



Bill Siksay, MP
Burnaby-Douglas
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6
Sent via email: siksaB0@parl.gc.ca

April 30, 2010

Dear Bill:

Egale Canada and Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health (CPATH) applaud and commend you on your continued dedication to the equality rights of trans and gender non-conforming people as you move *Bill C- 389* forward with the purpose of amending the *Canadian Human Rights Act* and the *Criminal Code* to include gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds of discrimination. We want to reassert our commitment help in any way we can.

The inclusion of gender identity and gender expression would be an enormous step for trans rights in Canada. In the last few years there have been significant advances in human rights for gay, lesbian and bisexual people in Canada however trans people have, in many ways been left behind. In Egale Canada's Phase One of the National Climate School Survey, 95% of trans students felt unsafe at school compared to one-fifth of straight students and nine out of ten trans students are verbally harassed because of their gender expression. A recent report released by *Statistics Canada* failed to cover instances of victimization affecting people in Canada on the grounds of "gender identity" and "gender expression". It is widely accepted that although victims may self identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual, the motivation of the crime perpetrated is most times if not always dependent upon ones gender expression, i.e. masculinity or femininity.

We would like to make ourselves available to discuss opportunities assist this process in any way we can.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Helen Kennedy".

Helen Kennedy
Egale Canada

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trevor Corneil".

Trevor Corneil
CPATH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mickey Wilson".

Mickey Wilson
Egale Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marria Townsend".

Marria Townsend
CPATH