



National Defence

Défense nationale

Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

National Defence Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
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Ottawa, (Ontario)
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MAY 30 2019

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

Dear Mr. Sorenson,

As committed by National Defence in its December 2018 response to Recommendation 1 from the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' *Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, National Defence submits an update on its progress, due 31 May 2019.

Sincerely,


Jody Thomas

Enclosures: 1

Canada 

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.

In the Government Response to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Accounts' *Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing*, National Defence committed to providing the Committee with its new operational requirements for military housing by 30 June 2017, and its revised accommodation policy by 31 December 2018.

In December 2018, National Defence provided the Committee with a report on the progress it had made in updating the three elements of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) accommodation policy suite: the Queen's Regulations and Orders (QR&Os), the Departmental housing policy document, and the Living Accommodation Instruction. In this update, National Defence explained that it was making changes to all three elements, but that this process was taking longer than anticipated due to the complexities associated with harmonizing and modernizing all three policy elements. As a result, National Defence revised its timeline for completing the accommodation policy to November 2020. The Department also committed to providing the Committee with a further progress report by 31 May 2019.

This report provides an update on the actions that have been taken since December 2018.

QR&Os

National Defence has taken steps to review the relevant QR&Os to determine which regulations and orders should be retained, amended, and/or repealed. The Department will hold meetings with stakeholders to achieve consensus on the proposed amendments, including in areas such as compensation and benefits. The revised QR&Os are expected to be formally submitted to legal drafters by fall 2019, which will initiate the next stage of the update process.

Departmental housing policy document

Engagement with subject matter experts on the Departmental housing policy document has taken place concurrently with the QR&O regulatory review. Specifically, the Department has utilized the Living Accommodation Working Group to review and consolidate proposed policy changes. The revised policy is expected to be ready for wider stakeholder review by December 2019.

Living Accommodation Instruction

National Defence is conducting organization-wide consultations on the Living Accommodation Instruction with a view to updating and modernizing existing housing policy provisions and incorporating entirely new provisions, such as those relating to barrier-free access. The Department expects to complete the Living Accommodation Instruction by November 2020.

Next steps

While National Defence proceeds with the review of the QR&Os, it is concurrently moving the Departmental housing policy document through the appropriate Departmental review processes. Any updates to the QR&Os and Departmental policy will be incorporated into the Living Accommodation Instruction to give CAF personnel the detail they require to effectively access and implement the full suite of CAF accommodation policies.

This ongoing effort will help ensure that National Defence is improving its management of military housing as part of broader efforts in the context of its defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, to better support CAF members and their families.

As committed in its December 2018 update, National Defence will provide the Committee with the full, three document accommodation policy in November 2020.