



Department of National Defence
*2016 Defence Policy Review –
September 14, 2016 Indigenous
Roundtable Discussion*

SUMMARY REPORT

October 18, 2016

SUBMITTED TO:

Department of National Defence
Government of Canada

SUBMITTED BY:

DPRA Canada Inc.
60 Adelaide Street East
Suite 501
Toronto, ON M5C 3E4
416-203-7222
Timm.Rochon@dpra.com

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

In 2016, the Department of National Defence (DND) has conducted public consultations to support the development of a new defence policy for Canada, the largest such effort in over 20 years. That process ended on July 31, and included a series of roundtable sessions carried out from coast to coast, online public consultations, and discussions with Parliamentarians, allies and partners, other federal departments and agencies.

September 14 Indigenous Roundtable Discussion

The September 14, 2016 roundtable discussion with Indigenous groups and people working on Indigenous issues followed the broader public consultations on the Defence Policy Review (DPR). DND felt that a roundtable discussion with a specific focus on Indigenous perspectives was needed. The agenda is provided as Appendix A; a list of participants is included as Appendix B. The first three sessions on the agenda followed the themes in the Defence Policy Review Public Consultation Document:

- Challenges to Canada's Security
- Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Role in Addressing Threats and Challenges
- Defence Capabilities and Future of the Force

Opening Ceremony

Following an informal meet-and-greet, Elder Marcel Hardisty and Mr. Lance Wood from Wanipigow First Nation performed a smudging, conducted a pipe ceremony and sang an honour song. Minister Sajjan thanked the elders for the ceremony, welcomed the participants, and acknowledged that this meeting is being held on Treat 1 traditional territory and the Métis homeland.

Session #1 - Challenges to Canada's Security

There were two themes for Session #1:

- Defending Canada and North America
- Global Peace and Security

Much of the participants' conversation was focused on Canada. The discussions covered a range of topic areas:

- DPR Roundtable Process
- Ongoing and Future Engagement
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Indigenous Culture/Values/Knowledge and the CAF
- Indigenous Initiatives/Participation in the Canadian Military
- Arctic Sovereignty/Security

- Climate Change
- Canadian Rangers
- Search and Rescue
- Other Northern Issues
- Targeting Indigenous People as Security Threats

Participants noted that Canada is also renowned for its peacekeepers, and that there are also Indigenous peacekeepers in the communities, and that they may be able to share their knowledge with the CAF.

Session #2 – Vision for the Canadian Armed forces going forward

This session considered the vision for the Canadian Armed Forces going forward:

- In Canada;
- In North America; and
- Internationally

Much of the participants' conversation was focused on Canada, rather than more broadly on North America or internationally.

Vision – Canada

There was some discussion about the role of the CAF domestically, in particular with respect to traditional territories and reserves, and the roles of various levels of government in requesting assistance from the CAF. Participants also discussed the need to incorporate Indigenous cultural practices, ways of knowing and being, and spirituality into the CAF.

Vision - Internationally

Canada will host a United Nations (UN) peace-keeping summit in 2017. The Minister asked participants for their perspectives on the conversations about conflict prevention/resolution should we have at that event. A range of suggestions were provided:

- Indigenous communities/members conflict resolution skills and application in peace operations.
- Circumpolar military relationships.
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Session #3 - Defence Capabilities and Future of the Force

This session focused on three topic areas:

- Future of the CAF
- Personnel (e.g. diversity, education, health & wellness)
- Procurement

At several points in the day's discussion, participants noted that employment and procurement policies need to encourage more Indigenous participation, not just in DND/CAF, but across the GOC.

Future of the CAF

Over the course of the roundtable, at different times the conversation turned to building trust, relationships, and knowledge. Learning is a two-way process – there must be resiliency, and good communications. Participants noted that Canada has a unique relationship with Indigenous people. In seeking to maintain Arctic sovereignty/enhance Northern infrastructure, the GOC will need to build/maintain its relationship with Indigenous communities – not only with the Canadian Rangers.

Personnel

Communication is key in terms of making Indigenous people, particularly youth, aware of opportunities in the CAF or DND. Organizations such as Indspire may be able to work with CAF/DND to more effectively do so. It was suggested that using CAF members to 'champion' Indigenous participation in the CAF would be very effective. Participants also stated that in looking to the future, the GoC needs to provide support for veterans. If families see that veterans are cared for/respected for their service, individuals and families will gain respect for the CAF.

It was noted that private sector companies (large and small) can also participate/contribute; for example, they can recruit / retain Indigenous staff at all levels.

There is an opportunity, with the UN event in Canada in 2017, to report on what is being done here in Canada as a role model for other countries.

Suggestions from participants for actions related to personnel included:

- Put an Indigenous person at the CAF job fair booths, events, conferences.
- Look to other successful recruitment and retention models.
- Increase capacity building; e.g. RMC's active recruitment – get outreach into communities to build relationships and skills.
- Develop a permanent Ranger operation centre with personnel in each territory.

Procurement

Participants noted that employment and procurement policies need to encourage more Indigenous participation, not just in DND/CAF, but across the GOC. Training is needed to tap into the potential of Indigenous communities and businesses that could work with DND. Various INAC programs provide infrastructure that could be utilized; looking at the linkages across GoC departments would be a good start.

Large corporations can participate in procurement in many ways, but Indigenous businesses do not have the capacity to participate on an equal basis. While some GoC departments have quotas for Indigenous procurement, it is inconsistent across various departments. The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) represents over 500 companies; there is a defence component, and this is seen as a major growth opportunity. Currently only 20 Indigenous companies are participating in this sector. Participants identified several potential solutions that could enhance Indigenous participation in DND/CAF procurement.

It was suggested that Indigenous companies need to be able to expand beyond resource sectors such as oil and gas, mining and forestry into those less influenced by cyclical trends in regional or sector economies - such as the military. There is a need to refocus skilled trades /contractors to other regions and industries – and to invest in transferable skills.

Closing

The Minister thanked participants for their lively discussion, the beginning of a long-range conversation, noting that there is much expertise in the room today, and there will be other discussions. There is an opportunity to begin the conversation about developing, and then implementing, policy. The Minister acknowledged the contribution of Elder Marcel Hardisty and Mr. Lance Wood, and presented them both with a gift. The meeting was closed with the Bear Song by Elder Marcel Hardisty.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

In 2016, the Department of National Defence (DND) has conducted public consultations to support the development of a new defence policy for Canada, the largest such effort in over 20 years. That process ended on July 31, and included a series of roundtable sessions carried out from coast to coast, online public consultations, and discussions with Parliamentarians, allies and partners, other federal departments and agencies.

1.2 SEPTEMBER 14 INDIGENOUS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The September 14, 2016 roundtable discussion with Indigenous groups and people working on Indigenous issues followed the broader public consultations on the Defence Policy Review (DPR). DND felt that a roundtable discussion with a specific focus on Indigenous perspectives was needed. The agenda is provided as Appendix A; a list of participants is included as Appendix B.

The first three sessions on the agenda followed the themes in the Defence Policy Review Public Consultation Document:

- Challenges to Canada's Security
- Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Role in Addressing Threats and Challenges
- Defence Capabilities and Future of the Force

A fourth session was added at the end to address 'Additional Discussion Items' that may have been raised but that were not directly related to the Defence Policy Review.

The roundtable discussion was a closed-door proceeding. The entire discussion is reported in this summary, but comments have not been attributed to any individual participant

This summary report on the Indigenous roundtable discussion will be shared with participants and will become part of the public record for the review process. Discussion may not reflect the sequence of actual conversation, as material has been moved to relevant topic areas, as there was cross-over amongst topics throughout the day.

1.3 OPENING CEREMONY

Following an informal meet-and-greet, Elder Marcel Hardisty and Mr. Lance Wood from Wanipigow First Nation performed a smudging, conducted a pipe ceremony and sang an honour song.

1.4 MINISTER'S REMARKS AND PARTICIPANTS INTRODUCTIONS

Minister Sajjan thanked the elders for the ceremony, welcomed the participants, and acknowledged that this meeting is being held on Treat 1 traditional territory and the Métis homeland. He noted that the Government of Canada (GOC) has an important government-to-government relationship with Indigenous peoples. The Minister noted that this meeting is not intended as 'consultation'. He spoke of his personal experience in the service, and the history of Indigenous people in the military. The Minister acknowledged that Indigenous members of the military brought their skills and bravery to the forces. He stated that there are many lessons to be learned, and that the philosophies of Indigenous peoples that can better the military. There are many examples, individual and collective, that can be brought to the military, and many conversations to be had. These can apply here in Canada and around the world.

Following the Minister's remarks, there was a round-table introduction by each participant. Several provided comments in response to the Minister's remarks, or stories of their personal, family and community involvement in the military. These have been incorporated into the relevant topic areas in the report sections below.

2.0 SESSION #1 - CHALLENGES TO CANADA'S SECURITY

There were two themes for Session #1:

- Defending Canada and North America
- Global Peace and Security

Participants' comments are summarized below.

2.1 DEFENDING CANADA AND NORTH AMERICA

Much of the participants' conversation was focused on Canada. The discussions covered a range of topic areas:

- DPR Roundtable Process
- Ongoing and Future Engagement
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission
- Indigenous Culture/Values/Knowledge and the CAF
- Indigenous Initiatives/Participation in the Canadian Military
- Arctic Sovereignty/Security
- Climate Change
- Canadian Rangers
- Search and Rescue
- Other Northern Issues
- Targeting Indigenous People as Security Threats

DPR Roundtable Process

Several participants noted that in reviewing the DPR Consultation document, there was no specific mention of Indigenous/Aboriginal people. Yet if you look at maps of CAF facilities and operations in Canada and internationally, Indigenous people are found in many of those locations. It was stated that bringing together Indigenous leaders, organizations and elders, and those with interest in Indigenous issues to meet with the Minister and DND/CAF staff will provide an opportunity for mutual learning. However, a participant asked why Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) was not at the roundtable, as they have a major role with Indigenous communities.

Ongoing and Future Engagement

Participants noted that this was not a 'nation-to-nation' meeting, due to the composition of the participants – but appreciated the opportunity to dialogue. One of the CAF observers, a Leading Seaman, spoke to the participants. She noted that although this discussion may not be 'nation-to-nation', maybe that can occur in the future. She noted that this roundtable discussion was very important to her, with our people – including younger participants – present. Participants suggested that more conversation is needed with political leaders, veterans and elders – 'experience matters; land matters'. This engagement can be done with formal and informal governance (e.g., elected and traditional leaders, women, youth).

It was suggested that at the next meeting, a Métis elder should also be invited to assist with ceremony.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Participants asked how the findings and 'calls to action' from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) can be reflected in the new defence policy. There is an opportunity for mutual recognition, and a renewed relationship between the Government and Indigenous peoples. Examples of past injustices were cited such as the *Veterans Land Act* – whereby non-Indigenous veterans were given land, but Indigenous veterans were not; or where veterans lost their status by serving in the military.

Indigenous Culture/Values/Knowledge and the CAF

Ancient teachings and values can be incorporated into the military/defence policy. There are principles and teachings about how to live in harmony with creation and each other; these learnings can apply at the individual, family, community and CAF/DND levels.

Participants noted that if people are engaged in Indigenous ceremony, people must understand its significance /meaning and not break that trust. Further, the CAF needs to reflect on its cultural competency: for example, build Indigenous principles into DND/CAF relationships with communities, recruitment and retention, and the 'nation-to-nation' relationship. Traditional knowledge can provide much value to the CAF. Several examples were raised by participants. In the search for HMS Terror, time and money could have been saved if those involved had listened to Inuit. It was noted that during the 2015 fires in the LaRonge Saskatchewan area, the army came in to assist, but failed to engage Indigenous knowledge holders about the land. The Kapyong Barracks (Winnipeg) provides an opportunity to create an urban reserve, and is of interest to both First Nations and Métis people.

Indigenous Initiatives/Participation in the Canadian Military

Participants provided feedback on a variety of Indigenous initiatives in the Canadian military. The Royal Military College's Aboriginal Opportunity Leadership year involves 20 young people spending a year at RMC, learning about military culture and leadership. The Minister noted he had attended a graduation ceremony for that program, which creates leaders, who may then continue on at RMC. He asked how recruitment might be expanded (see 'Personnel', Section 4.2, below).

Participants noted that Indigenous people are the fastest growing demographic in Canada – the CAF should respond to this trend with enhanced youth programming, e.g., expansion of the Bold Eagle program, and the Junior Ranger element of the Canadian Rangers. Targets could be set for Indigenous recruitment in the military; however, participants noted that affirmative action quotas such as those in the US won't work if people are not actually the best qualified.

It was suggested that Indigenous capacity building to provide for more fulsome participation, whether in the forces, DND, or via economic development, is an important foundation - not only in the North, but

across Canada. If the GoC wants to work together with Indigenous people, especially 'nation-to-nation', it will have to provide supporting infrastructure and capacity.

Finally, Indigenous people must be involved in this policy review, on various committees, to bring these perspectives to the table. More broadly speaking, whatever the policy framework is, there should be Indigenous engagement to ensure that these perspectives are considered.

Arctic Sovereignty/Security

A variety of comments related to Arctic Sovereignty were made – see also 'Climate Change' and 'Canadian Rangers' below. Northern military bases provide important sources of income/employment and business opportunities for Indigenous peoples (see more on procurement in Section 4.3, below). A participant noted that protection of our lands and peoples in the Arctic goes beyond the military, but into the social and economic dimensions. There are a range of Indigenous peoples, with different views and interests, across Canada: in the far North, the sub-Arctic, and southern Canada. There are continuing footprints from the military across Canada on Indigenous lands, such as Dew Line stations in the Arctic, the weapons range in Northern Saskatchewan, that impact the people on the land.

Climate Change

Climate change has a range of internal domestic impacts (e.g., human security, changing community coast lines and infrastructure, changing wildlife patterns, fire) as well as international implications. With climate change, the Northwest Passage is more accessible to foreign forces, e.g., Russian nuclear subs. Arctic coastal communities are now seeing commercial cruise ship traffic. While oil and gas development is currently in a lull, industrial activity will be easier with less ice/a longer operating season. This change in accessibility presents threats from several perspectives, including security, emergency response, search & rescue, and the environment.

It was asked if climate change has been minimized as a threat to date. The focus traditionally has been on countries, or groups. It was suggested that terrorists may not be entering Canada via the Arctic given the harsh environment/logistical challenges. Yet climate change affects all Canadians – how should DND/CAF continue to focus its efforts on planning for climate change? There are many areas of defence policy that this influences; more engagement may be required, particularly to address long-term change. The Canadian Rangers (see below) and communities should be engaged to provide knowledge about climate change.

Canadian Rangers

The Canadian Rangers have played and continue to play an important role in Northern Security. Participants offered a number of comments and suggestions. One example cited CAF staff sent to train Canadian Rangers that appeared to be a 'duck out of water'. A participant wondered if the GoC is perhaps taking advantage of Rangers, in that they only have 12 active days; yet, these volunteers are valued members of the CAF, our 'eyes and ears'. They are much more active than the minimum requirements. It was stated that the DPR consultation document did not say much about the Canadian

Rangers, other than acknowledging the 5,000 members, there was not much on their role. DND should consider expanding it, e.g. via Bold Eagle program. The Minister agreed on the unique role of the Rangers, adding that the Junior Ranger program plays an important role in sustaining the Rangers. How could it be expanded? One participant suggested promoting cadet exchanges between Northern and southern Canada.

Search and Rescue

It was noted that the closest search and rescue base is at Trenton (Ontario). Northern infrastructure is needed to provide support, demonstrate value, and contribute to Arctic sovereignty.

Other Northern Issues

The Minister noted that an earlier roundtable in Yellowknife also raised a number of issues with a northern focus; the DPR will have to look at the North in more detail. This will involve working with diverse Indigenous communities in the North, not just by DND but all of the GoC. He added that defence is not only having the right weapons systems, but also exerting sovereignty via infrastructure that is respectful of communities and the environment. A participant added that Internet access in the North is inadequate, and is also essential infrastructure.

The port at Churchill Manitoba is being closed; this will reduce rail traffic into the region and will affect Indigenous people.

Targeting Indigenous People as Security Threats

The targeting of Indigenous people / organizations by CSIS and other security agencies was raised several times during the discussion (e.g., people protecting their lands being perceived as 'environmental terrorists'). The current confrontation in the Dakotas over pipelines was noted, as were Canadian examples such as Oka and Ipperwash. Those situations forced the military and police to develop practices and protocols; while it took time and there was resistance, there has been change. The example of Cindy Blackstock, an Indigenous advocate for children's rights/education, being put under surveillance was also cited. It was suggested that although the CAF has likely already looked to some of those examples, they may provide insight. The Minister noted that he was present at the ceremony to return the Ipperwash lands. He added that there is an Aboriginal Advisory Group, championed by the head of the Army. Relationship-building is key. He assured participants that Indigenous people are not looked at as a threat by the GoC.

2.2 GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Participants noted that while the Canadian Rangers are famous, Canada is also renowned for its peacekeepers. There are also Indigenous peacekeepers in the communities, and they may be able to share their knowledge with the CAF.

3.0 SESSION #2 – VISION FOR THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES GOING FORWARD

This session considered the vision for the Canadian Armed Forces going forward:

- In Canada;
- In North America; and
- Internationally

Much of the participants' conversation was focused on Canada, rather than more broadly on North America or internationally.

3.1 VISION – CANADA

A participant stated his view that there is a role for the military to defend treaties, as the military defends all people. The Minister responded that historically, the military is a last resort, used for foreign threats, or when things go wrong. Public safety is a policing matter, with public laws. The Minister stated that the military is to be used domestically for disaster response, not 'against' any people. There is a failure if the military is needed for the latter. The military's role in Canada should be search and rescue, forest fires, as a last resort. Another participant noted that it is important that when the military shows up in Canada, it is as a last resort –and that they are seen as a trusted institution. The Minister concluded with an example of the CAF building a road/path to a Yukon school for a First Nations community. We can learn from one another how to build relationships.

Referring to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, a participant noted that ethical practices/training is needed. How can Indigenous cultural practices, ways of knowing and being, and spirituality be incorporated into the CAF? How are young people such as one participant's daughter – who wears multiple hats: Indigenous, young, woman - supported in their military career?

A participant suggested that DND should create an internal policy on when the CAF may be engaged domestically. The Minister responded that each province has the primary responsibility for public safety. The CAF must be invited to participate by a province or territory. A member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on Canada's Defence Policy Review in attendance confirmed that the CAF must be invited by provincial authorities (in dialogue with municipalities). At Oka, forces were deployed on request under the *National Defence Act*; this provision has never been used since. There has subsequently been work with respect to providing assistance, and this is relatively well tested.

A participant responded that as reserves are federal lands, a request from a province or municipality would not apply. Why can't First Nation leaders make such a request directly? The Minister noted that there is a layered response – for example, CAF troops only have a certain level of training for those types of situations, whereas provincial resources that have the primary responsibility are more skilled/have a

higher level of training. This also applies to search and rescue; the CAF can be involved in very high-risk situation, but it is not always CAF aircraft for example, sometimes the assets may be more local or regional.

It was noted by a participant that in the spirit of 'nation-to-nation' relationship, First Nations on federal lands should have the right – at least in principle, if not practice - to deal with / request directly assistance from CAF. Another participant noted that there may be dialogue that could contribute to more practical operations with municipalities/provinces. This could ensure that appropriate channels/protocols are understood and followed.

3.2 VISION - INTERNATIONALLY

Following lunch, the Minister provided some context regarding peace operations. Canada will host a United Nations (UN) peace-keeping summit in 2017. The Minister asked participants for their perspectives on the conversations about conflict prevention/resolution should we have at that event. A range of suggestions were provided:

- Indigenous communities/members conflict resolution skills and application in peace operations.
- Circumpolar military relationships.
- UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

It was noted that Indigenous people celebrate and respect veterans, and therefore the complementary role of peacekeepers is well received. The Minister's story about 'I am from a tribe too' from CAF operations in Afghanistan goes back to the themes of relationships in Canada with First Nations, regional, provincial and national chiefs/councils. A participant advised DND/CAF to sit and have a 'double/double' with Chiefs and Councils in Canada; it is similar to having tea with tribal leaders in Afghanistan. These lessons can be applied internationally.

Peacekeeping is still fundamental, maintaining Canada's profile and reputation overseas, but this has diminished in the last decade. This should be the vision/philosophy – to maintain peace in the family, our country, the world. There is a need for parallel processes in place locally, nationally and internationally in terms of administration and procedures.

4.0 SESSION #3 - DEFENCE CAPABILITIES AND FUTURE OF THE FORCE

This session focused on three topic areas:

- Future of the CAF
- Personnel (e.g. diversity, education, health & wellness)
- Procurement

At several points in the day's discussion, participants noted that employment and procurement policies need to encourage more Indigenous participation, not just in DND/CAF, but across the GOC.

4.1 FUTURE OF THE CAF

Development of Relationships/Knowledge

Over the course of the roundtable, at different times the conversation turned to building trust, relationships, and knowledge. Learning is a two-way process – there must be resiliency, and good communications. Participants noted that Canada has a unique relationship with Indigenous people. In seeking to maintain Arctic sovereignty/enhance Northern infrastructure, the GOC will need to build/maintain its relationship with Indigenous communities – not only with the Canadian Rangers. Participants asked how best to share services and infrastructure? They noted that this is an opportunity, not a criticism; we are at an historic moment. An investment of time and money is needed. A best practice that could be considered by DND/CAF is the liaison office used by an RCMP Division to liaise with the Métis Nation, e.g. on matters such as Missing/Murdered Indigenous Women, crime, and climate change.

4.2 PERSONNEL

Communication is key in terms of making Indigenous people, particularly youth, aware of opportunities in the CAF or DND. Organizations such as Indspire may be able to work with CAF/DND to more effectively do so. It was suggested that using CAF members to 'champion' Indigenous participation in the CAF would be very effective. The Leading Seaman, who spoke so eloquently at the beginning of the roundtable discussion, was noted as a fine example. However, there is a trust issue; trust is built by developing relationships. Once this is done, enrolment could skyrocket. Participants encouraged the CAF to share the success stories and testimonials – get the word out via social media, website, and video. Participants also stated that in looking to the future, the GoC needs to provide support for veterans. If families see that veterans are cared for/respected for their service, individuals and families will gain respect for the CAF.

It was noted that private sector companies (large and small) can also participate/contribute; for example, they can recruit / retain Indigenous staff at all levels.

There is an opportunity, with the UN event in Canada in 2017, to report on what is being done here in Canada as a role model for other countries. Celebrate the champions, such as the Leading Seaman who spoke today, and organizations such as the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB). Other suggestions for action included:

- Put an Indigenous person at the CAF job fair booths, events, conferences.
- Look to other successful recruitment and retention models; one participant who was a recruitment officer with the Ontario Provincial Police noted their program was very successful, but took time.
- Increase capacity building; e.g. RMC's active recruitment – get outreach into communities to build relationships and skills.
- Develop a permanent Ranger operation centre with personnel in each territory.

4.3 PROCUREMENT

Participants noted that employment and procurement policies need to encourage more Indigenous participation, not just in DND/CAF, but across the GOC. Training is needed to tap into the potential of Indigenous communities and businesses that could work with DND. Various INAC programs provide infrastructure that could be utilized; looking at the linkages across GoC departments would be a good start.

Large corporations can participate in procurement in many ways, but Indigenous businesses do not have the capacity to participate on an equal basis. While some GoC departments have quotas for Indigenous procurement, it is inconsistent across various departments. Thus there are opportunities for partnership if companies are 'forced' to do so for successful procurement.

The Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) represents over 500 companies; there is a defence component, and this is seen as a major growth opportunity. Currently only 20 Indigenous companies are participating in this sector. It was noted that DND won't see Indigenous companies participating at 'Tier 1' along with the major corporations on high tech/large projects, but there are opportunities at the Tier 2, Tier 3 level that can involve contracting out or partnering with others. What are DND expectations and how can we meet them? What is the process?

Participants identified three specific issues/potential solutions:

- Include an Indigenous component/preference for RFPs/tenders.
- Indigenous companies feel excluded as they are unaware, or specifications are so high that they can't respond. An Offset Marketing Exchange/OMX system could work with large companies if they have ITB (Industrial and Technical Benefits). The CCAB website (<https://www.ccab.com/procurement>) has more information; however, there is no direct link to DND opportunities.

- While it may be more difficult for Indigenous businesses to participate in multi-billion dollar projects, perhaps local CAF commanders could be given freedom to do more local purchase of goods and services.

The Minister responded that DND could encourage larger vendors/corporations in a number of ways, including developing talent through working with post-secondary institutions, building careers, not only training. With respect to procurement, while DND sets the requirements, Treasury Board requirements govern the process at the government level. Concerns/issues about procurement have been raised during the DPR consultations across Canada.

One participant stated that INAC's portal for Aboriginal procurement was not user friendly; there is also MERX and SPS. There should be one centralized portal for GoC tenders and RFPs. Access should be enhanced, as Indigenous businesses want to compete, but need the barriers eased – while still recognizing the need for a quality product.

Indigenous companies need to be able to expand beyond resource sectors such as oil and gas, mining and forestry into those less influenced by cyclical trends in regional or sector economies - such as the military. Examples of regions currently experiencing economic downturn such as Ft. McMurray/Alberta were noted. In Northern Saskatchewan, in the 1970s uranium was a new major development activity that is still active. For example, trucking companies were set up by First Nations and Métis, and all mining companies are required to give preference to these companies. Can some of this inventory of companies also service DND? There is a need to refocus skilled trades /contractors to other regions and industries – and to invest in transferable skills.

In the philanthropy industry, Indspire invests in young entrepreneurs – this can be mutually beneficial, and build on the shared values of improving as a people, a culture, moving forward.

The use of drone technology was raised. Drones may be useful in search and rescue, or to assist the Rangers with their activities. There are various types/levels of drone technology, some are very unobtrusive and may allow for activities to be done with less impact. The Minister added that he has been in communication with procurement re: future acquisition of drone technology and satellite capacity, to ensure the right tools are available to address needs on the ground, not just to have technology with no specific purpose in mind.

5.0 SESSION #4 - ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

While several topics not directly related to the DPR came up during the course of the meeting, they are reported under the sections above. When asked near the end of the session if there were any additional topics to raise, a participant noted that it is important to honour veterans. There are still some Métis veterans; they fell into various categories as Indian, Aboriginal or no category at all. Therefore they did not receive the same treatment, education and compensation as others. The Minister responded that the Minister of Veterans Affairs is also involved in this matter; anyone who serves in the CAF must be taken care of.

6.0 CLOSING

The Minister thanked participants for their lively discussion, the beginning of a long-range conversation. He acknowledged that there is much expertise in the room today, and there will be other discussions, for example with the Assembly of First Nations. DND is a large organization, with many parts and individuals. There is an opportunity to begin the conversation about developing, and then implementing, policy. The Minister acknowledged the contribution of Elder Marcel Hardisty and Mr. Lance Wood, and presented them both with a gift.

The meeting was closed with the Bear Song by Elder Marcel Hardisty at approximately 1:30 p.m.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

8:00 am	Meet and Greet with the Minister/Participants
	Introduction / Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening Ceremony• Minister's Remarks
	#1 Challenges to Canada's Security: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Defending Canada and North America• Global Peace and Security
10:30 to 10:40 am	Health Break
	#2 CAF Role in Addressing Threats and Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vision for the Canadian Armed Forces going forward<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Canada;• In North America; and• Internationally
11:30 to noon	Lunch Break
	#3 Defence Capabilities and Future of the Force: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future of the CAF• Personnel (e.g. diversity, education, health & wellness)• Procurement
	#4 Additional Discussion Items (if needed)
1:30 pm	Closing Remarks

APPENDIX B: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan, Department of National Defence
2. Elder Marcel Hardisty, Wanipigow First Nation
3. Mr. Lance Wood, Wanipigow First Nation
4. Vice-Chief Ron Swain, Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (organization recently renamed to 'Indigenous Peoples Assembly of Canada', as noted by the Vice-Chief at the roundtable)
5. Mr. Al Benoit, Métis National Council
6. Mr. Bill Minstram, National Association of Friendship Centres
7. Mr. Joseph Bastien, Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
8. Mr. Bruce Miller, Indspire
9. Mr. Kendal Netmaker, Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce
10. Dr. Bonita Beatty, Department of Indigenous Studies, University of Saskatchewan
11. Ms. Asma-na-hi Antoine, Royal Roads University
12. Dr. Gabrielle Slowey, Department of Political Science, York University
13. Ms. Margaret Purdy, Ministerial Advisory Panel on Canada's Defence Policy Review
14. Mr. Timm Rochon, DPRA – facilitator

Regrets:

- Melanie Omeniho, Women of the Métis Nation
- Dr. Jacqueline Romanow, University of Winnipeg Indigenous Studies