

Minister
of National Defence



Ministre
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

November 3, 2021

The Honourable Louise Arbour C.C., G.O.Q.
Borden Ladner Gervais S.E.N.C.R.L., S.R.L.
1000, rue De La Gauchetière Ouest
Bureau 900
Montréal, QC H3B 5H4
Canada

Madame Arbour,

I was pleased to receive your interim report and recommendations in the context of your role as the Reviewer in the Independent External Comprehensive Review of the Department of National Defence (DND) and the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF). I share your concerns and agree that it is necessary to establish a process that will facilitate the handling of allegations of sexual offences in an independent and transparent way outside of the CAF and the military justice system.

I am grateful to you for your efforts to build on the excellent work of the Honourable Marie Deschamps and the Honourable Morris J. Fish. I very much believe that a comprehensive approach to addressing sexual harassment and misconduct in the CAF is necessary for the CAF to live up to its stated values and the expectations of Canadians. I am pleased, therefore to accept your interim recommendations and to inform you that the Defence Team will begin work immediately to implement them. This process will include the implementation of the Honourable Morris J. Fish's recommendation No. 68. In particular, all sexual assaults and other criminal offences of a sexual nature under the *Criminal Code*, including historical sexual offences, alleged to have been perpetrated by a CAF member past or present, will be referred to civilian authorities.

I am pleased to inform you that the Canadian Forces Provost Marshal (CFPM) and the Director of Military Prosecutions (DMP) are working quickly to develop the mechanisms and processes that will be required to implement your interim recommendations. I understand that they intend to engage with your team in order to ensure that their work on implementation remains consistent with your recommendations. In addition, the CFPM and DMP have begun to engage federal, provincial and territorial (FPT) counterparts on implementation of these interim recommendations and my officials are collaborating with the Department of Justice who have confirmed their willingness to facilitate or support these FPT discussions.

As Minister, I will ensure that you are kept informed on a monthly basis of the steps taken to implement your interim recommendations and would be grateful for any advice on the

Canada 

implementation process moving forward. The unprecedented scrutiny that the institution is undergoing represents an equally unprecedented opportunity for meaningful change to build confidence in the CAF and the military justice system, and I am looking forward to your final recommendations to help drive that change.

Thank you again for your letter and for your continuing hard work on your review. I was pleased to discuss these interim recommendations with you and look forward to our further discussions in connection with your ongoing work to prepare your final report.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Anand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anita" and the last name "Anand" clearly distinguishable.

The Honourable Anita Anand, PC, MP
Minister of National Defence