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October 30, 1991

The Honourable Marcel Masse, P.C., M.P.
Minister of National Defense
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Minister:

The Army Cadet League of Canada has recently been appraised of the fact that consideration is currently being given to allow personnel of homosexual orientation to join and serve in the Armed Forces of Canada.

As you are aware the Cadet Movement includes some fifty thousand young boys and girls from the ages of twelve to eighteen, who serve in Cadet Corps across Canada and who leave home, many for the first time to serve at Summer Camps and join in summer training programmes in Canada and abroad.

A relationship of trust between parent and the military has been traditional over the years and has been due in large measure to the character and dedication of the members of the armed forces entrusted in the past, with the responsibility of leading and training young people. Without this mutual trust, the movement could not function. Once broken, it would be very difficult to rebuild.

There have been increasing incidents of sexual harassment manifest in recent years, some imagined, some real, which have been dealt with carefully and each of these cases has made difficulties for the Cadet Movement, but by and large confidence between the parent, the community and the military has always been maintained.

It is our opinion that if the regular military personnel who administer and train the CIL and Cadets and the CIL officers who lead Cadets, were known to allow persons of homosexual orientation to be among their number the long established trust between parents and the military would be severely threatened to the lasting detriment of the movement!

It is our opinion that service in the Armed Forces is a privilege of citizenship and not a right.

Suitability for service has always been a basic consideration of enlistment and the large percentage of candidates traditionally rejected because of unsuitability of temperament or physique has caused no ground for complaint or legal redress in the past.

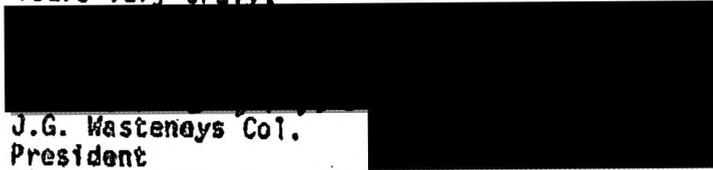
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We would welcome your assurance that traditional values will be maintained in the selection of military personnel placed in authority over Cadets in the Cadet Movement so that parents and supporters of the movement can be reassured.

Yours very truly,



J.G. Wastenays Col.
President
The Army Cadet League of Canada