

8 March 1991

Dear Sir (Madam):

I have read with interest your newsletter since I entered the Canadian Forces. It is good to see simple explanations of subjects such as the change in regulations for the wearing of religious symbols. I am disappointed to find that you have ignored the changes in the Canadian Forces policy which affects homosexual members. This is surprising considering that the homosexual minority in the Canadian Forces is many times larger than groups wanting to wear religious symbols.

CFAO 19-3 was partially suspended three years ago. Gay members are no longer routinely released from the service for being homosexual. More recently, the SIU's mandate was changed to stop it from investigating members for being homosexual. These are important developments which affect the daily lives of thousands of Canadian Forces personnel.

As an openly gay officer, I am aware of the changes in Canadian Forces policy concerning homosexuals, however, I realize that many non-commissioned members and closeted officers have no idea that CFAO 19-3 is no longer in effect. The CDS has stated publicly that the Canadian Forces makes no attempt to determine member's sexual orientation during recruitment. People enter the Canadian Forces unaware of potential restrictions, until they come across CFAO 19-3. At that point they are driven to secrecy for fear of losing their jobs. These fears could be alleviated if the current policy was made known to them.

The Canadian Forces Personnel Newsletter is ideally suited to cover poorly understood issues affecting large numbers of members. I look forward to seeing an article on the Canadian Forces policy on homosexuality in a future issue. If you do not have the time to write this article I would be pleased to write and translate it for you.

Sincerely,

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