

APPENDIX 18

LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY TO
SECRETARY OF STATE BENOÎT BOUCHARD

April 22, 1986

Dear Colleague:

There is already an agreement in principle between the Government of Canada and the governments of some provinces regarding three constitutional amendments which apply only to the provinces in question. These are proposed amendments regarding the educational rights of Pentecostal Assemblies in Newfoundland, the boundary between Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and the boundary between Alberta and British Columbia.

Her Excellency the Governor General may therefore be authorized during the year to issue a proclamation to amend the Constitution, and in these circumstances it would be appropriate to agree immediately on certain associated procedures.

With respect to the proclamation document itself, I think that the precedent established on June 21, 1984, at the time of the first proclamation following patriation of the Constitution, should be followed; that is, the wording of any amendment should be printed on fine paper with the Arms of Canada in colour. The Government will then not be required to make ad hoc decisions regarding the quality of the document to be preserved in the National Archives whenever a constitutional amendment is proclaimed.

If an amendment is of some sectoral, regional or national importance, the minister or ministers sponsoring the proposed amendment may wish to have additional copies of the signed document produced. This is a decision for the sponsoring ministers, who will be responsible for the costs.

Last, it is for the sponsoring minister or ministers to determine, in co-operation with the staff of the Governor General, the Department of Secretary of State and my office, the type of ceremony, if any, which should be associated with signature of any future proclamation.

Yours truly,

Prime Minister