

CANADIAN LABOUR CONGRESS



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September 23, 1987

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The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

At the 13th Constitutional Convention of the Canadian Labour Congress, our delegates adopted the following resolution:

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Labour Congress support the inclusion of sexual orientation in the no-discrimination clauses of provincial human rights codes and in both the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Bill of Rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Labour Congress will make this position known to both the government and the public at any time these laws are up for amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Canadian Labour Congress will encourage its affiliates to bargain for the inclusion of sexual orientation in the no-discrimination clauses of their collective agreements."

In 1984, at our 15th Constitutional Convention, in the Statement of Human Rights, the Congress reaffirmed this position:

"The Canadian Labour Congress, as a supporter of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reaffirms the principle of non-discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and before the law. We declare our absolute opposition to any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, sexual orientation or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or all social, cultural, economic, civic and political fields."



Your own Parliamentary Committee on Equality Rights in its report Towards Equality, March 1986, stated:

"The Government believes that one's sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether one can perform a job or use a service or facility."

The Canadian Labour Congress strongly urges you to implement Recommendations 10 and 11 of the Parliamentary Committee:

10. "We recommend that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination to the other grounds, which are race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, marital status, family status, disability, and conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted.
11. "We recommend that the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP bring their employment practices into conformity with the Canadian Human Rights Act as amended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

I look forward to a positive response.

Yours very truly,

 cm



cc: Honourable Ray Hnatyshyn, Minister of Justice  
Honourable Pierre Cadieux, Minister of Labour  
Gordon Fairweather, Human Rights Commission  
CLC Officers and Executive Council