

Solicitor General  
of Canada



Solliciteur général  
du Canada

CONFIDENTIAL

Commissioner R.H. Simmonds  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
1200 Alta Vista Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0R2

Dear Commissioner Simmonds:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of April 30, 1986 concerning the application to the RCMP of the Government's response to recommendations 10 and 11 of the Boyer Committee. Specifically, the Government took the following position:

"The Government believes that sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether one can perform a job or use a service or facility...The Government will take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction."

I have considered your correspondence very carefully indeed and in particular the portion which reads:

"I cannot in all conscience, voluntarily alter the position the Force has taken on homosexuality for many years. Equally I do not want you to have to direct me to take this position. Therefore, I am requesting the opportunity to defend our position before the Courts."

... / 2

While I understand your comments in this regard, I am obliged to point out that the RCMP is duty bound in law to comply with a lawful direction of the Government in a matter such as that before us. I am similarly obliged to state that the Government policy on this matter in my view is well and clearly stated and that it is applicable Government-wide, including the RCMP.

As Solicitor General of Canada I am now directing you to take all necessary steps without delay to ensure immediate compliance by the RCMP with the Government policy which I have outlined in the form of a Ministerial Directive, a copy of which is attached to this letter. I wish to have your indication in writing of the implementation of this Ministerial Directive by 5:00 p.m., May 9, 1986.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty

Attach.

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