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MEMORANDUM

1745-42-7 (ADM(Per))

Nov 90

ADM(Comm PA)

CF POLICY ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION
ATTITUDE SURVEYS

1. As part of the preparations for the defence in court of the CF policy on sexual orientation, it is proposed to conduct two surveys: a survey of the general public (an external survey) to determine the likely impact of a policy change on recruiting, and a survey of CF members (an internal survey) to determine the likely behavioural consequences of a policy change. Our legal counsel have been emphatic in stressing the importance of these surveys and in the case of the internal survey have stated that if the survey "--- is not completed, we will be left without an evidentiary foundation for our case." Copies of the proposed questionnaires for both surveys are enclosed.

2. Although the requirement for an external survey was identified in Oct 89, there have been a number of obstacles to the development of a survey instrument and the gaining of approval to conduct the survey. The enclosed questionnaire has been developed by a professional research group, meets our evidentiary requirements, and now needs to be approved for administration. Once that approval is received, it is intended to call for tenders to administer the survey. While the cost for survey administration cannot be accurately predicted, it is anticipated that it will be in the range of \$50K to \$75K. The survey results will be interpreted by the Director of Urban Dimensions Group, who has been selected to be our expert witness on survey data.

3. You will note that the questionnaire is designed to be administered to two samples - an adult sample and a youth sample. The youth sample will be composed of respondents aged 17 to 25 inclusive who, as a group, provide the bulk of recruits for the CF. Originally it had been intended to include 15 and 16 year old youths in the youth sample but this has been changed to avoid potential parental objections. The sample sizes have not yet been determined as this is an issue prospective contractors will be required to address in their response to the tender call.

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4. Your staff are aware of the background to the requirement for an external survey and the various delays that have been encountered. It is my understanding that the Cabinet Committee on Communications has no desire to be part of the approval process for this survey. That being the case, it is not clear who needs to approve the conduct of the survey. In any event, although he has separately indicated his support in principle, I suggest that the concurrence of the Minister should be sought.

5. In the case of the internal survey, an earlier version of the proposed questionnaire gave rise to some expressions of concern about the potentially sensitive and intrusive nature of some of the questions. The survey has been rigorously reviewed and a number of substantial changes, including the deletion of many of the most personal questions, have been made. Although the changes reduce the scientific quality of the survey slightly, they have been agreed to by both the research designer and our legal counsel. It is considered that the revised version of the questionnaire is no more intrusive than a similar survey on the same subject that was administered in 1986. That survey was administered to more than 6,000 CF members with no significant repercussions from a public information point of view.

6. It is intended that the internal survey, like the 1986 survey, will be completed by about 6,000 respondents forming a representative cross-section of the CF. Participation will be fully voluntary and anonymous. Potential participants will be given information about the nature and purpose of the research to the extent that it is possible to do so without contaminating the results of the survey. It is proposed to develop a sole-source contract with Urban Dimensions Group for research, results analysis and interpretation at an estimated cost of \$100K to \$125K. Funding for both the internal and external surveys has been arranged.

7. As in the case of the external survey, the approval process for the internal survey is not entirely clear. Your staff are aware of an earlier reference to Statistics Canada on this matter and it is considered that all Statistics Canada's observations have been or will be met in the administration of the revised questionnaire. Presumably, the Minister's approval will be required.

8. In seeking approval to proceed with these surveys, it is recognized that the results may not provide clear support for the defence of our policy on homosexuality.

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