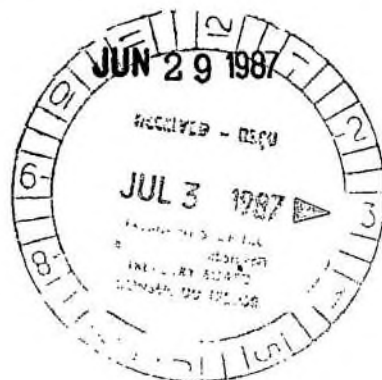




SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PSYCHOLOGIE CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

314-05

The Honourable Ramon Hnatyshyn
Minister of Justice and
Attorney General of Canada
Justice Building
Kent and Wellington Streets
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H8



Re: Amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act and
Sexual Orientation

Dear Mr. Hnatyshyn,

The Canadian Psychological Association has long been interested in and active in human rights issues. This activity has been related both to concerns within the professional arena and to issues having direct relevance to the wider Canadian community.

For example, from 1977 to 1985 the CPA undertook as a task the improvement of the status of women within the discipline of psychology. This process was considered to have been a success in promoting the equal participation by women in psychology. As a further example, I remind you that in July, 1985, the Canadian Psychological Association was represented in hearings before the Sub-committee on Equality Rights of the Standing Committee of Justice and Legal Affairs. This was followed by a written brief in October, 1985.

At this time, when the government is considering amendments to the Canadian Human Rights Act, it seems opportune to inform you of several of our Association's policy statements which deal with issues of discrimination, including discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

To wit:

"The Canadian Psychological Association endorses the principle that there be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation
(a) recruitment; (b) hiring; (c) salary; (d) promotion rate;
(e) fringe benefits; (f) assignment of duties.

February 1982

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DIRECTEUR ADMINISTRATIF, TIMOTHY V. HOGAN, Ph.D., EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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The Canadian Psychological Association endorses the principle that there be no discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation -- in the education of graduate students with respect to: (a) recruitment of graduate students; (b) acceptance of students into graduate programmes; (c) recommendation of students for scholarships, fellowships, loans, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships.

February 1982

The Canadian Psychological Association endorses the policy that use or misuse of current knowledge which implies that there is scientific evidence that justifies prejudicial discrimination against any individual based on age, sex, gender, socio-economic status, physical and mental abilities or handicaps, ethnic origin, marital status, parental status and sexual preferences are unethical."

February 1984

It is the recommendation of the Canadian Psychological Association that the Human Rights Act be amended to include sexual orientation as a prohibited ground for discrimination. The Federal Government should follow the lead of several of the Provinces of Canada and entrench in law this important human right. To decline to do so would be, in our opinion, a retrograde step.

Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely

Kenneth D. Craig
President

cc. The Canadian Ministry
Ron Stewart M.P.
Sheila Copps M.P.

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