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EMERGENCY COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENCE OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS  
P.O. Box 742, Guelph, Ontario

November 24, 1980

Joint Clerks  
Special Joint Committee  
on the Constitution of Canada  
Postal Box 1044  
South Block  
Parliament Buildings  
OTTAWA, Ontario K1A 0A7



Dear Sirs:

On behalf of the newly formed Emergency Committee for the Defence of Religious Rights I am writing to urge that the Committee of the Parliament studying proposed constitutional changes extend its deliberations, in view of the fact that the artificial December 9th deadline does not permit adequate time for the analysis of this document.

We are concerned that the proposed Charter of Rights and Freedoms would in fact diminish existing rights by endangering such religiously oriented institutions as schools. We therefore urge such amendments as will guarantee the existence of sectarian schools, and their right to restrict their hiring to members in good standing of their own denominations.

If such changes are not made, and amendments to the constitution are rushed through which diminish or abolish existing rights, then it is safe to predict that new constitutions will lack legitimacy in the eyes of millions of citizens.

Since it is of the utmost importance that any amendments be carefully studied, and that they represent a substantial consensus of opinion, we therefore urge that no changes be presented to Parliament until those changes have been met.

Sincerely,

Keith Cassidy  
Acting Chairman