

Minister
of National DefenceMinistre
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

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NOV 25 1994

Mr. Bill Graham, M.P.
365 Bloor Street East
Suite 1703
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 3L4

Dear Colleague:

Thank you for your letter of October 6th, 1994, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED], requesting that references to his sexual orientation be expunged from his personnel records.

It is not apparent from your letter that [REDACTED] has informed you of his convictions in January 1992 for weapons offenses under Sections 86(1)(b) and 91(2)(b) of the Criminal Code. A review of [REDACTED]'s file indicates that these convictions occurred while he was serving under a seven-month extension following the fulfilment of the terms of service under which he enrolled. The extension was offered while a Force Reduction Plan was being developed that would determine the criteria to be used in deciding which members would be offered re-engagement. In light of the convictions for weapons offenses and the reductions taking place in [REDACTED]'s trade, it was recommended that he not be offered re-engagement at the end of the extension to his service. His sexual orientation was not a consideration.

Since October 27th, 1992, the Canadian Forces policy on sexual orientation has been to allow homosexual members to progress in their careers without restrictions. At the time of the change in policy, attempts were made to remove all references to sexual orientation from the personnel records of those individuals affected. As it appears that this procedure was not thoroughly carried out in [REDACTED]'s case, his files are now being processed to expunge any references to his sexual orientation.

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It is worth mentioning that application to one's Member of Parliament is not the only recourse in this type of situation. The stipulations of the Privacy Act allow individuals to apply directly to government departments for justifiable amendments to their records. The Privacy Commission is also able to assist in these matters if required.

The personal information herein relating to [REDACTED] is being disclosed to you under the provisions of the Privacy Act solely for the purpose of assisting him in resolving a problem.

Once again, thank you for writing. I hope the foregoing information will enable you to respond to your constituent.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by
Original signé par

Hon. D.M. Collenette

cc: CICS
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