

2-7-68

CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

NOTE BY SECRETARIAT

This paper on Procedures and Organisation was prepared by the Secretariat for discussion of the First Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Official Languages. While it does not cover the complete spectrum of procedural and organizational matters, it does indicate the history of the formation of the Sub-Committee and raises the three questions most relevant to the smooth operation of the affairs of this Committee.

NOTE FROM THE SECRETARIAT
on
THE ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES
for the
SUB-COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The purpose of this paper is to raise a number of organizational and procedural matters relating to the Sub-Committee on Official Languages established at the first meeting of the Continuing Committee of Officials at Mont Gabriel, May 29 & 30, 1968.

A - BACKGROUND

Members of the Sub-Committee will recall that the subject of Official Languages figured prominently in the discussions in February. At that time the Premiers and Prime Ministers developed the Consensus on Language Rights (CC/I/R/1). Clause 3 of the Consensus reads as follows:

Establishment of a special committee to examine the Report of the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism and the views expressed at this Conference on the Report, and on other matters relating to language rights and their effective provision in practice, and to consult on methods of implementation including the nature of possible federal assistance, and on the form and the method of constitutional amendment.

The verbatim transcript of the February Conference will be available shortly. In the meantime your attention is drawn to the Note circulated to the members of the Continuing Committee by the Secretary (CP/I/Sec/DI/1) which includes a summary of views on Official Languages expressed by participating governments at the Constitutional Conference.

The Conference Conclusion on the continuing machinery for constitutional review (CC/I/R/2) gave the Continuing Committee authority to set up sub-committees on specific questions, with the approval of the Prime Ministers and Premiers, and listed Official Languages as one of the specific questions to be examined. Accordingly at its first meeting The Continuing Committee established the special committee on Official Languages as a sub-committee of the Continuing Committee (see CP/I/ER, 12-6-68).

B - COMPOSITION

1. Members - On the basis of the information received to date The Sub-Committee on Official Languages will consist of the following representatives:

Federal Government	- J.S. Hodgson (Chairman) Director, Secretariat on Bilingualism, Privy Council Office
	- R. Elis, Associate Director, Special Secretariat on Bilingualism, Privy Council Office

Newfoundland	- J. Hanley, Deputy Minister of Education
Prince Edward Island	- L. Nease, Deputy Minister of Education
Nova Scotia	- I.G. MacLeod, Administrative Assistant to the Premier - J.A.Y. Macdonald, Deputy Attorney General
New Brunswick	- A. St-Onge, Consultant on French Curriculum, Department of Education
Québec	- G. Frégault, Deputy Minister of Cultural Affairs and Commissioner General of Cooperation with other Governments - M. Beaulieu, Director of the French Language Bureau, Department of Cultural Affairs - J. Robichaud, Senior Counsellor, Department of Intergovernmental Affairs
Ontario	- C. Beer, Federal-Provincial Affairs Secretariat, Department of Treasury & Economics - D. Omand, Executive Director, Personnel Development, Department of Civil Service
Manitoba	-
Saskatchewan	-
Alberta	- J.J. Frawley, Special Counsel
British Columbia	-

2. Secretary -As agreed at the first meeting of the Continuing Committee the Secretariat of the Conference is to provide the Secretary for this and all other sub-committees. For the Sub-Committee on Official Languages the Government of New Brunswick has agreed to second to the Secretariat M. Pierre Vachon to serve as Secretary of this sub-committee. In addition Mr. J.E. Côté of the staff of the Secretariat will act as Associate Secretary.

C -PROCEDURES

1. Record of Proceedings. The Continuing Committee of Officials decided on the form of summary record to be kept of its deliberations. This form of record is the one used in CP/1/SR, 12-6-68. This particular form may not be the most appropriate one for this sub-committee and members may wish to review the type of record to be kept of their deliberations.

2. Coding of Documents. On June 13, 1968 the Secretariat issued a Note (CF/Sec/MA/3) outlining the system of coding by which all documents will be registered. Documents of the Sub-Committee on Official Languages will begin with the symbol OL/. When members are able to provide the Secretariat with copies of documents intended for the Sub-Committee in advance of meetings, these will be registered and distributed by the Secretariat. Documents made available at meetings will be registered by the Secretariat after the meeting. Documents will not only be identifiable by their code numbers but also by cover pages in a colour chosen for each sub-committee.

3. Correspondence. In order to ensure that comprehensive up-to-date records are available in the Secretariat, it is essential that copies of all correspondence with the Chairman, the Secretary and, whenever possible, between members of the sub-committee be sent to the Secretariat at P.O. Box 488, Terminal "A", Ottawa.