

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

COMMITTEE	BY	DATE	QTON #
Standing House Committee Government Operations and Estimates (OGGO)	Mr. Michael Barrett, Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes	March 20, 2023	44.1.36

QUESTION:

Mr. Michael Barrett: Okay. On the state of CFSCE in Kingston, it's reported that the quarters currently comprise four-person rooms with poor HVAC, insufficient personal storage, frequently broken shared facilities, no privacy, no kitchenettes, no cable connections, no private bathrooms or access to bulk storage. Is there anything being done to remedy that, to your knowledge?

Hon. Anita Anand: We are very focused on ensuring that the Canadian Armed Forces living arrangements, resources, equipment capabilities are improved, and we will continue to focus on that. I know that my deputy minister recently visited Kingston with this in mind so that we can continue to do our best for the men and women who serve our country so honourably.

Mr. Michael Barrett: Minister, do you know how many single rooms are required to house members who will be training at CFSCE for longer than six months? I can tell you the answer. It's 150. The number of rooms being offered by CFB Kingston is 47.

We're just talking about culture, and I wonder what it does to the culture of our Canadian Forces and to the morale of our members, our non-commissioned members, the beating heart of our military, when they don't have a place to lay their head during their training. They are exposed to mould. They are exposed to rodent infestations, not having adequate bathroom facilities.

My assessment of it is that it's egregious, and I wonder how much effort and how quickly under your leadership you're prepared to remedy that.

Hon. Anita Anand: I appreciate the intervention, and it's extremely important for us to focus on issues relating to housing and the cost of living in terms of the Canadian Armed Forces. I will ask my chief of defence staff if he could speak to this issue as it falls directly under his leadership, as well.

The Chair: I am afraid that is our time. Perhaps you could back to Mr. Barrett and the committee with a written submission, please.

REPLY:

CFSCE has access to 13 accommodation buildings (quarters) built between 1935 and 2012, with an average age of 60 years old. In accordance with the Building Condition Assessments conducted in 2017, the conditions of these quarters range between poor, fair, and good.

In the immediate to mid-term, National Defence is focused on maintaining and refreshing the quarters at Base Kingston through prioritization of work order demands. Work requests are sent to Real Property Operations Unit (Ontario) Detachment Kingston on a as required basis. These work requests are then prioritized and sent to the Detachment's tradespeople for action, based on those priorities. Compliance, health and safety, and support to operations are among the key considerations in prioritizing work requests.

Detachment Kingston is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the infrastructure on Base and recapitalization work worth up to \$10M. This includes 220 buildings across Kingston. As well, additional measures have been taken to expedite work. For instance, the Detachment recently started a program to bundle the average and low priority work into one project that will be done by contract.

Finally, in Fiscal Year 2022-23, Detachment Kingston completed \$6.8M in maintenance and repair work, \$6.5M in repair projects, and \$19.4M in recapitalization projects. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, Detachment Kingston is set to do \$16M worth of work in repair projects and \$16M in recapitalization projects. Detachment Kingston also has six projects planned with a value of \$2.1M to upgrade out of date components in quarters used by CFSCE.