

The Commissioned Officers of the Force in "E" Division believe it is their duty in the interests of the people of Canada, law enforcement in Canada and the maintenance of the present and historic place of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Canadian society, to protest in the strongest possible terms any policies of the Federal Government which would permit admitted homosexuals to join the Force as regular members. Our protest includes a challenge to the right of any person, who once having joined the Force and having his/her homosexuality discovered, to remain in the Force as a regular member.

We question the capacity of the Canadian community to accept policing by homosexuals. Included in this question, we have in mind not only the peace officer role of police persons, but also their commitments to community service through leadership in youth groups, organized sports for youth and involvement with service organizations dealing with youth.

The Force, throughout its history, has been a symbol and a role model for many young people inside and outside of Canada, but most importantly, for our own young Canadians. If some voice is not given to making homosexuality a ground for exclusion within the R.C.M.P., we feel that the organization at large will be implicitly endorsing and communicating that it finds homosexuality an acceptable lifestyle choice. The Commissioned Officers of "E" Division at the least, do not. We also question the wisdom and foresight of policies which could hold up Canada and one of its most visible and recognized symbols, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to ridicule throughout the free world, and to loss of respect in the international and national police communities.

In our view, a change in policy of this nature would serve to seriously detract from our members' sense of self-esteem, which is vital in developing and fostering their dedication to service and professional pride. We have serious reservations concerning their capacity and will to work side by side with, to actively support or to have confidence in a homosexual working companion. Attitudes cannot be legislated. They must be molded. Trust, confidence and esprit de corps cannot be legislated. They must be earned.

We can think of no more debilitating a blow to law enforcement effectiveness, to our ability to interact effectively with the Canadian public and to the proud corporate body of the Force than to have forced upon us and to accept a policy of recruitment of admitted homosexuals into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

We urge the Commissioner to consider further steps to resist implementation of this government policy. We pledge our unanimous and whole-hearted support to him to that end.

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