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Les valeurs de la GRC reposent sur l'intégrité, l'honnêteté,
le professionnalisme, la compassion, le respect et la responsabilisation

JUN 14 2023

John Williamson, M.P.
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Accounts
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Williamson:

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) continues to make progress in addressing the Committee's recommendations related to Committee Report 5: Equipping Officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. In April 2022, we provided the Committee with responses to all recommendations, with a commitment to return in six months (September 2022) to confirm our compliance with Recommendation 2 on the distribution and availability of hard body armour (HBA):

The RCMP should provide the Committee with a report a) outlining the progress of its national standard for the distribution and availability of hard body armour; and b) confirming that it has the proper information to ensure its compliance. Additionally, that a final report be presented to the Committee.

On November 30, 2022, the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) published an updated report, available at www.oag-bvg.gc.ca/internet/ag-measures/recommendations-en.html, which confirmed that the RCMP had fully implemented all recommendations with the exception of its recommendation at paragraph 5.36 relating to using a national-level system to track the distribution of HBA, which was previously found to not have been fully implemented.

We have delayed our response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to include an update that incorporates the information from the latest OAG publication.

The OAG's update confirmed that the RCMP had implemented an operational standard for assigning HBA to individual frontline members; however, it also

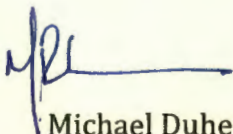
confirmed that a national-level system to track the distribution of HBA to individual officers had not yet been implemented. The following highlights important progress on this initiative.

On September 9, 2022, the National Operational Standard on Active Threat Training and Equipment was amended to improve oversight and accountability on the distribution of HBA to frontline members. This included a requirement for divisional Commanding Officers to provide an annual attestation that all operational frontline members are personally assigned HBA. Additionally, the contract for new lightweight hard body armour (LWHBA) is anticipated to be awarded in 2023. As an interim mitigation measure, the RCMP planned to implement a smaller contract to bridge the current need for HBA to the potential contract award date. However, due to unforeseen supply-chain and contractor issues, including the impact of COVID-19 and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the identified supplier has withdrawn their offer to fulfill the RCMP's HBA supply requirements. In order to ensure there is sufficient HBA available to our members, the existing stock of HBA will remain in service, even if it exceeds the 10-year lifecycle. The RCMP will ensure the HBA has been reasonably cared for (e.g. stored in the protective carry-bag, not dropped on hard surfaces) before distribution. The removal of HBA from service without having replacement HBA available poses greater risk to officer safety and the public than exceeding the HBA lifecycle.

The RCMP has identified a way forward in order to be in full compliance with Recommendation 2, having a national-level system to track the distribution of HBA to individual members. This way forward will be implemented once the new contract is awarded. The new process will ensure the RCMP performs the material management function for newly-purchased LWHBA, including receipt, physical inspection, storage, and distribution via the Total Expenditures and Asset Management (TEAM) Portal Online Ordering System. Each transaction will be recorded and trackable by material master number, serial number, member regimental number, and date of issuance. All transactions will be recorded in TEAM on the member's respective uniform history file. The new LWHBA will be issued to cadets at Depot during training and will be similarly tracked in TEAM.

I am committed to keeping you informed by September 2023 on the continued progress towards fully implementing Recommendation 2.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Duheme
Commissioner

c.c.: Cédric Taquet
Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Accounts