



Declaration on National Unity and Confederation

Statement adopted by the CGP in 2026

1. A federation worth choosing

The Common Good Party believes in a united Canada — not as a sentimental attachment, nor as a structure to be held together by force of habit, but as a partnership that must continually earn the loyalty of those within it. A country worth keeping whole is one that governs so well, and so fairly, that its communities have no need to leave. We recognize that confidence in that partnership has frayed.

In Quebec and in Alberta alike, growing numbers of citizens feel that decisions about their lives, their resources, and their institutions are made over their heads, in a distant centre that neither understands nor answers to them. We do not dismiss these grievances. We take them seriously, because they are largely justified — and because a federation that ignores them will not survive by pretending they do not exist.

2. A centre that overreaches and underdelivers

Canada's Constitution sets out a clear division of powers between the federal government and the provinces. Over decades, that line has been steadily erased - not through honest constitutional amendment, but through Ottawa's so-called "spending power," a device found nowhere in the Constitution. By offering money with strings attached, the federal government has reached into areas that are properly provincial — health care, education, child care, housing, local infrastructure — and dictated national standards in jurisdictions that are not its own.

The result is the worst of both worlds. Ottawa intrudes where it should not, while neglecting the core responsibilities that are genuinely its own. Accountability dissolves: provinces are blamed for programs they did not design, and Ottawa claims credit for spending that is not its to direct. This top-down model breeds exactly the resentment we now see - in Quebec, in Alberta and beyond. Centralization has not strengthened the country. It has strained it.

3. Sovereign identity, shared cause

Our Party Program holds that Canada deserves confident governing that prioritizes the wellbeing of its own citizens, that strategic national assets should not fall into foreign hands, and that Canadians should not be a junior partner whose resources, data, and decisions are dictated from abroad. Quebecers and Albertans want exactly this for themselves — control over the resources, institutions, and culture that shape their own lives. We see no contradiction between a sovereign Canada and self-confident provinces.

A federation that refuses to be dictated to from abroad has no business dictating to its own communities at home. What we demand against outside powers, we extend within our own borders: that decisions about a community's life belong, as far as possible, to that community. For Quebec, that means the survival and flourishing of the French language and culture, a responsibility no other community in North America bears. For Alberta, it means the right to develop and steward its own resources without having its economic foundation treated as a national bargaining chip.

4. Asymmetrical federalism, for every province

The Common Good Party embraces asymmetrical federalism — the principle, already woven into the Canadian federation, that different members of a union may hold different powers, so that one community may have considerably more autonomy than the others while sharing the same constitutional status. This is not a theory we are inventing. It is already how Canada works, from Quebec's own pension plan and its authority over immigration to the distinct arrangements provinces have negotiated over decades.

In areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction, any province may opt out of new federal programs with full financial compensation and no conditions attached, taking its full share of the funding to build its own equivalent, in its own way.

We will end the practice of governing the country through conditional cheques. In place of the constant bickering over money with strings, we favour stable, predictable transfers that respect the constitutional division of powers — so that provinces are fully responsible for what is theirs, and fully accountable to their own citizens for the results.

Equalization, too, must be honest. A fair federation helps communities in genuine need without entrenching permanent dependence or punishing the provinces whose work and resources generate the nation's wealth. The formula must respect the Constitution and be defensible to citizens of every province — not function as a tool to buy political loyalty.

5. The threshold question — respect, in good faith

The future of any province belongs to its own people. Through its Bill 99, Quebec's National Assembly has affirmed that the people of Quebec alone determine their political and constitutional status, and that the winning option in a referendum is the one obtaining a majority of valid votes cast — fifty percent plus one. The Common Good Party respects that standard without reservation, and the same principle of democratic respect extends to Albertans and to every province.

We will not lecture any province about its own democracy, nor treat its ballots as worth less than anyone else's. The principle is the same one that governs every election in this country: one citizen, one vote, of equal weight.

A party that accepts a simple majority to win power for itself has no honest ground to demand a higher bar of citizens deciding their own future.

But let us be equally plain about our own purpose. Unlike those who would welcome a constitutional crisis as leverage, we do not wish for any province to leave, and we will not treat secession as a tactic to be exploited. We reject the cynicism of encouraging a breakup in the hope that something better emerges from the wreckage. A clear majority, on a question framed by a province's own legislature, would be honoured in good-faith negotiation — but our entire effort is bent toward making that question one no Canadian feels any need to ask. We choose respect over contempt, and renewal over rupture.

6. A fair country, from coast to coast

The Common Good Party commits to strengthening French-language rights at the federal level and to respecting Quebec's primary responsibility for the vitality of French within its territory. The French fact is not a problem to be managed; it is one of the things that makes this country worth keeping whole. And we commit equally to the West: that Alberta and its neighbours are full partners whose industries, workers, and ambitions deserve respect rather than suspicion.

The promise we make to every region is the promise we make to every Canadian: that personal prosperity should not depend on the status of one's parents; that essential services — healthcare, housing, education — should serve people, not profit; and that the wealth of the country should flow to those who do honest work, not to a privileged few. We will build a fair federation not by setting one province against another, nor centre against region, but by reclaiming the wealth that has been extracted from all of us — and by proving, through how we govern, that Canadians are far stronger together than apart.