

THE COMMISSIONER



LE COMMISSAIRE

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE N°

OUR NO. GC-380-146 (76)
NOTRE N°

August 26, 1976.

Mr. David Garmaise,
Secretary,
Co-ordinating Office,
National Gay Rights Coalition,
NGRC/CNDH C.P.2919,
Succursale D,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K1P 5W9

Dear Mr. Garmaise:

Re: Systematic Harassment of Gay People

Since the Solicitor General of Canada is away on vacation, he has asked me to reply to your letter of June 18, 1976, which you addressed to the Prime Minister of Canada.

I note you acknowledge in your correspondence that there was a need for law enforcement agencies to ensure the protection and safety of athletes, officials, and spectators during the Montreal Olympics. Most people will recognize, I am sure, that all law enforcement personnel were required and indeed expected to take the necessary preventive actions that would preclude any untoward incident from taking place, which may harm or embarrass Olympic participants and visiting dignitaries. With this awareness, no doubt the techniques employed by some policemen may have been more strict than usual and thus subject of questioning and criticism by people affected by the stricter security measures.

Due to the history of terrorism associated with the XX Olympic Games at Munich, perhaps there were groups and individuals in Canada, who may have been more thoroughly inspected and questioned before and during the Montreal Olympics. I am certain, however, that the people of Canada will support the security and preventive measures which were used in order to assure the safety and well being of persons attending the XXI Olympics. Fortunately, Canada and its people were spared the anxiety and resulting global embarrassment that would have ensued had an act of terrorism, a noteworthy

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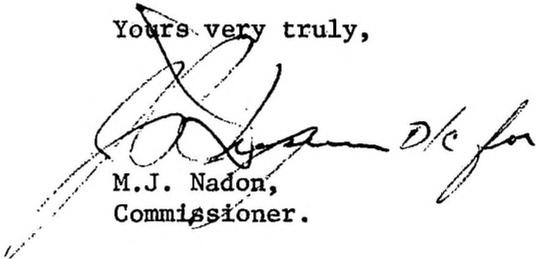
criminal deed, or serious indecorous incident occurred during the Olympic Games. This good fortune and success is, I believe, attributable in part at least, to the effectiveness of the law enforcement actions taken by police agencies who were associated with the planning and execution of security measures.

The role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police during the Olympics was to ensure the security and physical protection of specified personages and to provide assistance to those law enforcement agencies having jurisdiction in the areas where various Olympian events were being staged. You can be assured, however, that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in carrying out their responsibilities, were not intent on entering a concerted campaign of harassment against gay persons.

Your concern about the alleged improper treatment of gay persons is acknowledged. The Minister of Justice for the Province of Quebec is responsible for the manner in which law enforcement is carried out in that Province. In order that the Honourable Gerard D. Levesque, may be made aware of your views, a copy of your correspondence and this letter is being directed to him for information purposes.

I trust that this reply adequately explains the part the Royal Canadian Mounted Police played during the Montreal Olympics, and do wish to thank you for writing and for having had this matter drawn to my attention.

Yours very truly,



M.J. Nadon,
Commissioner.