**Mr. Ignatieff is Canadian enough for me**

Michael Ignatieff, the front- running leadership candidate in the Liberal party’s recently concluded leadership race, was named a Canadian by the Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, because he satisfied one of the two criteria that define a Canadian citizen: that he was born in Canada.

But there is another, more global, criterion for citizenship. It’s a criterion that Jack Layton, the federal NDP leader, rarely talks about, but which most Canadians, including Ignatieff, would be hard- pressed to disagree with.

Living through the crises and challenges of a place and dealing with its challenges of a people are traits that count as much in defining a national identity as the first criteria: whether someone was born in Canada or not.

Mr. Layton said last week that he had offered to resign as leader of the federal NDP if Ignatieff wins the Liberal leadership. Layton lost the NDP leadership to Jack Layton in 2003, but has remained influential within the party. Layton said he had offered to resign as leader of the federal NDP because he would support Ignatieff as the new leader of the Liberal party.

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The NDP and the Liberals are both part of the Canadian political landscape, but the NDP has a much smaller footprint than the Liberals. The NDP is a party that represents workers, farmers, and environmentalists, while the Liberals represent business, the middle class, and the wealthy.

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