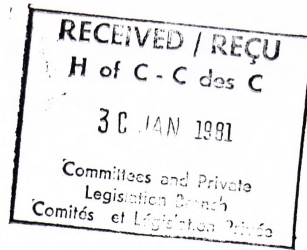


THE ONTARIO ENGLISH CATHOLIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
Metropolitan Toronto Elementary Unit

Sub

January 23, 1981.



Mr. Jean Chretien,
Minister of Justice,
House of Commons,
Parliament Hill,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you regarding the patriation of the Constitution, on behalf of the 4,000 members of the Metro unit of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association.

While we welcome patriation, we wish that more time had been given for input regarding the proposed Charter of Rights, specifically Section 2. We are concerned that according to this Section the right of the Catholic School Boards to hire staff acceptable to the Catholic Communities may be ruled discriminatory. Even given Section 24 of the proposed Charter of Rights, our concern remains.

In an article written by Prime Minister Trudeau in 1968, entitled, "Canadian Charter of Human Rights" (Vaughan, Kybe and Dwivedi, P114) he says:

- (ii) employment - here it is suggested that there be added a qualification to the effect that distinctions based on a bona fide occupational qualification are not prohibited. In this way, possible difficulties concerning, for example, provincial legislation authorizing the hiring of teachers for denominational schools on the basis of their religious belief will be avoided:

- (iv) education - special provisions will be required here to avoid inconsistencies with the guarantees of separate or denominational schools contained in section 93 of the B.N.A. Act and corresponding sections in other constitutional statutes relating to other provinces, for in some cases these school guarantees authorize religious distinctions in student admission policies. An exception to cover situations where a system of separate or denominational schools exists will suffice if there is added to it a provision for educational institutions run exclusively by religious bodies;

Mr. Jean Chretien

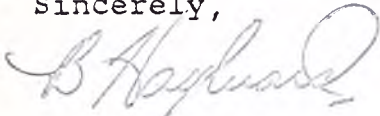
- 2 -

January 23, 1981.

We would like Section 24 amended to specifically guarantee denominational rights along the lines outlined by Prime Minister Trudeau.

On behalf of our 4,000 members, we trust that you will introduce amendments in accordance with the previously stated position of the Prime Minister.

Sincerely,



B. Hayward,
President, Metro Elementary Unit, O.E.C.T.A.

c.c. - Serge Joyal
Senator Harry Hayes
Mr. James McGrath
Mr. William Davis, Premier, Province of Ontario.