

## Appendix

## OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

Alberta

Edmonton, December 15, 1949

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

My dear Prime Minister:

My colleagues and I have given careful consideration to the matters outlined in your letter of December 7.

We concur in your views that it is not desirable to attempt to prepare in advance of the forthcoming conference an agenda which might be interpreted as restricting the discussion on constitutional amendments to certain specific subdivisions of the question with which the conference will be concerned. Our view rather is that there should be the widest latitude for full and frank discussion not only of procedure in the matter of constitutional amendments but of the whole question of constitutional authority as it concerns the respective governments of Canada and the Canadian people as a whole.

With reference to your proposal that a general dominion-provincial conference should be held next fall to discuss questions of common concern to the federal and the provincial governments, we are in full accord with this suggestion and feel that such a conference at the earliest convenient date is desirable and necessary.

Yours very truly,

Ernest C. Manning  
Premier

Translation:

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Quebec

Quebec, December 12, 1949

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C., P.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Mr. Prime Minister:

I acknowledge receipt, on the 9th of December, of your letter dated the 7th concerning the dominion-provincial conferences.

I shall submit your letter to my colleagues on Wednesday, at the first session of the executive council of the province, and I shall thereafter communicate with you about this matter.

Yours very sincerely,

M. L. Duplessis

Translation:

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Province of Quebec

Quebec, December 14, 1949

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C., P.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Mr. Prime Minister:

With reference to my letter of the 12th of December, my colleagues of the executive council of the province have today been informed of the content of your letter, dated the 7th and received on the 9th December, concerning both the forthcoming intergovernmental conference and the one which you suggest for the fall of 1950, to be held in either September or October.

The government of the province of Quebec is always pleased to co-operate in the pursuit of the

provinces' and the country's welfare and prosperity, on a basis of fairness and within the framework of constitutionality.

The Ottawa conferences obviously involve a considerable amount of trouble and inconvenience for provincial authorities. Nevertheless we accept that with pleasure when it results in greater prosperity and progress for the Canadian confederation and for the provinces of which it consists and which have given it birth.

It is our opinion that at the January meeting in Ottawa the provincial and federal delegates should discuss the opportunity of holding conferences upon set dates, as well as the places where such conferences might be held and the items which might be studied and settled.

We therefore believe, my dear Mr. Prime Minister, that the matter raised in your letter should be submitted for the consideration and decision of the delegates attending the forthcoming conference in January.

Yours sincerely,

M. L. Duplessis

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Canada

Ottawa, December 21, 1949

Hon. Maurice L. Duplessis, M.L.A.,  
Premier of Quebec,  
Quebec, Que.

My dear Premier:

I duly received your letters of the 12th and 14th of December in which you express the view that the question of holding a general conference of representatives of the federal and provincial governments in the autumn of 1950 should be considered and decided by the conference to be held in January next.

I feel, in this connection, that I should advise you that the premiers of five of the provinces have already indicated their acquiescence in the suggestion for such a conference and that, up to the present, replies have not been received from the other four premiers.

Yours sincerely,

Louis S. St. Laurent

Translation:

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
Province of Quebec

Quebec, February 1, 1950

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent, K.C., P.C.,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Ottawa.

Mr. Prime Minister:

On Monday of this week I received your letter of the 27th of January, concerning a proposed intergovernmental conference in Ottawa next fall. At the first session of the council of ministers following the above-mentioned date, I brought it to the attention of my colleagues on the executive council of the province.

You write about "a unanimous approval of the proposal to hold a conference on a suitable date in September or October." On this point there is certainly a misunderstanding.

As it was noted by everyone, it is the desire of the government of the province of Quebec loyally to co-operate toward a just, fair and constitutional settlement of every problem that may arise in the field of federal-provincial relations. As a matter