

*The Ursulines of St. Angela's Convent*  
*Ursuline Generalate*

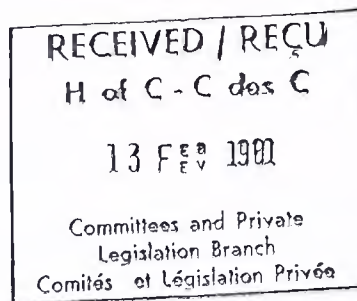
TEL. OFFICE: 306 653-2134  
RES. 653-0534

1212 COLLEGE DRIVE  
SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN  
CANADA  
S7N 0W4

February 3, 1981

Prime Minister P. E. Trudeau  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario

*Sub*



Dear Mr. Trudeau:

On behalf of the Ursuline Sisters, an educational order in the western provinces, I wish to express our regret at the proposed Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We are deeply concerned with respect to the future rights and privileges of publicly funded Roman Catholic Separate Schools. We are strongly supportive of Section 26 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights which states that parents have the prior right to choose the kind of education they wish for their children. The proposed Canadian Charter does not proclaim this fundamental right. In fact, some of its sections pose a basic threat to this fundamental right:

- section 25 would establish primacy of the Charter over all other laws, thus, providing a basis for encroachment upon the rights of denominational schools as provided by section 93 of the BNA Act;
- section 42 would provide for amendment to the constitution by means of a referendum, thus, making it possible for a simple majority to eliminate certain minority rights;
- section 49 would make it possible for each province to make laws amending the constitution of the province, providing a basis for provincial legislation that could make it more difficult for denominational schools to fulfill their mandate.

The awareness of some of the possible effects of the proposed Charter, has led us to endorse the amendments proposed by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association. These proposed amendments to sections 36 and 50, along with a proposed addition to section 24, were submitted to the Special Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada on November 27, 1980 by the Canadian Catholic School Trustees Association.

We hope that you and the members of parliament will seriously reconsider the proposed Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms so as to protect Catholic minority rights to publically funded Catholic Schools.

Respectfully submitted:

*Sister Edith Elder*

Sister Edith Elder  
Member of the General Council for the Ursuline Sisters

Copies to: Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada  
Father Bob Ogle, MP for Saskatoon East

# URSULINE SISTERS

Telephone 369-2311 BRUNO, Sask. S0K 0S0

February 5, 1981

*Support*

RECEIVED / REÇU

H of C - C des C

13 FEB 1981

Committees and Private  
Legislation Branch  
Comités et Législation Privés

Joint Committee on the Constitution of Canada  
Parliament Hill  
Ottawa, Canada

To the members of the Joint Committee:

*Letter*

(The Canadian Catholic School Trustees' Association) has made a submission to your group regarding the new Charter of Rights under study. We join with the trustees in their concern about the future rights and privileges of publicly funded Roman Catholic Separate Schools. We support the proposed amendments to section (24), as stated in their submission.

We trust that you will find ways to deal with this concern justly.

Sincerely,

*Sister Maureen Maier*

Sister Maureen Maier, superior