

Item No. 3

MINISTER OF LABOUR
CANADA

December 3rd, 1953.

Dear Mr. Castonguay:—

The Prime Minister yesterday, commenting on the attached brief submitted by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada to the Cabinet, advised the delegation that he would see their suggestion with regard to the Election Act would be brought to the attention of the proper official.

Just in case you have not as yet seen a copy of the memorandum submitted by the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada a copy is enclosed for your information. You will find reference to the Election Act on Page 16.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ned Bossé,
E. Bossé,
Executive Assistant.

Nelson Castonguay, Esq.,
Chief Electoral Officer,
McArthur Ave.,
Eastview, Ontario.

MEMORANDUM TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
THE TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA—1954.
ELECTION ACT

We would remind our Government that election day this year coincided with the opening day of our annual Congress convention. The result was that more than six hundred delegates from all parts of Canada were unable to exercise their franchise. We realize, of course, that such an unhappy coincidence might never happen again, but we would point out that there are very many organizations in Canada which hold regular conventions and that it may very well be that no election date could be set which would not conflict with one or more of such conventions with consequent disfranchisement of the delegates.

This is not the only way in which our members are disfranchised. There are now several hundred full time representatives of trade unions in Canada and their duties require them to do a great deal of travelling. No provision is now made for any of these representatives to vote at the advance polls.

This Congress, therefore, urges our Government to proceed with the necessary amendments to the Election Act in order that our convention delegates and full time trade union representatives may be able to fully exercise their right to vote in any future federal election.

At the same time we request that the voting age be reduced to eighteen years.