


CANADIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACT - SEXUAL ORIENTATION

In 1986 in Toward Equality the response to the report of the Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights, the Government said it would "... take whatever measures are necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction." The only way to fulfill this commitment is to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act to make sexual orientation a prohibited ground of discrimination. The Minister of Justice proposes to proceed to Cabinet this fall with recommendations for amending the Act. The recommendations will include a proposal to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

The proposal to exempt the Armed Forces will be perceived as being inconsistent with the broad commitment on sexual orientation in Toward Equality.



The proposal to provide an exception for the Armed Forces if sexual orientation is added as a prohibited ground of discrimination to the Canadian Human Rights Act requires very careful consideration.