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FEDERAL PROVINCIAL  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY  
1969

PROPOSITIONS  
SUBMITTED BY  
THE PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND

FOR RELEASE  
Thursday, February 6, 1969 at 2 p.m.  
EASTERN STANDARD TIME



CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL DECLARE CANADA TO BE A SOVEREIGN NATION COMPRISING TEN PROVINCES AND TWO TERRITORIES (WITH BOUNDARIES AS PRESENTLY DEFINED) WHICH SHALL OPERATE AS A DEMOCRACY UNDER A FEDERAL AND PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND SHALL RECOGNIZE THE QUEEN AS HEAD OF STATE AND MAINTAIN EXISTING TIES WITH THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 2

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG CENTRAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTING ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF CANADA AND SHALL RECOGNIZE THE PRIMACY OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS AND IN ALL NEGOTIATIONS INVOLVING FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1963

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

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PROPOSITION NO. 3

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL VEST IN THE  
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT ALL JURISDICTIONS,  
POWERS AND AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO  
ACHIEVE NATIONAL STRENGTH AND UNITY  
AND TO IMPLEMENT POLICIES DESIGNED  
TO DEVELOP THE ECONOMY AND WELFARE  
OF THE NATION AS A WHOLE OR OF ANY  
PART OF THE NATION.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 5

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL CONTAIN APPROPRIATE PROVISION TO PERMIT THE ALTERATION OF ANY PROVINCIAL BOUNDARIES OR THE FORMATION OF NEW PROVINCES IN CASES WHERE IT IS DEEMED TO BE IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO DO SO BUT IT SHALL BE EXPRESSLY PROVIDED IN THE CONSTITUTION THAT NO EXISTING PROVINCIAL BOUNDARY SHALL BE AMENDED TO ANY EXTENT WITHOUT THE PRIOR CONSENT AND MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF ALL OF THE PROVINCES WHOSE BOUNDARIES ARE IMMEDIATELY AFFECTED AND OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 6

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL PROVIDE THAT ALL PROVINCES SHALL BE EQUAL IN STATUS, JURISDICTIONS AND POWERS AND THAT NO PROVINCE SHALL ENJOY SPECIAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES VIS-À-VIS OTHER PROVINCES.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 7

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL RECOGNIZE THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH AS THE FOUNDING RACES OF CANADA AND SHALL CONTAIN THE NECESSARY PROVISIONS TO ENSURE THAT CITIZENS OF FRENCH DESCENT RESIDING IN CANADA OUTSIDE QUEBEC SHALL ENJOY THE SAME RIGHTS WITH RESPECT TO THE USE OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE AND THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE AS CITIZENS OF ENGLISH DESCENT ENJOY IN QUEBEC WITH REGARD TO THEIR LANGUAGE AND CULTURE.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 8

Subject: Basic Principles

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL GIVE  
RECOGNITION TO THE EXISTENCE  
OF SERIOUS REGIONAL DISPARITIES  
THROUGHOUT CANADA IN ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES AND LEVELS OF PUBLIC  
SERVICES AND SHALL DECLARE THE NEED  
TO ELIMINATE SUCH DISPARITIES AND  
THE RIGHT OF ALL CANADIANS TO ENJOY,  
AS NEARLY AS MAY BE, EQUALITY OF  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, LIVING STANDARDS  
AND PUBLIC SERVICES WITHOUT THE  
NECESSITY OF ANY PROVINCE, IN ITS  
EFFORTS TO RAISE THESE STANDARDS  
AND LEVELS, HAVING TO RESORT TO  
TAXATION WHICH IMPOSES AN UNEQUAL  
BURDEN UPON ITS CITIZENS BEARING  
IN MIND THEIR CAPACITY TO PAY.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1963



CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 9

Subject: Fundamental Rights

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL CONTAIN A CHARTER OF FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS EMBRACING, INTER ALIA, POLITICAL, LEGAL, EGALITARIAN AND LINGUISTIC RIGHTS, FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND WORSHIP, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION, THE EXERCISE OF INDIVIDUAL FRANCHISE, THE SECURITY OF THE PERSON AND THE PROTECTION OF PROPERTY.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1963

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 10

Subject: Official Languages

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL CONTAIN  
PROVISION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
AND SHALL GIVE EFFECT TO THE  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROYAL  
COMMISSION ON BILINGUALISM AND  
BICULTURALISM RELATING TO THE USE  
OF THE FRENCH LANGUAGE THROUGHOUT  
CANADA.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 11

Subject: Regional Disparities

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL VEST POWERS IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE SUCH SPECIAL MEASURES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PROVINCES, AS MAY BE NECESSARY FROM TIME TO TIME TO COMBAT AND ELIMINATE REGIONAL DISPARITIES THROUGHOUT CANADA; THESE MEASURES TO BE EITHER OF GENERAL APPLICATION OR, IF THE NEED EXISTS, DESIGNED FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF DEALING WITH PROBLEMS EXISTING IN INDIVIDUAL PROVINCES AND THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SHALL NOT BE LIMITED OR CONFINED BY THE CONSTITUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF THE ACTION WHICH IT MAY TAKE TO ASSIST IN SOLVING THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM IN ANY PARTICULAR AREA OR AREAS.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE  
Continuing Committee of Officials

PROPOSITION NO. 12

Subject: Distribution of Powers

THE CONSTITUTION SHALL MAKE PROVISION FOR A REALISTIC DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS BEARING IN MIND THE EXISTING DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS AS DETERMINED BY THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT AND COURT DECISIONS, THE CHANGING CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CANADA SINCE THE PRESENT DISTRIBUTION WAS ORIGINALLY DETERMINED AND THE PROBLEMS WHICH THESE CHANGES HAVE CREATED BOTH FOR THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SETTING BOTH "EXCLUSIVE" JURISDICTION IN CERTAIN SPECIFIED FIELDS AND "SHARED" JURISDICTION IN OTHERS SHALL BE CONTINUED BUT THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE SHALL BE TO EFFECT A DISTRIBUTION OF POWERS WHICH WILL FACILITATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GREATEST POSSIBLE STRENGTH AND UNITY FOR CANADA AS A WHOLE AND THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD OF PROSPERITY AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL CANADIANS.

Presented by: The Government of Newfoundland

Date: 25 September 1968