



GAY AND LESBIAN AWARENESS • BOX 53 • EDMONTON • ALBERTA • T5J 2G9

Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild
209 223-12 Ave SW
Calgary, Alberta
T2R 0G9

February 7th, 1994

Dear Calgary Lesbian and Gay Political Action Guild:

On January 27th, 1994 Delwin Vriend went to court to challenge the Alberta Government on their refusal to include sexual orientation in the Individual Rights Protection Act. Delwin was placed in this position after having been fired as an instructor at Kings College. When he took his case to the Alberta Human Rights Commission he was informed that Sexual orientation was not within their mandate.

The outcome of this trial will have a profound affect on all members of the gay and lesbian community within Alberta. If the case is decided in Delwin's favour, the government will be placed in the position of having to change the individual Rights Protection Act to include sexual orientation, or to try and win their case in a appeal. The judge is expected to hand down a verdict in late March.

To help off set the cost of this trial a Delwin Vriend Defense Fund has been set up. To date there is a \$6000 short fall. It is for this reason that GALA (Gay and Lesbian Awareness) on behalf of the Delwin Vriend Defense Fund is encouraging organizations and individuals within Alberta's gay and lesbian community and friends of the gay and lesbian community, to support financially the Defense Fund. It should also be noted that should there be an appeal by the Provincial government or by Delwin, it will cost the Defense Fund an additional \$17 000 even before the Court Challenges Program could be approached.



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If your organization is interested in holding a fund raiser or the organization or individuals within your community are interested in making a donation, please make all cheques or money orders payable to the Delwin Vriend Defense Fund.

Mail to:

Delwin Vriend Defense Fund
C/O Michael Phair
2nd Floor, City Hall
1 Sir Winston Churchill Square
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2R7
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Noreen Marshall
Director

Sincerely yours,

David Sanders
Director

The enclosed newspaper articles are for further reference.