

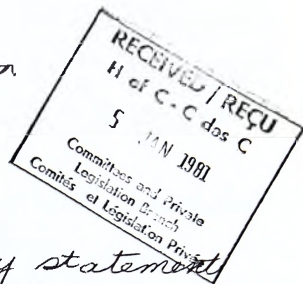
CAPE BRETON RIGHT TO LIFE

Room 108 — 539-8984
Ignotius Hall — 25 Churchill Drive
Sydney — Nova Scotia — B1S 1B4

Sub

December 19, 1980

The Chairman
Parliamentary Joint Committee
on the proposed Canadian Constitution
Ottawa, Ontario.



Dear Sir,

We do not wish to make any statement as to whether a Charter of Rights should be entrenched in a Canadian constitution or not. What we do wish to emphasize is the absolute necessity for the rights of conceived but unborn human beings (including the right to life) be protected by specific unambiguous language in the Charter if a Charter is adopted.

This would be particularly significant in 1981, International Year of the Disabled for it would bring to a halt the practice of using amniocentesis to seek out handicapped unborn babies in order to destroy them before birth. Instead research should be encouraged to discover the causes of disability and to seek ways

make care for the handicapped less burdensome.

Educational programs should be undertaken to teach the public about the rapid development of the unborn and the importance of proper nutrition for optimum development. Included should be information on the harmful effects of alcohol, drugs and smoking on fetal maturation.

We realize that such a program would not be included in the constitution but would rather be implemented by parliament and the ministers involved. However, the solid foundation upon which such an attitude must be based is a deep respect for human life even at its earliest stage.

We therefore state again our request that conceived but unborn human beings must be totally protected by specific unambiguous language in any charter of human rights proposed for this great land of Canada.

After all, they are the future citizens who will have to live under any new constitution. May they live to thank you.

Sincerely

Betty MacDonald

President

Copies to:
Prime Minister Trudeau
Hon. Joe Clark
Hon. Ed Broadbent
Hon. Allan Rock
Mr. Russell MacLellan
Mr. David Dingwall
Premier John Buchanan