



June 7th, 1968

Mr. Kenneth M. MacLean, President  
Rural Development Council,  
Central Lot 16, P.E.I.

Dear Mr. MacLean:

My Department is planning the re-organization of Education at all levels. Our objective is to meet the needs of every pupil in accordance with his particular abilities, aptitudes, interests and personality. Your association, through its Community School Programme, is representative of rural people particularly, throughout the Province. By means of conferences, your members have learned about initiating change, thinking clearly about objectives and evaluation of programmes. Since educational re-organization involves not only the Department, Teachers and School Boards but Citizens generally, I need the help of your membership.

I have decided to form a Consultative Committee and would ask you to request your executive to appoint a representative to attend our first meeting, which will be held Thursday, June 20th, at 2.30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, Provincial Government Building, Charlottetown.

Enclosed please find an outline of my thinking concerning the function of this Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gordon Bennett".

Gordon Bennett,  
Minister of Education.

GB/sl

THE MINISTER'S CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
ON ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Introduction

The Department of Education and its co-partners - the teachers, trustees and parents - have done much over the past ten years to up date and up grade the quality and content of education, in spite of insurmountable financial problems. For the first time, given an adequate budget, the Department of Education, with the assistance and cooperation of all sectors of the province will be able to develop a total plan to meet the educational needs of our time.

Piecemeal measures, however necessary heretofore, must give way to total planning, flexible enough to meet changing needs each year. The Department's project includes (a) the re-structuring of the Department with provisions for its own self-renewal and programmes of self-development for its personnel and (b) the re-organization of education at all levels - pre-elementary to post-secondary and continuing education.

The policy of the Department will be to provide leadership by defining the objectives of education and to work out plans -- to study, to define, to foresee needs and to make decisions at the provincial level. At the same time, change that is imposed seldom is effective. We tend to change merely the packaging and not ourselves. As initiators of change, the Department and its co-partners, must study together the needs of each region and find practical solutions.

The Minister's Action

The Minister of Education will establish in June 1968 a Consultative Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education.

- (a) to provide a group of informed citizens, representative of various educational and geographic sectors of the province, which is able to make recommendations.
- (b) to provide a knowledgeable group of citizens who are closely associated with the thinking, the planning, and implementation of policies by the Department's officers.
- (c) to provide two-way communication between the Minister and the people relative to the success and difficulties encountered in initiating change and to make recommendations to the Minister relative to revisions.

Composition of the Committee

To obtain as wide a representation as possible, the Minister is inviting the associations listed below to appoint their own representatives.

1. P. E. I. Teachers Federation	2
2. P. E. I. School Trustees Association	2
3. Charlottetown School Board	1 (the Superintendent)
4. Summerside School Board	1 (the Superintendent)
5. The Rural Development Council	1
6. P. E. I. Home and School Federation	1
7. Prince of Wales College	1
8. St. Dunstan's University	1
9. Department of Education	3
10. Ex-officio: The Minister and Deputy Minister	2

Please Note: The Minister will also make provision for student representation in the Fall of 1963.

First Meeting:

The above mentioned associations are requested to have their representatives attend the first meeting of the Minister's Consultative Committee to be held Thursday, June 20, at 2:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Fifth Floor, Provincial Government Building, Rochford Street, Charlottetown.