

July 5, 1988

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PROVINCIAL REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON

Relations between Canada and the United States occupy a position of prime importance in the conduct of our foreign policy, and we in this department are fully conscious of your strong interest in staying in close touch with U.S. developments of concern to the provinces. Indeed, we are anxious to cooperate in the pursuit of your province's interests with the various levels of the U.S. government.

However, as you are aware, the federal government has a long-standing policy which treats provincial presence and activities in Washington, D.C., in a distinct and special manner as compared to other cities in the United States.

Since provinces with offices established in other cities in the USA may have occasion to send representatives from these missions, or directly from provincial capitals, to monitor developments in Washington, we have drawn up a revised and more specific version of guidelines concerning the status and modus operandi of these provincial representatives. These guidelines, prefaced by a general statement of federal policy covering the subject, follow for your information.

"The Canadian Government considers it indispensable that the Canadian presence in Washington be active and effective. It is therefore of prime importance that Canada speak, and be seen to speak, at all times with one voice to the wide variety of federal departments and agencies in the U.S. capital. This representation of Canadian interests in Washington is maintained by the Canadian Embassy. The Department of External Affairs recognizes the importance that the governments of Canada's provinces attach to matters of particular concern to them being pursued by the U.S. federal government. Canadian government authorities therefore cooperate closely with the provinces, particularly as regards making available to them reports and other information transmitted by our embassy in Washington. Our letter of December 10, 1987 to provincial governments contained the announcement that as of the summer of 1988 the Embassy staff would receive the addition of an officer exclusively devoted to provincial interests.

Bearing in mind the above, the Department of External Affairs is prepared to request the U.S. authorities to issue an A-2 (official) category visa to