

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION

2021

COMMAND	BRANCH
DOMINION	DEFENCE & SECURITY

SUBJECT: CANADIAN ARMED FORECES (CAF) -

DOMINION COMMAND NO: D&S 1

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion is concerned over the allegations of sexual misconduct at all levels of the CAF and the need for long lasting cultural change, the need to improve the reporting and investigation of sexual misconduct incidents and to provide support to survivors in the CAF;

WHEREAS in a 2018 Statistics Canada Survey, in the 12 months preceding the survey, 900 members of the Regular Force and 600 members of the Primary Reserve Force reported that they had experienced sexual assault in the military workplace or by a CAF member, DND employee or civilian contractor;

WHEREAS there is a need for an independent external oversight body to ensure that initiatives to change the culture and eliminate sexual misconduct are implemented by the CAF;

WHEREAS there is a need for independent investigations, that there must be a safe, secure and supportive environment for victims to report and that those who are found to have committed the misconduct be held accountable.

WHEREAS many previous studies have stated the need for an independent oversight body including:

- The 1995 *Report on the Study of Mechanics of Voice/Complaint Resolution in the Canadian Armed Forces* by Brigadier General (Retired) Larry T. Doshen which recommended that the establishment of an Inspector General office would give members confidence that their voice would be heard;
- The 1996 *Report of the Special Advisory Group (SAG) on Military Justice and Military Police Investigation Services* by the late former Chief Justice of Canada, Brian Dickson recommended the establishment of an independent office of complaint and review system;
- The 1997 Report of the Somalia Commission of Inquiry recommended that the National Defence Act be amended to establish an independent Inspector

General office with a well-defined and independent jurisdiction, comprehensive powers and reporting directly to Parliament;

- The 2015 Report, *External Review into Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Harassment in the Canadian Armed Forces* by Former Supreme Court Justice Marie Deschamps recommended the establishment of independent centre for accountability for sexual assault and harassment outside of the CAF with the responsibility for receiving reports of inappropriate sexual conduct, as well as prevention, coordination and monitoring of training, victim support, monitoring of accountability, and research, and to act as a central authority for the collection of data.
- The 2021 *Report of the Third Independent Review Authority to the Minister of National Defence* by Justice Morris Fish on the provisions of the National Defence Act related to military justice recommended the review of the independent oversight and redress mechanisms of the CAF; and
- The 2021 House of Commons Status of Women Committee Report, *Eliminating Sexual Misconduct within the CAF: Report 4* recommended the establishment of a fully independent Inspector General Office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to effect meaningful change that the Dominion President of the Royal Canadian Legion call on the Government to establish a fully independent Office of the Inspector General of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Department of National Defence reporting to Parliament.

RECOMMENDATION

CONCUR