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THE POLITICAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB OF  
WHITE ROCK, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CONCERNED ABOUT A CONSTITUTION THAT WILL  
SHAPE NOT ONLY OUR LIVES, BUT THE LIVES OF FUTURE GENERATIONS OF ALL  
CANADIANS, RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING BRIEF:

RECEIVED / REÇU  
M of C - C des C  
2 - DEC 1980  
Committee and Private  
Legislation Branch  
Comités de Législation Privée

WE RECOGNIZE THAT CANADA HAS COME OF AGE AND SHOULD TAKE THE  
RIGHTFUL PLACE IN THE WORLD AS A COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT NATION. WE ARE  
CONCERNED, HOWEVER, WITH THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE CANADA ACT AND THE  
CONSTITUTION 1980 IS BEING RUSHED THROUGH COMMITTEE AND OBJECT TO THE  
MANNER IN WHICH THE DRAFTING OF THE NEW CANADIAN CONSTITUTION IS BEING  
ACHIEVED.

WE FEEL THAT ANYTHING AS IMPORTANT AS THE CONSTITUTION OF A COUNTRY  
AS VARIED REGIONALLY, ETHNICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND PHILOSOPHICALLY AS  
CANADA, SHOULD BE DRAFTED NOT BY POLITICIANS WHO MAY BE CONCERNED WITH  
THEIR IMAGE IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR REGION, BUT BY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO-  
GETHER WITH KNOWLEDGEABLE CITIZENS FROM ACROSS CANADA WHOSE CHIEF CONCERN  
IS TO MOLD THE DESTINY OF OUR COUNTRY INTO A COHESIVE ENTITY THAT TREATS  
ALL PEOPLES ALIKE. SUCH A COMMITTEE, REALIZING THAT TO ATTAIN STRENGTH  
OF LEADERSHIP AND A STANDARD OF LIVING COMPATABLE TO THE HIGH TECHNOLOGICAL  
AND SOCIOLOGICAL AIMS OF OUR SOCIETY, MUST GIVE CONSIDERATION TO THE CULTURAL  
AND ECONOMIC NEEDS OF EACH OF OUR FIVE REGIONS.

WE ALSO FEEL THAT THERE SHOULD BE AS LITTLE IN A CONSTITUTION AS  
POSSIBLE, STATING ONLY THE PHILOSOPHY OF A FREE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES.

WE FEEL THAT RATHER THAN STRESSING "RIGHTS" EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED  
ON "RESPONSIBILITIES". WITHOUT ASSUMING OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WE HAVE NO  
RIGHTS EXCEPT IN OBVIOUS INSTANCES OF MINORS AND THOSE WITH MENTAL AND  
PHYSICAL HANDICAPS.

THE DETAILS OF LEGALITIES SHOULD BE LEFT TO ACTS OF PARLIAMENT. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SUCH A FLEXIBLE CONSTITUTION CREATES A CERTAIN INSTABILITY SUBJECT TO THE WHIMS OF CHANGING GOVERNMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, SUCH FLEXIBILITY MAKES CHANGE POSSIBLE TO CONFORM WITH CHANGING TIMES. WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL BE THE NEEDS OF THIS COUNTRY ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN YEARS FROM NOW?

WE FEEL THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT SHOULD BE RESCINDED AND THIS LAST LEGAL TIE WITH BRITAIN BE SEVERED. A NEW CONSTITUTION, DRAWN UP BY CANADIANS, SHOULD THEN BE DRAFTED EXPRESSING THE SAME PHILOSOPHIES AS THE FATHER'S OF CONFEDERATION DEEMED IMPORTANT IN 1867 AND WHICH HAS SERVED US SO WELL.

WHILE WE AGREE THAT THE BASIC FREEDOMS SHOULD BE PROTECTED, THE INCLUSION OF A CHARTER OF RIGHTS IN THE CONSTITUTION CREATES A CLIMATE OF RIGIDITY THAT CAN ONLY CAUSE CONFUSION RESULTING LEGAL DISPUTES. FOR THIS REASON, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS BE LEFT AS IT IS NOW, ENCOMPASSED IN THE CANADIAN BILL OF RIGHTS.

THE MAJOR PREMISE OF A CHARTER OF RIGHTS IS THE PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION BASED ON RACE, <sup>SEX</sup> RELIGION OR COLOR. THIS IS AN ATTITUDE OF MIND AND IS A VERY SUBJECTIVE CONCEPT. WHAT MAY APPEAR TO BE DISCRIMINATORY IN THE MIND OF ONE INDIVIDUAL MAY BE A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT IN THE MIND OF ANOTHER.

THE CHARTER DOES NOT AFFORD PROTECTION AGAINST "CULTS" THAT OPERATE IN THE GUISE OF "RELIGION". WHILE WE ACCEPT AND LAUD THE CONCEPT OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM, WHAT IS TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF A SITUATION SUCH AS RESULTED IN THE JONESTOWN MASSACRE?

WHILE THE "RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND SECURITY OF PERSON . . . . .," IS ASSURED, THERE IS NO SIMILAR RIGHT TO THE PROTECTION OF ONE'S PROPERTY. UNDER THIS CLAUSE AN UNSCRUPULOUS GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE US THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF EXISTENCE, YET CONFISCATE ALL OUR PROPERTY FOR THE GOOD OF THE NATION - A COMMUNIST CONCEPT.

WE FEEL THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF "PLEA BARGAINING" AS A METHOD OF CONVICTING A PERSON ACCUSED OF A CRIME, MAY BE EFFECTIVE, BUT, IN AS MUCH AS IT EXONERATES THE ACCOMPLICE OF A CRIME, IT IS NOT COMPATABLE TO THE HIGH MORAL STANDARDS WE WOULD LIKE EXEMPLIFIED IN OUR CONSTITUTION.

SIMILARLY, THE CLAUSE "RIGHT NOT TO BE SUBJECTED TO ANY CRUEL AND UNUSUAL TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT" FOREVER RULES OUT CAPITAL PUNISHMENT OR THE USE OF THE LASH, TWO FORMS OF PUNISHMENT FAVORED BY A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE CANADIAN POPULATION. WE WOULD SUGGEST THE USE OF THE WORD "UNJUST" RATHER THAN "CRUEL AND UNUSUAL".

WE ARE CONCERNED WITH THE FACT THAT THE LANDED IMMIGRANT MAY BE BARRED FROM RE-ENTRY INTO CANADA UNDER SECTION 6 (1) WHERE "CITIZEN" ALONE IS SPECIFIED.

WE WOULD PREFER THE USE OF THE TERM "LAWFUL" ASSEMBLY RATHER THAN "PEACEFUL" ASSEMBLY SINCE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT HEINOUS CRIMES COULD BE PLOTTED UNDER PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT CANADA WAS FOUNDED BY TWO GREAT NATIONS, AND RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF EACH TO ITS DEVELOPMENT. FOR THIS REASON, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE COMPLETELY BI-LINGUAL. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, IT MUST BE DONE SYSTEMATICALLY, STARTING WITH CHILDREN IN KINDERGARTEN. THIS MUST BE A NATIONAL PROGRAM.

WHILE WE FAVOR EQUALIZATION PAYMENTS AND THE ASSISTANCE OF THE "HAVE" PROVINCES TO THE "HAVE-NOT" PROVINCES, WE FEEL THIS ASSISTANCE MUST BE GIVEN IN THE FORM OF HELPING THEM DEVELOP THEIR OWN POTENTIAL. WE ARE CONCERNED LEST TOO MUCH AUTHORITY BE INVESTED IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE WEALTH OF ONE PROVINCE BE SQUANDERED ON DISCRIMINATORY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE PRODUCING PROVINCE.

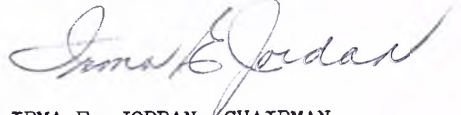
WE WOULD LIKE TO RE-ITERATE OUR FIRST PREMISE THAT THE CONSTITUTION BE AS CONCISE AS POSSIBLE. THE MORE LEGALITIES ONE TRIES TO SPELL OUT THE MORE RIGID IT BECOMES AND THE MORE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE AND AMEND. A CONSTITUTION IS ONLY A FRAMEWORK OUTLINING THE PHILOSOPHIES OF THE GOVERNING BODIES AND THE STANDARDS BY WHICH THE PEOPLE SHOULD LIVE. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK ARE THE LAWS THAT BIND PEOPLE TO A CODE OF HONOR, PROTECTING THE WEAK, AND ENCOURAGING THE EXPANSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE NATION. THESE MUST BE FLEXIBLE TO MEET THE CHANGING NEEDS OF SOCIETY. SUCH A CONSTITUTION NEEDS NO AMENDMENTS. IT IS THE PHILOSOPHY OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE AND THAT SHOULD BE UNCHANGING IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. IT IS ONLY IN TOTALITARIAN GOVERNMENTS THAT ONE NEEDS A RIGID CONSTITUTION, BECAUSE UNDER SUCH GOVERNMENTS THERE IS NO FREEDOM.

WE OPPOSE ANY AMENDING FORMULA THAT GIVES ONE SEGMENT OF THE COUNTRY VETO POWER REGARDLESS OF ITS POPULATION OR ECONOMIC WEALTH AT PRESENT AND IN YEARS TO COME.

WE DEPLORE THE HASTE WITH WHICH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FEELS THE CONSTITUTION MUST BE EXPEDITED. BECAUSE OF OUR PRESENT POSTAL SERVICE

IT VIRTUALLY EXCLUDES REPRESENTATION FROM ANYONE WEST OF ONTARIO. THE  
GOVERNMENT ACTION IS THEREFORE DISCRIMINATORY!

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Irma E. Jordan".

IRMA E. JORDAN, CHAIRMAN

DELIVERED TO OTTAWA BY COURIER.