

Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Commissioner



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le professionnalisme, la compassion, le respect et la responsabilisation

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

APR 21 2022

Dear Mr. Williamson:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 4, 2022. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) continues to make progress in addressing the Committee's recommendations. I would like to take this opportunity to provide a response as requested by the Committee on specific recommendations related to the Committee Report 2, Disposing of Government Surplus Goods and Equipment, and Report 9, Equipping Officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Report 2, Disposing of Government Surplus Goods and Equipment

Recommendation 3: PSPC, the RCMP, and SSC, should provide the Committee with a report outlining their revised policies regarding keeping sufficient documentation to justify the disposal methods that they selected, standardizing their forms to ensure consistency, and considering all factors when making disposal decisions, such as disposal cost, asset value, and environmental impact.

RCMP Response to Recommendation 3: The RCMP has made significant progress related to its disposal process since its previous response in April 2020. In 2021, a proof of concept was finalized after consultation with numerous internal stakeholders. A disposal modernization application has been developed to standardize the disposal process. This application will provide the RCMP with the ability to document electronically disposal methods justification. The application also includes an automated approval process that directs requests for disposition of materiel to the appropriate RCMP materiel management specialist functional authorities, which helps significantly strengthen the disposal process. This application incorporates the capability for

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electronic monitoring and reporting of disposal decisions such as disposal cost, asset value, and environmental impacts and timelines of disposal action at a national level. With the completion of a successful pilot in November 2021, the disposal modernization application is in the implementation phase and anticipated to be in use across the RCMP by June 2022. The RCMP would like to request that the Committee consider this recommendation fully addressed based on this latest information.

Report 9, Equipping Officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police

Recommendation 2: 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.

RCMP Response to Recommendation 2: On December 7, 2020, the National Operational Standard on Active Threat Training and Equipment was updated to ensure that all frontline officers would be personally assigned unit-issued hard body armour by March 31, 2022. As of April 1, 2022, the RCMP has the necessary inventory to personally assign each frontline member with hard body armour. National Headquarters is currently working with the divisions to confirm their compliance with this recent benchmark. The RCMP will report back to the Committee within six months (September 2022) to confirm our compliance.

A solicitation process for a new hard body armour that is lighter weight, accommodates a much larger size range, and takes into consideration Gender Based Analysis Plus is currently underway. Enhanced tracking and reporting capability is being explored to align with the eventual distribution of the new hard body armour.

Recommendation 3: The RCMP should provide the Committee with a report outlining its progress regarding firearm recertification.

RCMP Response to Recommendation 3: It is important to note that adherence to federal, provincial and territorial COVID-19 mandates, restrictions and public health guidelines to ensure member safety has affected the timeline of this recommendation. These measures resulted in decreased capacity to deliver face-to-face training and impacted the ability to attend training, reducing the number of officers that could undergo firearms qualification. The introduction of a temporary national policy exemption permits police officers a six-month

extension to continue to carry their intervention options in the absence of an ability to perform their annual firearms qualification before expiry.

The RCMP is working to identify solutions to overcome the various challenges associated with firearms training, such as Canada's geographic and climatic realities, as it continues to strive towards policy compliance. Review of data in November 2019 (pre-COVID) identified a compliance rate for the pistol of 89.1% for RCMP members considered operationally ready for duty. We were able to maintain desired rates of compliance due to the interim policy with the following aligning with historical trends: 91.7% (November 2020); 91.9% (November 2021); and 89.6% (April 2022).

The March 31, 2022, benchmark was that at least 65% of operational frontline members in each detachment be trained and qualified in the use of the patrol carbine (up from 60% on March 31, 2021). As of April 1, 2022, 78.4% of operational frontline members nationally are trained and qualified in the use of the patrol carbine, with all contract divisions (those divisions where the RCMP provides frontline policing services) having more than 72% of operational frontline members trained and qualified. Over the following three years, the number of carbine-trained frontline officers will steadily increase until at least 80% of all frontline officers at each detachment are trained.

The RCMP will continue to monitor compliance of this standard nationally to identify trends, issues, and opportunities for improvement. This includes producing the Active Threat Training and Equipment Compliance Dashboard on a quarterly basis. The Compliance Dashboard is an interactive mapping system that provides operational leaders in RCMP divisions with the number of carbine-trained officers down to the detachment level, and also indicates whether detachments are compliant or non-compliant. This system supports evidence and risk-based decision-making and compliance on carbine training. Annually, operational leaders in RCMP Divisions are also required to report ongoing risk assessments and actions taken to improve compliance to National Headquarters.

Moving forward, communication with regional training delivery teams will encourage the prioritization of carbine-trained frontline members and firearms (pistol) qualifications during Summer 2022.

Recommendation 4: The RCMP should provide the Committee with a report outlining its progress regarding the preventative maintenance of firearms.

RCMP Response to Recommendation 4: It is important to note that adherence to federal, provincial and territorial COVID-19 mandates, restrictions and public health guidelines to ensure employee safety has affected the timeline of this recommendation. These measures resulted in decreased facility capacity to complete the work.

The RCMP was able to return to firearm preventive maintenance on a modified schedule when COVID-19 restrictions were reduced, with priority given to the oldest in-service frontline carbines and pistols. The RCMP preventative maintenance program resumed full capability in Fall 2021 but had to address a significant backlog of firearms overdue for preventive maintenance due to the lengthy period of reduced capacity. With the development of a prioritization plan and overtime for resources, the normalization of preventive maintenance cycles is anticipated by March 2023 for carbines and July 2023 for pistols.

Recommendation 5: The RCMP should provide the Committee with a report outlining its progress with regard to improving its management of acquisition projects, including ensuring that life-cycle requirements, such as training and maintenance, are addressed.

RCMP Response to Recommendation 5: The RCMP has made substantial efforts in relation to this recommendation. The RCMP developed a clear and comprehensive roadmap, through a professional services contract, to provide the required mechanisms to assess, approve, track, fund, implement, and manage the life cycle of operational policing assets and uniform items. Specifically, adherence to the Equipment Asset Lifecycle Management roadmap will ensure that the RCMP has clear policies, processes, and decision-making structures and authorities to inform and direct the activities undertaken to manage policing and uniform assets, from identification of needs to asset disposal. This will support the effective and efficient delivery of high quality policing services including standardization and interoperability. This project included clearly defining the roles, responsibilities, and decision-making authorities and a pathway to identify and pursue a funding strategy for items that have been identified as organizational priorities.

With the Equipment Asset Lifecycle Management Project Plan complete, the RCMP is now in the implementation phase supported by a professional services contract. Over the next 15 months, the RCMP will implement an organization-wide model with modern governance practices and increased accountability will improve the corporate operations and support long-term planning including the life-cycle management of new acquisitions.

I trust the above provides the additional information requested by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts. Should you have any additional questions regarding this subject, please feel free to contact Ms. Nathalie Guilbault, Director, Materiel Management Policies and Programs, by email at nathalie.guilbault@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or by telephone at 613-868-7955.

Kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Blucki".

Brenda Lucki
Commissioner

c.c.: Ms. Angela Crandall
Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Accounts