



**Royal Canadian
Mounted Police**

**Gendarmerie royale
du Canada**

Commanding Officer

Commandant divisionnaire

"K" DIVISION
Box 1320
EDMONTON, Alberta
T5J 2N1

Your file Votre référence

Our file Notre référence

87-16
REVIEWER
REVISEUR

86 APR 11

FOR THE PERSONAL ATTENTION OF:

THE COMMISSIONER, OTTAWA

RE: Sexual Orientation

I am writing to you on behalf of the Officers of "K" Division to express their concerns and mine regarding the potential impact of the recently announced Federal Government policy on "sexual orientation". While I have not canvassed the individual views of all Officers, I know the concern is wide spread. Indeed, the issue is a highly topical one wherever I travel and many of the Officers have spoken to me personally asking that I convey to you in the strongest possible terms their deep disappointment with what appears to them to be an unqualified acceptance by you of an ill-conceived Government directive. Those are my words; theirs were more pointed.

Clearly, the objectives of the Government are to eliminate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and while the inferred endorsement of homosexuality is repugnant to many of us from a morality perspective, the spirit and intent of the policy can be understood. It is not, however, the spirit and intent of the policy that is creating the concern. Rather it is the difficulty we would have in implementing such a policy within the Force without some qualification and limitation as to the type of duties into which homosexuals can be placed.

We have traditionally maintained close association with the youth of Canada and strong involvement in a wide range of youth development activities. This is true throughout Canada but it is particularly so in the Contract Divisions where we offer police services in small Rural communities. I am convinced that the standards of public morality, particularly in conservative Alberta, have not modified to the extent that declared homosexuals would be tolerated.

Canada

006558

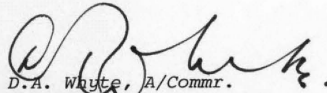
AGC-0310_0001

- 2 -

Over the past 113 years, members of the Force have developed a reputation as role models in the Canadian community. Employment of declared homosexuals would quickly destroy the credibility we have achieved over the years. Any declared homosexual member would be severely crippled in his/her capability to provide a full range of police services to the public. Additionally, there would be severe embarrassment and a loss of professional pride felt by other members in having to work with a declared homosexual.

I would urge you to continue to press the Government, as I know you have done thus far, for some latitude in the interpretation and implementation of the policy in question. Putting it bluntly, it is remotely possible that there may be room to employ declared homosexuals in selected duties within the Force where there is no actual, perceived or potential community involvement. To do otherwise, in my view, would be operationally unworkable. I believe that is the position the Force should insist upon taking.

In conclusion, I must point out that I believe it is my responsibility to keep you apprised of the issues that are of concern to the Officers of this Division and conversely to inform them as accurately as possible of your position on these issues. That is the purpose of this letter.


D.A. Whyte, A/Commr.
Commanding "K" Division

006559

AGC-0310_0002