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A L T U

Council of Quebec Minorities

Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario

Le Conseil des Minorités du Québec

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MEMOIRE CONJOINT
 DE
 L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE-FRANCAISE DE L'ONTARIO (ACFO)
 ET DU
 CONSEIL DES MINORITES DU QUEBEC (CMQ)

AU

COMITE SPECIAL MIXTE
 (DU SENAT ET DE LA CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES)
 SUR LA CONSTITUTION DU CANADA

NOVEMBRE 1980

OTTAWA

Sub
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CONSEIL DES ECOLES CATHOLIQUES DE PRESCOTT-RUSSELL
PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

BUREAU DU DIRECTEUR GÉNÉRAL
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Le 2 décembre 1980

S. Joyal
DÉPUTÉ
HOCHELAGAMAINTÉRIEURE

Reçu le 2/10/80

M. le député Serge Joyal
Coprésident
Comité spécial mixte
(du Sénat et de la Chambre
des Communes)
sur la constitution du Canada
Edifice parlementaire
Ottawa, Ontario

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18 DEC 1980
Committees and Private
Legislation Branch
Comités et Législation Privée

Monsieur le député,

Les membres du Conseil des écoles catholiques de Prescott-Russell ont lu attentivement le mémoire conjoint de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) et du Conseil des minorités du Québec (CMQ) et désirent vous faire part de leur grand intérêt et de leur recommandation en ce moment historique que nous traversons. Il nous semble impérieux que le Gouvernement canadien vise à respecter les droits des minorités francophones partout au Canada dans la même mesure que la minorité anglophone en bénéficie au Québec. Il s'agit là d'un principe très élémentaire et équitable de la justice fondamentale.

Les francophones en Ontario constituent la minorité la plus nombreuse dans les neuf provinces autres que le Québec et la détermination des francophones a justifié certainement l'attribution d'un statut d'égalité au français et à l'anglais devant l'Assemblée législative et les tribunaux de l'Ontario.

Une des recommandations sur laquelle on ne saurait trop insister et qui nous est particulièrement chère comme conseil scolaire est que les minorités francophones et plus spécifiquement en Ontario doivent avoir le droit d'administrer leurs propres institutions scolaires.

Non seulement les parents doivent-ils avoir le choix d'inscrire leurs enfants à des programmes et à des écoles de leur choix mais ils doivent également, par l'entremise de leurs représentants élus par les franco-ontariens et pour les franco-ontariens, diriger le système scolaire qu'ils constituent.

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M. le député Serge Joyal

- 2 -

Le 2 décembre 1980

C'est là une des anomalies les plus sérieuses en Ontario en ce qui a trait au système éducatif et il faut y remédier. Ces réformes doivent tenir compte évidemment d'une façon équitable de subventionner les conseils scolaires et les taxes commerciales entre autres doivent être divisées proportionnellement et non seulement dirigées aux conseils scolaires publiques.

Enfin, nous endossons fortement le contenu du mémoire conjoint de l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) et du Conseil des minorités du Québec (CMQ) et nous vous remercions à l'avance pour l'attention que vous apporterez à nos recommandations.

Agréez, Monsieur le député, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.

Roland Saumure.

Roland Saumure,
Président

PRESCOTT AND RUSSELL COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 2, 1980

Mr. Serge Joyal, M.P.
Joint Chairman,
Special Joint Committee
(of the Senate and
the House of Commons)
on the Constitution of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

The members of the Prescott and Russell County Roman Catholic Separate School Board have carefully read the joint brief of the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) and of the Conseil des minorités du Québec (CMQ) and would like to share with you their views and recommendations regarding this historical moment which our country is experiencing. In our opinion, it is vital for the Canadian government to seek to uphold the rights of Francophone minorities throughout Canada to the same extent as the rights of the Anglophone minority are respected in Quebec. This is a very basic and fair principle of fundamental justice.

Francophones in Ontario constitute the largest minority group in the nine provinces other than Quebec, and the determination of Francophones has certainly justified the act of granting the French language the same status as the English language in the Legislative Assembly and in the courts in Ontario.

One of the recommendations which we cannot stress too heavily and which is particularly dear to us as a school board is that Francophone minorities, especially in Ontario, should have the right to administer their own schools.

Parents should not only have the right to register their children in programs and schools of their choice, but they should also administer the school system through the representatives elected by Franco-Ontarians.

Mr. Serge Joyal, M.P.

December 2, 1980

This is one of the most serious anomalies in Ontario with regard to the educational system and it must be corrected. Of course, reforms must allow for a fair way of subsidizing school boards and business taxes, among other things, must be divided proportionally, not simply directed to public school boards.

Finally, we strongly endorse the contents of the joint brief of the Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario (ACFO) and of the Conseil des minorités du Québec (CMQ) and would like to thank you in advance for the consideration which you will give to our recommendations.

Yours truly,

Roland Saumure,
Chairman

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

December 2, 1980

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 Special Joint Committee (of the Senate
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Yours truly,

Roland Saumure,
Chairman