

In language full of dignity and truth, the petition of the Canadian episcopacy exposed clearly the rights of the Catholics, their duties as well as their grievances. It showed how the Catholics of Manitoba, after having enjoyed until the year 1890, the right of bringing up their children and having them educated in schools kept according to their religious convictions, were dispossessed of them in an unjust and arbitrary manner. It showed how their situation has been gradually aggravated by time and by the effects of new laws. It drew attention to the severe blows likewise dealt at the rights of the Catholics in the North-west by the ordinances of 1892, which deprived the Catholic schools of their liberty of action and special character. Then, establishing with the authority that belongs to them, and with the science by which they are distinguished, the doctrine of the Catholic church in the matter of education, the Canadian Episcopacy mentioned that parents have at the same time, the right and the duty, both by natural and divine law, of giving their children a Christian education according to their Catholic belief. The petition recalled, also, that the exercise of this right and the free fulfilment of those obligations had been guaranteed to the Catholics of the Canadian North-west by the most solemn promises, which were violated in order to impose upon our co-religionists the vexatious laws, opposed to justice and to all legitimate liberties, which to-day plunge the whole country into the most deplorable dissensions. As the petition of our bishops truthfully declare, the Catholics of the Dominion resent the injustice done to their brethren of the North-west, and we here reiterate their forcible statements and their requests desiring to confirm in a signal manner the truth of their words that pastor and flock are but one, and that together they are determined to reclaim their rights by all the constitutional means in their power. Our pastors have constituted themselves the enlightened interpreters of those rights; we shall be the devoted champions of them. Therefore we protest against the fallacious and disloyal reply of the Manitoba Government, dated the 20th October, 1894, to the order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, dated July 26th, 1894; and, adapting the conclusions, etc., of the petition of their Lordships, the Archbishops and Bishops of Canada, with them and like them, We humbly pray for the redress of the grievances of the Catholics of Manitoba and the North-west, by the disallowance of the law of 1894, and by all other constitutional means, according to law, in regard to those laws and ordinances concerning which this prerogative of disallowance can no longer be exercised, and your petitioners will ever pray until justice be done to them.

J. ALPH. PELLETIER, *ptre.*, *curé*,  
ALEXIS DUFOUR,  
FRANÇOIS LECLERC,  
ELOI DUFOUR, and 112 others.

I, the undersigned, *curé* of this parish, certify that the above signatures and others, also that the marks of those who could not sign are correct.  
Isle aux Coudres, this 3rd day of February, 1895.

J. ALPH. PELLETIER,  
*Ptre., Curé.*

Bergeronnes, County of Saguenay, P.Q.—

ANTHONY GUAY, *ptre.*, *curé*.  
RENE BOUILLAUME.  
IVES BOUILLAUME.  
FRANÇOIS MALTAIS.  
NARCISSE DALLAIRE, and 134 others.

St. Albert de Gaspé—

F. GAUTHIER, *ptre.*, *curé*.  
JOSEPH JONCAS.  
JAMES BEATTIE.  
ARTHUR KELLY.  
JOHN S. ADAMS, and 74 others.