

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Canada.
July 29th, 1953.

Manitoba Summer School
Office of the Director

The Right Honourable Louis St. Laurent,
Prime Minister of Canada,
Parliament Buildings,
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Mr. St. Laurent:

The Summer School Students' Council of the University of Manitoba Summer School, representing eight hundred students from all parts of the Province, in session from July 2nd to August 15th, wish to draw your attention to the loss of civic rights to which many of them will be subject because they will not be able to be in their own constituencies to exercise their franchise on election day, August 10th. Of our total enrolment, about 40% are active teachers whose homes are in rural parts of the Province.

We would respectfully request through you that the Government would take steps to redress this disfranchisement of a considerable section of the electorate of Manitoba, and authorize some system of absentee balloting, such as that with which we are familiar in municipal elections in the City of Winnipeg, so that in future elections citizens attending Summer Schools may not be deprived of the right to vote.

On behalf of the Council and Students of the University of Manitoba Summer School.

Yours respectfully,

(sgd) Raymond HARRIS, President
Joan COHEN, Secretary.

cc: Inspector Briskin
Dean Scarfe
Mr. Longmore
Professor Ferns

Item No. 13

SUMMER SESSION STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
of

The University of British Columbia

August 14, 1953.

The Office of the Prime Minister,
Ottawa, Canada.

Dear Sir:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 6, which carefully explains the reasons for the holding of the Federal Election on August 10 this year.

Your letter makes quite clear the problems, the solution to which necessitated holding the election on the date it was. However, it does not give any indication that the regulations which resulted in the disenfranchisement of half of the University of British Columbia faculty and students, some five hundred qualified voters, are to be altered to rectify this situation. As we interpret the Elections Act, the voters entitled to cast their ballots in advance of the prescribed day are at present drawn only from a few specific occupations.