

SECRET

February 5, 1986

Priorities and Planning Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 5, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., Room 323-S

Attendance

Miss Carney and Messrs. Clark, Stevens, Côté and Masse will be absent.

Item 1                    Government Response to the  
                                 Equality for All Report

At the meeting of P&P on Tuesday, the Prime Minister indicated his strong opposition to discrimination of any form, whether it be based upon sexual orientation or gender. He drew attention to the situation in Quebec where distinctions on the basis of sexual orientation have been prohibited since 1977, where mandatory retirement has been abolished (subject to exemptions for the Quebec Provincial Police and firemen) since 1982, and where there are not distinctions based on sex in positions analogous to combat roles such as police and correctional services.

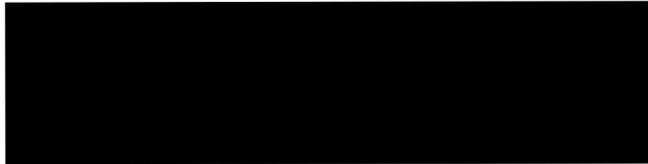
Following the Prime Minister's departure, there was initial discussion on primacy (recommendation 79), reasonable accommodation (80), systemic discrimination (81), political belief and criminal conviction (82) and mandatory retirement (6 to 8).

The purpose of Thursday's meeting of P&P, is not to take final decisions on the Government's response. It will clearly not be possible tomorrow to resolve the major issues of primacy, women in the Armed forces, sexual orientation and mandatory retirement, given the strong views of Ministers on these questions. Rather, you might seek to narrow discussion for the next meeting of P&P (bearing in mind the Prime Minister's comments) by attempting to develop options for responding on:

1. The relationship between the Charter and the Canadian Human Rights Act (primacy) (recommendation 79);
2. Mandatory retirement (recommendations 6, 7, 8);
3. Sexual orientation (recommendations 10, 11, 14);
4. Women in the Armed Forces (recommendations 29, 30).

The results of this discussion could be reported to the Prime Minister as a basis for subsequent committee consideration.

The briefing material prepared for the Prime Minister for the February 4 meeting of P&P is attached. It contains possible alternative wording for responses in each of these four areas.



R.G. Blackburn