



## Homosexuality, Heterosexuality and Pedophilia

In response to recent comments made by the Vatican's Secretary of State, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, regarding a supposed relationship between homosexuality and Pedophilia<sup>1</sup>, the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) wishes to clarify, unequivocally, that there is no scientific research to support any notion that homosexuality either causes Pedophilia or causes child molestation.

Dr. Martin Antony, CPA President, says, "While the vast majority of those who sexually offend against children are men, among the victims there are more girls than boys, indicating that most offenders still target opposite-sex -- not same-sex -- victims."<sup>2</sup>

CPA is concerned that recent comments and the resulting discussion may have created confusion or misunderstanding about the aetiology of Pedophilia and about the notion of behavioural self-control. Dr. Karen Cohen, CPA Executive Director, offers, "Pedophilia is not the result of and is not caused by homosexuality, heterosexuality, or celibacy. Pedophilia is associated with a variety of biological, social and psychological factors -- none of which has been clearly shown to cause the disorder."

Social problems such as the abuse of children and how to best protect the young victims demand our immediate attention. CPA has observed that comments that are misinformed -- and sometimes, simply, wrong -- tend to distract attention from the crux of the problem which needs to be how to better assist victims and treat offenders.

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### About the CPA

The Canadian Psychological Association is a not for profit professional association with over 6500 members. It was organized in 1939 to improve the health and welfare of all Canadians; promote excellence and innovation in psychological research, education, and practice; and promote the advancement, development, dissemination, and application of psychological knowledge.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/editorials/a-cardinals-ill-informed-connection/article1534802/>

<sup>2</sup> Seto, M.C.(2008). Etiology of Pedophilia. In *Pedophilia and Sexual Offending Against Children: Theory, Assessment and Intervention*. (pp. 101-121). Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.