

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

SEP 29 2016

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

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

Dear Mr. Sorenson,

Pursuant to Standing Order 109 of the House of Commons, I am pleased to present the official Government Response to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report entitled: *Report 5, Canadian Armed Forces Housing, of the Fall 2015 Reports of the Auditor General of Canada*, tabled in the House of Commons on 1 June 2016.

I thank you for your report and your interest in military housing. The Government is committed to ensuring that military housing meets the needs of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and accepts all three of the Committee's recommendations.

In accordance with the first recommendation, National Defence will provide the Committee with its new operational requirements for military housing by 30 June 2017, and its revised accommodation policy by 31 December 2018.

In response to the second recommendation, I would like to inform the Committee that the Canadian Forces Housing Agency (CFHA) successfully completed the roll-out of the condition assessment portion of the Housing Agency Information Management System to all its regional offices on 31 March 2016. As part of the roll-out, all housing condition data was transferred to the updated system in November 2015, and all regional offices received system training. The regional offices are presently able to enter data reflecting the condition of military housing, for example as a result of inspections and project work. Having up-to-date information on the condition of military housing will inform decision-making on modernization of housing and spending priorities.

The CFHA is committed to organizational excellence and has adopted a multi-layered approach to quality management of housing condition data, focused on strengthening both management oversight and quality management practices of the condition assessment business processes.


As part of this approach, housing condition data is being validated iteratively for accuracy through periodic inspections and regular updating and verification of data. In addition, management accountability will be strengthened, including by establishing clear roles and responsibilities for on-going

monitoring of the condition assessment information through the use of regular system-generated reports at the local, regional and national level. CFHA is also expanding the condition assessment component of the CFHA's management review framework starting on 1 April 2017, to verify the effectiveness of its quality management approach in ensuring the timely, accurate and complete capture of data. As part of this review, the CFHA will be integrating a regular status reporting process of follow-up actions, remedies and outstanding issues related to the condition assessment data identified through quality management observations. These items will be reviewed centrally and reported to the CFHA's Management Committee bi-annually in support of risk management and informed decision-making.

In accordance with the third recommendation, National Defence will provide the Committee with a long-term accommodation plan by 31 December 2019. By accepting the recommendation regarding the development of a long-term accommodation plan made by both the Auditor General and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, the Department has already institutionalized the commitment to develop the plan, and it will provide status updates on responses to parliamentary committees and external audits through the Departmental Performance Report.

I would like to thank you and other Members of the Committee for your ongoing support to improving housing for CAF members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Harjit Sajjan', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Harjit Sajjan, P.C., O.M.M., C.D., M.P.

CC:

Michel Marcotte

Clerk, Standing Committee on Public Accounts