

Item No. 27

Jan. 6, 1955.

Hon. L. St. Laurent,
Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Sir:

I wish to draw your attention to the by-election in the Camrose Constituency, owing to the death of Robert Fair.

It is expected that at least 3 candidates will be in the contest, and possibly more; that being the case why not have the Preferential Ballot same as the Alberta Provincial ballots? It is the only fair system in a case of plural contestants. This province insists upon several parties contesting, with the result that a true feeling of the voters is not obtained, and many are elected by Minority vote.

We had a case of it here in the last Federal election; the elected man had a minority vote that would have made a difference in the election if we had the Preferential Ballot.

Thanking you for your attention to this.

J. P. Doherty,
Provost, Alta.

OTTAWA (4)
JANUARY 14, 1955.

J. P. Doherty, Esq.,
Provost,
Alberta.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

The Prime Minister has asked me to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 6, concerning the forthcoming by-election in Camrose Federal Constituency.

Mr. St-Laurent has noted your views and has asked me to explain that in order to implement your suggestion that the preferential ballot be used Parliament would have to amend the Canada Elections Act.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Cross,
Secretary.

Ottawa, January 18, 1955.

Dear Mr. Doherty:

Your letter of January 6th, concerning the forthcoming by-election in the federal constituency of Camrose has been forwarded to me by the office of the Prime Minister.

Every once in a while a committee is set to study Elections Act. In fact, I have this year introduced a resolution to establish such a committee.