



February 7, 2011

Via email: minjus@leg.gov.mb.ca

The Honourable Andrew Swan
Manitoba Attorney General and Minister of Justice
Room 104, Legislative Building
450 Broadway
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

Re: Background – Better Protection for Transgender People

Thank you for your response to my letter asking that Manitoba's laws be examined and amended to ensure that transgender people are expressly protected under the law. I am pleased to provide additional background information as you requested.

The extent of victimization of transgender individuals by hate crimes across Canada is not known. Ottawa is the only jurisdiction where it is systematically tabulated. However, emerging data indicate that human rights violations and acts of violence ranging from verbal abuse to murder are perpetrated daily against transgender and transsexual people.

The following are links to some potentially helpful resources on the subject.

Text of Bill C-389 – Private Member's Bill currently before Parliament

<http://www2.parl.gc.ca/Sites/LOP/LEGISINFO/index.asp?Language=E&Session=23&query=6825&List=toC>

Ontario Human Rights Commission - "Toward a Commission Policy on Gender Identity"

http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/resources/discussion_consultation/genderidentity?page=dfhh-Current.html

Statistics Canada – victimization rates of transgender people by hate crimes:

<http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/Collection-R/Statcan/85-551-XIE/0009985-551-XIE.pdf>

EGALE Canada – Survey Results on Transphobia and Safety at Schools

<http://www.egale.ca/index.asp?lang=E&menu=20&item=1400>

US Human Rights Campaign – “How Do Transgender People Suffer Discrimination?” Statistics on Hate Crimes and Forms of Discrimination against Transsexuals and Transgender people

<http://www.hrc.org/issues/1508.htm>

Wikipedia – list of unlawfully killed transgender people:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_unlawfully_killed_transgender_people

We would be pleased to meet with you or your officials to discuss this issue at greater length.

Thank you for your commitment to equality and for taking the protection of transgender people seriously.

Yours truly,

(original signed by Rod Snow)

Rod Snow

cc . Ken Mandziuk
President, Manitoba Bar Association