



**National
Gay
Rights
Coalition**

**Coalition
Nationale pour les
Droits des
Homosexuels**

REC'D C.P.M.



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18 June 1976

Rt. Hon. Pierre E. Trudeau
Prime Minister
House of Commons
OTTAWA, Ontario
K1A 0A1

Dear Mr. Trudeau,

Tomorrow in Montreal large numbers of gay men and lesbians will be marching to protest the systematic harassment of gay people by the police forces in this country.

For over a year, Montreal police forces have been regularly raiding gay bars and clubs in that city. In the last six weeks, these raids have been escalated and have been extended to include gay steam baths where 115 people have been arrested, most on petty charges.

In two of the bar raids, one on a lesbian club, police barged in with rifles and guns.

The raids have spread to Ottawa where 27 people have been arrested in a gay steam bath.

Policemen themselves admitted during the Montreal raids that this is part of an 'Olympic Clean-Up' -- a concerted campaign designed to remove from the public eye for the period of the Olympic Games all 'undesirable elements'. This 'clean-up' is not limited to gay people, but includes drunks, leftist groups and other organizations likely to want to demonstrate during the Games. We have reliable information that this 'clean-up' extends from Quebec City through to Toronto and involves police forces at all levels.

Gay people are taking to the streets to protest this senseless harassment. In a society which is still repressive to the homosexual, despite the Criminal Code amendments which your government introduced in 1969, gay people have only limited outlets where they can meet each other. When they do meet each other in gay steam baths and bars, they don't do anything which harms anybody -- why harass them?

We have no quarrel with the Olympic Games and we recognize the need for security to ensure the safety of athletes, officials and spectators.

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But what the police are doing in Montreal and elsewhere has nothing to do with this kind of security.

It is unnecessary and senseless repression.

We ask you to put an end to it and to allow gay people the basic right to associate together without fear of police entrapment and harassment.

In Montreal, concerned gay people have formed the Gay Coalition Against Repression.

The 27-member National Gay Rights Coalition joins with all gay people in Canada in condemning the disgraceful actions of this country's police forces.

Surely they have better things to do with their time.

Yours sincerely,



David Garmaise
Secretary, Coordinating Office
National Gay Rights Coalition