



Solicitor General
of Canada

Solliciteur général
du Canada

The Honourable
Elmer MacKay

L'honorable
Elmer MacKay

APR 19 1985
AVR

Mr. Clayton C. Ruby
Ruby & Edwardh, Barristers
11 Prince Arthur Avenue
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Ruby:

Thank you for your letter of October 23, 1984 concerning public comments by Commissioner Simmonds about the recruitment of homosexuals into the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. I regret the delay in replying to you.

The Government is committed to eliminating any discrimination in its legislation and policies. The recent release by the Minister of Justice of the Discussion Paper, "Equality Issues in Federal Law", represents a very important step in that direction. The Discussion Paper provides a basis for consulting with Canadians on these difficult issues, including discrimination related to sexual orientation.

To facilitate the consultative process, the Standing Committee on Justice and Legal Affairs of the House of Commons established a Sub-Committee which will examine a range of issues arising out of the implementation of section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including discrimination based on sexual orientation. I look forward, as I am sure you do, to the Sub-Committee's report which is expected by September 9, 1985. Given the Government's commitment to addressing equality issues in

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Ottawa, Canada
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this manner, I have decided to defer commenting on the questions you have raised until I have been able to consider the findings of this Parliamentary committee.

Yours sincerely,

Original Signed by
Original signé par
ELMER MacKAY

Elmer MacKay, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

WESTWICK/cc/PSB
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