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A SUBMISSION

to

The Special Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Commons  
On the Resolution for a Proposed Constitution for Canada

from

MEDIA CLUB OF CANADA - CLUB MEDIA DU CANADA  
Box 504, Station B Ottawa

Esther Grandall  
President

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MEDIA CLUB OF CANADA - CLUB MEDIA DU CANADA

MEDIA CLUB OF CANADA is a national organization with membership based on profession. It is an independent, non-profit organization of journalists, professional writers.

The Club was incorporated under its present name under Letters Patent on July 15, 1971 by a Special Act of Parliament. This was a continuation of earlier incorporation of the Club which began in 1904.

Media Club of Canada is interested in all aspects of the Resolution for a proposed new Constitution for Canada. But the Club is particularly interested in the proposed entrenchment in a Human Rights Charter of a new Canadian Constitution, of the fundamental Freedom of the Press,

The Club holds Freedom of the Press as all-important to the working press, professional writers, and considers, therefore, that it is equally important to the people we seek to inform.

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Club members consider that whatever way Freedom of the Press may be handled with respect to a new Canadian Constitution, could govern journalists, professional writers, for generations to come. So it follows that proposed entrenchment of Freedom of the Press in a Human Rights Charter of a new Canadian Constitution, whether right or wrong, could directly affect every person in Canada, down through all of those same generations.

Members have taken the view that as journalists, we should seize the opportunity to contribute as much as is possible, to any decision which might be made with respect to Freedom of the Press. And that Media Club of Canada as the only professional organization of its kind in this country, is one organization that should do this.

With respect to this proposed entrenchment of Freedom of the Press, the Club holds the view that fair, responsible response could be made to this proposal, only after serious consideration, research, and discussion aimed at reaching national consensus has taken place.

But it has been impossible for Media Club of Canada to deal with this question, in this way, on a national basis, due to the short space of time that has been allotted for such preparation.

The Club's position is that Freedom of the Press is very important to all of Canada, but that this organization must have much more time in which to deal with its proposed entrenchment within a new Constitution.

With respect then, Media Club of Canada requests that provision be made which would allow this organization to return when it has had time to do what it must do, in order to present an informed, well thought out response to the proposed entrenchment of Freedom of the Press in a Human Rights Charter of a New Constitution for Canada.