

NATO Association of Canada/ Association Canadienne pour l'OTAN (NAOC)

DEFENCE POLICY REVIEW Submission Summary – Julie Lindhout, President May 10, 2016

INTRODUCTION:

I will make a few introductory remarks, and then I will focus on the questions posed in the Public Consultation Document:

In January 2016, six NAOC analysts did a very thorough research of Canadian Defence policy and prepared [recommendations](#) for the new government, which were sent to Minister Sajjan.

There are three key messages in the paper that I want to summarize today, not in priority order.

1. Canada is a trading nation. It produces far more goods and services than its population can consume, but its economy depends on markets for all its goods and services. Therefore it depends on global security, and needs to work with its allies in NATO, NORAD, UN, etc., in an interoperable way to ensure that those markets remain accessible and safe. This may require it to send the CAF outside its borders for stabilization purposes as well as for humanitarian reasons.
2. Because of its huge size and sparse population, almost everything that Canada needs for its expeditionary forces is what it also needs to secure its own boundaries and respond to its own crises and enforcement requirements.
3. Defense spending should not be seen in opposition to spending in other areas. **It is not a zero sum game.** DND and CAF jobs are good jobs with extensive training programs that prepare participants to contribute to Canadian society economically and in other ways. Canada's defense industry also provides excellent jobs, and infrastructure for DND can contribute equally to military and civilian needs and be successful projects to meet the government's targets for job creation and infrastructure development, and at the same time meet the spending goal commitment to NATO of 2% of GDP.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION QUESTIONS:

1. **Are there any threats to Canada's security that are not being addressed adequately?** There are serious gaps in the Arctic. Canada needs to be able to regulate this environment including the North West Passage to protect the population and the ecology, and develop the economic potential of the region, and back up the regulations with credible enforcement capability. With Russia's aggression and China's plans to ship through the Northwest Passage, we need more resources in the Arctic including personnel, and infrastructure such as a deep water port, better runways, and all-weather roads, which would also greatly benefit the civilian population.
2. **What roles should the Canadian Armed Forces play domestically, including in support of civilian authorities?** The CAF should be able to provide security to all our borders, and support civilian authorities to respond to disasters and circumstances demanding a higher level of security such as G7/G20 summits, and provide search and rescue, especially in remote regions, where civilian agencies are limited.
3. **How should Canada-United States cooperation on defence of North America evolve in the coming years?** Canada should continue strong participation in NORAD with a focus on increasing surveillance and response capability in the Arctic.
4. **What form should the CAF contribution to peace support operations take? Is there a role for the CAF in helping to prevent conflict before it occurs?** Since peace support

operations currently take various forms from peace-making to peace-keeping, Canada should be able to support each kind with a whole-of-government approach which would include hard power to back up diplomatic, humanitarian, and reconstruction activities, and prevent conflict from spreading to other areas.

5. **Should the size, structure and composition for the Canadian Armed Forces change from what they are today?** Yes, our paper recommends an increase to 100,000 regular and 50,000 reserves (p. 19)
6. **How can DND and the CAF improve the way they support the health and wellness of military members? In what areas should more be done?** Since the health and wellness needs of members are frequently more complex than they have been in the past, there should be several centres with a full-range of medical, surgical, and psychological services across the country for both serving members and veterans, rather than many addresses with limited services. This is an area where a lot of normal health services for both members and veterans could be transferred to regular provincial services, with DND providing services for problems unique to the military or where regular services are not available.
7. **Should Canada strive to maintain military capability across the full spectrum of operations? Are there specific niche areas of capability in which Canada should specialize?** Canada's extensive domestic needs, and its commitment to treaty partners basically require it to have a full-spectrum capability that is interoperable with its partners. Canada already has leading edge capability in some areas, and those should be further developed.
8. **What type of investments should Canada make in space, cyber and unmanned systems? To what extent should Canada strive to keep peace and interoperable with key allies in these domains?** These are very important areas for domestic security as well interoperability with key allies. Communication and surveillance across our vast country are heavily dependent on and can be greatly enhanced by satellites in space, and unmanned systems. Interoperability with allies is a capacity multiplier. Cyber is one area where CAF can work closely with NATO and civilian agencies, since there is already an excellent capability in Canada for that work.
9. **Are the CAF adequately resourced if disaster response continues on an upward trend? Are there alternatives to using the military for these types of tasks?** No. Canada needs improved search and rescue capability, and transport capability, on land, sea, and air. A good start has been made with the C17s, and with the planned increase in maritime capability, but this should not stop or slow down. These tasks are already shared with the coast guard and civilian agencies, which would need more resources if there were to take on a greater role. Such resources would then not be available to the CAF, whereas CAF personnel and materiel are more readily deployable than moving civilians to areas of greater need.
10. **What additional measures could the DND undertake, along with partner departments, to improve defence procurement?** Speed up the process and once a decision has been made, implement expeditiously. Provisions for training of personnel on new and upgraded equipment should be built into each contract, and given the increasing pace of technology change, provisions for automatic upgrades at set times should also be built in. Going with next generation equipment where available will help with this.
11. **What resources will the CAF require to meet Canada's defence needs?** In addition to what has already been mentioned, given the increased acquisition of ballistic missiles by hostile states, Canada needs to acquire anti-ballistic missile capability, but it should do so within NORAD. It should also work with more of the NATO Centres of Excellence to develop its own capabilities and help partner countries to develop theirs.