

July 2/71

Toronto Gay Action

201 Queen Street East Toronto 227 Ontario Canada

July 2, 1971.

Brothers and Sisters:

Enclosed is a rough draft of a brief to be presented to the Federal Government at a proposed demonstration of homosexuals to be held Saturday, August 28th, 1971 at Parliament Hill, Ottawa, 3.00 P.M. *will be held*

We, of Toronto Gay Action, consider this march to be very important as a step to liberating all gay people across Canada. This will be the first trans-Canada and open demonstration organized by homosexuals in which we invite all individuals who support our cause for our legal and civil rights. This action will show to many of the nearly two million gay people in Canada that there are many of us who are proud to be gay and this will help many of them come out. ~~The Canadian public in general will be confronted thus creating dialogue about homosexuality, more important is that we would hopefully be regarded as human beings.~~

We believe that Ottawa is the only appropriate location for this demonstration as it emphasises the universal character of our demand as well as receiving coast to coast media attention.

The date of August 28th coincides as closely as possible to the passing of the Federal Government's Omnibus Bill which removed from the Criminal Code penalties for sexual acts between consenting adults. This was largely touted as legalizing homosexuality. However, there are many more discriminatory practices carried out by the Federal Government as listed in the rough draft of the enclosed brief.

We of Toronto Gay Action are sending copies of this brief and letter to every gay organization across the country in order to ask for your support. First, we want your suggestions to add to the present brief. We also ask you to discuss the idea of going to Ottawa on August 28th (the last Saturday before the Labour Day weekend) with the members of your own organization. We also ask you to mobilize as many people as possible so that on August 28th we can all converge on Parliament Hill.

In conclusion, we ask for your suggestions and more so, help in any way, shape or form. We have approached Community Homophile Association of Toronto (CHAT) with our proposal and they have responded with a donation of \$80 to get things started. We hope to have a 'Gay Day' in Toronto for Sunday August 1st as a prelude to the Ottawa Action. These actions will benefit every gay person in Canada.

**bring this discrimination to the attention of the govt. & public & to demand legal equality. So that we can*

Peace Brothers and Sisters,
Yours for Gay Liberation,
Co-ordinating Committee TGA
The August 28th Committee,
Toronto Gay Action.