



Solicitor General
of Canada

Solliciteur général
du Canada



The Honourable
Bob Kaplan

L'honorable
Bob Kaplan

OTTAWA, K1A 0P8

Mr. Kevin Orr
Canadian News Department
BodyPolitic
P.O. Box 7289, Station "A"
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Orr:

This is in response to your letter dated October 21, concerning security clearances.

Insofar as the Government of Canada is concerned the Government still considers homosexuality in some circumstances to be relevant to the granting of a security clearance. Consequently, when a person is an applicant for or the incumbent of a position in the Federal Government, having access to classified information, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police has the mandate to investigate and report on security considerations, including information on homosexuality. In cases relating to homosexuality, the RCMP is required also to report the full circumstances of how the individuals cope with their sexual preference. Employing departments deal on a case by case basis with each person, based on such a report and in consideration of a range of other factors.

The RCMP has no mandate, however, to investigate a person solely on the basis of sexual preference. Also, to the extent that the RCMP holds in its data banks such information on a person, it would, by requirement of Section 4 of the Privacy Act, have been collected directly as a result of a mandated investigation.

I trust this gives you a greater appreciation of the Federal Government's position on this subject.

Yours truly,

Bob Kaplan, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

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