



Ottawa, Canada K1A 1K2

DATE

FIELD(1)

FIELD(2):

On behalf of the Honourable Marcel Massé, President of the Privy Council, Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, and Minister Responsible for Public Service Renewal, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent letter expressing your concerns with regard to the issue of sexual orientation.

Canadian courts have already recognized the underlying principle that hate motivation should be taken into account in sentencing. With Bill C-41, the government intends to produce fair amendments to the Criminal Code that reflect our collective condemnation of these acts of aggression. Such amendments are in keeping with commitments the government has set for itself to protect individuals from discrimination.

It is worth pointing out that this initiative does not grant any special rights to gays and lesbians, nor does it advocate a particular lifestyle. The issue of recognition of same-sex relationships is a separate and complex question. The Honourable Allan Rock, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada has stated that any decision on this latter issue would be made only after extensive consultations with Canadians.

Once again, allow me to thank you for taking the time to express your concerns with respect to this matter. You may be assured that your comments have been carefully noted.

Yours sincerely,

Don Smith
Special Assistant - Correspondence

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