

Appendix

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA ACT—PROCEDURE IN AMENDMENTS

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE WITH PREMIERS OF PROVINCES

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Province of Quebec

Quebec, November 9, 1949

Right Hon. Louis S. St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa.

Mr. Prime Minister:

The members of the executive council of the province have learned from your letter of November 7, which was delivered to my office yesterday afternoon, that the opening session of the dominion-provincial conference which "will consider means to amend the constitution of Canada" will be held in Ottawa on the 10th of January, 1950, at 10.30 a.m.

I presume that the precise place where the sessions of the conference will take place will be determined in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

M. L. Duplessis

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

Canada

Ottawa, November 15, 1949

Hon. Maurice Duplessis, M.L.A.,
Premier of Quebec,
Quebec, Que.

My dear Premier:

I duly received your letter of the 9th instant inquiring as to the exact place where the sittings of the proposed constitutional conference would be held. The government will arrange to hold the opening meeting in the centre block of the parliament buildings, and all the premiers will be advised in advance of the precise room and other arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

Louis S. St. Laurent

PREMIER'S OFFICE

Saskatchewan

Regina, November 29, 1949

Right Hon. L. S. St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Ont.

My dear Prime Minister:

Thank you for your recent letter confirming the January 10 date for the dominion-provincial conference to consider a method of amending

the constitution of Canada. It is felt here that different techniques may be required for different matters. If this be so, it would be difficult to consider the question of amendment in a general way. I would therefore be very much obliged if you could send me the proposed agenda. I am certain you will understand the difficulty with which we are faced in trying to do preparatory work before knowing what items are coming up for discussion and what the method of procedure will be. I note, too, that a preliminary meeting of constitutional experts, in advance of the main conference, is not to be held. This fact necessitates our having a proposed agenda as soon as possible.

Trusting you will be able to assist us by forwarding an agenda to us at your earliest convenience, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

T. C. Douglas

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND
PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

Ontario

Toronto, December 8, 1949

Right Hon. Louis St. Laurent, K.C.,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Ottawa, Canada.

My dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I have your letter of the 7th instant.

My feeling is that the reduction of the subject matter of the conference opening January 10 to an agenda of procedure is not necessary. I think better progress will be made if the question of procedure in the conference is left until the conference itself convenes. These matters can then be considered and settled. If in the meantime any of the other provinces have suggestions to make in this regard, I should be glad indeed if you would advise me. My feeling at the moment is that a formal agenda is not necessary.

Concerning your proposal that a general provincial conference should be held early in the autumn of 1950, possibly in September or October, I am in agreement. In this case the situation is quite different and there are many matters which the various provinces will probably be anxious to have discussed. In this case an agenda of subject matters should be prepared in advance, although I believe as much of the procedure as possible should be left to the conference itself. I shall be glad to discuss this matter with you at any time.

Yours very truly,

Leslie M. Frost