



National Defence

Défense nationale

Deputy Minister

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JUN 24 2024

The Honourable John Williamson
Chair, Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

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,

Stefanie Beck

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 (CAF) housing, the Auditor General recommended that National Defence would complete a review of its military housing policy and revise its accommodation policy by December 2018. In subsequent updates to the Committee, National Defence acknowledged challenges and, in June 2020, it provided the Committee with an updated timeline illustrating the key steps and milestones required to complete the review by spring 2024.

Since June 2020, National Defence has provided seven updates to the Committee, on a bi-annual basis, focusing on the three components of its living accommodations regulatory and policy suite:

- Queen's Regulations and Orders (the policy's overarching regulatory framework);
- Defence Administrative Orders and Directives (the departmental policy); and
- The Living Accommodations Instruction (to guide personnel in implementing the policy).

In its December 2023 update, National Defence reported that it continued to consult subject matter policy experts and legal advisors on the regulatory and policy review. It further reported that these reviews would be completed by spring 2024, with implementation to follow by December 2024.

National Defence remains on track in meeting these timelines. As part of this regulatory and policy review process, National Defence has continuously applied 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.

Please find the June 2024 update to the Committee below.

Update on the Living Accommodations Policy Suite Review

Reviewing the Queen's Regulations and Orders

The legal review and associated regulatory amendment package was completed in spring 2024. The Queen's Regulations and Orders (QR&Os) package was developed in concert with the Department of Justice. This process served to ensure harmonization between the regulations and policies, as well as closer alignment with the National Joint Council, *Isolated Post and Federal Housing Directive*.

Reviewing the Defence Administrative Orders and Directives

Since the December 2023 update, National Defence has completed its subject matter reviews and drafting of the departmental policy instruction, which will align and bridge the gap between the higher-level departmental policy and the Living Accommodations Instruction. It is now finalising stakeholder engagement, while working on administrative mechanisms and making other necessary adjustments to finalise these departmental policies, called Defence Administrative Order and Directives (DAODs), which will go into effect on 1 December 2024.

The new policy instruction will outline the policy guidance for the requirements, eligibility, allocation, and charges/fees for the types of living accommodations available for National Defence residential housing. These DAODs will allow National Defence to implement a modernized departmental policy suite.

Reviewing the Living Accommodations Instruction

The Living Accommodation Instruction (LAI) will serve as a guide to personnel in implementing the various policies noted above. Remaining work on the LAI is now closely linked to the implementation phase (see below), to ensure the harmonization of the living accommodations regulatory and policy suite. This work will be completed on 1 December 2024.

Approval and Implementation Phase

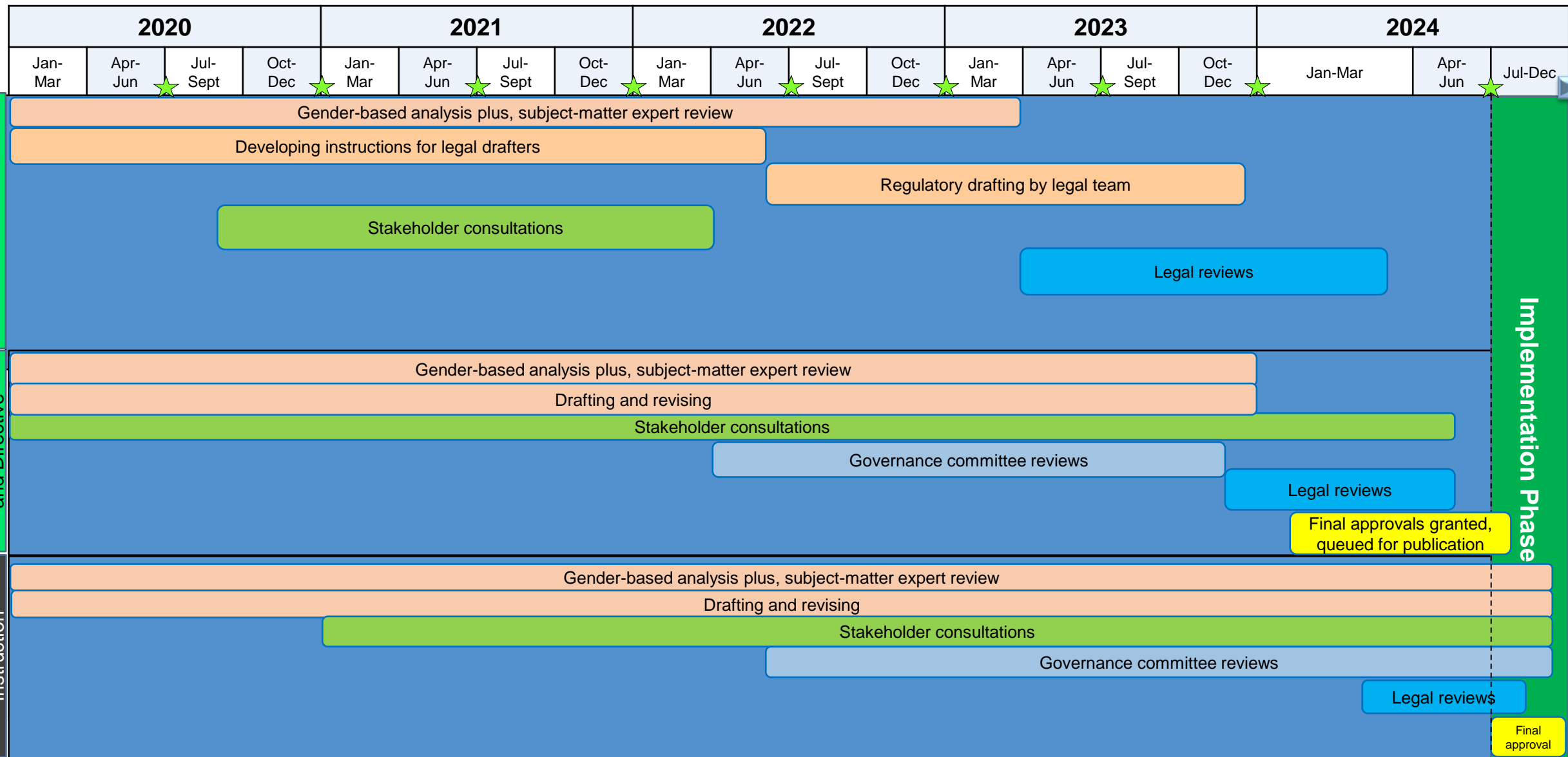
Over the course of the next six months, the implementation phase will include staff training, the revision of local process tools and comprehensive communication on the updates to all applicable stakeholders, administrators, and CAF members. Additionally, to ensure complete alignment, the review of the LAI will be finalized concurrently to the implementation phase.

Future updates to the Committee

In December 2024, National Defence will provide its final update to the Committee, when the applicable policies and regulations come into force.

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

Living Accommodation Policy Suite Timeline



Implementation Phase

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

▶ = Come into Force of Regulations and DAODs on 1 December 2024