



SUPPORT BILL C-16

Senators of the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee

May 17, 2017

It is with a great sense of urgency and pride that the Ottawa Police Service Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans (GLBT) Liaison Committee asks for your full support of Bill C-16, an Act to amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and the Canadian Criminal Code (gender identity and gender expression).

The Ottawa Police Service GLBT Liaison Committee, one of the first of its kind in Canada, is comprised of community, police, and criminal justice system representatives. The Committee is co-chaired by representatives of both the community and the police. Since its inception in 1991, the Committee has had the support of the Ottawa Police Service Executive Command including Chief Thomas Flanagan, Chief Brian Ford, Chief Vince Bevin, and Senator Vernon White. This support proudly continues with current Chief Charles Bordeleau.

With police and community at the table this committee has developed multiple initiatives and policies regarding the Trans community including:

- offering officer sensitivity and search procedure training when working with members of the Trans community. We have also provided training to the Ottawa Paramedic Service, the Ottawa Fire Services, and other provincial and federal police services;
- actively and successfully recruiting from the Trans community who continues to proudly serve Ottawa's vast and diverse community;
- developing non-discrimination and anti-harassment policies that include the needs of the Trans community;
- participating in the Trans Day of Remembrance, an annual event to remember the violent deaths of Trans people worldwide. This includes the display of a banner at Ottawa Police Headquarters
- participating in Ottawa's long-standing and well attended annual Capital Pride Parade celebrations.

Your support of Bill C-16 is crucial for the following reasons:

- to ensure that the Trans community across Canada has the much needed protection that is otherwise already practiced in Ontario.
- to educate and provide the tools needed by multiple service organizations including police, fire, paramedics, transportation, and provincial/federal human rights commissions as they work with the community in developing their Trans policies;
- to allow service organizations and the Canadian Human Rights Commission to collect and share data on the barriers Trans people face.
- To send a clear message that Trans people are also a valuable part of this country and our communities, and that they are to be accepted and respected by all.

The Ottawa Police Service GLBT Liaison Committee has demonstrated time and time again that Trans rights are human rights and that they must also be protected. Please do what is right by voting in favour of Bill C-16.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zanette".

Peter Zanette
Community Co-chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John McGetrick".

Inspector John McGetrick
Police Co-chair