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Law School of Harvard University

Cambridge 38, Mass.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 15, 1950

Dean Vincent MacDonald  
Dalhousie University Law School  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Vincent,

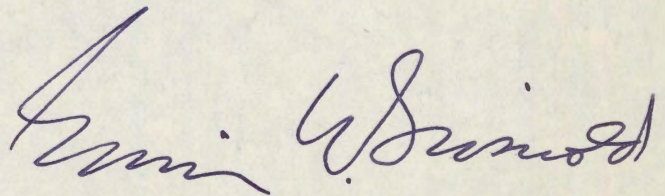
Word has just come to me of your appointment to the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. I want to send you my hearty congratulations. I am sure that you will be a fine judge. You are qualified in every way for a place on the bench.

Nevertheless, my congratulations, though most sincere, are offered with real regret. You have done great work in the law teaching field, and your continued efforts there are badly needed. This is particularly true in Canada where the problems between the schools and the profession are apparently considerably more difficult than they are here. You have been uniquely qualified to deal with these problems and to contribute to them. It will be extraordinarily difficult to find a successor for you who will have your capacities as a law teacher, and who will also have anything like the standing and position which you have had with the profession.

It will give me great satisfaction to be acquainted with a Judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia. But I shall not forget his great work as a Dean of Dalhousie Law School.

Please let me send you my heartiest and best wishes.

Cordially yours,



[ERWIN GRISWOLD]



Law School of Harvard University

Cambridge 38, Mass.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 3, 1961

Hon. Vincent C. MacDonald  
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Vincent,

Thank you very much for your kindness in sending me a copy of your Osgoode Hall lectures. I am very glad to have a chance to see these, and greatly appreciate your kindness in making them available to me.

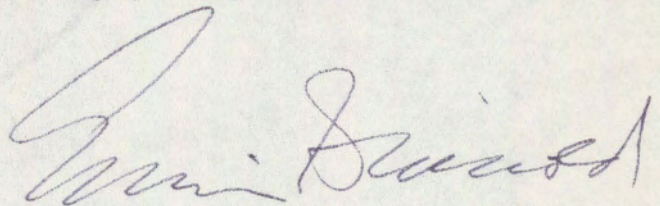
It is hard for me to keep up with Canadian developments. Consequently, your discussion of the problems is particularly valuable to me. I liked, too, your comments on the various cases. They are illuminating, and I must confess to you that they seem to me to be uniformly sound.

It has been a long time since I have seen you. When are we going to rectify that situation?

I hope that all is going well with you.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,



[ERWIN GRISWOLD]



Law School of Harvard University

Cambridge 38, Mass.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 28, 1961

Hon. Vincent MacDonald  
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Dear Vincent,

It is nice to have your note.

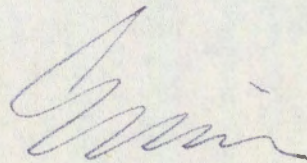
I agree with you that it is much too long since we have seen each other. However, Arthur Sutherland has just returned to Cambridge, and he brings me first-hand word of you.

Congratulations on your fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada. That is very fine. It would be very nice indeed if you and Hilda could come to Cambridge in June. When would it be? There are times then when things are very busy, and I would have very little time available for you. Commencement is on June 15 this year. After that, things should be relatively quiet.

I am planning to make a quick trip to Russia for ten days at the end of May. It is too short, but I expect that it will be interesting.

With best wishes, in which Harriet joins,

Very truly yours,



[ERWIN GRISWOLD]



Law School of Harvard University

Cambridge 38, Mass.

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

April 14, 1952

Hon. Vincent C. MacDonald  
Supreme Court of Nova Scotia  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Vincent,

Many thanks for sending me a reprint of your article on the Privy Council. I had read the article when the Canadian Bar Review came out recently, but I am particularly glad to have the reprint for my file.

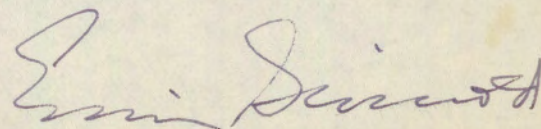
I thought the article was a very interesting and instructive summary of the Constitutional events in Canada of the past eighty years. To an outsider, it is good to see an expression of criticism of the work of a British court. Of course your statement was temperate and restrained, as it should be. But you did not drip with adulation and deference as English writers so often do. (Of course, if one is speaking about the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia, the situation is different!)

It will be interesting to see whether the Supreme Court of Canada does the job any better. I am rather inclined to think that it will. Of course it will not satisfy everyone, but it will be more understanding of Canadian problems, and it will undoubtedly have more of a "feel" for problems of federalism than any court in England can ever have.

I am very glad, indeed, that you continue these contributions even though you have ascended to the bench. Your writing is too clear and effective to be confined solely to judicial opinions.

With best wishes,

Cordially yours,



[ERWIN GRISWOLD]