

PRIVY COUNCIL



CANADA

*3*  
*1* Cabinet C183275  
*2* Interdepartmental  
*3* Advisory  
*Green*  
*Black*  
*Black*  
 C-100(c)  
 v.1

Ottawa, January 22nd, 1944.

Memorandum for the Prime Minister

re: Dominion-Provincial Conference

1. The political situation in Quebec and the fact that the previous conference met on the basis of the Sirois Report, now five years old, make careful preparation more important than ever, particularly as adjustments are urgently needed. At least four months should be allowed.
2. There might be a Cabinet Sub-Committee and an Interdepartmental Committee reporting to it. A member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee might act as chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee and be charged with direct responsibility for all preparations. Attached there might be Alex Skelton, because of his experience and ability, and a small group of others. *advisory*
3. The Interdepartmental Committee should prepare recommendations for financial arrangements between the Dominion and the provinces and changes required in the B.N.A. Act. *- Green*  
*Black*  
*Secretary*  
*of both*  
*committees*
4. The material prepared by the Interdepartmental Committee might be referred to the Economic Advisory Committee and submitted to the Cabinet Sub-Committee and the Cabinet. From this there should emerge at the earliest possible date a general indication of what the government wanted to get from a conference. *3*  
*1*  
*rule out*
5. Everything possible should be done to avoid putting the provinces against the Dominion and the provinces should be encouraged to take the initiative in suggesting matters for consideration.
6. At the right time a member of the government or the chairman of the Interdepartmental Committee, and Skelton, should visit the provinces and discuss the situation with them. The need for action (already felt by many people) should be brought home with articles and speeches. *7*