

SUGGESTED DRAFT REPLY

August , 1977.

Ms. Joanne Stitt and  
Mr. Bruce Garside,  
Gay Social Services Project,  
4515 St. Catherine St., West,  
Montreal, P.Q.

Dear Ms. Stitt and Mr. Garside:

I have for reply your letter of June 21, 1977, concerning employment of homosexuals in the Canadian Forces.

I must disagree with the implication in your letter that the policy of the Canadian Forces is to harass, threaten or deprive homosexuals of their human rights. The long-standing policy of the Canadian Forces is simply that homosexuals will not be enrolled therein and similarly, a serving member of the forces who is found to be a homosexual will be released. Experience has shown that this policy is the one least likely to give rise to serious problems for all concerned and I am confident that the policy should be retained.

With respect to your comment about removing the stigma of homosexuality and thereby removing any threat to blackmail, in my opinion such stigma could not be removed simply by permitting their employment in the Canadian Forces. Thus homosexuals or their partners (homosexual or otherwise) would continue to be vulnerable to the threat or blackmail with the consequent risks to security interests.

Yours sincerely,

Barney Danson

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