

Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
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INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

For Attention of the COMMISSIONER

FROM
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S/Sgt. D.B. Sailer
"E" Div. Zone One DSRR

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE/NOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
YOUR FILE/VOTRE RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 86 MAR 17

SUBJECT / OBJET Re: Acceptance of Homosexual Applicants into the R.C.M.P.

I have had a very strong reaction to the press coverage from our members, on the issue of accepting known homosexual applicants into the Force. It is the general understanding that you, the Commissioner of our Force, have decided to accept the government's direction in this regard without pursuing your previous position with further facts and reasonings. I am aware that your personal attitude is in line with the overwhelming attitude of the members, young and not so young alike; that being that such recruitment will bring nothing but discredit to the Force and the image it represents to all Canadians and visitors to our country.

I would therefore recommend that a position be taken with the Federal Government similar to the Canadian Forces, which is to take the decision of the government under advisement for further study and consideration. I would suggest that a Task Force could be struck to study all the ramifications involved with such recruitment.

Some may argue that we already have homosexuals in the Force. That may be true, but it is not an argument justifying recruitment. Such members were taken into the Force without the Force's knowledge, and continued in their service under the misperception (by others) of being heterosexuals. Only through their own volition or conduct has their true sexual preference been revealed. I accept the fact that, in many such instances where the member has "come out of the closet", a strong case can be put forward supporting their retention by the Force, because of their good present/past performance as a peace officer. This type of case is totally different from knowingly recruiting a homosexual.

I would firstly like to have a determination from the medical profession as to whether such sexual preference is considered normal or abnormal medically and psychologically.

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Secondly, such a Task Force could obtain determinations from specialists/society as to the normalcy/acceptance of the homosexual act. It is one thing to accept the fact that homosexuals form part of our society; it is another to accept the sexual acts that homosexuals indulge in.

As to the practical application of accepting known homosexuals into our Force, I see nothing but a nightmare. How would the Force take them into "Depot"? Form a full troop of male homosexuals, or a full troop of known lesbians? Would they be placed in the present accommodation? I would suggest that a good comparison would be to place a male heterosexual with thirty-one heterosexual females. This process is not acceptable for male/female (Co-ed) troops. Why would it be for homosexuals?

Would we take in three or four homosexuals and put them into a troop of heterosexuals for six months, to live with closely, showering together two or three times a day, etc.? I think not. No one would, in my opinion, sleep in the same room with them, never mind undress and shower in their immediate presence. The least that would happen is a revolt by the heterosexuals of the troop, the worst would result in an assault situation or even suicide.

Should there be a method of training them without the above problems, and homosexual members graduate from Depot, a new set of overwhelming problems would come forth. Firstly, I doubt if many C.O.'s would be too receptive to accepting a homosexual recruit into their division. We all know that they could be ordered to accept them and that would be the end to that (or we would have some resignations in senior management). I can fully understand why a C.O. would not want to receive such a member. All the problems that would likely result could bring the Force to its knees.

But let's go past that. Let's look at this member out in the field, at a detachment, in a Contract Division. I cannot begin to say how fellow members would react. I know that many have emphatically stated that they will definitely not, under any circumstances, work with such a member as a partner in a police car. These members are not concerned with the aspect of discrimination or disobeying an order. They will not work with a homosexual. As you can appreciate, the Force may end up being involved in a massive discipline situation, with solid press coverage, and civil proceedings. The homosexual member could be perceived as not being in a very enviable position at this point either. Another real problem is, could we transfer such a member to a two man detachment? Of course we couldn't. Are we then seized with placing him throughout his career in larger (Burnaby, Surrey, etc.) detachments at the expense of everyone else?

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The Force has always strived towards Community involvement, with members coaching hockey and baseball, and becoming Scout Masters, etc. Would these avenues be realistically open to a homosexual? If such a member became involved in these areas with children of the community, what could be the ramifications. If the parents were not aware of this member's sexual preference, and the Detachment Commander was aware, what would be the obligation of the Detachment Commander? This is not to suggest that homosexuals are necessarily going to assault young boys, however we, in B.C., are presently in the throws of a Criminal Court Case involving a school teacher (which is a position of trust) with many allegations against him regarding sexual assault on his young male students over a number of years. Senior school officials apparently knew of his past record of similar allegations, but did nothing about it. The school system does not demand that their school teachers be heterosexuals, but out here, I am sure that they are giving it very close consideration now. Is our Force going to have to experience such a major difficulty before we take issue with this new government policy?

I would suggest that such a member's sexual preference would soon be well known or at least suspected in the community. Even socializing with his/her own members is going to be revealing. Is the male homosexual going to appear at a detachment function with a male on his arm? In short, community knowledge of his preference could directly affect his performance of his duties. Physically arresting a suspect could result in an assault on the member, especially when a physical search of the suspect is attempted. It is easily seen that an arrested male would take exception to being physically searched (and especially skin-searched) by a known homosexual. In such an instance, would an assault P.O. result in conviction? I strongly doubt it.

Many reports have now come forth regarding gays being carriers of the AIDS virus. It has been recently reported that, of the 70,000 gays in San Francisco, 35,000 have the virus. Although our Canadian gay population would possibly not suffer such statistics, it still gives strong cause for concern, when it has been determined that the virus can be transmitted not only by the sexual act, but by blood transfusions, open wounds and cuts, and sores inside the mouth. We can all appreciate the possible ramifications of a gay member physically assisting at a serious accident scene.

I have attempted to describe a few of the real problems that will be realized, should we, the Force allow recruitment of known homosexuals. I am sure there are many more that could be stated.

We, the members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, represent Canada and its citizens. We are all proud of the Force and the high regard it holds in the eyes of other police forces nationally and internationally. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police is also one of the first images that come to mind with citizens of other countries. It is a part of Canada and its history that shines brightly, representing an internal pride that is difficult to describe.

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We are now on the brink of changing all this, simply because a few of Canada's political representatives have pushed their own personal cause. It is time to say no, enough is enough; this time we, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are not going to comply. Not to do so would be against all that we stand for. If our Force ever needed to take a strong stance, now is the time.

I therefore strongly urge, on behalf of the members of this Force, that, through whatever efforts necessary, a final determination be made, concluding once and for all, that homosexuals need not apply to one of Canada's most cherished identities, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



S/Sgt. Dennis B. Sailer,
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