

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OPINION DATA
ON PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF HOMOSEXUALS AND HOMOSEXUALITY

1. With no opportunity to conduct an external survey of public attitudes regarding homosexuals in the CF, other 'proxy' information might be useful to consider. A review of that which is available on the subject of public acceptance of homosexuals and homosexuality indicates:

- a. 56% of Canadians in 1990 stated they disapproved of homosexuality (Environics);
- b. 80% in 1990 felt that there was greater acceptance of homosexuals in society today than 25 years ago, but there was a reduced willingness to extend Charter protection from 1988 (from 48% to 45%) (Environics);
- c. 3/10 in 1987 felt that age and homosexuality were important factors to consider in a hiring decision vs 1/10 who thought other 'rights' issues were important hiring factors (e.g. race, sex, religion, etc.) (Environics);
- d. 94% in 1989 supported greater emphasis being placed on traditional family ties, with 88% endorsing greater emphasis being placed on authority (Gallup); and
- e. in 1988, homosexuals were considered acceptable for employment in sales (72%), as MPs (62%), in the CF (60%), as doctors (52%), teachers (45%), clergy (44%), and prison officers (44%) (Gallup).

Summary

2. There is no unequivocal support for 'protecting' the CF from homosexuals, indeed we seem to be more 'open' for admission than other 'sensitive' employments. Based on CF survey data, the attitudes of CF members seem slightly more conservative than the Canadian public. However, if Canadians were given concrete examples vice being asked their general opinions on homosexuality, they too might prove to be more conservative in their attitudes, (e.g. reluctance to sleep in a tent, shower, etc.)