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appear C
SUN, PATERSON, BRAIL & BUSCH
BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS

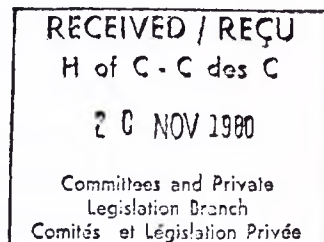
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VANCOUVER, B.C. V6B 1K5
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OUR FILE REF:
REPLY ATTN: Craig Paterson

18 November, 1980

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

SPECIAL DELIVERY



Dear Sirs:

RE: Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada

I am writing on behalf of the Law Union of British Columbia to request an opportunity for the Law Union to appear before the Committee.

The Law Union of British Columbia is a voluntary organization of lawyers, law students and legal workers. Analogous organizations or groupings exist in other provinces. The Law Union of British Columbia traces its present form at least from 1969. Our members have been active as legal counsel or independent advocates in such issues as the War Measures Act invocation, prisoners' rights, native legal rights, legal education, trade union and unorganized workers' activities, housing, women's oppression, arbitrary police action, legal aid, sexual preference issues, immigration issues and other democratic struggles.

The Law Union wishes to address itself to the proposed constitution resolution from a perspective which reflects the constitutional needs of indigenous peoples, the right to self determination, the social and economic needs of Canadian

Special Committee on the Constitution

Page 2

18 November, 1980

immigrants, the handicapped, the unemployed, the elderly and other social minorities and the broad population of wage earners, men and women.

Additionally, the Law Union wishes to specifically address the language and probable jurisprudential impact of the proposed preamble and rights guarantees from the above perspective, with specific proposals. The legal implications are complex and have enormous long-term legal impact. There is a clear possibility, in our view, that the language may in fact detract from established common law rights and threaten existing civil rights protections. A written submission would accompany our appearance.

The Law Union of Ontario has been appraised of this application and is giving consideration to an accompanying appearance.

The Law Union of British Columbia has, amongst many other activities, twice presented extensive briefs to the Commission of Inquiry Concerning Certain Activities of the R.C.M.P. (McDonald Commission) in Vancouver on 20 January 1978 (48 pp.) and on 1 February 1979 (11 pp.). It has also previously been invited to and appeared before the House Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs on Bill C-26, An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Crown Liability Act and the Post Office Act. See Committee Minutes of Proceedings, 3rd Session, 30th Parliament, Issue #37, 8 June 1978.

Two lawyer representatives of the Law Union would appear, drawn from this writer, Mr. Art Pape of the Vancouver firm of Baigent, Jackson, and Messrs. Stuart Rush and Rick Salter of the Vancouver firm of Bolton, Rush and McGrady.

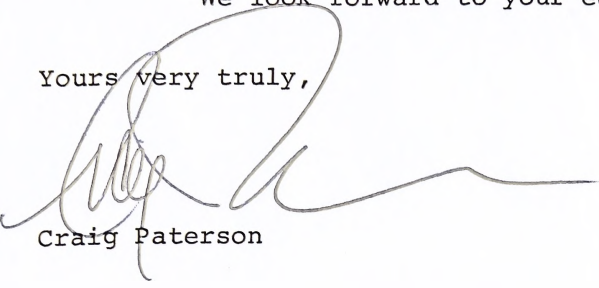
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Special Committee on the Constitution
Page 3
18 November, 1980

These lawyers and the other members of the Law Union of British Columbia have substantial practical experience in representing the interests referred to above and believe such viewpoints would be of assistance to the Committee.

We look forward to your earliest convenient response.

Yours very truly,



Craig Paterson

c.c.: S. Rush
A. Pape
R. Salter
P. Copeland (Law Union of Ontario)

CP/med