



CANADA

C 208258

WARTIME INFORMATION BOARD

December 11, 1942.

MEMORANDUM TO:

Mr. Walter Turnbull,  
Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Attached herewith -

1. A proposed statement by the Prime Minister to be used in connection with the observance of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Calixa Lavalee, composer of the music for 'O Canada'. The date of the Anniversary is December 28.
2. A biographical sketch of Lavalee.
3. Quotations from Hansard covering references to 'O Canada' made by the Prime Minister during the last Session of Parliament.

You will recall that Mr. Lewis Bourdon wrote to the Prime Minister some weeks ago suggesting that fitting attention be paid to the Lavalee anniversary. This proposal has been under discussion in the Wartime Information Board and we feel that it would be constructive from the standpoint of National Unity that the anniversary be suitably marked. Among other things we are arranging for special radio programs to be built around the life of Lavalee, for broadcasting over the English and French networks of the C.B.C. The radio productions will be largely musical in character. We are purposely avoiding the controversial issue of the words to 'O Canada' and concentrating rather on the composition itself and the composer. Both the English and French radio programs would be greatly strengthened if they could be built around a brief statement by the Prime Minister. This would be handled by a recording, as far as the English program is concerned and a translation of the statement would be worked into the French program.