cc: Minister of Justice
       Minister of Citizenship and Immigration
         (Superintendent General of Indian Affairs)
       Circ
       File ✓

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O t t a w a,
March 9, 1962.

Dear Mr. Paull:

          I have your letter of February 24th, in which
you refer to a number of matters relating to the treaty
rights of the Indian people in Canada who come under treaty,
and also to the particular position of the Indians in
British Columbia who have no treaty.

          I should like to repeat the assurances which
I gave to you in my letter of November 5, 1961, and to
repeat that the rights of Indians under treaty and the
aboriginal rights of Indians generally in Canada are not
in any way diminished or affected by the legislation passed
in 1960, which conferred on persons of Indian status the
right to vote in federal elections. The legislation in
question confers an additional right or benefit: it takes
nothing away. If an Indian wants to vote in the federal
elections, - and it is my hope that all Indians will do so, -
he does not have to surrender any rights whatsoever, and
specifically he does not have to surrender his right to
exemption of income on money he earns on the Indian reserves.

          You also ask whether Indians or Indian tribes
or bands will become "extinct" by voting in the federal
elections. The answer is a definite "No". The position
of Indian tribes or bands, and of individual Indians, will
be entirely unaffected by voting in any federal election.
I trust that you will accept my unqualified assurances on
these points.

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Percy A. Paull, Esq.,
  419 West 3rd Street,
  North Vancouver, B.C.

The remaining portions of your letter,
relating to a recent decision of the British
Columbia Court of Appeal and to an Order-in-
Council, No. 1036, made with reference to
legislation passed by the Parliament of Canada
in 1920, are being referred to the Minister of
Justice and to the Minister of Citizenship and
Immigration (Superintendent General of Indian
Affairs) for their advice and comments.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Original signed
by
John G. Diefenbaker

Cit. & Imm./al