

NEWFOUNDLAND; REFERENDUM RESULT; PROCEDURE

At the meeting of the Cabinet on July 27th, it was agreed that, in view of the reported voting on the referendum, appropriate action be taken (upon receipt of official word of the final result) to have Newfoundland become a Province of Canada.

Approval was given to the draft announcement¹ submitted, for release upon the final results being approved, subject to certain revisions.

The Cabinet also noted a report¹ submitted with respect to the procedure to give effect to having Newfoundland become a Province of Canada.

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*Extrait de The Mackenzie King Record*⁸¹

*Extract from The Mackenzie King Record*⁸¹

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Again the vote in the referendum was close; some 84 per cent of the eligible population voted, 52.34 per cent for Confederation and 47.66 per cent for Responsible Government. The Cabinet discussed the results on July 27. "Decision reached definitely to regard the majority secured as substantial enough to justify the decision to proceed now with the next stages required before getting consent of Parliament and the Government's intention to recommend Confederation to Parliament. I had never dreamt that my name would probably be linked through years to come with the bringing into Confederation of what will be the 10th province and quite clearly the last. Having relation to my grandfather's part in laying the foundations of responsible government, it is interesting that it should be left to me as practically the last of the completed tasks before giving up the Leadership of the Party. To have been the one, as Prime Minister, to announce the entry, within a few months' time, of Newfoundland into Confederation. It is wholly probable that, if spared, I shall have something of significance to do with the event itself when it comes to pass. Might even be listed as one of the Fathers of the larger Confederation."

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*Mémoire du sous-secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
au Premier ministre*

*Memorandum from Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Prime Minister*

Ottawa, July 27, 1948

I am enclosing two interesting telegrams received last night from MacKay in Newfoundland.⁸² His preliminary impression is that the majority of the opponents of confederation are willing to accept the verdict of the plebiscite, and that

⁸¹Volume 4, p. 345.

⁸²Voir les documents 644 et 645.

⁸²See Documents 644 and 645.