

## Military Grievances External Review Committee Statement of Management Responsibility Including Internal Control over Financial Reporting

Responsibility for the integrity and objectivity of the accompanying financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2023, and all information contained in these financial statements, rests with the management of the Military Grievances External Review Committee (Committee). These financial statements have been prepared by management using the Government of Canada's accounting policies, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Management is responsible for the integrity and objectivity of the information in these financial statements. Some of the information in the financial statements is based on management's best estimates and judgment, and gives due consideration to materiality. To fulfill its accounting and reporting responsibilities, management maintains a set of accounts that provides a centralized record of the Committee's financial transactions. Financial information submitted in the preparation of the Public Accounts of Canada, and included in the Committee's Departmental Results Report, is consistent with these financial statements.

Management is also responsible for maintaining an effective system of internal control over financial reporting (ICFR) designed to provide reasonable assurance that financial information is reliable, that assets are safeguarded and that transactions are properly authorized and recorded in accordance with the *Financial Administration Act* and other applicable legislation, regulations, authorities and policies.

Management seeks to ensure the objectivity and integrity of data in its financial statements through careful selection, training, and development of qualified staff; through organizational arrangements that provide appropriate divisions of responsibility; through communication programs aimed at ensuring that regulations, policies, standards, and managerial authorities are understood throughout the Committee, and through conducting an annual risk-based assessment of the effectiveness of the system of ICFR.

The system of ICFR is designed to mitigate risks to a reasonable level based on an on-going process to identify key risks, to assess effectiveness of associated key controls, and to make any necessary adjustments. A risk-based assessment of the system of ICFR for the year ended March 31, 2023 was completed in accordance with the Treasury Board Policy on Financial Management and the results and action plans are summarized in the annex.

The financial statements of the Committee have not been audited.

Original signed by	Original signed by	
Vihar Joshi, OMM, MSM, K.C., CD, LSM, CIC.C	Jean-François Poirier, CPA, M.A.P.	

Interim Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Kanata, Canada July 31, 2023

Chief Financial Officer Val-des-Monts, Canada July 31, 2023



# Military Grievances External Review Committee Statement of Financial Position (*Unaudited*) As at March 31

(in dollars)

	2023	2022
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 4)	\$647,543	\$563,070
Vacation pay and compensatory leave	380,221	391,193
Employee future benefits (note 5)	142,321	168,510
Total net liabilities	1,170,085	1,122,773
Financial assets		
Due from Consolidated Revenue Fund	634,308	520,831
Accounts receivable and advances (note 6)	18,992	71,793
Total net financial assets	653,300	592,624
Departmental net debt	516,785	530,149
Non-financial assets		
Tangible capital assets (note 7)	397,600	572,469
Total non-financial assets	397,600	572,469
Departmental net financial position	(\$119,185)	\$42,320

Contractual obligations (note 8)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

Original signed by

Original signed by

Vihar Joshi, OMM, MSM, K.C., CD, LSM, CIC.C Interim Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Kanata, Canada July 31, 2023 Jean-François Poirier, CPA, M.A.P. Chief Financial Officer Val-des-Monts, Canada July 31, 2023



# Military Grievances External Review Committee Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position (*Unaudited*) For the Year Ended March 31

(in dollars)

	2023 Planned Results	2023 Actual	<b>2022</b> Actual
Expenses Independent review of military grievances	\$4,992,000	\$4,997,029	\$5,031,753
Internal services Total expenses	2,572,000 <b>7,564,000</b>	2,701,691 <b>7,698,720</b>	2,567,490 <b>7,599,243</b>
Revenues	4 000	500	4
Miscellaneous revenues  Total revenues	1,000 <b>1,000</b>	598 <b>598</b>	4
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	7,563,000	7,698,122	7,599,239
Government funding and transfers			
Net cash provided by Government of Canada Change in due from Consolidated Revenue Fund Services provided without charge by other government		6,947,878 113,477	7,087,082 (82,816)
departments (note 9)  Transfer of salary overpayments from other government departments		466,135 9,127	480,206 441
Net cost of operations after government funding and transfers	-	161,505	114,326
Departmental net financial position - Beginning of year		42,320	156,646
Departmental net financial position - End of year	- -	(\$119,185)	\$42,320

Segmented Information (note 10)

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



# **Military Grievances External Review Committee** Statement of Change in Departmental Net Debt (Unaudited) For the Year Ended March 31

(in dollars)

	2023	2022
Net cost of operations after government funding and transfers	\$161,505	\$114,326
Change due to tangible capital assets		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	2,158	9,680
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(177,027)	(186,267)
Total change due to tangible capital assets	(174,869)	(176,587)
Net decrease in departmental net debt	(13,364)	(62,261)
Departmental net debt - Beginning of year	530,149	592,410
Departmental net debt - End of year	\$516,785	\$530,149

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.



# Military Grievances External Review Committee Statement of Cash Flows (*Unaudited*) For the Year Ended March 31

(in dollars)

	2023	2022
Operating activities		
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	\$7,698,122	\$7,599,239
Non-cash items:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets Services provided without charge by other government	(177,027)	(186,267)
departments (note 9)	(466,135)	(480,206)
Transfer of salary overpayments from other		
government departments	(9,127)	(441)
Variations in Statement of Financial Position:		
Increase (decrease) in accounts receivable and advances	(52,801)	64,217
Decrease (increase) in accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(84,473)	41,491
Decrease in vacation pay and compensatory leave	10,972	22,400
Decrease in employee future benefits	26,189	16,969
Cash used in operating activities	6,945,720	7,077,402
Capital investing activities		
Acquisitions of tangible capital assets	2,158	9,680
Cash used in capital investing activities	2,158	9,680
Net cash provided by Government of Canada	\$6,947,878	\$7,087,082

The accompanying notes form an integral part of these financial statements.

(in dollars)

#### 1. Authority and objectives

The raison d'être of the Committee is to provide an independent and external review of military grievances. Section 29 of the National Defence Act provides a statutory right for an officer or a non-commissioned member who has been aggrieved, to grieve a decision, an act or an omission in the administration of the affairs of the Canadian Armed Forces. The importance of this broad right cannot be overstated since it is, with certain narrow exceptions, the only formal complaint process available to Canadian Armed Forces members.

The Committee is an independent administrative tribunal reporting to Parliament through the Minister of National Defence. It reviews military grievances referred to it pursuant to s. 29 of the *National Defence Act* and provides findings and recommendations to the <u>Chief of the Defence Staff</u> and the Canadian Armed Forces member who submitted the grievance.

The Committee also has the obligation to deal with all matters as informally and expeditiously as the circumstances and the considerations of fairness permit.

The Committee operates under the following core responsibilities:

- o Independent Review of Military Grievances
- Internal Services



(in dollars)

#### 2. Summary of significant accounting policies

These financial statements are prepared using the Committee's accounting policies stated below, which are based on Canadian public sector accounting standards. The presentation and results using the stated accounting policies do not result in any significant differences from Canadian public sector accounting standards.

Significant accounting policies are as follows:

#### (a) Parliamentary authorities

The Committee is financed by the Government of Canada through Parliamentary authorities. Financial reporting of authorities provided to the Committee do not parallel financial reporting according to generally accepted accounting principles since authorities are primarily based on cash flow requirements. Consequently, items recognized in the Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position and in the Statement of Financial Position are not necessarily the same as those provided through authorities from Parliament. Note 3 provides a reconciliation between the bases of reporting. The planned results amounts in the "Expenses" and "Revenues" sections of the Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position are the amounts reported in the Future-oriented Statement of Operations included in the 2022-2023 Departmental Plan. Planned results are not presented in the "Government funding and transfers" section of the Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position and in the Statement of Change in Departmental Net Debt because these amounts were not included in the 2022-2023 Departmental Plan.

#### **(b)** Net cash provided by Government

The Committee operates within the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF), which is administered by the Receiver General for Canada. All cash received by the Committee is deposited to the CRF, and all cash disbursements made by the Committee are paid from the CRF. The net cash provided by Government is the difference between all cash receipts and all cash disbursements, including transactions between departments of the Government.

#### (c) Amounts due from or to the CRF

Amounts due from or to the CRF are the result of timing differences at year-end between when a transaction affects authorities and when it is processed through the CRF. Amounts due from the CRF represent the net amount of cash that the Committee is entitled to draw from the CRF without further authorities to discharge its liabilities.

#### (d) Revenues

Other revenues are recognized in the period the event giving rise to the revenues occurred. Revenues that are non-respendable are not available to discharge the Committee's liabilities. While the Interim Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer is expected to maintain accounting control, he has no authority regarding the disposition of non-respendable revenues. As a result, non-respendable revenues are considered to be earned on behalf of the Government of Canada and are therefore presented as of reduction of the entity's gross revenues.

#### (e) Expenses

Vacation pay and compensatory leave are accrued as the benefits are earned by employees under their respective terms of employment. Services provided without charge by other government departments for employer contributions to the health and dental insurance plans are recorded as operating expenses at their carrying value.

(in dollars)

#### (f) Employee future benefits

- i. Pension benefits Eligible employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan, a multiemployer pension plan administered by the Government. The Committee's contributions to the Plan are charged to expenses in the year incurred and represent the total departmental obligation to the Plan. The Committee's responsibility with regard to the Plan is limited to its contributions. Actuarial surpluses or deficiencies are recognized in the financial statements of the Government of Canada, as the Plan's sponsor.
- ii. Severance benefits The accumulation of severance benefits for voluntary departures ceased for applicable employee groups. The remaining obligation for employees who did not withdraw benefits is calculated using information derived from the results of the actuarially determined liability for employee severance benefits for the Government as a whole.

#### **(g)** Financial instruments

A contract establishing a financial instrument creates, at its inception, rights, and obligations to receive or deliver economic benefits. The financial assets and financial liabilities portray these rights and obligations in the financial statements. The Committee recognizes a financial instrument when it becomes a party to a financial instrument contract.

Financial instruments consist of accounts and loans receivable, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

All financial assets and liabilities are recorded at cost or amortized cost. Any associated transaction costs are added to the carrying value upon initial recognition.

Accounts receivable are initially recorded at cost. When necessary, an allowance for valuation is recorded to reduce the carrying value of accounts receivable to amounts that approximate their net recoverable value.

#### (h) Non-financial assets

The costs of acquiring equipment and other capital property are capitalized as tangible capital assets and are amortized to expense over the estimated useful lives of the assets, as described in Note 7. All tangible capital assets and leasehold improvements having an initial cost of \$10,000 or more are recorded at their acquisition cost. Tangible capital assets do not include immovable assets located on reserves as defined in the *Indian Act*, works of art, museum collection and Crown land to which no acquisition cost is attributable; and intangible assets.

#### (i) Measurement uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported and disclosed amounts of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes at March 31. The estimates are based on facts and circumstances, historical experience, general economic conditions and reflect the Government's best estimate of the related amount at the end of the reporting period. The most significant items where estimates are used are the liability for employee future benefits and the useful life of tangible capital assets. Actual results could significantly differ from those estimated. Management's estimates are reviewed periodically and, as adjustments become necessary, they are recorded in the financial statements in the year they become known.



(in dollars)

(j) Related party transactions Related party transactions, other than inter-entity transactions, are recorded at the exchange amount.

Inter-entity transactions are transactions between commonly controlled entities. Inter-entity transactions, other than restructuring transactions, are recorded on a gross basis and are measured at the carrying amount, except for the following:

- Services provided on a recovery basis are recognized as revenues and expenses on a gross basis and measured at the exchange amount.
- Certain services received on a without charge basis are recorded for the Committee's financial statement purposes at the carrying amount.



#### 3. Parliamentary authorities

The Committee receives most of its funding through annual parliamentary authorities. Items recognized in the Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position and the Statement of Financial Position in one year may be funded through parliamentary authorities in prior, current or future years. Accordingly, the Committee has different net results of operations for the year on a government funding basis than on an accrual accounting basis. The differences are reconciled in the following tables:

## (a) Reconciliation of net cost of operations to current year authorities used

	2023	2022
Net cost of operations before government funding and transfers	\$7,698,122	\$7,599,239
Adjustments for items affecting net cost of operations but not affecting authorities:		
Amortization of tangible capital assets	(177,027)	(186,267)
Gain on disposal of tangible capital and non-capital assets	331	0
Services provided without charge by other government		
departments	(466,135)	(480,206)
Decrease in vacation pay and compensatory leave	10,972	22,400
Decrease in employee future benefits	26,189	16,969
Refunds of prior year expenditures	10,351	16,724
Increase in expenditures not being charged to appropriations		_
at the same time	(8,802)	0
Increase (decrease) in salary overpayments to be recovered	(7.040)	0.750
not charged to authorities	(7,819)	9,752
Total items affecting net cost of operations but not affecting authorities	(611,940)	(600,628)
Adjustments for items not affecting net cost of operations but affecting authorities:		
Acquisition of tangible capital assets	2,158	9,680
Increase in salary overpayments	860	16,770
Total items not affecting net cost of operations but affecting authorities	3,018	26,450
Current year authorities used	\$7,089,200	\$7,025,061



(in dollars)

### (b) Authorities provided and used

	2023	2022
Authorities provided:		
Vote 1 - Operating expenditures	\$6,883,125	\$6,711,875
Statutory amounts	767,802	742,446
Less:		
Lapsed : Operating	(561,727)	(429,260)
Current year authorities used	\$7,089,200	\$7,025,061



## 4. Accounts payable and accrued liabilities

The following table presents details of the Committee's accounts payable and accrued liabilities:

	2023	2022
Accounts payable – Other government departments and agencies	\$137,315	\$119,863
Accounts payable – External parties	46,361	51,414
Total accounts payable	183,676	171,277
Accrued liabilities	463,867	391,793
Total accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$647,543	\$563,070



(in dollars)

#### 5. Employee future benefits

#### (a) Pension benefits

The Committee's employees participate in the Public Service Pension Plan (the "Plan"), which is sponsored and administered by the Government of Canada. Pension benefits accrue up to a maximum period of 35 years at a rate of 2 percent per year of pensionable service, times the average of the best five consecutive years of earnings. The benefits are integrated with Canada/Quebec Pension Plan benefits and they are indexed to inflation.

Both the employees and the Committee contribute to the cost of the Plan. Due to the amendment of the Public Service Superannuation Act following the implementation of provisions related to Economic Action Plan 2012, employee contributors have been divided into two groups - Group 1 relates to existing plan members as of December 31, 2012 and Group 2 relates to members joining the Plan as of January 1, 2013. Each group has a distinct contribution rate.

The 2022-2023 expense amounts to \$501,389 (\$501,596 in 2021-2022). For Group 1 members, the expense represents approximately 1.02 times (1.01 times in 2021-2022) the employee contributions and, for Group 2 members, approximately 1.00 time (1.00 time in 2021-2022) the employee contributions.

The Committee's responsibility with regard to the Plan is limited to its contributions. Actuarial surpluses or deficiencies are recognized in the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Government of Canada, as the Plan's sponsor.

#### (b) Severance benefits

Severance benefits provided to the Committee's employees were previously based on an employee's eligibility, years of service and salary at termination of employment. However, since 2011 the accumulation of severance benefits for voluntary departures progressively ceased for substantially all employees. Employees subject to these changes were given the option to be paid the full or partial value of benefits earned to date or collect the full or remaining value of benefits upon departure from the public service. By March 31, 2023, substantially all settlements for immediate cash out were completed. Severance benefits are unfunded and, consequently, the outstanding obligation will be paid from future authorities.

The changes in the obligations during the year were as follows:

	2023	2022
Accrued benefit obligation - Beginning of year	\$168,510	\$185,479
Expense for the year	(26,189)	(5,168)
Benefits paid during the year	0	(11,801)
Accrued benefit obligation - End of year	\$142,321	\$168,510



(in dollars)

## 6. Accounts receivable and advances

The following table presents details of the Committee's accounts receivable and advances balances:

	2023	2022
Descirables Other reverses the perturbation and expension	¢12.059	Ф4E 204
Receivables – Other government departments and agencies	\$13,958	\$45,384
Receivables – External parties	3,098	24,473
Employee advances	1,936	1,936
Net accounts receivable	\$18,992	\$71,793

The following table provides an aging analysis of accounts receivable from external parties and the associated valuation allowances used to reflect their net recoverable value:

	2023	2022
Accounts receivables from external parties  Not past due	\$3,048	\$24,423
Number of days past due		
1 to 30	0	0
31 to 60	0	0
61 to 90	0	0
91 to 365	0	0
Over 365	50	50
Total	\$3,098	\$24,473



(in dollars)

## 7. Tangible capital assets

Amortization of tangible capital assets is done on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset as follows:

Asset Class	Amortization Period
Machinery and equipment	10 years
Informatics hardware	3 to 6 years
Informatics software	3 years
Other equipment	<b>10</b> years
Leasehold improvements	Over the useful life of the improvement or the lease term, whichever is shorter



(in dollars)

	Cost				Accumulated Amortization				Net Book Value	
Capital Asset Class	Opening Balance	Acquisitions	Disposals and Write- Offs	Closing Balance	Opening Balance	Amortization	Disposals and Write- Offs	Closing Balance	2023	2022
Machinery and equipment	\$17,321	\$0	\$0	\$17,321	\$8,660	\$1,732	\$0	\$10,392	\$6,929	\$8,661
Informatics hardware	620,226	2,158	17,263	605,121	495,365	64,903	17,263	543,005	62,116	124,861
Informatics software	77,312	0	0	77,312	77,312	0	0	77,312	0	0
Other equipment	68,867	0	15,254	53,613	41,291	5,361	15,254	31,398	22,215	27,576
Leasehold improvements	778,697	0	0	778,697	367,326	105,031	0	472,357	306,340	411,371
Total	\$1,562,423	\$2,158	\$32,517	\$1,532,064	\$989,954	\$177,027	\$32,517	\$1,134,464	\$397,600	\$572,469



(in dollars)

## 8. Contractual obligations

The nature of the Committee's activities may result in some large multi-year contracts and obligations whereby the Committee will be obligated to make future payments when the services/goods are received. Significant contractual obligations that can be reasonably estimated are summarized as follows:

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029 and subsequent	Total
Operating lease	\$409,953	\$409,953	\$375,790	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,195,696



(in dollars)

### 9. Related party transactions

The Committee is related as a result of common ownership to all government departments, agencies, and Crown corporations. Related parties also include individuals who are members of key management personnel or close family members of those individuals, and entities controlled by, or under shared control of, a member of key management personnel or a close family member of that individual.

The Committee enters into transactions with these entities in the normal course of business and on normal trade terms.

#### (a) Common services provided without charge by other government departments

During the year, the Committee received services without charge from certain common service organizations, related to the employer's contribution to the health and dental insurance plans. These services provided without charge have been recorded at the carrying value in the Committee's Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position as follows:

_	2023	2022
Employer's contribution to the health and dental insurance plans	\$466,135	\$480,206
Total	\$466,135	\$480,206

The Government has centralized some of its administrative activities for efficiency, cost-effectiveness purposes and economic delivery of programs to the public. As a result, the Government uses central agencies and common service organizations so that one department performs services for all other departments and agencies without charge. The costs of these services, such as the payroll and cheque issuance services provided by Public Services and Procurement Canada and audit services provided by the Office of the Auditor General are not included in the Committee's Statement of Operations and Departmental Net Financial Position.

#### (b) Other transactions with other government departments and agencies

	2023	2022
Accounts receivable	\$13,958	\$45,384
Accounts payable	137,315	119,863
Expenses	1,240,592	1,238,788

Expenses disclosed in (b) exclude common services provided without charge, which are already disclosed in (a).



(in dollars)

### 10. Segmented information

Presentation by segment is based on the Committee's core responsibility. The presentation by segment is based on the same accounting policies as described in the Summary of significant accounting policies in note 2. The following table presents the expenses incurred and revenues generated for the main core responsibilities, by major object of expense and by major type of revenue. The segment results for the period are as follows:

Operating expenses	Independent Review of Military Grievances	Internal Services	2023 Total	2022 Total
Salaries and employee benefits	\$4,556,467	\$1,945,049	\$6,501,516	\$6,380,511
Rentals	305,095	272,101	577,196	524,452
Professional and special services	72,143	265,842	337,985	324,301
Amortization of tangible capital				
assets	15,055	161,972	177,027	186,267
Repair and maintenance	8,538	23,683	32,221	24,413
Acquisition of non-capital assets	17,264	12,502	29,766	132,638
Transportation and communications	13,679	6,683	20,362	11,466
Utilities, materials and supplies	8,704	4,458	13,162	7,149
Information	84	10,277	10,361	8,400
Other	0	(876)	(876)	(354)
Total expenses	4,997,029	2,701,691	7,698,720	7,599,243
Revenues				
Miscellaneous revenues	0	598	598	4
Total revenues	0	598	598	4
Net cost of operations	\$4,997,029	\$2,701,093	\$7,698,122	\$7,599,239



Annex to the Statement of Management Responsibility Including Internal Control over Financial Reporting of the Military Grievances External Review Committee for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 (unaudited)

#### 1. Introduction

In support of an effective system of internal control, the Committee conducted self-assessments of key control areas that were identified to be assessed in the 2022-23 fiscal year. A summary of the assessment results and action plan is provided in section 2.

The Committee will assess all key control areas over a 5-year cycle. The assessment plan is provided in section 3.

## 2. Assessment results for the 2022-2023 fiscal year

The Committee completed the assessment of key control areas as indicated in the following table. A summary of the results, action plans, and additional details are also provided.

Key control areas	Remediation required	Summary results and action plan
Delegation	Yes	Instances of non-compliance with the required training and financial delegation instrument were identified. Prompt corrective actions were taken to address these issues.

With respect to the key control areas of the delegation of spending and financial authorities, for the most part, controls related to spending and financial authorities were largely effective and form an adequate basis for the Committee's system of internal control.

During the fiscal year, a few minor issues regarding the revalidation of knowledge every five years were identified and promptly addressed.

Also, there was a notable gap in terms of the frequency of updates to the financial delegation instrument. Despite a recent update made by the Committee during the fiscal year, the previous review occurred five years ago, highlighting the need in the future for more regular assessments and updates.

The Committee was audited by the Office of the Comptroller General on key control areas in 2015-2016. A summary of the audit results and remedial actions are posted on the Committee's web site at <a href="https://www.canada.ca/en/military-grievances-external-review/corporate/financial-statements-quarterly-financial-reports.html">https://www.canada.ca/en/military-grievances-external-review/corporate/financial-statements-quarterly-financial-reports.html</a>.

# 3. Assessment plan

The Committee will assess the performance of its system of internal control by focusing on key control areas over a cycle of 5 years as shown in the following table.

Assessment Plan							
Key control areas	2022 to 2023 fiscal year	2023 to 2024 fiscal year	2024 to 2025 fiscal year	2025 to 2026 fiscal year	2026 to 2027 fiscal year		
Delegation	Х						
Contracting		X					
Year-end Payables		Х					
Pay Administration			Х				
Travel			Х				
Financial Management Governance			Х				
Hospitality				Х			
Accountable Advances				Х			
Acquisition cards					Х		
Leave					Х		
Special Financial Authorities					Х		