

MAY 28

3470 Mayfair Drive,  
Victoria, B.C.

25 May 1973.

Ms. Eleanor Meslin,  
Administrative Coordinator,  
Canadian Civil Liberties Association,  
1554 Yonge Street,  
Toronto 290, Ontario.

Dear Eleanor Meslin,

I have just read your letter of 16 May and the material that accompanied it.

It is now apparent that the Canadian Civil Liberties Association is confined almost exclusively to Toronto and its environs.

The Executive Committee lists nine persons from the Toronto neighbourhood plus one each from Ottawa, Halifax and Regina. This is perhaps excusable for a Committee which is required to meet frequently.

The Board of Directors, on a quick run-down, shows about 22 from the Toronto area, four or five more from Ontario and a total of five others (except for the token members from affiliated chapters). Apart from representatives of the Regina and Winnipeg chapters western Canada has two regular members of the Board.

Even for Canada this is a pitiful record for an association that claims national status.

In consequence, I shall relinquish my membership in the Canadian Civil Liberties Association and confine myself - in this area - to working with the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association which makes no pretensions to a status that it cannot justify.

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Keenleyside

How. Am

Dr. Hugh Keenleyside  
3470 Mayfair Drive  
Victoria, B.C.

June 6, 1973

Dear Dr. Keenleyside:

Thank you for the copy of your letter addressed to Eleanor Meslin regarding the cancellation of your membership in the so-called "Canadian Civil Liberties Association".

It is certainly a great pity when Civil Liberties Associations battle among themselves, rather with the "enemy"; however, after years of trying unsuccessfully to talk gently with the CCLA, your letter provided me with a solid psychological boost!

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

R.A.H. ROBSON  
President

RAHR/hr

How. Dir.

September 26, 1973

Mr. Tommy Douglas, M. P.,

Dear Mr. Douglas,

This is just to confirm the phone call you received from our Administrative Assistant, Carol Pfeifer, regarding the recruiting letter you have apparently signed for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

Our Association has endeavoured for many years to establish a workable relationship with this Toronto group, but have been unable to do so as the result of what we see to be a very personally aggressive attitude on the part of persons like Mr. Alan Borovoy, Mr. Harry Arthurs and Mr. J. S. Midanik.

Over the years, we have received strong complaints from many of our members that they have been solicited for membership by the Canadian Civil Liberties Association, although the latter group had not bothered to make clear the relationship between their Association and ours. We have tried as politely as we know how to ask the Toronto Association not to solicit members in this Province, because such activity clearly diminishes the amount of support that our Association can attract from the residents of British Columbia. Our letters have remained largely ignored: On one occasion I did receive an acknowledgment from Dalton Camp in which he promised to bring the matter to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Association and to write me further in the matter. In spite of reminders from me to him about this, he never did write again.

The Board of Directors of the B. C. Civil Liberties Association finds such actions on the part of the Toronto Group most hostile and extremely harmful to the cause of civil liberties in British Columbia. For your information, I enclose copies of the correspondence I had with Dalton Camp.

I realise that you were not aware of this past history of the matter, nor did it probably occur to you that the Toronto Association has been using such letters as yours to solicit members in British Columbia, which affects the membership of our Association detrimentally; and this, in spite of our strong protests and pleas to cease competing with us for the support of civil liberties in this province.

.... / 2 / ....

It would be most helpful to our Association, of which you have been gracious enough to become an Honorary Director, if you could use your influence to persuade the Toronto-based group to discontinue solicitation for membership and donations in British Columbia. I will also hope that you would take steps to see that your letter is not used for this particular purpose.

In closing, I might mention that the B. C. Civil Liberties Association is a member of the Canadian Federation of Civil Liberties and Human Rights Associations, a national federation of fourteen Civil Liberties Associations across Canada from Nova Scotia to British Columbia.

Yours sincerely,

R. A. H. Robson,  
President.

RAHR/pw  
Encl.



# CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION

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September, 1973

Dear Fellow New Democrat,

I am writing to you in my role as a rank and file member of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association to ask that you too become a member of this vital organization.

Those of us who are promoting the cause of civil liberties within Parliament are especially grateful that we can count upon allies like the Canadian Civil Liberties Association outside of Parliament. I remember well, for example, that apart from the New Democratic Party, they were one of the few national organizations which protested the invocation of the War Measures Act.

Indeed, in order to further their principles, the Canadian Civil Liberties Association has often weathered the disapproval of powerful community forces. Even when it was not popular to do so, they have espoused the cause of bail reform, the abolition of the death penalty, more restrictions on wiretapping, due process for welfare recipients, and greater rights for demonstrations and picket lines.

I am particularly pleased with the C.C.L.A. efforts concerning the rights of our native Indian people. A recent Civil Liberties' publication, "Indian Life and Canadian Law" has shaken up a good many Government departments. As a follow-up on their own report the civil liberties people have embarked upon a pilot project to train citizen advocates among the Indians in the North. In view of the utter destitution in which so many Indians live, this project is a welcome and vital initiative.

These are some of the reasons I am asking you to join me in the ranks of the C.C.L.A. membership. If you have not already done so, please complete the enclosed application and return it with you cheque to the C.C.L.A. at 1554 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ont.

Sincerely yours,

T.C. Douglas, M.P.,  
Member, C.C.L.A.

