousands of Detroiters to safeguard their city.

This year, at least 25,000 volunteers signed up to patrol streets and about 35,000 turned out.

Daily Nebraskan

FAX NUMBER 472-1761

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during summer sessions.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by phoning 472-1763 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The public also has access to the Publications Board. For information, contact Tim Hedegaard, 436-9253, 9 a.m.-11 p.m.

Subscription price is \$50 for one year. Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448. Second-class postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1995 DAILY NEBRASKAN