

Appendix C

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA FACULTY OF LAW

March 4, 1992

The Honourable Kim Campbell
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General of Canada
Department of Justice
Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8

Dear Minister:

I am writing to express my dismay and distress over the recent cancellation of the Court Challenges Program.

I have on numerous occasions publicly expressed the view that it is totally illusory to confer rights on people who do not have the means to enforce them and I assumed that the expansion of the Court Challenges Program following the advent of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was an effort to address this problem.

I fully appreciate, of course, that all governments are currently in a period of financial restraint but I must say that I have difficulty with a policy that places the burden of that restraint on those who can least afford to bear it.

I saw for myself when I was a member of the Supreme Court how invaluable this Program has been to minority groups and to the disadvantaged. It has clearly been well and efficiently administered and has resulted in an excellent input into many very significant "test" cases. I am sure that my former colleagues on the Court, if asked, would confirm that view. Indeed, I believe that I can say with complete confidence that the public has unquestionably received full value for its money on this particular Program.

J.C. MacPherson
Dean