

Solicitor General
of Canada



Solliciteur général
du Canada

CONFIDENTIAL

Commissioner R.H. Simmonds
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
1200 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R2

Dear Commissioner Simmonds:

I refer to your letter to me of April 30, 1986 concerning the application to the Force of the Government's position on sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination.

I was somewhat dismayed by the observations you made in the letter about what appears to you to be ambiguities in the Government's position. As well, I was disheartened to read that you could not in all conscience voluntarily alter the position the Force has taken on homosexuality. However, since you wrote that letter to me, we have had the opportunity for further discussions, some of them in public as before the Conference of Commanding Officers and Division Staff Relations Representatives on May 7, 1986.

At that Conference, I made it explicitly clear that there were no ambiguities to the Government's position; that the Government is committed to do all that is necessary to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination in relation to all areas of federal jurisdiction; and that the Section 15 guarantees in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms encompass sexual orientation. I have taken from our private discussions and

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your remarks at the Conference, as well as at our appearance together later that day before the Standing Committee on Justice and Solicitor General, that you have accepted responsibility for ensuring the full and complete implementation of the Government's policy on sexual orientation.

Notwithstanding your personal views on this question, I would therefore like you to confirm that you fully support compliance by the Force with the Government's policy on sexual orientation.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty