

Draft Letter from MND to Prime Minister

For Translation into French

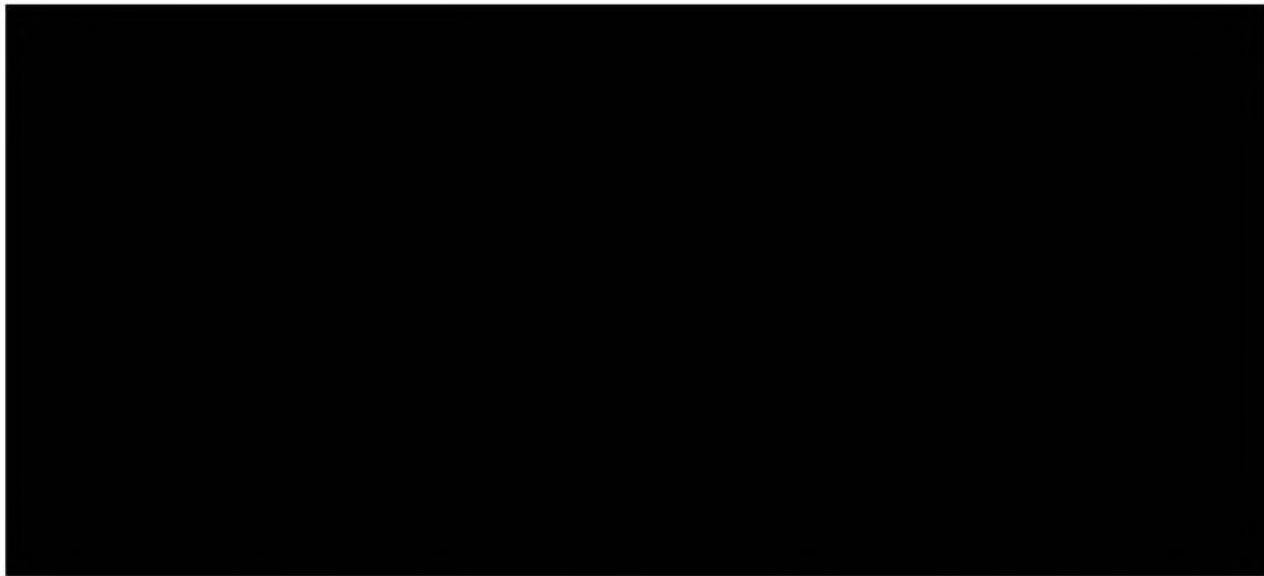
Dear

I write concerning the current policy on the employment of homosexuals in the Canadian Forces, and my belief that we need to change that policy without delay.

You will recall that the current policy, in effect for many years, precludes the retention of practising homosexuals in the Canadian Forces, although an "interim policy" allows practising homosexuals who are already in the Forces to remain under career restrictions pending a resolution of the issue.

The basis for the current policy has been the belief in the Canadian Forces that the unusual nature of close living conditions, and the need to maintain cohesion and confidence in the chain of command, constitute a ~~Section One exclusion from the Charter's~~ ^{Justification under Section One of The Charter for distinctions} ~~Section One exclusion from the Charter's~~ ^{that might otherwise be contrary to Section Fifteen.} ~~Section Fifteen prohibition against discrimination.~~

A0141918_1-002687



The proposal to announce that change was discussed at the Operations Committee on 7 October and tabled at the Priorities and Planning Committee on 8 October. It was briefed to the ^ecaucus on 9 October and at your direction the announcement was postponed pending further discussion with caucus. ~~That discussion took place on 5 November when Mary Collins and the Chief of the Defence Staff briefed caucus members and responded to their questions.~~

⊗ *hasnt attached*

There were two briefings to caucus, the first with the UCOS

Given that the the likely change in policy has received much public coverage in recent weeks, and given the recommendation of the Chief of the Defence Staff that we proceed with the change now, I seek your concurrence to do so. As we discussed earlier, I would propose that the announcement be made by the Chief of the Defence Staff, as he has requested.

I await your direction on this important subject.

DRAFT



That discussion took place on two occasions. On 30 October, Mary Collins and I, accompanied by the Vice Chief of the Defence Staff and the Deputy Minister for Justice, briefed caucus members and responded to their questions. On 5 November, Mary Collins, accompanied by the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Deputy Minister for Justice, again met with caucus and discussed the issue.

A0141918_3-002689