

THE TWO BRITISH COLUMBIAS

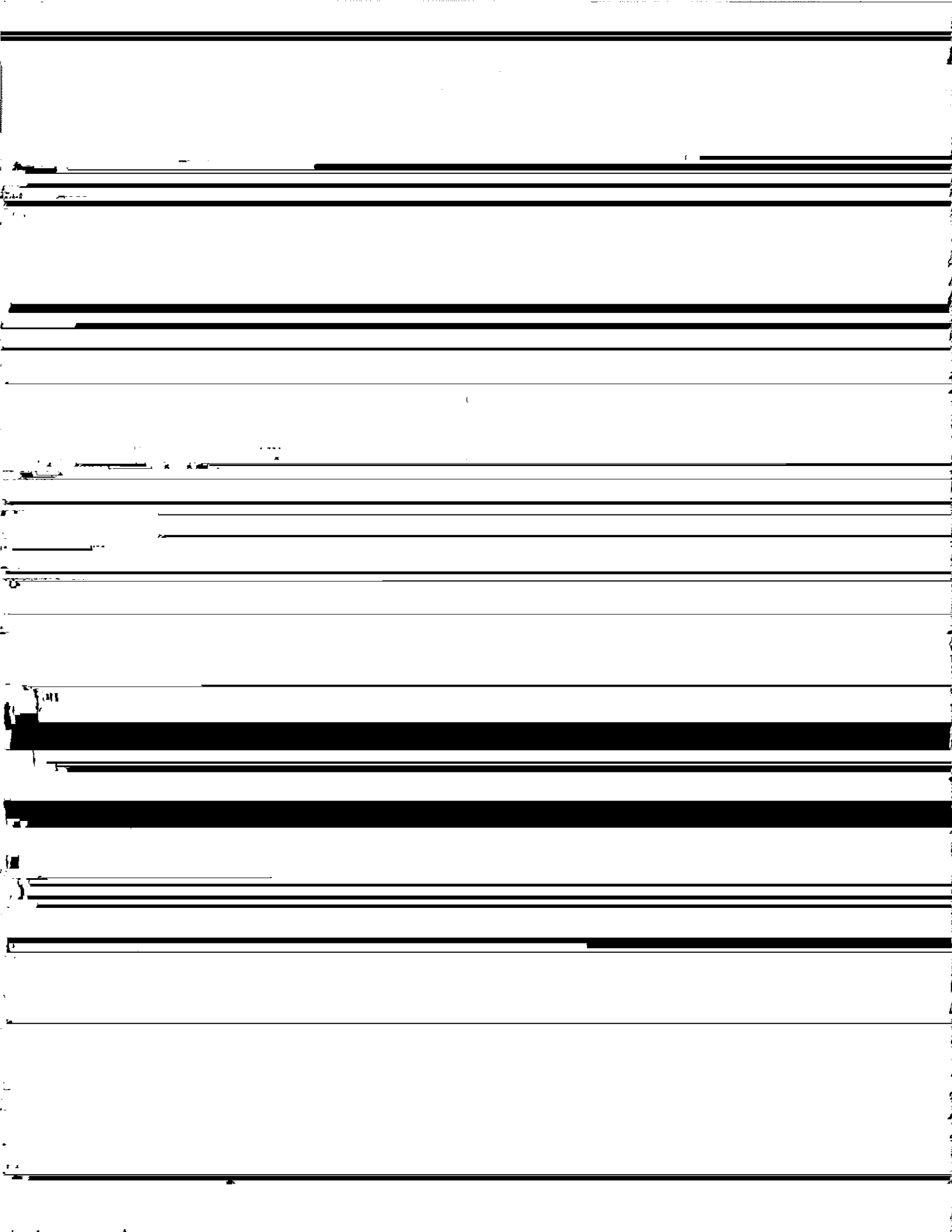
By
Phil Resnick

is as though British Columbia, as the province on the westernmost periphery of Canada, has felt freer to show a figurative "middle finger" to the Liberal party and then to complain bitterly

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than can a majority of urban dwellers in
Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, or
beyond

It is my belief that Meech Lake I and II and the
Charlottetown Accord were basically "power
made" by the provinces under the pretext and



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post system? Could we begin to practice at the provincial level something many of us would like to see happening at the federal level? It would certainly be worth trying. And it is something about which the two British Columbias might, for once, actually be able to agree.

**THE WEST WANTS IN! (BUT WHAT IS
THE WEST? AND WHAT IS "IN?")**

By
Peter McCormick

What a difference a few months can make in

Now, just a few months later, the political temperature has cooled considerably. The Alberta election has come and gone without a sign of secessionist candidates, and they were similarly absent from the British Columbia election as well. The Alliance party, then a

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politics face different directions and respond to different cleavages. The political device that seems to signal some degree of unity and coordination – the Western premiers conference

So even though I agree that “the West” is a slightly misleading term, I will still use it because a lot of people out in my part of the country use it. Particularly since someone else

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or down-grade the grain. Bad weather, of course, is a risk that farmers always face, but it has clearly been a longer problem than usual in

still enough people in the rural areas that their pain has political impact. This is in a strict sense

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protection. (This, too, is overstated, but again it is what many of us believe.)

We see ourselves as multicultural in a way that central Canadians will not be for decades, a mixture of wave after wave of immigration that have left no ethnic group as a dominant majority. Such cultural mixtures are not without their frictions, but it is absurd to paint us as

total exports to the United States than the rest of Canada, and the relative value of interprovincial trade is about a third again as high as it is for the rest of the country. Twenty years ago, the Canada West Foundation asked Western Canadians if they agreed with the statement that "The West gets so little benefit from Canada that we might as well go it on our own" and about 80 percent of them agreed. This year, the

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Reform/Alliance is not just a bunch of angry bumpkins who do not like Liberals and aren't too sure about francophones, although I will

imply a trouble-free future. I don't want to suggest that future panels of this sort will be able to dispense with someone sitting in this

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wants in " Through the 1990s the West was still