

National
Gay
Rights
Coalition

Coalition
Nationale pour les
Droits des
Homosexuels

NGRC/CNDH C.P. 2919, Succursale D, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 5W9 (613) 233-0152

22 August 1977

Our File - N - Fed Govt.

R.H. Simmonds
Commissioner
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
1200 Alta Vista Drive
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Simmonds,

We are writing to you to protest the attitudes and practices of the RCMP toward homosexuals. Insofar as recruiting officers on the force is concerned, the RCMP discriminates against homosexuals. Recent media reports, which confirm this discrimination, suggest that it extends even further -- i.e., to the entire public service, through the granting (or denying) of security clearances.

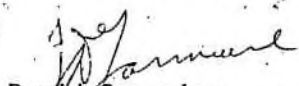
We strongly object to the practice of keeping files on known homosexuals and to the labelling of homosexuality as a "character weakness". We would like to know which experts you can cite to explain this categorization. There are thousands of homosexuals in the public service who function just as ably as their heterosexual counterparts. What is it about homosexuality that makes it a character weakness?

For what reason does the RCMP keep files on homosexuals? Does an open homosexual represent a security risk? Does the RCMP distinguish between open homosexuals and "closet" homosexuals?


Will the RCMP grant a security clearance to a homosexual who is not open about his or her homosexuality? Are there certain jobs in the public service for which a security clearance will not be granted even to an open homosexual?

We also object to taxpayers' money being used to gather information on homosexuals. Gay people are taxpayers too and they have the same rights as other taxpayers. I imagine the Canadian public would also be opposed to their money being wasted in this fashion. Current attitudes towards homosexuality have changed a great deal since the Victorian age which seems to have been the period from which most of your policies emanate. In a Gallup Poll in June 1977, 52% of Canadians said they favour the inclusion of sexual orientation in the Canadian Human Rights Act, against only 30% opposed. Had the government acted accordingly, the RCMP would not be able to legally discriminate against open homosexuals.

Yours sincerely,


David Garmaise
Coordinating Office
enc.

D/C Admin
Copies sent to D.G.S.S.
for their info.
D.O.P. to coordinate
with S.S.


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