

"S E C R E T"

Our file: G-195-145-2

1979 July 24

The Honourable Allan Lawrence, P.C., M.P.
Solicitor General of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Dear Sir:

Re: Homosexuality in the Public Service

Recent statements emanating from the Canadian Human Rights Commission are cause for concern. In March of this year that group issued a statement (App. 1) which, in essence, states that though sexual orientation is not a proscribed ground of discrimination under the Human Rights Act they believe it should be and intend to act, to the best of their ability, as though such proscription was in effect. When addressing a meeting of the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition in Ottawa on June 28 last, the Chief Commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission was reported to have stressed that one of the primary aims of the Commission is to press for inclusion of sexual orientation in the charter of rights and freedom.

I am sure you understand the very serious ramifications to an organization such as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police should proscription against discrimination on grounds of

... /2

- 2 -

homosexuality become law. During 1977, prior to passage of the Human Rights Act, this Force together with the Departments of National Defense and External Affairs, put forward a number of very valid points to illustrate that from both security and suitability points of view homosexuality should not be a prohibited ground of discrimination. These points are equally valid today and I have attached copies for your information (R.C.M.P. App. 2, D.N.D. App. 3 and External Affairs App. 4).

Homosexuality is by no means fully acceptable in Canada and even less so in most other parts of the world. For that reason alone known homosexuals cannot be accepted into the police service. Even if homosexuality becomes more socially acceptable in Canada, at some time in the future, I believe you will find a number of sound reasons in the attached material supporting our position that persons of this inclination should not be accepted into a police organization.

Yours truly,

R.H. Simmonds,
Commissioner.

BLC/ml