Royal Canadian Mounted Police



Gendarmerie royale du Canada

J.P.R. Murray

Commissioner Le Commissaire

November 3, 1994

Mr. Svend J. Robinson, M.P.

House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario KlA 0A6

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Room 483 - West Block

Thank you for your letter of September 27, 1994, and enclosure, concerning the hiring practices of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) with respect to sexual crientation.

You may wish to know that the RCMP does not consider sexual orientation, in itself, as a cause for rejection nor does it consider it a cause for special consideration for employment in the RCMP. The RCMP does not gather or keep statistics on lesbians, homosexuals or same sex couples within its ranks, nor does the RCMP have any special programs aimed at the recruiting of such individuals.

Let me assure you that the RCMP is committed to providing a working environment free from any form of discrimination for its employees. In this regard, should any employee feel aggrieved, discriminated or harassed in any way, the internal grievance/complaint process, as well as access to the Canadian Human Rights Complaint process, are available for those employees seeking redress.

Although the RCMP internally recognizes same sex couples, it must comply with a number of government policies, such as the isolated post and relocation directives, which are established by the Treasury Board. The definitions under each of these directives requires that a relationship be of the opposite sex in order to receive associated financial benefits.

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I understand, however, that the federal government is in the process of reviewing same sex relationships and the benefits associated with these. To this end, the RCMP has written to the Director of Executive and Excluded Groups Division for the Treasury Board Secretariat, requesting that it be kept apprised of the current status of these initiatives.

I trust that this information will help to alleviate some of your concerns, and will also be of assistance to you in responding to citizens who may enquire regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

J.P.R. Murray

c.c. The Honourable Herb Gray, P.C., Q.C., M.P.