

## Chapter 4

### The Lion Tamers: Bouchard and Taylor against the feminists

Half-joking, half-serious, we began compiling a list of the macho comments uttered by Gérard Bouchard. Have you missed the ones that didn't make the news? Here are a few.

Before the start of proceedings at the public forum in Rouyn-Noranda: "My first words are for my cousins. I have family here in Rouyn. If there are any in the room, please make your presence known at the end, especially my female cousins!"

To Maryam Tétreault, a Québécoise convert to Islam who came to testify at the commission in St-Hyacinthe: "I have but one regret that you converted to Islam, and that is that it deprives me of the pleasure of giving you a kiss." "Well, thanks for not doing so," replied the woman, visibly embarrassed by the remark.

To Cardinal Marc Ouellet, on the subject of the communications director of the Quebec City diocese who came with him to the hearings in that city: "I must compliment you; you chose your assistant well." "I daresay I hope the cardinal chose me for my abilities," the young mother shot back.

To Élodie Audet, a young Gatineau woman who related how she left a hijab-wearing friend behind when she went swimming, because she "couldn't resist guys in bathing suits," Bouchard exclaimed: "Lucky for the guys!"

When an engineer in Trois-Rivières said he was outraged to see Muslim women swimming fully-clothed, the commissioner said: "You like swimsuits that are shorter? Well, no one can blame you for that!"

Sacki Carignan Deschamps, 28, a substitute teacher in Grand Mère and daughter of the region's ADQ MNA, complained she was too disillusioned to have children and was counting on the commissioners to find solutions to the problems of the day. Gérard Bouchard replied this way: "I thought you meant to say that you were counting on us to have children!"