



National Defence

Défense nationale

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As agreed upon in the Government Response to the Tenth 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 response to Recommendation 3. This submission delivers on our commitment to provide a response to the Committee by 31 December 2019.

Sincerely,

Jody Thomas

Enclosures: 1

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 3

That the Department of National Defence formally institutionalize its commitment to develop its long-term accommodation plan by 31 December 2019, rather than solely charging this responsibility to its current office holders. This plan should clearly identify the work, time, and the resources required to meet the new operational requirements, and be provided to the Committee by 31 December 2019.

Background

In the Government Response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts' report, National Defence committed to providing the Committee with a long-term accommodation plan by December 31, 2019. This timeline was consistent with the National Defence's Management Action Plan commitment of having a long-term residential housing accommodation plan in place one year after producing a revised accommodation policy by December 2018.

In May 2019, National Defence updated the Committee on the accommodation policy review process, which consists of three elements: reviewing relevant Queen's Regulations and Orders (the policy's regulatory framework), revising the policy document itself, and developing a Living Accommodation Instruction (to provide the Canadian Armed Forces with details on implementation). National Defence noted that the review process was taking longer than anticipated due to the complexities associated with modernizing and coordinating these component parts.

As a result, National Defence revised its timeline for completing the accommodation policy from December 2018 to November 2020. Accordingly, this has delayed the delivery of the long-term accommodation plan from December 2019 to December 2021.

Progress on the long-term accommodation plan

National Defence is continuing work on all three elements of the policy to ensure that they remain aligned and mutually supportive. The policy will ultimately inform the long-term accommodation plan to ensure it meets the needs of the Canadian Armed Forces.

In the meantime, National Defence is analyzing various elements of the plan. For example, National Defence is conducting a detailed analysis of the housing units necessary to meet the operational requirements identified in June 2017 (housing that supports new entrants, training, and the unique military service lifestyle). National Defence anticipates that it will complete this process by spring 2020.

National Defence is also evaluating housing demand, its capacity to build new units, infrastructure at potential build sites, and how to improve the quality of current military housing on an ongoing basis.

Through this preliminary work, National Defence will develop a clearer picture of the work, time, and resources required to meet its operational requirements.

Going forward

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 and May 2019 updates, National Defence will provide the Committee with the full, three-part accommodation policy in November 2020. National Defence undertakes to update the Committee on its progress on the policy by June 30, 2020.

National Defence will then use this policy to develop and implement a long-term housing accommodation plan. National Defence will complete this plan, and provide a copy to the Committee, by December 31, 2021.