

Solicitor General
of Canada



Solliciteur général
du Canada

JAN 11 1995

Mr. Svend J. Robinson, M.P.
Room 483, West Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Robinson:

Thank you for your letter of November 22, 1994, and enclosures, in which you request that the relevant Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) regulations be amended to prevent discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Your concerns arose when a member of the RCMP who was transferred to northern duties in an isolated post, requested and was denied, "married" benefits and rates under the Treasury Board of Canada Isolated Posts Directive and Living Accommodation Charges Directive. As you know, these directives are applicable to all federal government employees. The definition under each of these directives provides that a relationship be of the opposite sex in order for married rates to be applied. The RCMP has, over the past few years, endeavoured to accommodate persons involved in same sex relationships to the extent possible within the staffing process, and under the various provisions available. While this practice is maintained, the various applicable benefits and rates under such relationships continue to be governed by the definitions and restrictions within each directive and are, consequently, beyond the control of RCMP authorities and management's discretion.

As you are aware, the issue of same sex relationships has been raised and brought to the government's attention in recent years. Consultations have taken place with the Ethics and Incentives Group of the Human Resources

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Development Division and the federal government is in the process of examining the overall issue of the extension of benefits to same sex partners.

I trust that this information will help to clarify the RCMP's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Original signed by Herb Gray
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THE HON. HERB GRAY, M.P.

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