



National Defence

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JUN 28 2023

The Honourable John Williamson
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Williamson,

As agreed upon in the Government Response to the 10th Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts entitled *Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, National Defence submits its update on Recommendation 1.

Sincerely,

for Bill Matthews

Enclosures: 2

**Response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts
Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor
General of Canada**

Recommendation 1

That the Department of National Defence provide the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts with its new operational requirements for military housing by 30 June 2017, and its revised accommodation policy by 31 December 2018.

Background

In its 2015 audit of Canadian Armed Forces housing, the Auditor General recommended that National Defence complete a review of its military housing policy. National Defence agreed and committed to producing a revised accommodation policy by fall 2017. As reported previously to the Committee, National Defence acknowledged challenges in completing the policy review and developed a new work plan to complete the policy review by spring 2024.

In the interest of transparency and accountability, in June 2020, National Defence provided the Committee with a timeline illustrating the key steps and milestones required to complete the review. National Defence also committed to updating the Committee every six months – by 31 December and 30 June of each year – until the review is complete and the new policy suite is in place.

Since June 2020, National Defence has focused its updates on three component parts of its living accommodation policy suite: 1) Queen's Regulations and Orders (the policy's overarching regulatory framework); 2) Defence Administrative Orders and Directives (the departmental policy); and 3) the Living Accommodation Instruction (to guide personnel in implementing the policy).

In the December 2022 update, National Defence reported that it continues to consult subject matter policy experts and legal advisors on the regulatory and policy review processes, and remained on schedule to meet the overall implementation of the living accommodation policies by spring 2024. Please find the June 2023 update below.

Update on the living accommodation policy suite review

Since the last update to the Committee in December 2022, National Defence has followed the attached timeline for the review of the Defence Administrative Orders and Directives and the Living Accommodation Instruction. Subject-matter expert reviews and drafting are taking place with stakeholder consultations scheduled over the summer and early fall timeframes. National Defence has also continued to make progress on the overall regulatory review and is currently on schedule as outlined in the attached timeline.

National Defence will be finalizing the living accommodation policy throughout the fall 2023 ("governance committee review" in the attached timeline) and is planning next steps for the final approvals.

As part of this regulatory and policy review process, National Defence also continues to apply GBA+ analysis to all three components of the review to ensure that the principles of inclusivity and dignity for all Canadian Armed Forces members are incorporated into this policy suite.

Reviewing the Queen's Regulations and Orders (QR&Os)

Since the last update to the Committee, National Defence has finalized the regulatory drafting instructions and submitted them to Department of Justice legal experts on time, ensuring that the overall process continues to stay on track in accordance with the attached timeline. This process will serve to address inconsistencies between the regulations and policies, as well as ensure closer alignment with other related federal housing directives.

Reviewing the Defence Administrative Orders and Directives (DAOD)

Since December 2022, National Defence has continued with the development of a new departmental policy instruction that will align and bridge the gap between the higher-level policy and the Living Accommodation Instruction. Once completed in spring 2024, this policy instruction will provide details regarding the types of living accommodations available, and outline the policy guidance for the requirements, eligibility, allocation, and charges/fees for National Defence residential housing.

Further, as a result of the QR&O analysis (mentioned above), National Defence has identified policy updates that will be incorporated into the departmental policy document. National Defence is moving forward with the review of the living accommodation DAODs, in line with the policy team's work plan to ensure the review is completed on time by spring 2024. The completed DAODs will allow National Defence to implement a modernized policy and a new policy instruction.

Reviewing the Living Accommodation Instruction

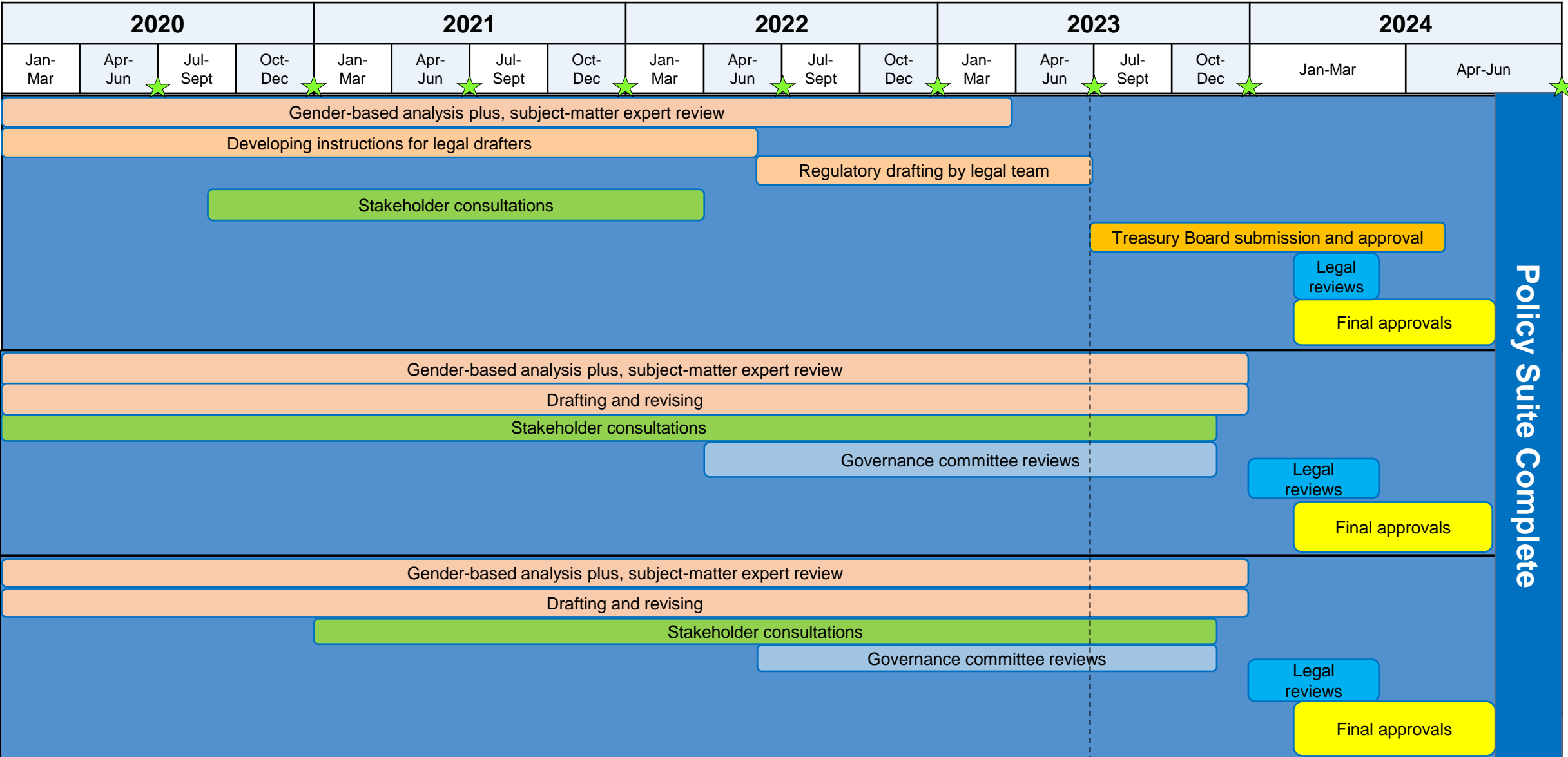
Since the December 2022 update, National Defence has continued its review of the Living Accommodation Instruction concurrently with the DAOD review. This process will ensure the harmonization of the three component parts of the living accommodation policy suite. As part of the Instruction's modernization efforts, National Defence continues to work on updates that will provide guidance on the administration and management of National Defence living accommodations.

Future updates to the Committee

National Defence will provide the Committee with a progress update on the living accommodation policy suite review by 30 December 2023.

*Updated *Living Accommodation Policy Suite Timeline* is included as Appendix A.

Living Accommodation Policy Suite Timeline



Policy Suite Complete

= semi-annual PACP update due June 30 and December 31