

Item No. 26

HOUSE OF COMMONS
CANADA

OTTAWA, January 12, 1955.

The Honourable Roch Pinard,
Secretary of State,
West Block,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Pinard,

While I was at home before the present session of Parliament commenced, representations were made to me suggesting that Canadians serving abroad with departments of government, other than those in the armed services, should be given the opportunity of casting their votes at a general election, when voting facilities are available to personnel of the armed services.

These are, as you know, a number of Canadians in the public service in the United Kingdom, and at other points abroad. These people, I am informed, feel quite keenly that they should be deprived of their franchise when personnel of the armed services, frequently many years their junior in age and experience, and stationed at the same location, are able to exercise their franchise.

It would be very much appreciated if this proposal might be examined with a view to seeing whether it might be possible to amend the Election Act so as to enable Canadians in the government service, stationed abroad, to vote.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) George R. Pearkes
TM/CL

OTTAWA, January 13, 1955.

Dear General Pearkes,

I have your letter of January 12th supporting the suggestion made to you that voting facilities should be provided for Canadian employees of government departments abroad.

I have sent a copy of your letter to the Chief Electoral Officer who will see that your representations are brought to the attention of the committee of the House which it is expected will shortly begin a study of the Canada Elections Act and proposed amendments thereto.

Yours sincerely,

(Rubber stamp) Roch Pinard
Secretary of State

Major-General G. R. Pearkes, V.C., C.B., M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.