



JUL 31 2008

Mr. Mark Vandermaas
Director of Research
Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality
371 Vesta Place
London ON N5Y 1G4

Dear Mr. Vandermaas:

On behalf of the Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence of May 30, 2008, on behalf of Canadian Advocates for Charter Equality.

I can understand why you have written to the Minister and asked for assistance. However, as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada, Minister Nicholson is mandated to provide legal advice to only the federal government. I hope you will understand that, for this reason, he is not able to provide legal advice to members of the public, or to appoint or provide funding for a lawyer in private practice to act on your behalf. Similarly, he is unable to intervene in, investigate, or otherwise become involved in individual matters.

You may wish to consult with the legal aid office closest to you to determine whether you qualify for help. It may also be helpful for you to know that the Law Society of Upper Canada operates the Lawyer Referral Service. The Service can refer you to a lawyer near you that specializes in family law and who provides the first half-hour consultation free. The Service is available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Please note that calling the line will automatically generate a \$6.00 charge on your phone bill in the month following your call. You can reach the Service at 1 900 565-4577.

Thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,

L. Bisson
Manager
Ministerial Correspondence Unit