



LONDON & MIDDLESEX COUNTY ROMAN CATHOLIC SEPARATE SCHOOL BOARD

401. Queens Avenue • P.O. Box 517 • London, Canada N6A 4X5 • Telephone 492-3493

Our File No.

K. J. REGAN, B.A., M.Ed.
Director of Education

January 14, 1981

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

Members of the Joint Committee
on the Constitution of Canada

The London & Middlesex County Roman Catholic Separate School Board wishes to present the following recommendations for your consideration.

We speak for the citizens, electors, ratepayers, parents, trustees and teachers identified with Catholic schools in London, educating 25% of all elementary pupils.

We recommend two safeguards for our Catholic schools:

- (a) that any amendment of Section 93 require a privileged procedure, that is, the unanimous consent of the Federal Parliament and of the provincial legislatures. This would follow the pattern adopted in 1949 when Parliament was given the right to amend, except regarding rights and privileges of a class of persons with respect to schools.... These were still reserved to the Imperial Parliament. As a parallel authority today, we recommend the principle of "unanimity".
- (b) That with regard to any possible conflict between Section 93 and any new rights or provisions introduced into the Constitution, the text include a clause along the following lines:

"The provisions of this Act (the new Constitution) shall not be construed as to prejudicially affect the rights and privileges with respect to denominational schools enjoyed by a class of people, being Roman Catholic or Protestant, under Section 93 of the B.N.A Act, 1867."

Respectfully submitted,

K. J. Regan,
Director of Education.

KJR:jg

