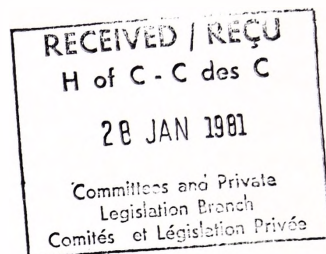




Regional Economic Development Council

Box 995, Lac La Biche, Alberta T0A 2C0
Telephone (403) 623-4493, 623-4494

1981 01 20



Joint Chairman
Senate - House Commons
Special Joint Committee on
Constitution of Canada
Box 1044
South Block
Parliament Buildings
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A7

Dear Sir:

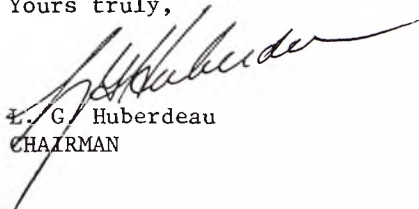
The Regional Economic Development Council acknowledges receipt of your letter of Jan. 9/81, in which you advise us that you will not be able to invite us to appear before your Committee with our concerns regarding the unilateral patriation of the Canadian Constitution.

We would hope that such refusals have not been made to numerous Canadian groups wishing to express their concerns. After all the constitution belongs to the people and not to the elite of Ottawa. The vibrations we get here in Lac La Biche is that plenty of attention is being given to highly vocal special interest groups; what about the general public of Western Canada? It would be hoped that westerners' concerns are heard or we foresee irreparable damage to the future of this great country.

It is our definite view, that one Federal political party, not representative in any way of Western Canada, cannot arrange to have our constitution altered in a foreign country to suit its political aspirations and whims, and then have it shipped back in a form that would make some provinces more powerful than others and would, in fact, see the end of Canada as we know it now, with the depletion of provincial authority.

The whole attitude of the present Federal Government on the constitution is down right frightening and bodes no good for the future.

Yours truly,


L. G. Huberdeau
CHAIRMAN

LGH/dsp

Joint Chairman
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cc Jack Shields, M.P. - Athabasca
Norm Weiss, M.L.A. - Lac La Biche - Fort McMurray
Joe Clark - Leader of the Opposition