



Canadian Professional Association
for Transgender Health

Association Canadienne des professionnels en santé
des personnes transsexuelles

Mr. Bill Siskay
Room 124 - Confederation Building
House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Ph: 613-996-5597 Fx: 613-992-5501
Email: Siksay.B@parl.gc.ca

RE: Bill C-389

June 11th, 2010

Dear Mr. Siskay,

The Canadian Professional Association for Transgendered Health (CPATH) is a new and growing organization with approximately 180 members representing all 10 provinces. Our purpose is to further the understanding of, and health care for, individuals with gender variant identities. Its members consist of both health professionals and other direct and indirect care providers across multiple disciplines including law, academia, and community. More information about our organization can be found at www.cpath.ca.

We have been following the progress of Bill C-389 with great interest, and congratulate you on its successful passage through the House of Commons and on to committee. As you know, there is a strong body of literature describing the negative effect of discrimination on any given community's health status. At our recent biennial conference in Montreal (April 30 – May 1, 2010), we were presented with significant evidence supporting the associations between overt and/or systemic discrimination towards transgender persons, a decrease in their access to health care, and poor health outcomes both in Canada and the USA. Most concerning was the documentation of limited access to care in every province across our country as defined by Canadian and International standards. In fact many provinces offer no relevant transgender care at all.

As such, CPATH would like to offer its support for Bill C-389 by submitting a written brief to, and/or appearing as a witness at the invitation of, the commons Justice and Human Rights Committee. We are unified in our support for the inclusion of transgendered persons in Canada's human rights legislation, and well versed in how essential these rights are in determining positive health status.

Please feel free to contact either of us directly by phone (mobile 604 218 5718, office 709 945 5800), or email (quinnjoan@nl.rogers.com, trevor.corneil@ubc.ca) should you wish to discuss how we might be of assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Joan Quinn, BScN BSW MD FRCPC
President

Trevor Corneil, BA MD MHSc CCFP FRCPC
Past-President