



Solicitor General  
of Canada

Solliciteur général  
du Canada

The Honourable  
Bob Kaplan

L'honorable  
Bob Kaplan

OTTAWA, K1A 0P8

Mr. Clayton C. Ruby  
Ruby & Edwardh  
Barristers  
11 Prince Arthur Avenue  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5R 1B2

Dear Mr. Ruby:

This is in response to your letter dated April 17. Let me first of all say that employment in the R.C.M.P. is open to all Canadians, subject to meeting necessary security and suitability requirements. The Force does not have a policy position concerning homosexuality per se, however, I am aware that the Commissioner has stated that he would not knowingly hire a homosexual as a regular member of the Force.

The Commissioner is responsible and accountable for the administration and management of the Force. It is his best judgement that because of the duties and work environment experienced by members of the Force, the employment of homosexuals would cause serious disruption of discipline and morale and in some circumstances, real risk to a homosexual. I must respect his judgement.

I have stated my general acceptance of the Commissioner's position. I certainly do not support discrimination in any form, but recognize that, while homosexuality as an alternate life-style may be accepted in some segments of society, it continues to be an issue of debate. I expect this is particularly so with respect to the smaller conservative communities and rural areas in Canada, where the R.C.M.P. represents local law and order. Although,

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over time, such life-style and attitudes may become more acceptable, I do not believe that the R.C.M.P. should be in the forefront of social change, particularly so when it involves an issue which remains controversial with the Canadian public.

Yours truly,

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

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