

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



L' EGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

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U.M.

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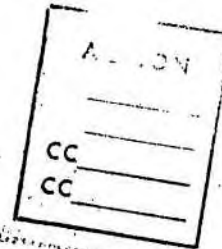
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February 17, 1986.

Eric Nielson, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Ottawa, Ontario.
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Dear Honourable Member:

The following message was sent to Prime Minister Mulroney by the United Church from one of its national agencies. We at the regional level are endorsing this action and wish to urge you, as one of the decision makers, to include sexual orientation in the protected categories named by the Canadian Human Rights Act.

"In caucus discussions of adding sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Canadian Human Rights Act, please recall that The United Church of Canada has taken the following stand on the issue:

....that members of the church, individually and corporately, are responsible for becoming more aware of discrimination against homosexual persons, taking action to ensure that they enjoy their full human rights in society, working to end all forms of discrimination against them...(30th General Council, 1984).

Religious arguments have been used to justify exclusion of homosexuals from the protections and remedies afforded to other Canadians under our law. We believe it is wrong to use religious convictions as a ground for tolerating injustice against a whole group of people within the population. We look to government to ensure that all people enjoy equality before the law and to ensure that effective remedies exist for people whose rights are violated by groups or individuals within Canada.

We plead with you to give moral and political leadership on this matter and to support the recommendation of the Boyer Commission that - the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination."

Respectfully,



Rev. Dr. Harold^o King,
President, Manitoba &
Northwestern Ontario Conference.

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