



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM NOTE DE SERVICE

TO / À

For the personal attention of:  
The Commissioner, RCMP, Ottawa

FROM / DE

C.O. "E" Division, RCMP, Vancouver

SUBJECT / OBJET

Sexual Orientation Issues and the RCMP

87-11-16  
REVIEWER / RÉVISEUR

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
CONFIDENTIAL
YOUR FILE - N / RÉFÉRENCE
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YOUR FILE - V / RÉFÉRENCE
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
DATE
86-04-24
APR 28 1986

CABINET DU COMMISSAIRE
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Further to our recent meeting in your office at which this issue was discussed, I feel that it is important that I document in such a way that it cannot be misconstrued, again, exactly the position played by A/Commr. Wilson in the preparation and forwarding to you of the "E" Division officers' position paper with respect to sexual orientation. You are now aware from our discussions that for some reason or other misunderstandings have taken place, and these must be corrected.

The government policy position with respect to discrimination against homosexuals was, needless to say, the subject of much debate throughout "E" Division, and particularly among the officer corps. At an information meeting on March 10th the issue surfaced, and it is fair to say that both A/Commr. Wilson and I were a little surprised at some of the positions taken. As I relayed to you, there were some there who thought that the Commissioner must resign over this, and there were also some who said that they would do likewise in an effort to bring to the attention of the government in a dramatic fashion their displeasure over this evolution. I don't think I have ever in my service been involved with an issue where feelings have run so high, and it became apparent that we would have to follow through with some action. There was talk about a unanimous "E" Division officers' position to be developed and forwarded to you; however, I was forced to point out to the group that there could not be any unanimity since, indeed, I was one who did not consider this to be an issue over which the Commissioner might resign, nor was it one over which I would resign. I informed the group that I would be prepared, if that was their wish, to forward a consensus to you, in a supportive way, providing we could put together a document with which no officer in "E" Division, at least, disagreed. I suggested that they might form a small committee for the purpose of preparing this and at this point A/Commr. Wilson volunteered to serve on this committee, as did two other officers. I was very pleased with A/Commr. Wilson's intervention, since I wanted to be sure that the matter was handled responsibly and in a professional manner and had full confidence in his ability to do just that.

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The Commissioner, RCMP, Ottawa

86-04-24

Right after the meeting we discussed tactics in my office and it was agreed that a document would be prepared, ratified by me, circulated quickly through all officers in the Division, and if acceptable, forwarded to you for information purposes. Canvassing was accomplished within a day or two under A/Commr. Wilson's cautious and very thoughtful direction. When it was returned as acceptable, I then prepared a short covering memorandum to you to which I attached the position paper and A/Commr. Wilson's circulation document, drawing your attention to the fact that he had served as chairman of the ad hoc committee. Somehow or other it is now being said that A/Commr. Wilson directed this initiative, was an agitator in developing opposition to the government announcement, was responsible for the inappropriate circulation of the document within this building and to other divisions; all of which does him a tremendous disservice. In point of fact, I reiterate the reason it was done in a thoughtful and supportive way, was because he brought to the exercise his customary loyalty and professionalism.

I think it is most unfortunate that across the Force he is now paying a price for it, and that many are saying this has cost him your support and caused you to lose confidence in his judgement. I will be doing what I can to correct what you assure me is a misrepresentation of your position, and I would be grateful if you could do so as well among those who have arrived at the wrong conclusions on your immediate staff.



T.S. Venner, D/Commr.  
Commanding Officer  
"E" Division

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