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RENFREW COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

1270 PEMBROKE STREET WEST, PEMBROKE, ONTARIO K8A 4G4 / TELEPHONE 613 735-0151

January 3, 1989

Mrs. Jessie Smith, Secretary
Stewartville Women's Institute
R. R. # 2
Arnprior, Ontario
K7S 3G8

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Thank you for your letter of December 20th in which you stated that your institute feels it's important to keep religion in the schools and especially the Lord's Prayer.

The Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. Bernard Shapiro, issued a memorandum regarding the Court of Appeal decision concerning religious exercises. In it he stated:

"Where opening or closing exercises are continued, Boards are advised that they:

- a. may include God Save the Queen
- b. shall include O Canada
- c. shall respect the spirit of the Court of Appeal decision in that:
 - any readings or prayers must reflect the multicultural realities and traditions of Ontario society, and
 - one religion must not be given a position of primacy."

The Board, at its meeting of Wednesday, October 26th, passed the following motions:

That the schools in Renfrew County continue with opening religious exercises that reflect the decisions of the Court of Appeal.

That the Renfrew County Board of Education form a committee to prepare a book of Readings and Prayers to be recommended to Board for use in opening religious exercises.