

cratic participation in Canada should be defined in terms of affiliation with parties and their candidates. The role of non-partisan, third-party participation was accordingly reflected in the commission's proposal to limit independent party expenditures to \$1,000.

On this point, the referendum campaign is once again instructive. The Canada Committee was organized and directed by a tri-partite coalition of the federal parties, with disastrous consequences. Far more

successful were the ad hoc "political action committees" that, in many cases, were citizen-based or otherwise formed by interest group organizations.

It surely remains open to question whether, and to what degree, the referendum experience translates into the traditional process of parliamentary election. But this much is clear: it can no longer be assumed that money buys elections. Nor can it be assumed that restrictions on non-partisan civic participation en-

hance, rather than diminish, the fairness of the democratic process. As significant as the Accord's defeat may be for the future of constitutional reform, its broader implications for Canada's political culture may ultimately be more important.

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## CANADA WATCH CALENDAR

October 1	Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau blasts the Yes side at Maison du Egg Roll in Montreal.	October 26	National Referendum results — No: 53.7%; Yes: 45.2%.
October 7	Premier Clyde Wells tours western Canada for Yes side.	October 29	Federal task force issues report on economic development and prosperity.
October 8	Television advertising campaign begins.	October 30	PEI Premier Joe Ghiz announces his resignation.
	BC Constitutional Affairs Minister Moe Sihota claims that English Canadian premiers "stared down" Premier Robert Bourassa.	November 3	Bill Clinton defeats George Bush in the US presidential elections.
		November 16	New session of House of Commons to commence.
October 12	Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa and PQ leader Jacques Parizeau engage in televised debate.	November 19-20	Quebec government retreat to consider constitutional options in the light of the failure of the Charlottetown Accord.
October 16	<i>L'Actualité</i> publishes memos of Quebec civil servants claiming that Quebec lost in the negotiations.	November 24	Quebec National Assembly resumes sitting.
October 18	Assembly of First Nations' chiefs refuse to endorse the Accord.	November 28	Initial voting in Alberta Progressive Conservative leadership contest.
October 22	Elijah Harper urges natives to boycott the referendum.	December 5	Run-off vote in Alberta Tory leadership contest, if necessary.
	Yes side advertising campaign becomes more aggressive.	December 17	Scheduled signing of legal text of North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by Presidents Bush and Salinas and Prime Minister Mulroney.
October 23	Reform Party convention begins in Winnipeg.		
October 24	Toronto Blue Jays win the World Series.		