

# CANADIAN ARMED FORCES: A KINGSTON LEGACY



**MARK  
GERRETSEN**

Member of Parliament  
Kingston and the Islands



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA



@MarkGerretsen



mark.gerretsen@parl.gc.ca



markgerretsen.libparl.ca

Kingston and the Islands has a rich military history and a large military community. Many of my constituents are either active or retired members, with some currently serving abroad. The Canadian government is committed to providing the best resources to our armed forces so that they may carry out the important task of keeping Canadians safe, both at home and overseas.

## CONTACT INFO:

### OTTAWA OFFICE

House of Commons  
Room 613  
Justice Building  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6  
613-996-1955

### CONSTITUENCY OFFICE

841 Princess Street  
Kingston, Ontario  
K7L 1G7  
613-542-3243

## REINFORCING OUR NATIONAL DEFENCE

Recent investments have reversed a three decade long trend of lagging defence budgets, with spending now on track to double between 2016/17 and 2026/27. The Spring Budget will continue the Canadian government's commitment to strengthening domestic security by providing more than \$8 billion in new funding over five years. This money is in addition to the planned spending increases proposed in the 2017 *Strong, Secure, Engaged* defence policy, which bolsters Canada's military capabilities.

## SUPPORTING CULTURAL CHANGE IN THE FORCES

The government has made a commitment to spend \$100.5 million over six years to strengthen leadership in the Canadian Forces. This includes modernizing the justice system, undertaking engagement and consultation on cultural change, and enhancing restorative services through improvements in dispute resolution and coaching services. \$144.3 million is also proposed over five years to expand the Canadian Forces' health services and physical fitness programs to be more responsive to women and gender diverse military personnel. This will begin in 2022/2023.

## THE 2022 ARBOUR REPORT

In April 2021, then Defence Minister Sajjan asked former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour to conduct a full and independent external review of the culture and existing policies of the Department of National Defence. The critical task was to understand the extent and prevalence of harassment and sexual misconduct in the organization, especially given that existing efforts have failed to address or resolve systemic issues or meet their goals. What resulted was the 2022 Arbour Report. The report makes 48 substantive recommendations addressing a vast array of issues. These include but are not limited to: sexual misconduct in the forces, military justice, military colleges, and changes to the recruitment process. The full report will be made available mid-June and a copy can be requested by sending an e-mail to: [information@forces.gc.ca](mailto:information@forces.gc.ca).

Some of the recommendations will be acted upon immediately by the Department of National Defence, either through strengthening existing efforts or creating new ones. These include changes to how the forces handle sexual misconduct (by changing definitions and resources), changes to recruitment and training (which will now include a probationary period), and also the way that promotions and career management is handled. The report also focuses on systemic changes that will be addressed both immediately and over time. It is the goal of this report, and the Department of Defence, to create meaningful change and deliver reforms that stand the test of time.