



Department
of Justice

Ministère
de la Justice

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0H8

August 6, 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. P.A. Bissonnette,
Deputy Solicitor General,
Ministry Secretariat,
Solicitor General Canada,
Sir Wilfrid Laurier Building,
340 Laurier Avenue West,
Room 323
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1A 0P8

Dear Mr. Bissonnette:

In course of last year, the Department of Justice, following a request from the Interdepartmental Committee on Human Rights, consulted various departments and agencies of the Government of Canada on the possibility of adding new grounds of discrimination to the list of prohibited grounds found in the Canadian Human Rights Act, S.C. 1976-77, c. 33. The response which we received was generally positive. Considering this reaction, taking into consideration the recommendations made by the Canadian Human Rights Commission in the 1979 Annual Report and the undertaking made in the Speech from the Throne by the Government to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act in order to afford increased protection to the handicapped, the Department has prepared a draft Cabinet Discussion Paper. In this paper, it examines the possibility of amending the Canadian Human Rights Act in order to add opinion, criminal or penal conviction, sexual harassment, sexual orientation and mental and, in matters other than employment, physical handicap to the list of prohibited grounds of discrimination. The paper also deals with various minor amendments which are necessary to insure a better application of the Act or to avoid future conflict.

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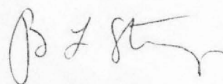
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Before submitting this Discussion Paper to Cabinet, the Department of Justice would like to obtain your Department's comments on its content. We are, therefore, sending you a copy of this paper for review. As we would like to proceed with this matter as quickly as possible, we would appreciate your comments by September 15, 1980. Our officials will be pleased to meet with yours in the meantime if this would be helpful. Mr. G. Faggiolo (2-3679) will be co-ordinating comments and can provide additional information if required.

Yours sincerely,



B.L. Strayer,
Assistant Deputy Minister,
(Public Law).

Enclosure

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