



November 16, 2007

Marie-France Albert  
Co-President,  
Council Canadian of Law Deans  
Faculté de droit  
Pavillon A.-J.-CORMIER  
Université de Moncton  
Moncton, NB E1A 3E9

Philip Bryden  
Co-President,  
Council of Canadian Law Deans  
Faculty of Law  
University of New Brunswick  
P.O. Box 44271  
Fredericton, NB E3B 6C2

Dear Dean Albert and Dean Bryden:

**Re: Language Rights Education in Canadian Law Faculties**

I write on behalf of the Canadian Bar Association and more specifically, on behalf of Miriam Maisonville, Chair of the French-Speaking Common Law Members Conference of the CBA.. I understand that Dean Albert and Conference Executive member Christian Michaud have spoken about an issue of mutual concern – ensuring that all Canadian law students learn about language rights in their constitutional law classes, and are sensitized to the significance of these rights throughout Canada. We would like to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to achieve this goal.

As part of our concern with the promotion of Francophone minority language rights in Canada, the CBA is interested in the training of Anglophone lawyers in language rights by Canadian law faculties. We believe, as we are sure that you do, that education of lawyers is key to promoting language rights and their observance by the legal profession and the courts. Unfortunately, we have observed that the level of knowledge of language rights amongst young lawyers and articling students is inconsistent across the country.

Our view is that introductory constitutional law courses should include at least one or two hours of instruction on language rights, particularly those rights under sections 16 to 20 and 23 of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and a brief history explaining how these rights were developed. Further, there should be a review of the Supreme Court's recent trilogy of *Reference re Secession of Québec*, *R. v. Beaulac* and *Arsenault-Cameron v. Prince Edward Island*. We would like to canvass your views in this regard, and how we can work together to achieve a uniform standard of instruction in every Canadian law school.

500 - 865 Carling, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1S 5S8

Tel/Tél. : (613) 237-2925 Toll free/Sans frais : 1-800-267-8860 Fax/Télécop. : (613) 237-0185

Home Page/Page d'accueil : [www.cba.org](http://www.cba.org) E-Mail/Courriel : [info@cba.org](mailto:info@cba.org)



We understand that the Council will meet in Montreal in May and that this might be an opportune time for members of the Conference to meet with you. We would appreciate your setting aside some time to discuss this matter at this meeting.

Yours very truly,

*(original signed by Bernard Amyot)*

Bernard Amyot