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The GG's duty

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Regarding "The three options PM Paul Martin dreads," (*The Hill Times*, June 14) by Paco Francoli on the three options facing the Prime Minister in the event of a very close vote was interesting, but, in fact, there are only two realistic options -- resign or meet the House and seek a vote of confidence. The third option, an immediate request for another election would be unprecedented and irresponsible depriving the House of an opportunity to decide the issue of confidence.

"Experts" who think the Governor General has a duty to ensure formation of a government without support of separatist members are playing a very dangerous game. Any such action by her would surely turn an electoral stalemate into a major constitutional crisis. A year or two of complete gridlock may be just what elected representatives need to reflect upon some problems that have made our Parliamentary institutions increasingly dysfunctional in recent years.

Gary Levy
Ottawa, Ont.

(The letter writer is editor of the Canadian Parliamentary Review and a former professor at the University of Western Ontario.)



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