



20th Anniversary of the
International Conference of
Women's Christian Associations
March 26-27, 1978

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BOARD
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November 24, 1980

Senator Lamontagne
Chairman
Senate-Commons Committee on the Constitution
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K9

Dear Senator Lamontagne:

The YWCA of Canada wishes to register its interest in the current study on the Constitution being conducted by the special Senate-Commons Committee.

The YWCA of Canada has always stood and spoken for the equality of women and is concerned that the current wording in the proposed Charter of Human Rights is insufficient to ensure real equality. Specifically we would strongly urge the following wording:

"Every individual shall have equality of rights under the law without regard to sex, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion or age."

We would also urge that the federal government's proposal to entrench a Charter of Rights and Freedoms in the Constitution include directions for the removal of any law which discriminates on the basis of sex, whether the law discriminates against all Canadian women or only some of them.



PRESIDENT: ANN KORTHOFF

A gift or bequest to the YWCA of Canada is a contribution to the work of the association in your community and in Canada.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DAVID STENI

We recognize the impact of the current hearings on the future of Canada and call on you, as a member of the Senate-Commons Committee on the Constitution, to do all in your power to ensure that the proposed new Charter of Human Rights guarantees the equality of rights for all people. To this end, we ask you to consider our suggestions for change in the proposed Charter.

Yours truly,

Ann Northcote

Ann Northcote
President

AN/dw

THE SENATE OF CANADA



LE SÉNAT DU CANADA

lettre adressée au sénateur
Lamontagne à titre de
"Chairman" du comité mixte
sur la constitution

the **YW** Young Women's
Christian Association

C
~~S.A.P.~~

November 17, 1980.

The Honourable Senator Harry Hays, P.C.,
Mr. Serge Joyal, M.P.,
Special Joint Committee on the
Constitution of Canada,
P.O. Box 1044,
South Block Parliament Buildings,
OTTAWA, Ontario.
K1A 0A7

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25 NOV 1980
Committees and Private
Legislation Branch
Comités et Législation Privée

Dear Sirs:

Congratulations on your appointments as Joint Chairmen of the Special Parliamentary Committee on the Constitution.

The Board of the YWCA (Calgary) has studied the effect of constitutional reform on family law and the entrenchment of human rights. We have expressed our opinion in letters to Premier Lougheed, The Right Honourable Joe Clark, as well as The Honourable Jean Chretien.

More recently the Calgary YW has formed a special constitutional advocacy committee to study these issues further. In order to educate ourselves, as well as the public, we have arranged a public forum to deal specifically with these two topics. Please find enclosed our flyer for your information.

We are currently preparing a brief to be submitted to your committee. We are, however, unsure of the deadline for submission. We are also requesting that an opportunity be provided for us to verbally present our concerns to you.

There is no doubt that these issues are significant for all women, as for all Canadians. Yet women, because of their lack of representation, are concerned if there is a way of ensuring that they will share in the economic well-being which governments hope will be generated by these measures. They also want to share in a way which accords with their sense of priority. For these reasons we feel special consideration should be given to hearing the concerns of women.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours truly,

Patricia J. Cooper,
Chairperson, Social Issues
Committee.

PJC/bb
Enc.

Sponsored by the Social Issues Committee YWCA (Calgary)

THE CONSTITUTION & YOU

A PUBLIC FORUM

CALGARY PUBLIC LIBRARY THEATRE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1980

7:30 P.M.

TOPICS:

1. The Amending Formula
2. Entrenchment of Human Rights
3. Family Law

SPEAKERS:

- Colin Hansen - P.O. - Parliamentary Secretary
- Dept. of Justice - General*
1. Senator Bud Olsen - Minister of Economic Development
 2. Walter McLean M.P. - Progressive Conservative Critic on the Status of Women
 3. Win Gardner - First Vice-President, Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women.
 4. Dennis Anderson - Alberta Conservative MLA

COME AND GET INVOLVED!

THIS IS YOUR CONSTITUTION!