

THE CANADIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING
MONTREAL

April 11th, 1933.

Letter to Member Boards and Chambers No. 20

Dear Mr. Secretary:

For Immediate Attention

At our Executive meeting this week it was decided to send you the attached recommendation on economy in public finance which we are asking you to endorse along the lines indicated hereunder. This Resolution is already in the hands of the Finance Minister.

As a background for these recommendations, I am attaching hereto a copy of the letter, which was addressed to the Minister of Finance by our President and Chairman under date of March 2nd, and which was in accord with the resolutions of several of our Conventions, including that at Halifax last September. Moreover, as your Council and members know, the National Committee of the Chamber on Public Economy has for several months been pointing out to the public through its releases, through public addresses and through the Press, the increasing costs of Governments, which have been so largely responsible for our increasing debt and mounting taxation.

This week our President, in response to a Questionnaire despatched to the members of the Public Economy Committee and to our Vice-Presidents and National Directors in each of the Provinces, has received forty replies from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia, indicating definitely the opinion of these leaders of business that the Federal Budget as brought down on March 21st, does not show sufficient retrenchment in expenditure generally.

Under the foregoing circumstances it was decided to urge our member Boards and Chambers throughout the Dominion to support the enclosed recommendation. Though we feel that we have a mandate from our members along the lines of the recommendation, in view of the decision taken at Halifax and at other of our Conventions, yet we realize that a consolidation of public opinion at this time should go far to assist the Government in putting into effect further necessary economies.

IT IS SUGGESTED THEREFORE THAT YOU HOLD A GENERAL MEETING OF YOUR MEMBERS AT ONCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENDORSING THE ATTACHED RESOLUTION OR ONE SIMILAR, OR THAT YOUR APPROVAL BE SIGNIFIED IN ANY OTHER EFFECTIVE AND IMMEDIATE MANNER.

If this proposal meets with your acceptance, every effort should be put forth to have a well attended and representative meeting, in order that a large proportion of the business interests of the country may be afforded the opportunity of supporting, as we feel confident they will, the conclusions of the resolution.

IF AFTER TAKING SUCH ACTION, YOUR ORGANIZATION CONCURS IN THE PRINCIPLES SET OUT IN THE RESOLUTION, WILL YOU PLEASE EITHER (1) TELEGRAPH YOUR ENDORSEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION TO THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF FINANCE OR (2) INFORM HIM BY WIRE IN YOUR OWN BUT SIMILAR TERMS THAT FEDERAL EXPENDITURES SHOULD BE FURTHER CUT. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU COMMUNICATE IN THE SAME SENSE WITH YOUR FEDERAL MEMBER OR MEMBERS AND ALSO ADVISE US HERE.

Our Executive is convinced that your Organization will realize the effective part it can play in this matter of national concern.

Yours very truly,

Wm L Clark
Secretary.

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