



Government of Canada

Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

*directly*  
*28.05.16*

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ <u>CONFIDENTIAL</u>
OUR FILE — N / RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE — V / RÉFÉRENCE <i>275.1</i>
DATE <b>MAY 8 1986</b> <i>6/33</i>

TO  
A

SOLICITOR GENERAL  
FOR INFORMATION AND SIGNATURE

FROM  
DE

DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

SUBJECT  
OBJET

RCMP COMMISSIONER'S VIEWS ON GOVERNMENT POSITION  
ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

This is further to the memorandum of May 7, 1986 written in my absence on the subject of the Commissioner's letter of April 30, 1986 in which he forcefully expressed his views on sexual orientation.

Having carefully considered the Commissioner's proposal for issuing a Standing Order on sexual orientation, I do not believe that such a step could be taken without it being in flagrant conflict with the Government's expressed policy. Attached for your information is a copy of the latest available RCMP draft Standing Order on this subject as well as some commentary and analysis on it (Tab I).

With respect to the Commissioner's statement on an amendment to the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation specifically as a prohibited ground of discrimination, I do not believe that an amendment of this nature will be forthcoming in the near future. Nonetheless, I have drafted a letter for your signature to the Minister of Justice raising with him the issue of an amendment of this nature.

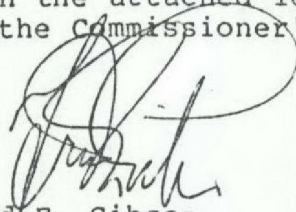
This said, I believe that there are essentially three alternative approaches which you could take in responding to the Commissioner's letter: providing no written response; providing a temperate response; and issuing firm, unequivocal direction.

I believe that the best course of action would be to respond to the Commissioner's letter of April 30 in order to avoid the possibility that your non-response might be interpreted to mean that you have acquiesced to one or more of the Commissioner's observations and proposals.

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Not responding to the Commissioner's letter would mean not clearly putting yourself on record with your interpretation of Government policy on sexual orientation and your desire that the Commissioner comply with this policy. Finally, issuing a Ministerial Directive to the Commissioner to set out Government policy on sexual orientation and to direct him to ensure compliance with this policy in selection, recruitment and employment policies and procedures may be premature if not precipitous.

These considerations in mind, I would recommend that you sign the attached letter which provides a tempered response to the Commissioner's letter of April 30.



Fred E. Gibson

Attachments

Tab I - RCMP draft CSO and related materials  
Proposed reply to the Commissioner  
Proposed letter to the Minister of Justice