

Solicitor General  
of Canada

Solliciteur général  
du Canada

Commissioner R.H. Simmonds  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
1200 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0R2

Dear Commissioner Simmonds:

Thank you for your letter of April 30, 1986 regarding the application to the Force of the Government's policy on sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

We have had several opportunities to pursue the matter both publicly (before the Conference of Commanding Officers and Division Staff Relations Representatives and the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General, both of which took place on May 7, 1986) and privately.

During the course of these discussions, I made it absolutely clear that the Government's policy on this issue is unequivocal; that the Government is prepared to do all that is necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination; and, that the equality rights guaranteed in section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms encompass sexual orientation.

In order to provide the RCMP with the administrative tools necessary to achieving this objective, I am enclosing for your consideration a draft Ministerial Directive which clearly sets out the Government's policy on sexual orientation and which ensures that the policies,

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practices and procedures of the Force conform in all respects to the position of the Government on this issue. I would appreciate receiving your views on the Directive as soon as possible.

Finally, I am also enclosing for your information my interim reply to the Minister of Justice, the Honourable John Crosbie, concerning our commitment to and implementation of recommendations 10 and 11 found in the Boyer Commission's Report, "Equality for All".

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty

Att.

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