Language and Governance

A roundtable hosted by the National Assembly for Wales and the Forum of Federations

Cardiff, 29-30 November 2001

Thursday, 29 November

15.00 – 15.45 Registration

16.00 – 16.15 Opening Remarks

Co-Chairs: Jenny Randerson, Minister for Culture, Sports and the Welsh Language, National Assembly for Wales

Ralph Lysyshyn, President, Forum of Federations

16.15 – 17.00 Keynote Addresses

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan, First Minister, National Assembly for Wales
The Challenge of Language Equality

Dyane Adam, Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada
Language Planning: The Canadian Approach

17.00 – 17.20 Points from the floor

17.30 – 19.00 Reception sponsored by the Government of Québec

Host: Daniel Audet, Delegate General of Québec
Friday, 30 November

9.00 – 9.30  Arrival and coffee

9.30 – 10.30  Session I — Linguistic Minorities in Context
Chair: Delyth Evans, Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs, Culture and Environment, National Assembly for Wales
9.30 – 9.50  Colin Williams, Cardiff University and Welsh Language Board
9.50 – 10.10  Gérard Finn, Director General, Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada
10.10 – 10.30  Open discussion

10.30 – 11.00  Coffee

11.00 – 12.30  Session II — Comparing Legislative and Institutional Frameworks
Chair: Michéal de Hál, Chief Executive, Foras na Gaeilge, Ireland
11.00 – 11.15  Diana Monnet, Deputy Secretary, Official Languages Division, Treasury Board Secretariat of Canada
11.15 – 11.30  Guy Dumas, Permanent Secretary, Language Policy Secretariat of Québec
11.30 – 11.45  Winston Roddick QC, Counsel General, National Assembly for Wales
11.45 – 12.30  Open discussion

12.30 – 14.00  Lunch sponsored by the Canadian High Commission
Host: Robert Rochon, Deputy High Commissioner
14.00 – 15.30 Session III — Assessing Policies and Programmes

Chair: J. Barry Jones, Director, Welsh Governance Centre, Cardiff University

14.00 – 14.15 Mary Coughlan, Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ireland

14.15 – 14.30 Norman Moyer, Assistant Deputy Minister, Canadian Identity, Department of Canadian Heritage

14.15 – 14.45 Rhodri Williams, Chair, Welsh Language Board

14.45 – 15.30 Open discussion

15.30 – 16.00 Tea

16.00 – 17.30 Session IV — The Way Forward: Devolution, Federalism, and the Empowerment of Linguistic Communities

Chair: Warren J. Newman, General Counsel, Department of Justice, Canada

16.00 – 16.30 The following speakers will make brief remarks on the proceedings of the roundtable and raise a key question or issue for discussion.

Máiréad Nic Craith, Academy for Irish Cultural Heritages, University of Ulster

Allan Campbell, Chief Executive, Comunn na Gàidhlig, Scotland

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Chair of Culture Committee, National Assembly for Wales

Linda Cardinal, Department of Political Science and Centre on Governance, University of Ottawa

16.30 – 17.30 Open discussion

17.30 – 17.45 Closing Remarks

Delyth Evans, Deputy Minister for Rural Affairs, Culture and Environment, National Assembly for Wales