

WEST KOOTENAY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
307 VERNON STREET
NELSON, B.C.

24 August, 1988

Bob Brisco, M.P.
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Mr. Brisco,

Enclosed please find several petitions calling for a federal election on the "free" trade issue. We feel that the Conservative government has caved in to U.S. trade demands especially around water, natural resources and social programs. We also feel that the Canadian public has not been fully informed of the extent and implications of the "free" trade agreement. We strongly urge the government to bring the issue to the people in the form of an election. Canada is ours - don't trade it away.

Sincerely,

Margaret Tessman
for the West Kootenay Women's Association



R.H. BRISCO, D.C., M.P.
KOOTENAY WEST

28-09-88

Ms. Margaret Tessman
West Kootenay Women's Association
307 Vernon Street
Nelson, B.C.
V1L 4E3

Dear Ms. Tessman:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your petition calling for a federal election on the free trade issue. As matters stand now, I expect that you will find that call has been agreed upon. The wording of the descriptive paragraph with regard to the Free Trade Agreement is somewhat vague and non-specific, and opens the door to a very broad interpretation.

In your covering letter you made specific reference to water, natural resources, and social programs - all of which are strongly protected in the Agreement. However, no reference is made in the wording of the petition. If in fact you are challenging the Agreement on Free Trade on the basis of water, natural resources and social programs, then I would be more than pleased to respond to you. The Conservative Government has not caved in, in any fashion, to U.S. trade demands concerning water, natural resources and social programs.

It is unfortunate that a responsible organization would challenge in this fashion the economic future of Kootenay West/Revelstoke without giving me the opportunity to respond at a meeting of your Association or the Executive.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Brisco, DC, MP
Kootenay West