



# **Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs**

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## *ANNUAL REPORT*

*2015*

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Halifax

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Honourable Kevin Murphy  
Speaker  
House of Assembly  
Province House  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, I am pleased to submit the Annual Report of the committee for the period from September 2014 to August 2015 of the Sixty-Second General Assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Derek Mombourquette', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Derek Mombourquette, MLA, Sydney-Whitney Pier  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
2015

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## INTRODUCTION

The Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, an all-party committee of the House of Assembly, was struck at the beginning of the First Session of the Sixty-Second General Assembly, pursuant to Rule 60(1) of the *Province of Nova Scotia Rules and Forms of Procedure of the House of Assembly*.

Although there is no written mandate for the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs, this report was written with the understanding that the committee is established for the purpose of considering matters pertaining to veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Legion.

## MEMBERSHIP

There shall be no more than nine Members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to this Committee. The current membership of the Veterans Affairs Committee is as follows:

Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA (Chair)  
Sydney-Whitney Pier

Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA  
Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg

Mr. Keith Irving, MLA (Vice Chair)  
Kings South

Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA  
Northside-Westmount

Ms. Patricia Arab, MLA  
Fairview-Clayton Park

Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA  
Sackville-Cobequid

Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA  
Hammonds Plains-Lucasville

Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA  
Chester-St. Margaret's

Mr. David Wilton, MLA  
Cape Breton Centre

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA, and Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA, joined the Committee in February 2015, replacing the Hon. Pat Dunn, MLA, and Mr. Larry Harrison, MLA. The Hon. Denise Peterson-Rafuse, MLA, replaced the Hon. Gordie Gosse, MLA, in April 2015. Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA, replaced Ms. Pam Eyking, MLA, as Chair and Mr. David Wilton, MLA, replaced Mr. Stephen Gough, MLA, in August 2015. Mr. Keith Irving, MLA, was appointed as Vice Chair in August 2015.

## **PROCEDURES AND OPERATIONS**

The Veterans Affairs Committee traditionally meets once a month. These meetings are usually held on the second Thursday of the month in the Legislative Committees Office.

## **NOTICES, TRANSCRIPTS AND REPORTS**

### **NOTICES**

Notices of committee meetings are sent to all members of the committee, caucus office staff, legislative staff and Communications Nova Scotia. The notices are also posted in Province House and on the Nova Scotia Legislature website at the following address:

<http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/calendar/>

### **TRANSCRIPTS**

Transcripts of all Veterans Affairs Committee meetings are available from the Legislative Library in Province House, the Legislative Committees Office, or on the Veterans Affairs Committee webpage at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/)

### **REPORTS**

All reports of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs are compiled by the Legislative Committees Office and forwarded to committee members for consideration. Upon completion of the review and approval of the report, the Chair tables the report with the Speaker of the House of Assembly or with the Clerk of the House of Assembly.

Distribution of the report is as follows:

To the Speaker and the Clerk of the House of Assembly; committee members; all witnesses who appeared before the committee; the Nova Scotia Legislative Library; the caucus offices; and the media. This report is also available to the general public upon request from the Legislative Committees Office and is available on the Veterans Affairs Committee webpage at the following address:

[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/veterans\\_affairs](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/reports/veterans_affairs)

## **RESEARCH MATERIAL**

Research material for the Veterans Affairs Committee is compiled by the Legislative Library in consultation with the committee clerk. Research material is compiled in an electronic format and is distributed by the committee clerk prior to the meeting to members, staff and witnesses.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The committee wishes to extend its gratitude to all witnesses for their time and co-operation. Special appreciation is extended to the Legislative Committees Office; Hansard Reporting Services; Legislative Television and Broadcast Services and the Nova Scotia Legislative Library.

# **PUBLIC HEARINGS**



**COMMISSIONAIRES NOVA SCOTIA - OVERVIEW**

**December 11, 2014**

**WITNESS**

**Commissionaires Nova Scotia**

Vice Admiral D.E. (Dusty) Miller, CMM, MSC, CD (Ret'd) – Chair, Board of Governors  
Lieutenant Commander H.A. (Heather) MacKinnon, MD, MSM, CD (Ret'd) – Chair, Veterans' Support Committee  
Commodore B.W. (Bruce) Belliveau, CD (Ret'd) – Chief Executive Officer

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Commissionaires Nova Scotia appeared before the committee to provide information on the organization and its activities and were seeking the committee's continued support in its work to provide employment for veterans. Commissionaires Nova Scotia is a not-for-profit organization that seeks employment for former members of the Canadian Armed Forces and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. They are the largest security provider and employer of veterans in the province. Commissionaires Nova Scotia provides employment for 1,600 people and are looking to expand their business within the province.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Hon. Julian Fantino providing a response to the committee's invitation to appear at the March 2014 meeting.
- Correspondence from Hon. Tony Clement in response to a motion passed at the February 17, 2014 meeting.
- Correspondence from the Hon. Julian Fantino in response to a motion passed at the March 24, 2014 meeting.
- Correspondence from the Hon. Michel Samson in response to a motion passed at the March 24, 2014 meeting.
- Correspondence from Blair Beed with regard to the naming of the Halifax Memorial Library. A motion was introduced:
  - That the committee refer the matter to the Halifax Regional Municipality.
    - Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA
    - Motion carried

The committee was informed that Commissionaires Nova Scotia is provided with a right of first refusal on federal government security contracts and that it would like to explore a similar arrangement with the province. A motion was introduced:

- That the committee send a letter to the Premier, the Minister responsible for Military Relations, requesting a response to the possibility to have a similar standing offer that would give the commissionaires the first right of refusal for government security contracts.
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion defeated

The 2014 Annual Report of the Committee was reviewed. A motion was introduced:

- To approve the Annual Report.
  - Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines
  - Motion carried

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received from Commissionaires Nova Scotia:

- Are your financial statements public?
- What percentage of total revenue are Provincial Government contracts?

## **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2014dec11](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2014dec11)

**COMMEMORATING FALLEN NOVA SCOTIAN SOLDIERS FROM THE AFGHANISTAN MISSION & AGENDA SETTING** **January 8, 2015**

**WITNESS**

Major Tim Dunne (Ret'd)

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Major Tim Dunne appeared before the committee with respect to the commemoration of fallen Nova Scotian soldiers from the Afghanistan mission. Nova Scotia has more Canadian Forces Members on a per capita basis than any other province, with an estimated 12% of the military being Nova Scotian. Also, 10% of the fatalities which occurred as part of Canadian military operations in Afghanistan were Nova Scotians. Major Dunne would like to encourage the province to honour the memories of the Canadian Forces members from Nova Scotia who gave their lives in service to their country in the Afghanistan conflict. Major Dunne suggested possibly naming provincial parks in honour of those members from Nova Scotia.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from Commissionaires Nova Scotia providing information requested at the December meeting.
- A copy of the correspondence from Commissionaires Nova Scotia to the Premier and Minister Kousoulis expressing interest in exploring the possibility of creating a provincial Right of First Refusal.

During Major Dunne's presentation, reference was made to a ceremony that was conducted in the past by the Minister responsible for Military Relations whereby a handmade wooden box containing a Nova Scotia flag would be presented to the families of fallen soldiers from Nova Scotia. Interest was expressed as to whether this ceremony was still occurring. It was agreed to write a letter inquiring whether the ceremony was still being performed and to indicate that the committee would support the continuation of this ceremony. The committee also suggested that consideration be given to exploring how the province could recognize fallen Nova Scotian soldiers from the Afghanistan conflict.

Premier Stephen McNeil provided the following response:

"The practice of presenting a handcrafted wooden box containing a Nova Scotia flag to the families of Nova Scotian fallen soldiers of the Afghanistan conflict was an initiative developed in recognition of the fact that Canadian Forces were in active combat. The Afghanistan conflict resulted in a marked rise in fallen

soldiers and this initiative acknowledged the uniqueness of the circumstances. It is certainly something the government would revisit if Canada were to re-engage in active combat in the future.

In my role as Minister responsible for Military Relations, I am proactively working with the Canadian Forces and other relevant organizations in recognizing and commemorating the valuable contributions that our service people make to our country.”

There was also discussion surrounding who is responsible for protocol with respect to remembering veterans. A motion was introduced:

- To write a letter to the Protocol Office to inquire what the protocols are for recognizing fallen Nova Scotian soldiers/RCMP members and to confirm who is responsible for provincial protocols/procedures related to veterans’ event planning in the province.
  - Moved by Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried

The Chief of Protocol provided the following response:

“Recognizing fallen Nova Scotian soldiers is a responsibility the Protocol Office administers with great attention to detail. The procedure for Deployed Members of the Armed Forces is as follows:

**Upon notification of the death of a deployed member of the armed forces from Nova Scotia, flags are flown at half-mast on Province House and provincial buildings and establishments in the deployed member’s area of residence.**

In practice, the same respect is shown to individuals with strong ties to Nova Scotia, including members of the RCMP. Once the Protocol Office receives a confirmed report of the passing a current or former resident, the flags will be flown at half-mast in that individual’s current or former area of residence.

Furthermore, it should be noted that flags are half-masted at Province House and all provincial buildings and establishments on Remembrance Day (November 11th) and on Police and Peace Officers’ National Memorial Day (the last Sunday of September).

In reply to the second part of your request, the Protocol Office offers advice on protocols and procedures related to various events, potentially including events in the province involving veterans. In those cases we would collaborate with the Protocol Office of DND in the provision of such advice.”

An agenda setting session was held and the committee discussed its agenda and selected witnesses. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion
  - Moved by Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
  - Motion carried
- The Protocol Office
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion defeated
- Injured Soldiers Network
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried
- Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried

The federal Veterans Ombudsman Office contacted the committee clerk to indicate that the Veterans Ombudsman would be visiting Nova Scotia and would be available to meet with the committee if interested. It was agreed that the committee would like to meet informally with the Veterans Ombudsman during his visit to Nova Scotia, if it could be arranged.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2015jan08](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2015jan08)

## **THE HALIFAX AND REGION MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE - OVERVIEW**

**February 12, 2015**

### **WITNESS**

#### **Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre**

Ms. Barbara Corbett – Chair of the Board of Directors

Ms. Colleen Calvert – Executive Director

### **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre appeared before the committee to provide an overview of the services they offer to military families, as well as some of the challenges faced by military families. The Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre is a registered charity that promotes the health and social well-being of individuals, families and communities who share the military life experience. They provide services to 6800 regular force members, 2100 reserve force members and approximately 21,000 children and spouses of Canadian Armed Forces members.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The committee discussed its meeting schedule during the upcoming sitting of the Legislature and agreed to not meet during the House session.

The Chair informed the committee that the meeting with the federal Veterans Ombudsman, which had been discussed at the January meeting, was not able to be arranged because of inclement weather and scheduling conflicts.

During the presentation, the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre highlighted a number of challenges that are faced by military families. These challenges were discussed by the committee and motions were introduced:

- That the Committee on Veterans Affairs write to the Atlantic Vice Presidents of the Canadian major banks to urge them to work with the Military Family Resource Centres to ensure employment transfers when Canadian Forces spouses are assigned to Nova Scotia.
  - Moved by Hon. Chris d'Entremont, MLA
  - Motion carried

Mr. Craig Thompson, Senior Vice-President, Atlantic Region, with the Bank of Nova Scotia provided the following response:

“Over the years we have had a number of employees move to Nova Scotia as a result of Canadian Forces spouses being reassigned to this province. We have

been and remain committed to finding suitable employment as quickly as possible.

...Thank you for letting us know about the Military Family Resource Centre. We would be very pleased to meet with a representative from MFRC to discuss this issue in greater detail.”

Additionally, Mr. Neil Sainani, Senior Diversity Recruitment Consultant with CIBC provided his contact information and asked that it be passed along to the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre.

- To write a letter to the Chambers of Commerce requesting an opportunity for the Military Family Resource Centre to make a presentation discussing today’s topics.
  - Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA
  - Motion carried

The following responses were received to the committee’s letter:

Chambre de commerce de Clare:

“This is a great initiative. Our Chambre is located a fair distance away from any military base. There are none in the South West Region of our province. We do hope that the message does get out. We fully support our service people.”

Halifax Chamber of Commerce:

“We were discussing how to best provide you with an opportunity to reach our membership and we think that the best avenue would be through our Business Voice magazine. Business Voice has a print run of 7,000. Copies are inserted into the Saturday edition of the Chronicle Herald as well as distributed to our members. Estimated readership is 30,000.

...We think that an article from you outlining the importance of employment to military families and what employers can do to help would be of definite interest to our members.”

Parrsboro and District Board of Trade:

“On behalf of the Parrsboro and District of Trade, I would like to extend an invitation to the Military Family Resource Centre to make a presentation...at one of our upcoming meetings.”

Annapolis Board of Trade:

“We are a small board in a small district, but if it would be helpful to your members, we would be happy to provide such an opportunity. Please contact me by e-mail at your earliest convenience so that we can move forward on a date that would be mutually convenient.”

A phone call was also received from the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce to indicate that they would be contacting the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre.

- To write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness requesting an opportunity for the Military Family Resource Centre to make a presentation discussing today’s topics.
  - Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA
  - Motion carried

The Honourable Leo Glavine provided the following response:

“...I would be interested in having a meeting with representatives of the Military Family Resource Centres to hear more about the challenges facing military personnel, especially as it relates to health care.

My Executive Assistant Wendy Anderson will be in touch with you shortly to set up a meeting.”

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre:

- The amount of annual funding provided by the province.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2015feb12](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2015feb12)



## **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

**March 12, 2015**

### **WITNESS**

There was no witness present at the meeting.

### **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada had been scheduled to appear on this date; however, due to unforeseen circumstances the official appearing on behalf of the organization was not able to attend on the morning of the meeting. As this information was received shortly before the meeting was to commence, the committee met and agreed to reschedule the witness.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Clare Chamber of Commerce in response to the committee's letter on behalf of the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre.
- Correspondence from the Halifax Chamber of Commerce in response to the committee's letter on behalf of the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre.
- Correspondence from the Protocol Office in response to the committee's letter written following the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

As a result of the witness not being able to attend the meeting, the committee discussed rescheduling the witness. A motion was introduced:

- That the committee schedule the witness for the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Moved by Mr. Iain Rankin, MLA
  - Motion carried

### **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

### **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at: [http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2015mar12](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2015mar12)

## **VETERANS EMERGENCY TRANSITION SERVICES (VETS) CANADA - OVERVIEW**

**May 14, 2015**

### **WITNESS**

#### **Veterans Emergency Transition Services (VETS) Canada**

Mr. Barry Yhard - Executive Director

Mr. Jim Lowther - President/CEO

Ms. Debbie Lowther - Treasurer

### **MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

Veterans Emergency Transition Services (VETS) Canada appeared before the committee to provide an overview of its organization and activities. VETS is a national federally registered not-for-profit charity. The organization was founded in Nova Scotia in 2011, and the national head office is located in the province. Their mission is to seek and find homeless, in-crisis and at-risk veterans and facilitate their transition off the streets and back into a healthy lifestyle.

### **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The following correspondence were received by the committee.

- Correspondence from The Bank of Nova Scotia in response to the committee's letter written following the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Correspondence from the Parrsboro and District Board of Trade in response to the committee's letter written following the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Correspondence from the Annapolis Board of Trade in response to the committee's letter written following the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Correspondence from the Department of Health and Wellness in response to the committee's letter written following the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Correspondence from the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre providing information which had been requested from the February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Correspondence from the Honourable Stephen McNeil in response to the committee's letter written following the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

VETS had appeared before the committee in 2012 and had expressed concern regarding their lack of office space to operate out of. At that time, a motion was passed to

attempt to assist in this regard. The issue of office space was discussed again at this meeting and a motion was introduced:

- That we revisit Mr. MacLeod's 2012 motion and that we write a letter.
  - Moved by Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA
  - Motion carried

There was discussion surrounding the lack of access to the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Hospital by all veterans. As a result of the discussion, a motion was introduced:

- To write a letter to the federal government to look at opening up access to Camp Hill for all veterans in Nova Scotia.
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried

The Honourable Erin O'Toole provided the following response:

"It may interest you to know that Veterans Affairs Canada's long-term-care program originated from the provision of care to Veterans returning from war. At the time, medical services were relatively scarce, and the Department established hospitals to fulfill its commitment to care for those coming home with serious injuries.

With the advent of universal health care, Canadians gained access to medical services as a matter of right and the requirement for federal hospitals declined. In the 1960s, Veterans Affairs Canada began to transfer its facilities to provincial authorities, and its long-term-care program has evolved to complement the treatment delivered by the provinces through a network of community facilities.

While the Department continues to honour the promise made to War Service Veterans by ensuring their priority access to designated beds at Camp Hill and other facilities, extending this benefit to modern-day Veterans would be a duplication of an existing provincial service. However, those who served after the Korean War may receive support from Veterans Affairs Canada for treatment in a community bed if their need for long-term care is associated with a service-related injury. The Department works closely with provincial placement agencies to ensure that all Veterans who require continuing care as a result of their service receive timely access to quality treatment and accommodation in or near their communities, allowing them to stay close to family and social supports."

It was agreed to hold an agenda setting session at the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **DOCUMENTATION**

There was no documentation requested.

## **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2015may14](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2015may14)

**LADIES' AUXILIARIES & AGENDA SETTING**

**June 11, 2015**

**WITNESS**

**Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command**

Ms. Jean Marie Deveaux – Past President

Ms. Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte – Executive Director

**MATTERS OF DISCUSSION**

The Royal Canadian Legion Ladies' Auxiliary appeared before the committee to provide information on its work and activities. The Royal Canadian Legion Ladies' Auxiliary was officially designated in 1926 and is a non-profit organization that works in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion. The Ladies' Auxiliaries of the Royal Canadian Legion provide financial and volunteer support to Legion programs.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

The Chair was seeking clarification regarding the motion put forward by Mr. Orrell at the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Orrell was not present; therefore, the motion was deferred to the next committee meeting.

The following correspondence was received by the committee:

- Correspondence from the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command requesting to appear. The committee reviewed the request and agreed to add it to the list of topics for consideration at the next agenda setting meeting.

An agenda setting session was held and the committee discussed its agenda and selected witnesses. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Department of Health regarding VAC's (Veterans Affairs Canada) Residential Care Policies
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried
- Pictou County Heritage Military Museum
  - Moved by Mr. John Lohr, MLA
  - Motion carried
- Helmets to Hardhats
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried

## **DOCUMENTATION**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command:

- Data on the caseload of branches?

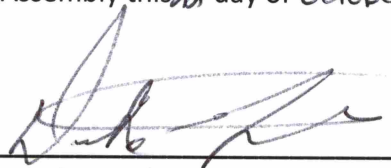
## **TRANSCRIPT**

Further details of this meeting can be found in the transcript which is available online at:  
[http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee\\_hansard/C11/va2015jun11](http://nslegislature.ca/index.php/committees/committee_hansard/C11/va2015jun11)

# **STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

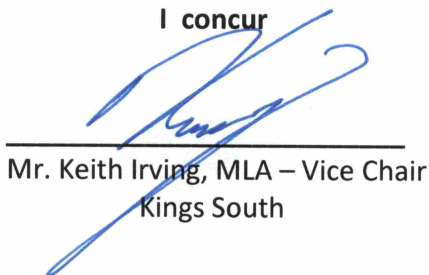
**STATEMENT OF SUBMISSION**

All of which is respectfully submitted to the  
House of Assembly this <sup>22<sup>nd</sup></sup> day of October, 2015



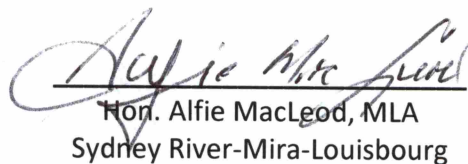
Mr. Derek Mombourquette, MLA - Chair  
Sydney-Whitney Pier

I concur



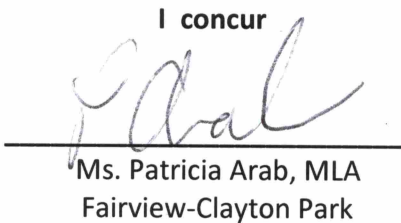
Mr. Keith Irving, MLA – Vice Chair  
Kings South

I concur



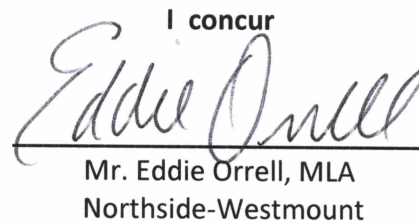
Hon. Alfie MacLeod, MLA  
Sydney River-Mira-Louisbourg

I concur



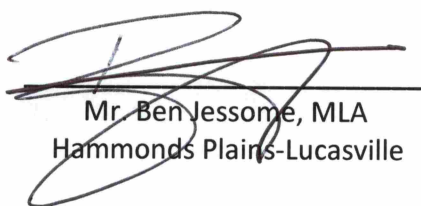
Ms. Patricia Arab, MLA  
Fairview-Clayton Park

I concur



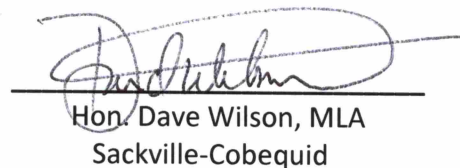
Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA  
Northside-Westmount

I concur



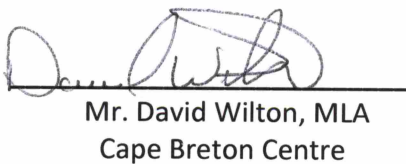
Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA  
Hammonds Plains-Lucasville

I concur



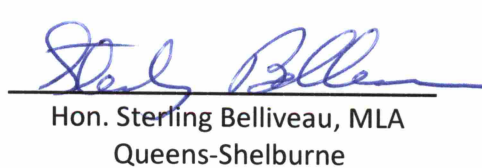
Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA  
Sackville-Cobequid

I concur



Mr. David Wilton, MLA  
Cape Breton Centre

I concur



Hon. Sterling Belliveau, MLA  
Queens-Shelburne



# **APPENDICES**

## **APPENDIX A - MOTIONS**

The following is a list of motions introduced by the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs:

### **December 11, 2014**

The committee reviewed correspondence from Blair Beed with regard to the naming of the Halifax Memorial Library. A motion was introduced:

- That the committee refer the matter to the Halifax Regional Municipality.
  - Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines, MLA
  - Motion carried

The committee was informed that Commissionaires Nova Scotia is provided with a right of first refusal on federal government security contracts and that it would like to explore a similar arrangement with the province. A motion was introduced:

- That the committee send a letter to the Premier, the Minister responsible for Military Relations, requesting a response to the possibility to have a similar standing offer that would give the commissionaires the first right of refusal for government security contracts.
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion defeated

The 2014 Annual Report of the Committee was reviewed. A motion was introduced:

- To approve the Annual Report.
  - Moved by Mr. Lloyd Hines
  - Motion carried

### **January 8, 2015**

There was also discussion surrounding who is responsible for protocol with respect to remembering veterans. A motion was introduced:

- To write a letter to the Protocol Office to inquire what the protocols are for recognizing fallen Nova Scotian soldiers/RCMP members and to confirm who is responsible for provincial protocols/procedures related to veterans' event planning in the province.
  - Moved by Mr. Gordon Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried

An agenda setting session was held and the committee discussed its agenda and selected witnesses. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion
  - Moved by Mr. Pat Dunn, MLA
  - Motion carried
- The Protocol Office
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion defeated
- Injured Soldiers Network
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried
- Veterans Emergency Transition Services Canada
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried

### **February 12, 2015**

During the presentation, the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre highlighted a number of challenges that are faced by military families. These challenges were discussed by the committee and motions were introduced:

- That the Committee on Veterans Affairs write to the Atlantic Vice Presidents of the Canadian major banks to urge them to work with the Military Family Resource Centres to ensure employment transfers when Canadian Forces spouses are assigned to Nova Scotia.
  - Moved by Hon. Chris d'Entremont, MLA
  - Motion carried
- To write a letter to the Chambers of Commerce requesting an opportunity for the Military Family Resource Centre to make a presentation discussing today's topics.
  - Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA
  - Motion carried

- To write a letter to the Minister of Health and Wellness requesting an opportunity for the Military Family Resource Centre to make a presentation discussing today's topics.
  - Moved by Mr. Ben Jessome, MLA
  - Motion carried

### **March 12, 2015**

As a result of the witness not being able to attend the meeting, the committee discussed rescheduling the witness. A motion was introduced:

- That the committee schedule the witness for the May 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Moved by Mr. Iain Rankin, MLA
  - Motion carried

### **May 14, 2015**

VETS had appeared before the committee in 2012 and had expressed concern regarding their lack of office space to operate out of. At that time, a motion was passed to attempt to assist in this regard. The issue of office space was discussed again at this meeting and a motion was introduced:

- That we revisit Mr. MacLeod's 2012 motion and that we write a letter.
  - Moved by Mr. Eddie Orrell, MLA
  - Motion carried

There was discussion surrounding the lack of access to the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Hospital by all veterans. As a result of the discussion, a motion was introduced:

- To write a letter to the federal government to look at opening up access to Camp Hill for all veterans in Nova Scotia.
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried

### **June 11, 2015**

An agenda setting session was held and the committee discussed its agenda and selected witnesses. Motions were introduced to invite:

- The Department of Health regarding VAC's (Veterans Affairs Canada) Residential Care Policies
  - Moved by Hon. Dave Wilson, MLA
  - Motion carried

- Pictou County Heritage Military Museum
  - Moved by Mr. John Lohr, MLA
  - Motion carried
  
- Helmets to Hardhats
  - Moved by Mr. Keith Irving, MLA
  - Motion carried

## **APPENDIX B – DOCUMENTATION**

The following is a list of documents and information requested and received by the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs:

**December 11, 2014**

**Commissionaires Nova Scotia**

The following information was requested and has been received from Commissionaires Nova Scotia:

- Are your financial statements public?
- What percentage of total revenue are Provincial Government contracts?

**February 12, 2015**

**Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Halifax and Region Military Family Resource Centre:

- The amount of annual funding provided by the province.

**June 11, 2015**

**Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command**

The following information was requested and has been received from the Royal Canadian Legion Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command:

- Data on the caseload of branches.

## **APPENDIX C – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The following is provided to update information contained in the 2014 Annual Report of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs pertaining to the March 24, 2014 meeting due to its omission.

The Honourable Julian Fantino provided the following response to the committee's motion:

To hold an emergency meeting of the Veterans Affairs Committee on March 18, 2014, or another date of the witnesses choice before March 27, 2014, and invite a representative from the ministerial office for Military Relations provincially, and a representative from the ministerial office of Veterans Affairs Canada federally, to talk about the plan and to request a response to the invitation by February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

"Although neither I nor my staff were able to attend the meeting you convened in March 2014 to discuss the closure of some of Veterans Affairs Canada's area offices, I hope that the following information is helpful.

As part of Veterans Affairs Canada's ongoing work to improve service and adjust to the changing needs and demographics of Veterans, we are putting employees in the locations where they are needed most. Let me assure you that Canada's Veterans can continue to expect the same level of personalized attention and case managers will continue to make home visits to Veterans who need them.

In fact, Veterans Affairs Canada continues to have over 50 locations across Canada. For example, staff from Veterans Affairs Canada work together with the Department of National Defence at 24 integrated personnel support centres on or near Canadian Armed Forces bases to provide a more coordinated approach to the care of our service men and women. The two departments also run 17 specialized clinics that treat operational stress injuries, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition, Veterans Affairs Canada has a well-established national network of registered health professionals – including psychologists, social workers and nurses – who deliver quality care to Veterans right in their communities.

We have also partnered with Service Canada to provide even more options to access the Department's programs, especially for those living in rural or remote areas. Canadian Armed Forces personnel, Veterans and their families can now obtain information and apply for certain benefits at any one of the approximately 600 Service Canada centres nationwide, where they also have one-stop access to a variety of other federal programs and services.

This will mean greater convenience and less travel for Veterans because they are no longer limited to a single location for in-person service. And, to provide further support in regions where underused area offices have closed, a Veterans Affairs

Canada agent has been placed in specific Service Canada locations – including Sydney (NS) – to help Veterans with their benefits applications and answer any questions they may have.

The Service Canada Centre in Sydney is less than one kilometer away from the office that closed, ...

These service changes are intended to complement the work done by Veterans Affairs Canada's front-line staff and allow them to focus on complex and specialized inquiries."

The Honourable Julian Fantino provided the following response to the committee's motion:

That this Committee write a letter to endorse the Minister responsible for Military Relations' letter in support of a federal advocate.

"I appreciate your interest in and support for Canada's Veterans, and I would like to assure you that a Veterans' advocate already exists. As explained to Premier McNeil, in following through on commitments made during the 2006 election campaign, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the creation of a Veterans Bill of Rights and an Office of the Veterans Ombudsman in 2007. The Veterans Ombudsman is an impartial and independent officer who plays a vital role in raising awareness of the needs of those who have selflessly served our country and in giving Veterans confidence that their views are important."



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