**Justin Trudeau and the Multinational State: Québec, Indigenous Peoples, and the Canadian francophonie**

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**Abstract**

The Canadian Liberals won the 2015 election on an ambitious and progressive socioeconomic agenda that contrasted sharply with the previous nine years of Conservative party rule. While Justin Trudeau presented Canada as a postnational state during the early days of his first term, he had to acknowledge and engage with the interests and demands of the various national groups or communities that adhere to a multinational conception of the Canadian federation. This article examines key policy decisions taken by Trudeau’s Liberal Party in relation to (1) Québec, (2) Indigenous Peoples, and (3) and the Canadian *francophonie*. Our approach analysis shows that the Liberal government made concessions towards Québec’s minimum conditions for consenting to the *Constitution Act, 1982*, especially the withdrawal of federal programs with reasonable compensation, the appointment of Supreme Court judges and in the area of immigration, even though those concessions are devoid of constitutional status and short of what successive Québec governments have been demanding. While our analysis shows that the contours of a ‘roadmap to reconciliation’ have certainly been identified with the calls to action of the TRC and the final report of the inquiry on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, the high expectations of Indigenous peoples have yet to be fully met by the Liberal government. Finally, the Liberal government’s position on official languages and the Canadian *francophonie* is defined by inconsistencies and contradictions. This overall ambivalence is best reflected in the protracted process to modernize the *Official Languages Act*, which has yet to find a conclusion four years after the Prime Minister’s surprising announcement that his government was going to revise the federal language policy.