

CANADIAN FORCES POLICY ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION CHRONOLOGY

11 December 1991

- *Mr. Andre briefs the Conservative Caucus on the recommendation from the Operations Committee to proceed with the announcement of policy change.*

10 December 1991

- *Cabinet Committee on Operations agrees that either the Chairman of the Ops Committee (Mr. Harvie Andre) or the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr. Don Mazankowski) will "inform" the Conservative Caucus once again.*

6 December 1991

- *Chief of Staff to Prime Minister convenes meeting of officials; DM and CDS in attendance.*

25 November 1991

- *MND signs letter to Prime Minister recommending the Government proceed with announcement of policy change.*

20 November 1991

- *MND informally briefs Conservative Caucus.*

13 November 1991

- *Department decides to drop the appeal in Bordeleau case; case returns to Federal Court Trial Division. A total of 5 sexual orientation cases are now before that court.*

5 November 1991

- *AMND briefs interested members of the Conservative Caucus with the CDS and DM Justice in support, followed by a briefing to opposition MPs.*

30 October 1991

- *MND briefs interested members of the Conservative Caucus, with AMND in attendance. VCDS and DM Justice are there in support.*

29 October 1991

- *Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning discusses issue with respect to timing of CDS's press release and matters relating to caucus.*

9 October 1991

- *MND briefs Conservative Caucus.*

8 October 1991

- *Cabinet Committee on Priorities and Planning*
 - P & P ratifies the decision taken the previous day by the Operations Committee.

7 October 1991

- *Cabinet Committee on Operations*
 - MND advises Ministers of his decision to revoke the current policy on sexual orientation and his intent to establish a new policy to govern sexual misconduct.

23 September 1991

- *MND receives letter from Minister of Justice*
 - Minister of Justice advises MND of the opinion of counsel that the existing policy cannot be defended in court. She recommends that the outstanding court cases be settled and the current policy be replaced by one which focuses on specific sexual conduct, whether heterosexual or homosexual, that can be demonstrated to have a disruptive effect on the effectiveness of the Canadian Forces.

September 1991

- *Interim release policy amended by the Chief of the Defence Staff:*
 - members completing a term of service under the interim policy were permitted to re-engage, pending the completion of a policy review

21 November 1990

- *Message sent from ADM(Per) to all Commanders following the publication of the Marin Report (External Review of the Canadian Forces Special Investigation Unit):*
 - deleted all references to the Special Investigation Unit in the Canadian Forces Policy on Homosexuality
 - referred any cases of suspected homosexuality to NDHQ for direction before any formal investigation could be initiated

20 January 1988

- *"Interim" release policy published, requiring:*
 - that there be "self-acknowledgement of homosexuality" on the part of the member
 - that there be "consideration" or acknowledgement by the Canadian Forces that the member is homosexual
 - that there be a desire by the member to be released from the Canadian Forces, and
 - that there be no objection by the member to being released as "unsuitable for further employment"

If the member did not want to be released under the above conditions, the policy allowed that the member be retained, but with career restrictions (e.g. no promotions and no re-engagement if the member completed a term of service under the interim policy).

September 1986

- *Report of NDHQ Charter Task Force:*
 - recommended that current policy of recommending release for individuals engaged in recent homosexual activity be continued

4 March 1986

- *Tabling of Toward Equality (Government response to Equality for All):*
 - would ensure sexual orientation a prohibited ground of discrimination in all areas of federal jurisdiction

10 February 1986

- *Canadian Forces Policy on Homosexuality amended:*
 - removed obligation for members to report awareness or suspicion that another member is a homosexual
 - required Commanding Officer to conduct preliminary investigation if there was reason to believe that a member had committed a homosexual act

October 1985

- *Publication of Equality For All (Report of a Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Equality Rights):*
 - recommended *inter alia* that the Canadian Human Rights Act be amended to add sexual orientation as a prohibited ground of discrimination and that the Canadian Forces amend its employment practices

9 July 1976

- *Policy on Homosexuality in the Canadian Forces issued as Canadian Forces Administrative Order 19-20:*
 - defined "homosexual" as one who has a sexual propensity for persons of one's own sex
 - required members to report awareness or suspicion that another member is a homosexual to the Commanding Officer, who was required to conduct an investigation
 - if Commanding Officer's investigation tended to substantiate the report, Special Investigation Unit required to investigate further
 - stated that service policy did not allow homosexual members to be retained in the Canadian Forces

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