HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

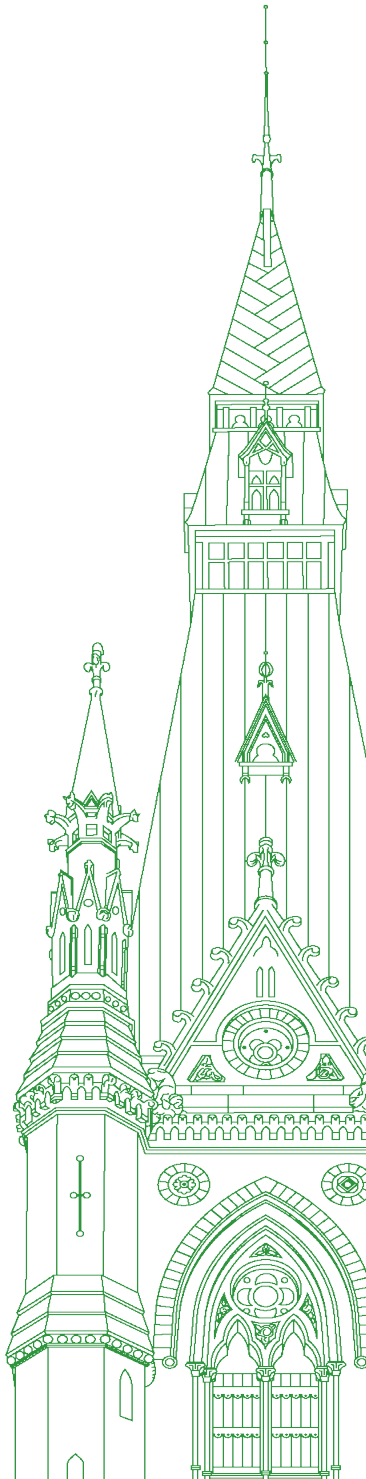
45th PARLIAMENT, 1st SESSION

Standing Committee on National Defence

EVIDENCE

NUMBER 048

Thursday, October 29, 2026



Chair: Charles Sousa

Standing Committee on National Defence

Thursday, October 29, 2026

● (1100)

[*English*]

The Chair (Charles Sousa (Mississauga—Lakeshore, Lib.)): I call this meeting to order.

Welcome to meeting number 48 of the House of Commons Standing Committee on National Defence.

Pursuant to Standing Order 108(2) and the motion adopted by the committee on Monday, January 26, 2026, the committee is meeting to continue its study of “Inflection Point 2025” and the modernization of the Canadian Army.

I thank the generals for being here today and for rescheduling after the tragic incident at Wainwright. All of Canada mourns their loss. We thank you for your continued service. All of us share your grief.

Today's meeting is taking place in hybrid format, pursuant to the Standing Orders. Members are attending in person and remotely using the Zoom application.

Before we continue, I ask participants to consult the guidelines on the table. These measures are there to help prevent audio feedback and to protect the health and safety of our interpreters.

As a reminder to members and witnesses, please wait until I recognize you by name before speaking. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand. For those on Zoom, please use the raise hand function. The clerk and I will manage the speaking order as best we can.

For interpretation, use your earpiece and select the appropriate channel. If you need interpretation, please take a moment now to prepare your earpiece and test the listening channel.

All comments should be addressed through the chair.

I'd now like to welcome our witnesses. From the Department of National Defence, we have Lieutenant-General Michael Wright, the commander of the Canadian Army; Major-General Stéphane Masson, chief of staff army strategy; and Brigadier-General Marie-Christine Harvey, commander of the 2nd Canadian Division and Joint Task Force East.

We appreciate your attendance.

I'm going to open our proceedings. I'll turn the floor over to you for up to five minutes.

Lieutenant-General Michael Wright (Commander, Canadian Army, Department of National Defence): Mr. Chair and members of the committee, good morning.

As was referenced and as you know, originally we were supposed to appear in front of this committee on October 19, but the tragic events of October 17 at Wainwright prevented that.

Out of respect for the ongoing investigations, I do not plan to go into details during today's appearance. However, I can say that last week the army sergeant major and I visited the soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, in Alberta. There, alongside unimaginable grief for fallen comrades and those still fighting for their lives, I heard incredible stories of bravery, of courage and of soldiers putting others before themselves.

Our focus is on providing support to the families of the fallen and to soldiers who are facing a long road to recovery.

[*Translation*]

Thank you for this opportunity to discuss Canadian Army modernization with you today.

[*English*]

Mr. Chair, you've already introduced my two colleagues here with me today, so I'll go right into the opening statement.

As you know, the security environment has changed significantly over the past several years, and the very nature of warfare is rapidly evolving.

[*Translation*]

The Canadian Army is being called upon with increasing frequency here at home and in support of Canada's allies.

[*English*]

Whether we are defending Canada, responding to a crisis at home or contributing to deterrence and collective defence abroad, land power remains critical and is the foundation of the joint force.

[*Translation*]

Our people are capable of establishing and maintaining a persistent presence, regardless of the conditions or terrain, and of acting where and when Canada needs them.

[*English*]

Your Canadian Army comprises approximately 54,000 people. There are 45,000 regular and reserve force soldiers, 4,800 Canadian Rangers and 4,000 defence team civilians. At any given time, approximately 3,000 soldiers from the Canadian Army are deployed on operations in Canada and around the world.

[*Translation*]

Every six months, we deploy more than 2,000 soldiers as part of the Canadian-led multinational brigade in Latvia, in addition to the support we provide to the Ukrainian armed forces.

Here at home, the army reserve has the largest footprint of any component of the Canadian Armed Forces—

[*English*]

James Bezan (Selkirk—Interlake—Eastman, CPC): On a point of order, we have no interpretation.

The Chair: Who doesn't have interpretation?

James Bezan: It just came.

An hon. member: Did you miss all of it?

James Bezan: All of it, yes. I heard “Ukraine”.

The Chair: Do you guys want him to repeat the last 30 seconds or so? Okay.

Please go ahead.

[*Translation*]

LGen Michael Wright: Every six months, we generate more than 2,000 soldiers for the Canadian-led multinational brigade in Latvia, in addition to Canada's support for the Ukrainian armed forces.

Here at home, the Army Reserve has the largest footprint of any Canadian Armed Forces element, with a presence in more than 100 communities across the country.

[*English*]

Our Canadian Rangers provide presence, monitoring and community resilience in more than 200 remote, coastal and isolated communities.

Army modernization is about our people, our capabilities and our structure. People remain our most important capability. While our numbers have increased over the past two years, we need trained personnel in occupations critical to readiness, command and control, and battlefield survivability.

● (1105)

[*Translation*]

Growth is not just about recruitment. We must optimize our regular and reserve forces, strengthen training and draw on the strengths of our defence team civilians.

Our members and their families face a demanding cycle of preparation, deployment and reconstitution. Recruitment must therefore be accompanied by the development of our junior leaders and concrete measures to promote retention.

[*English*]

For our capabilities, modernization must equip our soldiers to fight, survive and win, regardless of where we are asking them to operate. While we have nearly 50 major capital projects under way, my current equipment priorities are modernizing our artillery, equipping our soldiers with the modern individual systems they need to accomplish their tasks, rebuilding ground-based air defence, balancing crewed and uncrewed systems and improving the command and control systems that allow us to understand the battlefield and act decisively.

[*Translation*]

Our soldiers already have new capabilities at their disposal, and they are experimenting with new technologies and applying what they learn to accelerate adaptation and become more effective.

[*English*]

Working with Canadian industry is essential. More than 80% of our major capital projects have the potential to be built in Canada, aligning the army exceptionally well with pillar one of the defence industrial strategy.

For our structure, after decades of discussing it, we have taken decisive action to restore divisions to the Canadian Army. As of September 10, we've transitioned from four regionally based divisions to three divisions organized around mission and purpose. The 1st Canadian Division generates forces for domestic and expeditionary operations and is building the capacity for major combat operations, something we have not exercised since 1992 and at a level we have not fought since the Second World War.

[*Translation*]

The 2nd Canadian Division focuses on the defence of Canada and generating forces for domestic operations, including in the north, while continuing to support our expeditionary operations.

[*English*]

The Canadian Army Support Division brings greater focus to supporting and sustaining the army.

They are all enabled by our Army Doctrine and Training Centre, which leads our individual and collective training and integrates lessons learned into our thinking and practices.

[*Translation*]

Simply changing the organizational chart does not make us modernized. September 10 was an important milestone, not an end state.

[*English*]

We still need the people, capabilities, training and resources to make this structure effective while addressing deficits in each of those areas.

To conclude, ultimately, army modernization is about ensuring that we have an army that can defend Canada, contribute credible land power alongside our most important allies and provide the Government of Canada with agile and scalable options for emerging crises.

Thank you. We look forward to your questions.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

We're now going to proceed with our first round of questions. It will be six minutes each.

We're going to start off with the vice-chair, Mr. Bezan.

James Bezan: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I want to thank our generals for being here to talk about the modernization of the Canadian Army.

First and foremost, I have to extend my personal condolences on behalf of our Conservative team to everybody in the Canadian military, but especially to those in PPCLI who experienced such a horrific event.

I know, General Wright, that this is personal for you, a former Princess Pat. That's your team out there. I am grateful for the bravery that was shown on the field, for the incredible response from first responders and for the medical service being provided even now, still, to those who are hospitalized and dealing with lifetime injuries that may take forever to deal with.

There is some concern out there that the guys who were training were at different levels of service. You had regular force members on special duty. You had regular force members on regular duty. You had reservists who are both class B and class C.

There is no doubt that all of them are getting the same care and attention today, but do you have any concerns about that care and attention as this goes on—there are life-sustaining changes because of this event—and the services that may be provided through the Canadian Armed Forces and VAC?

● (1110)

LGen Michael Wright: Since the evening of October 17, we've worked extremely hard with military personnel command to ensure that there are no policies getting in the way of ensuring proper support to all members of the Canadian Army who were affected by the fire.

James Bezan: Do we need to make any changes to policy, though, to ensure that...? They were all in the same event, but the supports and insurance that will be provided down the road may not be equal.

LGen Michael Wright: Right now, I'm confident in the policy and the way that we're able to take care of all our soldiers, regardless of whether they're in the regular force or the reserve force. Through the investigations that will happen, it is likely that we will see exploration to ensure that, for instance, in the future, policy is not a barrier for the care of our soldiers.

James Bezan: I can assure you that you can count on our support to make sure that everyone receives the same care now and into the future.

Thank you.

I'll go back to “Inflection Point 2025”. You had a chance to brief us before, when we were all at CFB Petawawa. I think this is an exciting time for the Canadian Army.

You talked about using the 2nd Canadian Division for domestic operations. There has been some concern raised that in the description, it could be used for Operation Lentus. Are you concerned about the moral hazard that currently exists with the provinces that they tend to use the Canadian Armed Forces too soon rather than as a last resort in dealing with floods and forest fires?

LGen Michael Wright: First of all, the 2nd Canadian Division's focus is absolutely on the defence of Canada and support for domestic operations. However, I'd point out a couple of things. One, as I said in the opening statement, is that our reservists will continue to augment our expeditionary operations around the world. Right now, up to 25% of our soldiers in Latvia, for example, come from our reserve force. The second thing I would say is that, right now, of the 1,400 soldiers who are on immediate response units across the country, 90% still come from our regular force formations within the 1st Canadian Division.

James Bezan: Thank you for that.

As an Afghanistan veteran, you know that our reservists fought side by side with our regular force. Did they make up 25% of our forces in Afghanistan as well?

LGen Michael Wright: I can't give you the percentage in Afghanistan, but I can tell you that whether it's Afghanistan, the Balkans tours of the nineties or, I'd say in particular, the Medak Pocket tour of the 2nd Battalion of the Patricia's, we have always worked hand in hand as one army team, with the reserves and the regular force working together.

James Bezan: That's awesome.

You talk about training as part of this. One of the criticisms that came up in the last couple of years is that when we were deploying our forces to Latvia, they were getting their certification for brigade-level operations while in country rather than getting it done before they were deployed.

Historically, we've always used places like Gagetown, Petawawa and Wainwright to ensure that our troops are certified before leaving. Are we going to return to that model, that everybody gets certified and that we are a true fighting force before deployment?

LGen Michael Wright: I'd first of all say that we are a true fighting force before deployment. However, absolutely, for several years we were not able to do the right level of collective training here in Canada due to a shortage of both people and vehicles. Next spring, in Wainwright, Alberta, we will be conducting what we're calling Exercise Maple Sword, which will be an opportunity for the 1st Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group, located in Edmonton and Shilo, to do collective training in Canada before their deployment to Latvia.

James Bezan: That's great news. As a Manitoban, I'm very familiar, of course, with CFB Shilo, and I'm excited about the new role that they're going to be taking on there as part of the armoured division.

We are talking about getting new tanks and mobile howitzers. Have we started moving down the road to providing the operational statement of requirements, whether it's to the DIA or PSPC, to go out there and start having requests for proposals?

● (1115)

LGen Michael Wright: I'll start with Shilo. Shilo is going to be the home of our long-range precision strike unit. That project is going extremely well, and that will be the 9th Rocket Regiment, located in Shilo.

For indirect fire modernization, we are in constant contact with our colleagues at the Defence Investment Agency and across the Department of National Defence to try to move that project forward.

I'm just going to give a nuance here on tanks. We have deliberately renamed our tank replacement project as a heavy direct fire modernization. That's a recognition that we can't say now what is going to be the right way in the mid-2030s to balance crewed and uncrewed technology with direct fire, both on the ground and in the air.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

Our next question goes to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, Sherry Romanado.

Sherry Romanado (Longueuil—Charles-LeMoyne—Greenfield Park, Lib.): Thank you, Chair.

I'd like to thank the witnesses for being here today and, of course, for their service.

General, I've already conveyed my condolences to you and to our fellow army family. I've been in touch with other army moms as well this last couple of weeks. It's been a tough road, but we'll stick together. Military families always do. Thank you so much.

General, you noted in “Inflection Point 2025” that “the Army we have is not the Army we need.” Beyond the capability gaps outlined in your report, what fundamental changes to the army structure, to force composition or to the approach for generating combat power will be necessary to ensure that it can meet the demands of the future operating environment?

LGen Michael Wright: I'll start by answering the question of how we generate the forces.

We have already made significant changes to the way we are doing the baseline of Canadian Army training. We have introduced, over the past year, a new course we call the Canadian Army soldier first course. It is a 22-day course for all soldiers coming into the army—reserve or regular—to teach them the basics of how to shoot, move, communicate, sustain themselves and operate in an omnipresent environment of uncrewed aerial systems. That will be given to all army soldiers before they go on to their specific trades training.

It will allow us to increase the number of soldiers in our reserve units who will be able to be employed. We have long seen a big gap between the number of soldiers we have enrolled in our army reserve units and the number of soldiers who actually reach trained effective strength. This is one of the methods we're seeking to do that.

For the capabilities, I mentioned the five priorities, but there are nearly 50 major capital projects. Major-General Stéphane Masson is responsible for working very closely not only within the Department of National Defence, but really—as you know, the ecosystem has changed—with the Defence Investment Agency. This is where I'm confident in the army's ability to be the action arm for the defence industrial strategy.

Sherry Romanado: Because we're changing the divisions and the structure to operate in practice, how is this going to change?

For people who are listening and wondering what's changed, we've gotten rid of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th divisions. Now we have the Manoeuvre Division, the Support Division and the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre. What does that mean for both reservists and regular forces in terms of bases? Are people going to be moved? Are they going to be staying where they are?

I'm curious, because a lot of people are wondering what this actually means for the members of the Canadian Armed Forces. For instance, Montreal is the hub for the domestic response in the Arctic. Does that mean we're going to be moving reservists who are currently responding in those situations to Montreal?

If you could, tell us in practical terms what this means for members.

LGen Michael Wright: In terms of the restructuring of the Canadian Army, the only movement that actually happened was the movement of two division headquarters.

First of all, the standing down of the 5th Canadian Division headquarters is not at all reducing the army's strength in Atlantic Canada. In fact, CFB Gagetown remains our centre of gravity, particularly for individual training. Our 4th Canadian Division headquarters, which has now taken on the role of our Canadian Army Support Division, moved its headquarters from Toronto to Kingston.

In terms of what it means for the soldiers across the Canadian Army, it really depends on what their role is. Frankly, I'd say that probably the majority of our privates don't pay a lot of attention to division headquarters. In a lot of cases, it has meant their higher headquarters changing.

If I could, I'd like to pass the floor to the commander of the 2nd Canadian Division so she can provide some context as well.

● (1120)

Brigadier-General Marie-Christine Harvey (Commander, 2nd Canadian Division and Joint Task Force East, Department of National Defence): Yes, 2nd Canadian Division's HQ is centred in Montreal now.

[*Translation*]

I would point out that the most significant change is that our troops are now focused on an operational mission under the 2nd Canadian Division. Their focus at present is truly on the defence of Canada. In other words, soldiers serving in the 2nd Canadian Division will develop expertise in all tasks associated with defending Canada. That will be an asset in carrying out their mission on the battlefield, including tasks related to the defence of Canadian territory. It is a real asset.

Our soldiers are highly motivated by this change in structure and, most importantly, by this renewed focus on what is really the most essential mission we can be given: to defend Canada.

[*English*]

Sherry Romanado: General Wright, you mentioned something that I think we've heard before regarding the delay between when someone enrols in the Canadian Army and when they receive training for their specific trade.

You mentioned the soldier first course. Is there anything else we could be doing to support you in making sure that as soon as someone is enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces, we have their basic training in place so they're able to get that training? Is there anything we can do to support you in any bottlenecks we hear about?

LGen Michael Wright: Since the summer of 2024, General Carignan, our chief of the defence staff, has put her main effort behind not only recruitment but also the ability to get more soldiers through what we call the basic military qualification. Basic military qualification for the regular force is run by our military personnel command in Saint-Jean and Borden. For the Canadian Army reserve units, we run that through our units and through our newly established reserve battle schools.

We are seeing success, but that is because of the deliberate attention that has been paid to what we call the pipeline. The pipeline starts at the recruiting centre and continues through basic training and the basic trades training that each soldier and each new member of the Canadian Armed Forces does. Then, importantly, it continues as they receive additional courses.

What I'm really focused on is that in order to grow the army, we need to grow the junior leadership with what we call development period two, and eventually development period three, to make sure we have the master corporals and the sergeants who can help grow the Canadian Army. Frankly, we want the army to be the engine of growth for the Canadian Armed Forces.

Sherry Romanado: I think I'm out of time.

Thank you.

The Chair: Yes, you are.

We wanted to give you time for your answers.

Mr. Barsalou-Duval, it's over to you for six minutes.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval (Pierre-Boucher—Les Patriotes—Verchères, BQ): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to thank the witnesses for being here today and for agreeing to appear so soon after what happened in Wainwright. I would imagine that this has been a difficult time for the organization and for them, and even more so for the families and soldiers directly affected by the unfortunate event.

Turning more specifically to the matter before us today, namely the Canadian Army's Inflection Point 2025 plan, I have an initial question: Did you consult the minister and his office on your reorganization plan? Can you tell me if their approval was required? I don't believe so, but I assume the plan was at least presented to them in some way.

LGen Michael Wright: During our work on modernizing the army, which we started in September 2024 and continued until the publication of Inflection Point 2025 in September 2025, we delivered a number of briefings, particularly to the Chief of the Defence Staff and the Deputy Minister of National Defence. So, yes, I provided briefings to the Department of National Defence.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Were any presentations made directly to the minister?

● (1125)

LGen Michael Wright: Yes, absolutely. I discussed a number of issues with him.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I asked because I was wondering whether, during those presentations, the minister raised any questions or concerns about the place of French in the context of this reorganization.

LGen Michael Wright: During my briefings to the Minister of National Defence, that was not the case.

However, I would like to emphasize the fact that all four of our level 2 formations, namely our three divisions and the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre, are currently bilingual. Prior to September 10, we had one francophone division and three anglophone divisions, and the doctrine and training centre was bilingual. All these divisions are now bilingual.

I would also emphasize the fact that all of our formations in Quebec, including the 5 Brigade, the east training centre and the east support group, remain francophone units. French remains the language of work.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I understand what you're telling me, but the reason I asked is that people I know have raised this issue with me. Whether we like it or not, the Regular Force units at Valcartier, which operate in French and are currently under the supervision of the Montreal division, which itself operates primarily or essentially in French, will now report to Edmonton, in western Canada. You've also introduced a new territorial approach. I'm referring to the designation that came into effect this summer and is described in DAOD 5039-2. According to this defence administrative order and directive, things will now operate on a territorial basis, but apparently the directives sent from Edmonton to Valcartier will not be in French.

LGen Michael Wright: The directives issued by the new divisions will be bilingual. We've already begun putting that into practice with the new divisions across the country.

Here's an example from my own experience. When I was a captain, I spent three years on an exchange with the 2e Battalion of the Royal 22e Régiment in Valcartier. That's the kind of experience we want to offer more broadly within the Canadian Army. For example, General Harvey's new chief of staff is a colonel from Edmonton.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Even so, that is likely to be a challenge. We know that approximately 2% of Edmonton's population is francophone, so it won't be easy to find people who can give instructions in French and receive them in French.

Specifically for the 2nd Canadian Division in Montreal, which I understand you will command, General Harvey, what I am hearing from people who serve in the forces is that operations and administration within the 2nd Division are about 99% in French. Now that it will be necessary to manage reserve force troops across Canada, my understanding is that the language of work in the 2nd Division will no longer be French.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: First and foremost, I would note that the headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Division in Montreal was designated bilingual long before the new policy was introduced. Therefore, we were already using both official languages in our official publications. All of our directives and orders were already being issued in both official languages, namely French and English.

I would say that—

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I'm going to interrupt you there. I understand that you had bilingual status, but in practical terms you were coordinating the Forces in Quebec, and we know that the Forces in Quebec are overwhelmingly francophone, except for a few bilingual units. So that is still a major shift in dynamics.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: It is a shift in dynamics that we are obviously fully capable of managing. All francophone brigade groups—namely, 34 Canadian Brigade Group and 35 Canadian Brigade Group, which are located in the Quebec region—continue to receive directives in the language of their choice, that is, in French.

In fact, on September 26 and 27, we held our first divisional council meeting. I would say that the exposure of the western brigade groups to the French language has increased now that they are part of the 2nd Canadian Division. Our headquarters continue to have a predominantly francophone presence within the 2nd Canadian Division, and everyone is free to speak in the official language of their choice. In total, 90% of personnel at headquarters communicate in French, and simultaneous interpretation is provided. This means that the brigade groups in Western Canada and Ontario now have exposure to French that they did not previously have. This opportunity is now available to them through the headquarters of the 2nd Canadian Division.

● (1130)

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Has my speaking time already run out, Mr. Chair?

The Chair: Yes, time is up.

[*English*]

Mr. Anderson, we're starting our second round. It's over to you for five minutes.

Scott Anderson (Vernon—Lake Country—Monashee, CPC): Thank you so much.

General Wright, you mentioned the 22-day course. Is that before or after BMQ?

LGen Michael Wright: That takes place after the basic military qualification course occurs. The reason we've put that course in is to try to solve different problems for the reserve force and the regular force.

For the regular force, we want to reduce the amount of time soldiers are spending waiting for training. If they cannot be put into what we call their developmental period one course within 59 days, they will be sent to a field force unit to do on-the-job employment and some experiential learning before they complete their DP1. What we're trying to do from the regular force perspective is reduce the basic training list.

What we're trying to do from the reserve force perspective is increase the number of soldiers who are employable in their unit. We're hoping to give greater choice to members of the reserve force so they can determine their level of availability and their level of ambition. If they're in post-secondary education, involved in a very busy full-time civilian job or at a point in their life where they cannot commit to further training, then receiving the soldier first qualification will get them to what we are calling the employment functional point.

Reaching the employment functional point would allow them to do training with their unit and, in certain cases, deploy on Operation Lentus. However, if they wanted to deploy on Operation Nanook or augment expeditionary operations, they would need to go through the right level of training, qualifications and courses to do that.

Scott Anderson: When they deploy, I understand they drop a rank to operate with the regular forces in the reserves. Is that correct?

LGen Michael Wright: That's not correct.

Scott Anderson: Okay. Good.

I appreciate you taking the time, because I know sometimes an ability to work with the reserves is a problem for some people. I appreciate you mentioning that.

There's another problem we've run into, though, and that's with recruitment. BMQ failure rates are quite high. We've heard formally that they're somewhere in the 70% range. Informally, I've heard about a failure rate of around 55%. For BMQ, that's atrocious.

We have traditionally tried to lower the standards in some sense. I'm wondering if that is the right course. We spoke with three former lieutenant-generals last time. I don't know if you had a chance to watch that. I asked them about bringing back things like bravery and duty—the traditional military attributes. We seem to have gotten away from that a bit, and it may be reflected in our failure rates in BMQ.

Maybe you can speak to that. Is it time to try to bring back some of the traditional military attributes that we value?

LGen Michael Wright: I can't respond to percentages for BMQ success rates. I think you're talking about some of the reports we saw come out of the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School. I don't have those statistics at hand. I know that we pay attention to the success rate, because not only is the army responsible for augmenting the basic military qualification courses in Borden but we're also responsible, as I previously said, for running our own basic military qualification courses.

It is absolutely a challenge for our instructors to provide that first example of leadership and what it takes to be a soldier in the Canadian Army, but I am confident that we have not reduced our standards. I am also confident that the product that comes out of the BMQs that we put our army reserve through and out of the development period one courses that we put the army through are the soldiers we need.

● (1135)

Scott Anderson: Yes, sir, but with respect, a 70% BMQ failure rate is atrocious. A 90% pass rate is probably acceptable, I would think.

The recruitment standards themselves may have to be.... What do you think about my original question about bringing back those attributes?

Maybe General Harvey wants to say some words about this too.

LGen Michael Wright: I'll absolutely pass the floor to General Harvey, but I'll say a couple of things.

It's incredibly important that we continue to do everything possible to improve the process of recruiting Canadians into the Canadian Armed Forces. There have been some changes made over the past couple of years to increase the number of recruits we see coming in across the Canadian Armed Forces, including in the Canadian Army and the Canadian Army reserve.

As with anything, we've seen some areas where we've tried something, and then there have been some adjustments to the way we do recruiting.

Scott Anderson: Thank you. I appreciate your candour.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: I do not have the statistics either, because they belong to another organization, but I can attest that in the reserve force, we take into account and assess all of our failures and whether they were based on a lack of physical or mental preparation. When we see those trends and tendencies, we look at how we can best prepare recruits to make sure that we have, without lowering standards, a higher success rate for the reserve force.

This is going on right now based on what happened during the summer training, and we will adapt with a bit of a pre-training package, should it be required, to build physical and mental resilience, if this is what was lacking, to achieve the rate of success that we need for BMQ.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

Mr. Watchorn, it's over to you for five minutes, sir.

[*Translation*]

Tim Watchorn (Les Pays-d'en-Haut, Lib.): Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would also like to thank the witnesses for being here today.

I would like to ask Brigadier General Harvey a few questions.

When I was mayor of Morin-Heights, we had a partnership with The Royal Canadian Hussars. Its members conducted training exercises in the area. I can tell you that whenever military vehicles drove through areas where people weren't accustomed to seeing them, I received calls from residents asking what was happening.

As a matter of fact, 35 Canadian Brigade Group is training today at the former Lac Saint-Denis base in Saint-Adolphe-d'Howard. I want to tell you that the improvements in communications with local communities have been very well received. People are kept informed of what's happening.

Could you tell us how important it is for reservists to train in the field and conduct these types of exercises as part of their preparation? Perhaps you could explain some of the benefits.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: First of all, I'm pleased to hear you say that our communications have improved, because that's one of our standard procedures whenever we deploy to an area for training outside a military base. We also do so during training exercises on military bases, to reassure Canadians in case there are loud noises or other disruptions. So, I'm glad to hear we've improved in that respect. It's extremely important.

The strength of the Reserve Force is, of course, its connection to the community. It is therefore very important for reservists to train within their communities. Given our mandate to defend Canada, Canadians will have to become accustomed to seeing more and more of our soldiers training in local communities. These will mainly be practical exercises to ensure we're ready to respond to any type of aggression that could affect Canadian territory. We anticipate an increase in this type of activity, and it is extremely important to us.

Tim Watchorn: Excellent. Let me congratulate you again. This time, the leadership's communication with local municipalities was handled extremely well. It was the same last time: We were getting calls, of course, but it was still informative. I think it's important for people in the community to realize just how closely connected you are to us. Plus, when we need your support, it will be very important that you've already had hands-on experience in the field.

Brigadier-General Harvey, I'll give you a short break and turn to General Masson.

General Masson, we discussed the new defence Crown corporation as part of Inflection Point 2025. You have projects underway. As General Wright rightly pointed out, there are several priorities.

[*English*]

There's artillery, individual systems, air defence, and crewed and uncrewed systems.

[*Translation*]

How do you envision your collaboration with the new agency to ensure that all these projects are completed quickly and that personnel in the Canadian Armed Forces receive what they need within the required timelines?

● (1140)

Major-General Stéphane Masson (Chief of Staff Army Strategy, Department of National Defence): I can assure you that our collaboration with the Defence Investment Agency, or DIA, is unique and truly positive. We've already seen tangible results that will ensure our soldiers have access to equipment more quickly than would previously have been possible or anticipated.

I'll give you the example of the assault rifle that is standard issue for all members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Thanks to the co-operation of the DIA and other federal government departments, we are able to move up the delivery and deployment of that weapons system by nearly two years within the Canadian Armed Forces.

[*English*]

It's a significant achievement that will provide soldiers what they need.

[*Translation*]

That is just one example among many others.

To answer your question about crewed and uncrewed systems, I would say that the military has shifted its focus toward uncrewed systems. You may have heard of the MINERVA Initiative, a partnership between our soldiers and Canadian industry. The DIA is the catalyst that enables us to have rapid mechanisms for moving from an idea to a prototype. This is very real, and the DIA's contribution is absolutely essential for the military.

Tim Watchorn: Thank you very much.

Do I still have time, Mr. Chair? I understand that I do.

So, General Masson, regarding drones specifically, you know that we've established the DISH—that is, the Defence Innovation Secure Hub—in Mirabel, right next to my home. I met with the people behind the proposal. They're former military personnel.

I'd like you to explain a bit about the advantages of Mirabel—specifically, the control tower and the controlled airspace—and how we brought together people from industry, universities and the Canadian Armed Forces to provide the best drones to the Canadian Armed Forces.

MGen Stéphane Masson: I would say that the DISH in Mirabel is an incubator for good ideas. You're absolutely right—it allows our soldiers to benefit from the best that Canadian industry has to offer.

I'd say that a few years ago, the military was somewhat detached from industry. That relationship has changed over the past two years. We're in constant contact with industry to help us better understand what we need and to hear from industry professionals about where technology stands—all with the goal of helping us provide the best military advice on purchasing the equipment we'll need in the future. This relationship is truly beneficial. The contribution of the DISH in Mirabel is absolutely essential to our shift toward uncrewed systems.

The Chair: Thank you, General Masson.

[*English*]

Mr. Barsalou-Duval, you have two and a half minutes.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would like to continue the discussion on what I had begun to raise earlier.

The context is quite different, however. We know that 75% of Canadian troops are anglophone, that 25% are francophone, and that Montreal will be coordinating all those personnel across Canada. I find it very hard to believe that team meetings, work meetings, and day-to-day exchanges will take place in French. I understand that, on paper, everything is bilingual, but in practice, in day-to-day operations, I have a very hard time seeing how that will work.

In fact, I might even add that, in the plan that was presented, the Valcartier training centre will now fall under Kingston's command, even though we know that the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston has just abandoned its bilingualism policy with respect to its operations.

I have a question for you, General Wright. Have you conducted an analysis on the impact your restructuring will have on the use of French in the Forces? Was that taken into consideration?

LGen Michael Wright: Yes.

I'd like to say that this isn't simply a paper exercise; it's being implemented. I'm confident that our processes within the Canadian Army are stronger than those of any other service within the Canadian Armed Forces. We have—

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: You mentioned that you conducted an analysis. Would it be possible for you to share it with the committee so that we can see the impact you anticipate, or at least the safeguards you have put in place? There may be mitigating measures that are possible or that you have considered in that regard. It would be useful for us to review them.

● (1145)

LGen Michael Wright: We will work with the committee's team to provide you with information on our analysis of army modernization.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: To conclude this topic and allow us to move on, I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the following motion today:

> That the Standing Committee on National Defence invite the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada to examine the Canadian Army reorganization plan set out in the document "Inflection Point" announced in a news release on October 5, and to appear as a witness as part of this study to address the anticipated impact of the following changes on the status of French within the Canadian Armed Forces:
>
> (a) The integration of the regular forces of the 5th Mechanized Brigade Group in Valcartier, including the 22e Régiment, into the 1st Canadian Division in Edmonton, Alberta;
>
> (b) The 2nd Canadian Division in Longue-Pointe, Montreal, assuming responsibility for all of Canada's Reserve Forces, rather than coordinating Quebec personnel as was previously the case;
>
> (c) The transfer of the 2nd Canadian Division Training Centre in Valcartier to the command of the Canadian Army Doctrine and Training Centre in Kingston, Ontario, which has recently relinquished its bilingual status; and,
>
> (d) Any other matter that the Commissioner considers relevant in the circumstances.

[*English*]

The Chair: I know that we're trying to give an opportunity for witnesses to speak. We're going to save our motions for the tail end of this meeting. I also know we're dealing with the francophone study.

We have a point of order from Ms. Idlout.

Lori Idlout (Nunavut, Lib.): The interpreters were not able to keep up with the interpretation from French to English, and because they didn't have the text of the motion, I wasn't able to understand the full content of the motion.

The Chair: That's noted.

Ms. Romanado.

Sherry Romanado: Mr. Chair, we have the general of the army in front of us to discuss "Inflection Point 2025", and he has moved his testimony to today because of Wainwright. I would like to hear from the witnesses, so I'm going to move to adjourn debate.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Mr. Chair, I didn't—

[*English*]

The Chair: It's not debatable. We have to vote on it.

(Motion agreed to)

The Chair: Our next question goes to Mr. Kibble.

Jeff Kibble (Cowichan—Malahat—Langford, CPC): Thank you.

Thank you, General Wright, for your service, for your team and for your comments on the tragedy at Wainwright.

I have a friend who was there, and I can't imagine how it would impact you and your team and those affected, so thank you for sharing that.

I've reviewed your report, and I appreciate many of the items in there. I'd like to focus on some of them.

Let's start with how the number of divisions was decided. We constantly hear about the new dangers in the world. What threat assessments were used to determine having one Manoeuvre Division? Do threats need two or four? What are the threats we're facing?

LGen Michael Wright: I'd emphasize that we previously had four divisions, although those divisions were administrative and regional. The commanders of those divisions were responsible for regular force units, reserve force units, Canadian Ranger patrol groups, and institutional support across the army.

Jeff Kibble: Then we just need one division [*Inaudible—Editor*] to threats right now.

LGen Michael Wright: What we have done is reorganize the people and capabilities we currently have within the Canadian Army into a division that is focused on the force generation for our extant international commitments, which include Operation Reassurance on NATO's eastern flank in Latvia, but also Operation Unifier.

Jeff Kibble: What specifically is the Defence of Canada Division defending against, and will they be as equally capable as the Manoeuvre Division?

LGen Michael Wright: I'll start with an answer, and then I'll pass it to the commander of the 2nd Canadian Division.

The importance here is that the Canadian Joint Operations Command published in September of this year the Canadian all-domain defence plan. General Harvey has already stood up what we are calling our domestic land component command, and she is working with her team and with the commander of the Canadian Joint Operations Command to determine how the land forces will provide the necessary effects for the Canadian all-domain defence plan.

● (1150)

Jeff Kibble: We don't know the specific threat.

LGen Michael Wright: I know this committee received an in camera brief several weeks ago on threats. I would suggest that the threats discussed there are threats that are well known.

Jeff Kibble: That didn't specifically lay it out.

You mentioned heavy direct fire units. I liked that. It's a main priority in your report. I didn't hear you mention it as a main priority today when you were speaking. I'm assuming that was an oversight. How many heavy direct fire units does the plan call for per division?

LGen Michael Wright: It was not an oversight. I have 44 major capital projects, and I can't list all 44 of them. They do not fall within the top five.

Jeff Kibble: I can appreciate that.

LGen Michael Wright: The heavy direct fire modernization project is very much working with other projects, such as the Royal Canadian Air Force's lead on the next tactical aviation capability set, to determine the ways we can provide heavy direct fire crewed, uncrewed, on the ground and in the air.

"Inflection Point 2025" says that we were planning for a second armoured regiment. I'd like to emphasize that "Inflection Point 2025" was an intention and call to action published in September 2025. With the way we're seeing warfare evolve right now, that's a long time ago.

Jeff Kibble: There were no specific numbers, just a call for a division. There were no specific heavy indirect fire units. I'm just looking for a number.

LGen Michael Wright: Just for confirmation, is this indirect fire or direct fire?

Jeff Kibble: I mean direct, as you said "heavy direct fire".

LGen Michael Wright: Currently, the heavy direct fire unit within the 1st Canadian Division is Lord Strathcona's Horse, Royal Canadians, based out of Edmonton, Alberta. That is a single unit. We are looking, as we move forward with direct fire modernization, into what the right balance is.

Jeff Kibble: I'll move on to ammunition. I didn't hear a number for heavy direct fire units there.

The Auditor General just released a scathing report about ammunition stockpiles and significant gaps in ammunition, and that speaks to the defence of the sovereignty of Canada. What percentage are you short? They also indicate $700 million per year. Is that sufficient to actually close those gaps and meet the new requirements of the new organization that you're presenting before us?

I've heard credible stories from Latvia about significant shortages of artillery. Can you confirm that as well? I'm even hearing reports of soldiers on patrol on the ground in Latvia without ammunition in their rifles. We're just short of ammunition. Could you speak to when we are going to, at $700 million per year, get the ammunition that your plan requires?

LGen Michael Wright: Just to close off the previous question, there is one heavy direct fire unit within the Canadian Army.

In terms of ammunition, it was mentioned to me as I arrived here that the Auditor General's report has been released. I have not seen it, but I can say that the Canadian Army is working very closely with not only the assistant deputy minister of materiel but, importantly, our new commander of the Joint Forces Command, Lieutenant-General Darcy Molstad. He is regularly advocating for what we need to do to increase our days of supply, particularly in Latvia, and ensure that we have the proper munition, whether it's for training or for operations.

Jeff Kibble: Thank you.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

Thank you, Mr. Kibble.

Mr. Malette, it's over to you for five minutes.

Chris Malette (Bay of Quinte, Lib.): Thank you.

Generals, it was a pleasure to chat with you beforehand. Again, as my colleagues said, I offer our sincere condolences on the losses within your ranks.

My first question is for General Wright, or whoever can best answer it.

We discussed the importance of CFB Trenton 8 Wing in my riding, and I'm sure you've all been through there at one point or another in your career. Given the strategic importance of Canada's air bases, including 8 Wing, as I mentioned, what investments are needed to modernize infrastructure, strengthen army and air force coordination and ensure our bases can support Canada's growing NATO commitments, Arctic sovereignty and domestic emergency response? I've seen first-hand some of the coordination through there between the army and air force assets we have. Where do you see that going?

LGen Michael Wright: We have a unit of the Canadian Army located at CFB Trenton, the Canadian Army Advanced Warfare Centre. It provides training for specialties such as airborne operations and complex terrain.

We definitely work hand in hand with the Royal Canadian Air Force when we partner on their wings. One of the most important relationships I have, along with my fellow L1s, is absolutely with the assistant deputy minister of infrastructure and environment because, yes, there needs to be further investment in our wings, and similarly in our bases.

We are working very hard not only for our bases, ranges and training areas but also for armouries across the country. This includes seeking to get more infrastructure for reserves in the suburbs around some of our largest cities. As you know, a lot of our armouries are located in the downtown areas of cities like Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver. We see—

● (1155)

Chris Malette: There's Belleville.

LGen Michael Wright: Maybe we won't put Belleville in the same category as Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver.

It's about reservists having the ability to more easily access the training we're asking them to do.

Chris Malette: When we talk about an inflection point for the Canadian Army, are we talking primarily about a funding problem, a personnel problem, an equipment problem or a fundamental problem with how the army is structured to fight? Is that the way some people are assessing this?

LGen Michael Wright: I'll start with the last part about structure.

This is why we've deliberately made the structural changes we have, reforming those four divisions into the 1st Canadian Division, the 2nd Canadian Division and the Canadian Army Support Division.

In terms of the resources required, “Inflection Point 2025” is the army's vision for what we need to do to move forward. Obviously, we work closely with all other level one organizations, in all domains, to look at what's needed to meet the requirements of a joint Canadian Armed Forces in the future.

Chris Malette: Do I still have some time, Mr. Chair?

The Chair: Yes, you do.

Chris Malette: Thank you.

The army's modernization strategy is unusually candid about the existing capability gaps. What are the consequences if Canada fails to close those gaps within the timelines outlined in the strategy?

LGen Michael Wright: It's important that we be honest about gaps, because our soldiers see them every day, whether it's the people or equipment we have. It is important that we try to close those gaps as quickly as possible so we can provide the soldiers who not only are necessary for General Harvey's tasks here in Canada, but must also continue to contribute to operations, like those on NATO's eastern flank.

Chris Malette: Thank you. I think Canadians, at this time, respect that openness and honest conversation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Ruff, you have up to five minutes.

Alex Ruff (Bruce—Grey—Owen Sound, CPC): Thank you, Chair.

First off, generals, it's great to see you all. Thank you for coming.

To you, General Wright, I offer my condolences. Thank you for your leadership as the senior Patricia in the Canadian Armed Forces. Your leadership is essential. I witnessed it first-hand in Afghanistan. Please pass them on to Colonel Reekie, the brigade commander. I know he's well versed in the tragedy. My heart and prayers go out to all the families impacted.

How has the restructuring of the Canadian Army impacted your relationship with CJOC and the regional joint task force commands? In particular, is Toronto still Joint Task Force Central? How is that all fitting in?

Obviously, General Harvey, you have a lead on this.

LGen Michael Wright: I'll very quickly pass the floor to General Harvey, but I can tell you that all of this was done in close consultation with CJOC to ensure that we could provide the remits not only for the force generation of forces for Canada but also to have expeditionary and high-readiness forces. There has been a change to the structure of the regional joint task forces.

I'll pass the floor to General Harvey.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: While there used to be three regional joint task forces commanded by a division commander, there is now one regional joint task force. It is called the Regional Joint Task Force Interior. It includes the provinces from Alberta to Quebec. This is my second function: Regional Joint Task Force Interior commander through, of course, CJOC, the Canadian Joint Operations Command. That is one big change.

We used to have Joint Task Force East in Montreal. This is still the main regional joint task force HQ. Our footprint in Edmonton and Toronto has stayed in their locations, and there are subordinate regional joint task forces to the Joint Task Force Interior through the 2nd Canadian Division.

● (1200)

Alex Ruff: My ask of you and VAC is to please remind CJOC to update their website.

Good luck, General Harvey, in your ability to work with the provinces, in particular wearing the Regional Joint Task Force Interior hat.

I'm going to get to army training, General Wright.

You and I were COs at the same time. Back then, we had tons of officers coming in. Obviously, we didn't really have a recruiting problem because we were at the height of Afghanistan, with patriotic Canadians joining. I know it was a personal challenge for me in the 2nd Battalion of the RCR. I'm pretty sure it was a challenge for you at 2PPCLI with the number of officers coming in and the machine of running them through command opportunities.

It's my understanding, despite the good news that Canadian Armed Forces recruiting was up over the last year to record numbers, that those record numbers were basically a 30-year high of officers and women, which is a good story. However, our NCM intake was actually below or average. How is that impacting the training and professional development of officers? How are you employing them all? It's my understanding that in the army in particular, you have regiments or units that are standing down companies or squadrons because of the lack of numbers. How are you managing that challenge?

LGen Michael Wright: First of all, we have seen success in a number of our occupations but not all occupations. I'll just use some examples. On artillery, certainly in our signals occupations, we continue to have some shortages in the ability to recruit and get them trained. That's one problem.

A second problem is what we have often referred to as the missing middle, not only because of the demand on the leadership level—master corporals, sergeants and in some cases captains—to be there but also because the army, as I said, is providing the engine of growth for the Canadian Armed Forces, with a large number of senior NCOs providing augmentation to the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School in Saint-Jean.

The member has very good information about officers. In fact, in August, I was in Gagetown for the graduation of development period 1.2, or what we used to know as phase four infantry. The excellent news is that there were 64 new graduates of that course, all from the regular force and all across the three regular force infantry regiments. The bad news is that we don't have 64 infantry platoons.

It's really about doing things similar to what the member and I did when we were commanding officers: determining how to get experience through exercises and through providing leadership on courses such as DP1s or infantry section commander courses to provide training. What it really comes down to is leadership and mentorship from the company commanders and the battalion commanders.

Alex Ruff: Thank you, General.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Ruff.

Ms. Idlout, we'll go over to you for five minutes.

Lori Idlout: *Qujannamiik, Iksivautaq*. Thank you, Chair.

Qujannamiik to the witnesses. Thank you so much for appearing. Of course, I must share the same sentiment about acknowledging the important service you all provide and the sacrifices that are made so that you can help keep Canada sovereign and keep our Arctic secure.

I've mentioned in the past to this committee that my family has a history with sovereignty. My grandfather was a human flagpole. He had been sent to Resolute to help the Inuit who were sent there in the name of sovereignty. I've seen the transition, the relationship change, from that kind of behaviour to what I see now and the great work the Canadian Armed Forces does to make sure you have a reconciliatory relationship with indigenous peoples. In particular, I see it in the Canadian Rangers.

My line of questioning will be about supports for the Canadian Rangers. I wonder if you could share with us about Joint Task Force North. I very much appreciate Major Sean Brinkema, who has been quite amazing with his leadership at Joint Task Force North. Are these changes making it easier for that task force to continue its positive relationship with the Canadian Rangers?

● (1205)

LGen Michael Wright: I'll quickly turn it over to the commander of 2nd Canadian Division, but I'll say on Canadian Rangers that we are in the midst of what we're calling the Canadian Rangers enhancement project. Part of that is about deliberately gathering all five of the Canadian Ranger patrol groups, which account for rangers in seven provinces and in all three territories, under a single Canadian Ranger group under the 2nd Canadian Division.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: It is important, at this point in time, to mention, because it is good news, that yesterday, I was in Kangiqsualujjuaq to give a CD for 52 years of service to one of our Canadian Rangers who is part of the 2nd Canadian Ranger Patrol Group. We are extremely proud of the service that our rangers are providing.

We have an increased relationship now with JTF North, as the commander has mentioned, because we have built the Canadian Ranger HQ group. This allows us to better coordinate all of the operational impacts that our Canadian Rangers have through JTF North, through all of our activities with CJOC, through the Operation Nanook exercise and through all of the exercises that we do with our CRPGs and our ARCGs—our Arctic response company groups.

It is a synergy that has been duplicated by the creation of that HQ, and the relationship with JTF North is reinforced through the command that is focused on commanding our patrol groups.

Lori Idlout: I want to understand the roles and responsibilities of the Canadian Forces reserve units and the Canadian Rangers within the Defence of Canada Division, with the remainder of your time.

LGen Michael Wright: I'll pass it to General Harvey. She spoke about the Canadian Rangers, the Arctic response company groups and the ability to participate in Operation Nanook.

General Harvey, please go ahead.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: Of course, our main responsibility, through the Defence of Canada Division, for troops in the land domain is through JTF North and CJOC and through the series of operations that we call Operation Nanook. This operation is key and is linked to the Canadian all-domain defence plan, which is being built up.

To support Operation Nanook, our responsibility—through our ARCGs and our Canadian Rangers—is to generate all of the land troops for those exercises. We exercise at those operations joint interoperability with federal, territorial and indigenous partners across all of the northern environment. This is a key contribution that the Canadian Rangers and our Arctic response company groups provide up north for the sovereignty of the Arctic.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

Thank you, Ms. Idlout.

We'll go back to you, Mr. Barsalou-Duval, for two and a half minutes.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I had hoped to address other issues today, but it seems that will not be possible.

Mr. Chair, I want to say that I am truly appalled—and “appalled” is the right word—by the vote that just took place, whereby the issue of French and the place of French within a major restructuring is being treated as a trivial matter and a waste of time, when in fact it is a fundamental issue. It raises an important question: whether Quebecers and francophones who enlist in the Canadian Forces will be respected and able to work in their own language so that they can thrive in that environment. I am therefore deeply concerned to see that I am the only one here raising these issues. I am the only one here asking that we discuss them. Yet we spent the summer talking about a scandal stemming from the fact that there are hundreds of units across Canada where the status of French has been downgraded.

My motion simply sought to have the Commissioner of Official Languages provide her opinion on the reform. I'm not asking her to reverse or cancel the reform. I just want us to consider whether there might be repercussions in this regard and whether adjustments might be required. Instead, that proposal has been completely brushed aside as though it were unimportant, as though no one cared and as though there were more important issues to deal with.

Mr. Chair, I am truly angry—genuinely angry—about the vote that just took place, and I think I have rarely been this angry since I became a member of the House of Commons.

● (1210)

[*English*]

The Chair: You have another minute, sir.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Mr. Chair, could you give me my remaining minute later on?

[*English*]

The Chair: No, sir. We're continuing. We're running out of time.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I have no further questions.

[*English*]

The Chair: Mr. Bezan, it's over to you.

James Bezan: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

We talk about using more drones, UAVs, robotics and cyber—lessons learned from Ukraine. Actually, they just recently, to improve their operation on the battlefield, had a whole division dedicated to unmanned systems and using robotics on the ground, in the air, on the water and in the water. They've been incredibly successful with it, working directly with industry and having quick adaptability.

In “Inflection Point 2025”, you talk about the additional critical areas for investment. UAVs fall under that section, but it's by 2040 that we'll get there. We don't have that much time, knowing how things are going. Hopefully, Canada is not going to be in a direct conflict, but knowing how things are progressing and how the threat environment has gotten more unstable, how do we more rapidly adapt new technology with the army, working with industry and testing it in real time?

LGen Michael Wright: Again, “Inflection Point 2025” is now 13 months old, and given the rate of technological change we see specifically with uncrewed systems.... I know that General Masson already mentioned the Minerva initiative, but a direction that I just gave in September—last month—is that by next fall, we will have a subunit of approximately 120 soldiers of the Royal Canadian Dragoons in Petawawa and a subunit of the 12e Régiment blindé du Canada in Valcartier that will be robotics combat squadrons.

The intent there is to get both uncrewed aerial systems and uncrewed ground systems into the hands of our soldiers and not to say, “Here's the doctrine you need to follow and here's the training you need to do.” It's to pair industry with our soldiers so that we can figure out the right way to employ, which will then drive doctrine and training.

James Bezan: How does DRDC and using CFB Suffield, with a huge operation zone, fit into this so that we can test out a lot of this equipment?

LGen Michael Wright: The good news is that we have a lot of people assisting us with this, not only DRDC and what they do through BOREALIS. Please forgive me, but I can't remember what the BOREALIS acronym stands for, but they are absolutely helping us with innovation and with trying to more rapidly introduce.

I'd say that our principal partner is the Canadian Joint Forces Command. Specifically, what they have done with the defence drone initiative has helped to rapidly accelerate the introduction of uncrewed capabilities into the army.

Just yesterday, the joint forces commander, Lieutenant-General Molstad, briefed on requests for proposals that have gone out for a domestic UAS case and a medium-range UAS case. None of this means that we have enough uncrewed systems in the hands of our soldiers, but that's what we're rapidly trying to do.

Just as a last point, it's equally important that we look at uncrewed ground systems. There was mention about lessons learned from Ukraine and how uncrewed ground systems are being used to help minimize or reduce risk to soldiers. It is important for us to look at that.

● (1215)

James Bezan: I have just one more question, and then I'm going to flip it over to Mr. Ruff.

We talked about long-range precision rockets. We were talking about multiple rocket launch systems, I'm assuming. How quickly can we procure those systems knowing how important they are, along with air defence, to keep our troops as safe as possible in theatre?

LGen Michael Wright: The long-range precision strike project is going very well. In fact, we are hoping to have the first systems arrive in 2028.

For ground-based air defence, not only is it important for the army for the protection of our own forces, but one of the key tasks of General Harvey's team in the 2nd Canadian Division will be to provide the army's footprint in the integrated air and missile defence of Canada.

Alex Ruff: Just to build on the UAV challenge, I don't want to go to the domestic defence aspect of that. However, for our troops in Latvia in particular.... In the Ukraine-Russia conflict, it's 10,000 drones a day. How are you replicating that in training for the Canadian Army and in particular for our forces that are heading to Latvia?

LGen Michael Wright: That's exactly why we're trying to move with a sense of urgency to get more uncrewed systems in.

We have approximately 600 uncrewed systems right now. By the end of this fiscal year, it's supposed to be double, to 1,200, but then the rheostat should increase significantly, enabled by the defence drone initiative.

When we do Exercise Maple Sword next spring in Wainwright, we will absolutely incorporate uncrewed systems, from both an enemy force perspective and a friendly force perspective, because we have to train. We know we need to be ready to fight.

The Chair: Thank you, General, and thank you, Mr. Ruff and Mr. Bezan.

It's over to you, Mr. Earle, for five minutes.

Philip Earle (Labrador, Lib.): Thank you, Chair.

Thank you for your leadership. Like my colleagues, I express my condolences. Most importantly, the leadership that was shown was appreciated by me as a Canadian and by me as a member of Parliament who has a military base right within my riding of Labrador. You're probably sensing some emotion in the room today. I want you to see that as our support for our men and women in uniform.

While we are going to do a study on indigenous members and the French language, and the minister will appear, there is a time for committee business. We will discuss the motions that have been talked about, but for now, for me, this is the most important study that this committee could do.

I'm a northerner. Like my colleague who spoke earlier, I want to talk about the Canadian Rangers. You told us earlier that there are 4,800 Canadian Rangers operating in seven provinces and two territories. With that in mind, and acknowledging that the Canadian Rangers play a significant support role for the Canadian Army, I want you to tell us how important the Canadian Rangers are to the great work you lead.

LGen Michael Wright: The Canadian Rangers are absolutely critical, and not only for providing the eyes and ears of the Canadian Armed Forces—deliberately the Canadian Armed Forces, not the Canadian Army. In the north, one of the things we're doing through Canadian Ranger enhancement is ensuring that the activities they are seeing and the changes they are seeing in the north and in the Arctic are able to be input into the common operating picture of the Canadian Armed Forces through the Canadian Joint Operations Command.

They're also critical in that as we increase the tempo and frequency of Operation Nanook serials in the north and in the Arctic, they're the ones who provide valuable advice on survivability in very harsh climates.

Philip Earle: Can you or a member of the team share with us the ways in which we may be able to enlist more Canadian Rangers to help do the work they do in support of, as you say, all divisions within the Canadian Armed Forces?

LGen Michael Wright: This is one of the areas where, by gathering the five Canadian Ranger patrol groups that were previously divided across four divisions, we're hoping, not only in terms of how we equip the Rangers and recruit for the Rangers but also in terms of the policy that we can ensure is in place, to grow the Canadian Rangers. I would, however, maybe caution that in order to maintain the effectiveness of the Canadian Rangers, it is less about the growing of personnel numbers and more about ensuring that we're enhancing their effectiveness with not only the proper equipment but also the proper policy.

I'll add that another intangible that the Canadian Rangers provide is that they are vectors of resilience within their communities.

● (1220)

Philip Earle: Thank you.

Again, speaking of Labrador, where I come from, the Canadian Rangers train or assist alongside some of our European allies, the German army in particular and the German special forces. Considering where we are in the world, how important is it that those Canadian Rangers be level-set with some of our European allies?

LGen Michael Wright: It's not only the Canadian Rangers; the Canadian Army is increasing the depth of our relationship with the Nordic nations, and obviously with the Latvian armed forces, given our mission in Latvia. I would say that with the Nordic countries in particular—Finland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark—we have increased our relationship and are looking to increase the amount of training we do with them and the amount of training and inclusion in Operation Nanook serials.

Philip Earle: I think I have about one minute left.

Brigadier-General Harvey, you talked about the changes to the joint task force and going as far as Quebec. This is in light of the fact that Canadian Rangers at 5 Wing Goose Bay train alongside European allies. It's a northern subarctic region. With that particular base being part of Joint Task Force Atlantic—I don't wish to intentionally mix up the lines—may I ask why the line stopped at Quebec and you wouldn't have considered all the way to the east coast, seeing the value that the Canadian Rangers bring to the great work that our Canadian Forces do?

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: I do not want to get into CJOC, the Canadian Joint Operations Command space. I can simply attest that all of the construct of the joint task force is being reassessed by the commander of CJOC as we speak, through the lens of the Canadian all-domain defence plan. Will it change? Will it remain the same? It remains under assessment. It is being studied right now.

Philip Earle: Thank you for your testimony and thank you for your leadership.

The Chair: Mr. Anderson, we'll go over to you, sir.

Scott Anderson: With regard to our relations with the U.S. and integration with NORAD, are the armoured vehicle supply chains and industrial relations continuing right now, as far as we know?

LGen Michael Wright: I can say that we have members of the Canadian Army serving with the U.S. Army, and we have members of the United States Army serving with the Canadian Army.

Scott Anderson: NORAD operations are continuing.

LGen Michael Wright: NORAD is a separate command. There are certainly some Canadian Army personnel within NORAD, but I can say they're continuing. There would be other witnesses who could talk with much greater authority on NORAD.

Scott Anderson: As far as you're concerned, though, our relations with the U.S. Army are continuing the way they were, unabated.

LGen Michael Wright: I can say that relations between the Canadian Army and the United States Army are continuing.

Scott Anderson: Prime Minister Carney's integration with the EU is going to cost us 10 million pounds as an initial contribution to SAFE, divided into 2.5 million for administration and 7.5 million against future fees. There are going to be other infrastructure things that go with this. It's clear what Canada's cost is, but what is Canada getting out of this, in your opinion?

LGen Michael Wright: I can just talk from a Canadian Army perspective about the importance of our relationship with the European armies, not only through NATO, but specifically through our presence on NATO's eastern flank.

Scott Anderson: I'm talking more about procurement and getting equipment from them through SAFE.

LGen Michael Wright: There are three pillars in the Canadian defence industrial strategy. Pillar one is building in Canada. Eighty per cent of our projects could be built in Canada. Pillar two is partnering between a Canadian company and an international company. Pillar three is going to another nation.

I can tell you that not only General Masson's team but also, more importantly, the assistant deputy minister of materiel and the Defence Investment Agency are looking at what the options are to get the best equipment in a timely manner for the Canadian Army.

Scott Anderson: My last question is, has the army assessed the risks that if there is a major European conflict, which is likely where this will go if it goes, we're going to be dependent on European supply lines, to some extent, through this program? Is there any concern that we're not going to be able to access those supply lines if there's a European war?

Michael Wright: I can't speak about the supply lines, but I can tell you that in terms of every operation we have, we have to look at all aspects and certainly supply lines. Whether that's across Canada or in our current largest mission in Latvia, it's something we have to continuously pay attention to.

● (1225)

Scott Anderson: Thank you very much.

I'm going to give the rest of my time to my colleague Alex.

Alex Ruff: Thank you.

Public reporting two weeks ago indicates that there are still operational cuts coming to all the departments, including impacts to the level 1s, and the army in particular. It's my understanding that 40% of your operating budget is reserve pay. I understand that class B positions are potentially being cut, which then impacts training.

I'm wondering how these operational cuts, if they're true, impact the army's ability to train and keep everybody employed. They especially impact our primary reserves. In particular, I know General Harvey's 2nd Canadian Division is very much impacted by or dependent upon class B reservists.

LGen Michael Wright: There's absolutely work going on between the Department of National Defence and the Canadian Armed Forces to review expenditures to ensure that they are aligned directly with core defence priorities.

I'll reference class B. We are looking at our class B positions across the Canadian Army. The vice-chief of the defence staff has directed that the same look be done across the Canadian Armed Forces where we are currently employing reservists on class B versus where they are supposed to be employed, because we really need to ensure that the units in the 2nd Canadian Division are augmented with class B. We are undergoing work within the Canadian Army, as part of the work that's going on across the Canadian Armed Forces, to try to redirect the people that General Harvey needs.

The Chair: Thank you.

I'm going now to Mr. Danko.

Welcome to the committee.

John-Paul Danko (Hamilton West—Ancaster—Dundas, Lib.): Thank you, Chair. I'm really happy to be on the defence committee. It's been a fascinating discussion.

I know it's been a very difficult time, so thank you for being here and for focusing on the business of restructuring the Canadian Armed Forces, which is really important at this particular time.

We've talked a lot about structural reorganization, but I want to get into coordination and alignment with the defence industrial strategy. I believe there's $180 billion for defence procurement and $290 billion for defence-related capital, with the build, partner, buy Canadian focus. We've seen some of that already in partnerships with Ukraine.

As we talk about shifting global alliances, threats and whatnot, how important is it for the Canadian Armed Forces to be self-sufficient along the entire equipment...acquisitions, supply chains and the entire armed forces?

LGen Michael Wright: Similar to a previous response, it's incredibly important that we have resilient and predictable supply chains. Certainly, the work that Major-General Masson and his team do with the Defence Investment Agency is directly in support of the defence industrial strategy.

John-Paul Danko: In your remarks, you talked about recruiting and making sure that we have the personnel in the armed forces we're going to need, looking at the evolution of future conflicts around the world. One of the things I've been interested in is the shift of the defence sector to the high technology expertise that's needed, whether it's in cyberwarfare or what we've seen in political interference, for example, from data centres, trolls and bot farms. We need personnel who have expertise in those sectors.

How are you recruiting the right people to fit into the armed forces in the defence sector when it comes to those high technology needs?

LGen Michael Wright: Some of that question falls outside of the Canadian Army, specifically with cyber. We have the Canadian Armed Forces cyber command, which absolutely supports the land domain.

Just in general, even with the equipment that's in the Canadian Army, what exists and what will be coming in is becoming more high-tech. I think that's expected by our soldiers and young Canadians who are joining the Canadian Army, because they live in a world where they operate with high tech or modern technology all the time.

● (1230)

John-Paul Danko: Something I've heard from youth who have been interested in the armed forces is gaining experience and exposure to the best equipment in the world, whether that's through a career in the military or through a career in the private sector, and leveraging that.

On the theme of recruiting, when I look around this committee, there's not a lot of diversity in this room. When we're recruiting for defence and the armed forces, how can we better ensure that Canada's armed forces better reflect Canada's population in terms of language, gender, ethnicity and the broad makeup that is the Canadian population?

LGen Michael Wright: If you look at the 2nd Canadian Division and particularly their units in the major population centres—I won't name the major population centres this time so as not to exclude any—we see much greater diversity in those units than we do in the regular force.

General Harvey.

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: I think this is the strength of the 2nd Canadian Division—the diversity. There's a diversity of provinces and languages, but also of backgrounds, knowledge and what reservists do in their civilian jobs.

With regard to demographics, in Montreal, for example, we are exploring getting off the island to see where we can recruit and expand to get that diversity. Where are the youth and where are our people who want to serve?

We are exploring other options to diversify and recruit people to serve in the CAF and in the reserve force.

John-Paul Danko: Thank you, General.

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Danko.

Monsieur Barsalou-Duval, it's back to you.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

To begin with, I would like to point out that the procedure used earlier to trigger the vote was out of order. You should not have recognized it, since a member who has the floor cannot be interrupted by a point of order for the purpose of forcing a vote, or even for the purpose of raising another point of order. The outcome may ultimately have been the same, but the proper procedure was not followed. I think it is important, going forward, that things be done correctly.

I now have a question for the witnesses here with us.

Some witnesses have pointed out that National Defence is seeking to provide Canada with stronger sovereign capabilities, which would seem to be a commendable objective. All of the witnesses appear to have supported that direction. However, one witness noted that there may be a lack of precision regarding the sovereign capability we are seeking to achieve. In essence, the goal would be to sustain high-intensity conflict without U.S. support, but that is not explicitly stated in the document.

Is this something that could have been included in the document or that should have been included? If not, could you explain why? That is the first part of my question.

Since I don't have much time, I'll ask my second question right away, as it is somewhat related.

In your document “Inflection Point 2025”, you talk about deterring aggression and responding to emerging threats, but it doesn't identify who might pose those emerging threats. Could you provide some clarification on that as well?

LGen Michael Wright: As regards the first question, I think it is important to recognize that the defence industry in Canada has been experiencing significant growth over the past year or year and a half, that is, since the beginning of 2025.

It is certainly true that there are capabilities we do not have here in Canada. That said, I can cite several good examples, such as Logistik Unicorp, which is based in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, and which is responsible for the majority…

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I'm not sure if you've fully understood my question.

LGen Michael Wright: Yes, I did understand.

● (1235)

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I didn't get the impression that was the case.

LGen Michael Wright: That is correct; we did not mention it in the document. As I explained, it was a document for the Canadian Armed Forces. I believe that the points just raised in the questions relate more to national defence policies and do not necessarily need to be included in a document for a branch of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you.

[*English*]

The Chair: Thank you.

I want to remind the committee that we are trying to work collaboratively. We are working on a francophone study.

Mr. Barsalou-Duval, we want to hear about your motion. I know it wasn't presented in both official languages and I know there was a misinterpretation with the interpreters, but I want you to appreciate that we want to deal with your issue. It's just a matter of us coordinating the witnesses before us—and we have a study.

I know the minister is keen on coming to respond to you specifically, so we will manage this process. As the chair, I'll do my utmost to give you the respect you and the francophone community require. I will do my best to do so.

Mr. Kibble, it's over to you.

Jeff Kibble: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I'm looking for some numbers. I'm feeling numbers today.

I like your comment about seeing success in recruitment. It has gone up, by the numbers I've seen—about 1% for trained effective strength in less than one year. That is positive, but there's still a long way to go.

My question on numbers is, when are we, the Canadian Forces, going to be at trained effective strength? Is that sufficient for your plan for standing up, in your reorganization, a division? Are there enough numbers? Do you need more? Here's a chance to ask for 500,000 or something.

LGen Michael Wright: The army has agility and flexibility, and the army will take advantage of and welcome advances in capabilities—for example, as Major-General Masson mentioned with the Canadian modular assault rifle.

We've seen some success in getting more soldiers to fill some of our existing tasks, but we have just stood up this week the 8th Air Defence Regiment in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Jeff Kibble: I didn't hear any numbers there. I was looking for when the Canadian Forces are going to get to trained effective strength and whether that is sufficient for your plan. I have no doubt in the capability of what the army can do with what they're given. What I'm trying to find out is what they want and need.

LGen Michael Wright: The question of the goals of the Canadian Armed Forces falls to the chief of the defence staff and the chief of military personnel command.

The army has laid out, in order to move from where we are today to where we want to be, what would be required, but I'd like to emphasize that we have flexibility and agility.

Jeff Kibble: Okay. We have flexibility, but no numbers. Let's go to some more numbers.

What percentage of ammunition stockpiles are you at, and when are you going to get to where you need to be? I know you haven't read the Auditor General's report, but being in charge of the army, you must know how much artillery you have and how much you need. Is it true that there's a very limited stockpile in Latvia? Are there some numbers there?

I have no doubt in the capability of the army to be flexible with what little ammunition it has, but what are the gaps and what do you need? We're here to try to help you. If you give us those numbers, we can do better at helping you.

LGen Michael Wright: I'm going to disappoint the member because I don't have those numbers here. Perhaps we can take some of that on note.

Specifically for Latvia, this is where the Canadian Joint Operations Command commands the mission, but the army and Joint Forces Command continually work to ensure that we not only increase the days of supply, but also have the infrastructure to house those days of supply.

Jeff Kibble: Okay, thank you.

I'm hoping that you can table some of those numbers, whether for the trained effective strength timelines or the ammo stockpile. Again, we're here to help you.

I apologize. I wasn't being specifically clear about heavy direct fire. I'm actually interested in the number of vehicles you have and the number you're going to need. I need to know those numbers. Do you need 500, 1,000, 250?

I appreciate that you haven't identified exactly the type of vehicle you need. Remember, we're trying to help you. These are the kinds of numbers that help us get you what you need. They help the opposition pressure the government to get to where they need to be. We're all collaboratively working together to get you that.

Can you give me a number, and if not, will you put it in a report?

LGen Michael Wright: I can absolutely give the number that we currently have—on notice, because I don't have it in front of me. I can give the number of Leopard tanks we have here in Canada and the number we have deployed in Latvia.

Jeff Kibble: What will we need for your plan?

● (1240)

LGen Michael Wright: I'm not going to give a number of tanks because what we need is going to be a mixture of crewed and uncrewed. I don't think I have the necessary information to make a quality decision as to what we will need in 2026.

Jeff Kibble: How do you order them? How do you go to the DIA and say, “We need.... Well, we don't know what we need”? What are you going to give them as a number?

LGen Michael Wright: This is the importance of what Brigadier-General Masson does on a daily basis with his team under the director of land requirements and working—

Jeff Kibble: I'll throw my last question to Mr. Bezan. I look forward to seeing some numbers in a follow-up report.

Thank you.

James Bezan: To follow up on that, the Auditor General came out with a report this morning on National Defence's munitions supplies for both operational training and readiness, as well as strategic stockpiles.

One of the things she alluded to was that the army allots over 60% of the munitions that the Canadian Armed Forces has for training, but they don't use all of it. Only about 56% of the total that is allotted to the army is used. Part of the reason for that is a lack of serviceability of their equipment—tanks in particular, but I'm sure the M777 howitzers are part of that, never mind rifles and LAVs.

During the study period the AG had, how much have previous budget cuts impacted the availability of equipment because you didn't have the budget to maintain it?

LGen Michael Wright: We absolutely continue to have challenges with the serviceability of our main fighting vehicles—the Leopard 2 tanks and, to a lesser extent, light armoured vehicles and some of the other equipment that you mentioned. Over the past two years, we have seen an increase in the way we work with the assistant deputy minister of materiel, to have more predictable funding in order to do the maintenance of our vehicles. In addition to that, in the summer of 2025, a long-term maintenance facility was established just outside of Edmonton to try to bring in another solution to increase the serviceability of our Leopard fleet.

The last thing I'll say is that this is truly another aim of army modernization and of the restructure. As opposed to four different division commanders having to look at a problem in four different ways, I'm relying on my commander of the Canadian Army Support Division to look at some of the third-line support. For the equipment in the 2nd Canadian Division, I have to enable it, but I have to ask the commander of the 2nd Canadian Division. It's the same for the vehicles within the 1st Canadian Division.

The Chair: Thank you, General.

I'm looking at time.

Ms. Romanado, I'm going to give you a few minutes, and then we're going to conclude, in the last 15 minutes or so, by dealing with the motions that Mr. Bezan has put forward and tabled.

It's over to you, Ms. Romanado.

Sherry Romanado: Thank you, Chair.

I'll start, and then I'll pass the rest of my time to Mr. Malette.

My colleague across the way brought this up, and I think this committee did a study about it: the use of the Canadian Armed Forces in responding in Canada through Operation Lentus, whether it be for wildfires, floods or during COVID. There seems to be an increase in requests for assistance specific to the military for such a response.

I know that we had Lieutenant-General Maisonneuve here to testify. He talked to us about the importance of having some sort of national response unit. I know the Minister of Public Safety has stood up the humanitarian workforce to respond to requests for assistance for wildfires and so on.

What are the impacts of this increased demand for the Canadian Armed Forces to respond? I know they will always do what is asked of them. My son has responded to Operation Lentus as well, and they'll always do what they're asked, but this is not what the Canadian Army is stood up for.

How has that changed? In terms of the creation of the 2nd Canadian Division and in terms of the defence of Canada, is the thought that we're going to work more closely with Public Safety and that those requests would go more to a humanitarian workforce, or is the thought that we will still continue to provide that support when requested?

LGen Michael Wright: Maybe I can break it down into two portions.

First, we have immediate response units across the country—there are 350—in the west, in the centre, in Quebec and in the Atlantic provinces. Those immediate response units are the army's contribution to ensure that when called upon for domestic emergencies, whatever the domestic emergency may be, they're ready to provide the support required.

In terms of the types of discussions you were suggesting on public safety, it's not really the role of the army. There is somewhat of a role there for General Harvey as the land component command and for her team across the country, who co-operate with provinces and territories, but that is more the Canadian Joint Operations Command and strategic joint staff.

General Harvey, I don't know if you want to add anything.

● (1245)

BGen Marie-Christine Harvey: If I may specify, we have three core tasks in 2nd Canadian Division in the defence of Canada. The main task is territorial defence to deter and defend against any aggression to our country. The second task is reinforced sovereignty in the Arctic. The third task is domestic emergencies.

There is no change from what we've been doing. We're talking with different provincial levels about public safety, but we are a force of last resort. We provide unique capabilities should there be a need in the domestic emergency task that will be coordinated through 2nd Canadian Division as the land component command.

[*Translation*]

Sherry Romanado: Thank you very much.

[*English*]

I'll pass the rest of my time to Mr. Malette.

Chris Malette: Thank you.

I have a one quick question for General Wright.

For a second consecutive year, the Canadian Armed Forces has surpassed its regular force recruiting target. In fiscal year 2025-26, the CAF enrolled 7,310 new members, surpassing its target of 6,957 new members, marking the highest number in three decades.

There's been some discussion here that may have inferred that somehow, as we've gone past that point, there's been a lessening in standards. Could you further address that? I ask because I don't think it quite got the attention that it required.

LGen Michael Wright: For the second consecutive fiscal year, the strategic intake plan was surpassed thanks to the great work of the team working in military personnel command.

There was some increase in attrition at basic military qualification courses, and I think that is understandable given the increased numbers we saw coming in. I can tell you, though, that Lieutenant-Colonel Marc Kieley, who was the commandant of the Canadian Forces Leadership and Recruit School and who I know wrote about this, is now a member of the Canadian Army headquarters. He is not an officer who would accept a reduced quality.

Chris Malette: Thank you, sir.

The Chair: Thank you, generals. I ask for your patience. We have a motion before us, and I'm going to adjourn after that.

Sherry Romanado: They can leave.

The Chair: Well, you're welcome to stay, or you're welcome to go.

Voices: Oh, oh!

The Chair: I'm sure you have a welcome committee outside for you, so that will take you a bit of time.

Thank you very much for being here today, and thank you for your testimony, your engagement in this study and of course your service to Canada.

LGen Michael Wright: Thank you, Mr. Chair and committee members.

The Chair: Mr. Bezan, you have the floor.

James Bezan: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

First, I want to put on notice the following motion:

> That the committee invite the Auditor General to appear for no less than two hours to discuss her report tabled on October 29, 2026, titled “Ammunition for the Canadian Armed Forces”; and that the committee invite the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement in a separate meeting to appear for one hour, followed by relevant officials to address the government responses to the Auditor General's report.

I'd also like to move the motion that I gave notice of on Tuesday. I move:

> That the committee undertake a study of Bill C-40, the strengthening Canada's defence sector act, provided that:
>
> a) the following witnesses be invited to appear on separate panels for one hour each:
>
> i. David McGuinty, Minister of National Defence;
>
> ii. Joël Lightbound, Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement;
>
> iii. Stephen Fuhr, Secretary of State (Defence Procurement);
>
> iv. Doug Guzman, CEO of the Defence Investment Agency;
>
> v. Alexander Jeglic, Procurement Ombudsman; and
>
> vi. Commanders of all Canadian Armed Forces services;
>
> b) in addition to the aforementioned witnesses, no more than eight meetings be dedicated to receiving testimony from departmental officials, relevant officers of Parliament, the defence industry and groups representing it, military procurement experts, and other witnesses to be submitted by members of the committee; and
>
> c) the chair may only schedule a meeting for the purpose of clause-by-clause after the witnesses appear at committee.

This is a programming motion so that we have something to follow as we deal with Bill C-40, which has now been referred to the committee. I think it is important that we hear from all ministers, and I'm suggesting for one hour each, so we can hear their input on the government's legislation. We want to hear, of course, from Doug Guzman, who we assume will continue to be the CEO of the new Crown corporation, the Defence Investment Agency. The procurement ombudsman has already raised some concerns on transparency.

I think it's important that we talk to the people who need the equipment we're trying to buy. They should come here to talk about what their needs are and how they envision this working, or not working, to their benefit.

There are a lot of people out there we need to bring forward as witnesses, such as ACDC, CADSI and some of the other major primes, and also the small and medium enterprises and innovators that want to have access to sell their technology to the Canadian Armed Forces. There are others who are experts in academic fields, as well as think tanks that provide a lot of expertise that we should hear from.

What I'm suggesting is that we get through all those witnesses and then jump into clause-by-clause after that.

● (1250)

The Chair: That's understood. Thank you.

The motion is in order. Do we have further debate?

Ms. Romanado.

Sherry Romanado: Thank you, Chair.

I have an amendment to that, but I won't read it out because it will be hard to follow. I'm going to circulate it, and then I'm happy to read it out. It will be easier to follow once you have the paper.

The Chair: We'll get someone to circulate it for you. It's in both official languages. Is that correct? Thank you.

Sherry Romanado: I'm providing you with both the changes and what it would look like after the amendment. I want to make sure you can all follow it in both official languages.

Essentially, the top page shows you what the amendments are, but if you look at the next two pages, you'll have the motion. We made the changes to focus on the secretary of state responsible for defence procurement and Mr. Guzman, who is the CEO of the Defence Investment Agency. We've removed the Minister of National Defence and the Minister of Government Transformation, Public Works and Procurement because it's really Secretary of State Fuhr who's working on the file.

We have also added relevant officials from the Department of National Defence, Public Services and Procurement Canada and the Defence Investment Agency, and folks from the Canadian Armed Forces.

In addition, we want to reduce the number of meetings. Instead of eight meetings, we have allocated eight hours, because you mentioned one hour for each. We just put eight hours to receive testimony—the rest we're fine with—and said that the clause-by-clause only happen after the witnesses come.

Those are the changes we're proposing.

The Chair: Now we have an amendment to the motion.

Is there any debate on the amendment?

Mr. Barsalou-Duval.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I would have thought that Mr. Bezan would have wanted to speak first, given that the motion comes from him. If that is the case, I would let him speak, but I do, in fact, have something to say on this matter. I have the impression that he raised his hand before I did. However, if you wish to give me the floor first, I can speak straight away.

[*English*]

The Chair: I will put you afterwards, then.

Mr. Bezan.

James Bezan: I think it would be an error not to have the two ministers who have overseen defence procurement up until the DIA was an idea. Technically, the DIA is still underneath Public Services and Procurement Canada. It would be important to have Minister Lightbound and Minister McGuinty here. I can live without having them come, though, because I'm sure they're all singing off the same song sheet.

To drop this down to eight hours for a serious study of an organization that will be looking at spending tens of billions of dollars and reporting to only one minister in a Crown corporation.... I have a lot of questions. There's no way we can handle that in just four meetings.

● (1255)

Sherry Romanado: I apologize, but I want to correct something regarding the eight hours.

James, are you referring—

James Bezan: Is it eight hours just for them?

Sherry Romanado: What's above is the eight hours.

James Bezan: That's not the way it reads.

Sherry Romanado: It says “aforementioned”.

James Bezan: It says, “the aforementioned witnesses”, but it also includes “relevant officers of Parliament, the defence industry and groups”. It's inclusive of the ones that follow behind.

Sherry Romanado: Essentially, we're talking about four meetings allocated to hearing from witnesses, receiving briefs and so on. Then we can go to clause-by-clause.

James Bezan: For the groups we have mentioned there, that's four meetings. Are you saying the “relevant officers of Parliament, the defence industry and groups representing it, military procurement experts, and other witnesses to be submitted by members of the committee” are in addition to that?

Sherry Romanado: Instead of eight, would you be satisfied with six?

James Bezan: You want six meetings instead of eight hours.

Sherry Romanado: Right now, we have four meetings. You're asking for eight meetings. Would you be satisfied with six? I know the debate on Bill C-40 collapsed in the House so that we could get it to committee. We would like to see that this—

James Bezan: Co-operation....

Sherry Romanado: That's why I'm offering you six. That's why I'm asking if there is a way. We would like to try to get this legislation reported back to the House before the holidays.

James Bezan: It is a heavy piece of legislation.

Sherry Romanado: It is, and we're committed to getting it done.

James Bezan: We still have our responsibilities as parliamentarians and legislators. We have a fiduciary duty to taxpayers to ensure that we properly scrutinize this piece of legislation.

Mr. Chair, I think we need to keep eight meetings total. I could live with four or even six, but if we could do eight meetings for all those witnesses before we jump to clause-by-clause, that would be doable.

The Chair: That's in the original motion.

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Chair: I have a speaking order. I'm going to Monsieur Barsalou-Duval, and then it's over to Mr. Ruff.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: To begin with, I would like to say that I agree with most of the points raised by Mr. Bezan, but the point I would like to comment on is point c). I find it very difficult to accept that.

As I understand it, we would begin a clause-by-clause examination of the bill even before we have heard from the additional witnesses recommended by committee members who are not on the pre-established list here. I believe that would be extremely restrictive. I am convinced that other people might have interesting proposals to put before the committee which could lead to amendments. If we begin the clause-by-clause examination whilst we have not finished hearing witnesses in committee, what this ultimately implies is that we do not wish to hear further witnesses and that we will be unable to take into account what they have to say. I find that problematic.

[*English*]

The Chair: I misunderstood that, then. I'm being advised that clause-by-clause will only happen after the whole list of witnesses is addressed.

Your point is well taken.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I'm telling you what I understand from the way it's written.

[*English*]

The Chair: Okay.

Mr. Ruff, it's over to you, and then it's Mr. Kibble.

Alex Ruff: I want to pick up on both things. First, I'll deal with the last one.

Mr. Barsalou-Duval brought forward that with the way this amendment is, you could technically start clause-by-clause after we have the witnesses in part a), which would then prevent the businesses and everybody else—the rest of the witnesses—from doing that.

With all due respect to the government side, I'm somebody who's been facing this thing and complaining about it for literally 20 years. I fully acknowledge the need to revamp our defence procurement system. However, by excluding the two ministers who are right now responsible under the current direction for going forward with that, and then thinking that we're going to solve a problem that's decades old by getting eight hours of testimony.... I get the urgency, but we have to get this right. Otherwise, a future version of this committee is going to be back here trying to fix it again.

I think it's very reasonable. If I were in Mr. Bezan's position, I would have suggested something like 20 meetings, because this needs to be done right. Otherwise, we're just going to spin our wheels. The original motion is very reasonable with the way it is worded. It makes sure we're considering all the factors to fix a problem that is decades old.

● (1300)

The Chair: Thank you, Mr. Ruff.

Mr. Kibble.

Jeff Kibble: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

Thank you, Alex, for your comment on 20 meetings. I was pushing for 15, personally, just based on the scope of the billions of dollars being spent and the responsibility that lies within for the defence of Canada. That's absolutely critical, with some of these projects being the largest procurement projects that Canada has ever done.

As for the Minister of Government Transformation, it's his bill. He's brought it forward. The DIA still falls under him. He should absolutely be here.

I don't know if the whole team will agree with me, but personally, I could probably concede on the Minister of National Defence not being here, risking the wrath of the rest of the team. I think the Minister of Government Transformation should be here. It is his bill. It falls under him. He should have the experience and should be able to answer some of the questions we've identified in the debate on Bill C-40.

As Alex said, we want to see defence procurement revamped, but we want to get it right. These are the people we need to speak to. This is the time we need. I don't know if I want to concede to just eight hours.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The Chair: Thank you.

Mr. Anderson.

Scott Anderson: Thank you very much.

We see this over and over, frankly. We hear that we have to get it done, and then we get it done and nothing happens.

In this term, we're dealing with hundreds of billions of dollars. It's the biggest expenditure next to interest rates. We have to take more time. We can't do just four meetings. The PBO doesn't have the numbers. The generals here don't have the numbers. Surely, the minister will have the numbers.

The Chair: That's understood. Thank you, Mr. Anderson.

It's over to you, Mr. Bezan.

James Bezan: I'm going to suggest a couple of subamendments to the amendment.

First of all, as much as I don't want to give up on the minister for PSPC especially, I'm sure they're all going to sing off the same song sheet. The eight hours to hear from the people in eight is fine, but I'm going to suggest that we clean up the language. I'll clarify something first before I move the subamendment. Essentially, we have a panel that's going to be the AG and the PBO, a panel that's going to be the defence industry and the groups representing it, and a panel of academic and procurement experts. I'm thinking two hours for each one of those panels.

I'm going to suggest that under part b), where you say, “the committee dedicate eight hours to receive testimony from the aforementioned witnesses”, we add “plus three additional meetings”, and then we can go on to say, “relevant officers of Parliament, the defence industry and groups representing it”. Then in part c), I would add “referenced in a) and b)”, or we could just strike the whole thing: “after the witnesses appear at committee”. I'm good with that. Just delete it.

The Chair: Ms. Romanado, we'll go over to you.

Sherry Romanado: I'll start with the last point.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Barsalou-Duval, I agree to remove the words “referenced in a)” from the text of subparagraph c) and thus revert to the original version of that paragraph. There is no problem.

[*English*]

James, we'd remove “referenced in a)” so it reverts back to the original, as you just mentioned in the subamendment. I'm fine with that.

I want to make sure I understand this. You're saying three meetings, so one would be industry, one would be academics and one would be...?

James Bezan: It would be the officers of Parliament—the PBO and the AG.

Sherry Romanado: Okay.

If we were to look at it, I'm assuming the secretary of state and Mr. Guzman would probably come together. I would assume; I don't know. I'm trying to group them to try to find out how many meetings we'd need so we can come to an agreement on how many. I don't want to delay passing this motion, because I don't want us to lose time on getting witnesses.

I'm trying to do the math here. We have three meetings. If we look at the top, that's one, possibly two or possibly three meetings for the people at the top, if you're in agreement with that, because you originally wanted them for an hour. If we have Stephen Fuhr and Doug Guzman, you have one the first hour and one the second hour, so that's two. That's one meeting. Alexander Jeglic and maybe relevant officials from the departments could be—

● (1305)

James Bezan: It's not normal that an officer of Parliament would meet alongside—

Sherry Romanado: No. It would be one hour with him alone. That's meeting number two. Meeting number three could be Public Services and Procurement and Canadian Armed Forces people. Then you said “plus three”, so that's six.

A voice: When is the DIA coming?

Sherry Romanado: The DIA is with Mr. Guzman. He's the head of the DIA.

I'm trying to do the math. That would be six meetings. Is that right?

James Bezan: Yes.

The way I see part four is that you would have departments show up separately from the commanders, and two and two.

Sherry Romanado: Is that what you would like?

James Bezan: Yes, but that's in addition to, as you're saying, the secretary of state for one hour and Guzman for one hour. That is two hours.

Sherry Romanado: That will be two meetings.

James Bezan: Yes. That will be two meetings. Then there are two meetings, one meeting being the Department of National Defence and PSPC, the guys who are responsible for procurement, and then one meeting with the commanders talking about their needs and what's working and not working.

Sherry Romanado: Is that for two hours?

James Bezan: That's two hours, yes. You're still at four meetings, eight hours. It's eight hours plus three meetings, so you're looking at seven total meetings. That still gives us time before Christmas to do clause-by-clause.

The Chair: It doesn't.

Sherry Romanado: No, it doesn't.

The Chair: Your objective doesn't include clause-by-clause.

James Bezan: No.

The Chair: We have to manage that too.

James Bezan: Look, we shouldn't be up against a wall based on the calendar. As Alex was saying, if we are going to do this right, we will carry it into the new year as well.

The Chair: Okay.

Sherry Romanado: If you could meet me halfway, how about six meetings and then clause-by-clause?

James Bezan: I just don't—

Sherry Romanado: Perhaps what we can do, depending on the availability of folks—

James Bezan: You're at six to seven; I'm at eight to seven.

Sherry Romanado: I'm not going to handle the contacting of witnesses and so on, but perhaps what we could do, still having six meetings, is extend, if we need to, one meeting to have a three-hour meeting so that we can get more witnesses in. We're still fitting it in the calendar, and we're still giving them time. There would be six meetings, and if you say that we have enough witnesses on week four, but it's the equivalent of three hours of meeting, maybe we could extend a meeting. We're still getting it in before the holidays start.

James Bezan: Well, that's up to the chair.

Sherry Romanado: Well, that's what I'm saying. I don't—

James Bezan: The chair has the power to do that at any time—to extend any meeting or to add additional meetings to accommodate witnesses.

Sherry Romanado: That's what I just said.

James Bezan: I would say leave it with the chair.

Sherry Romanado: That's what I'm saying: six meetings.

James Bezan: I'll still stick with seven.

The Chair: The chair will need some clarity here.

Let's make sure of what we're talking about. If I understand correctly, there are eight requested and six proposed, and with clause-by-clause, if we get into this thing, it would be seven meetings, presumably. I need you guys to come to an agreement so we can table the amendment to the motion.

Tim Watchorn: Fit it into six meetings.

Sherry Romanado: That's what I'm saying. If we can fit it into six meetings, and if it means that one meeting or two meetings will be three hours each—

The Chair: Okay, now we're talking hours as opposed to meetings.

James Bezan: I'll just say this, Mr. Chair. The first part of that is eight hours. It isn't meetings; it's hours. If you want to extend hours in any one of those meetings, they'd normally be four. If you want to do this in three, you have the power to do that without amending the motion. It's still eight hours.

Sherry Romanado: You're asking for eight meetings in your subamendment.

James Bezan: I'm asking for eight hours plus three meetings.

Sherry Romanado: You're asking for seven meetings in your subamendment.

James Bezan: Yes. You have the power to extend any one of those meetings by an extra hour.

● (1310)

Sherry Romanado: I can't make a friendly amendment, because there's no such thing as a friendly amendment, and I can't amend a subamendment.

My offer was this: Can we do it in six? If not, we'll wait until debate collapses and we'll vote.

The Chair: Go ahead, Monsieur Barsalou-Duval. Then I suggest we suspend so that we can hash this out.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: I get the impression that we're getting stuck on the issue of the number of meetings.

Ms. Romanado is proposing that we hold six meetings, whilst Mr. Bezan would prefer eight. Of course, I'd prefer eight meetings as well. However, the compromise proposed by Ms. Romanado appeals to me somewhat, in that if we can manage eight hours plus six hours, that would make a total of fourteen hours. If we agree on a total of fourteen hours and do not specify a minimum of six meetings, the chair will be able to extend meetings as they see fit to reach the required number of hours, which will allow us to include the witnesses we need to hear.

What do you think?

[*English*]

James Bezan: I would agree with that. We can do that. Just go with total hours instead of saying "plus three additional meetings". We have eight hours plus six hours for a total of 14. Then that's managed.

Sherry Romanado: It would be 14 hours over the course of six meetings.

The Chair: Then I'll have flexibility. I just need clarity. If I'm dealing with hours, I have flexibility. If I'm dealing with meetings, then it's more stringent.

Sherry Romanado: Do you want to suspend so we can talk?

The Chair: Yes. Let's suspend for a moment off-camera.

● (1310)

_____(Pause)_____

● (1325)

The Chair: We're back in the meeting. Everyone is back.

We have a motion. We have an amendment to the motion, and a subamendment to the motion.

We're now going to go to you, Mr. Bezan, to rectify these matters.

James Bezan: I will attempt to.

I will withdraw my subamendment and then table a new subamendment, if everybody is in agreement.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

(Subamendment withdrawn)

James Bezan: Here's a new subamendment. We would still go with, in part b), "the committee dedicate eight hours to receive testimony from the aforementioned witnesses plus six additional hours to hear from departmental officials, relevant officers of Parliament, the defence industry and groups representing it". In part c), we would delete "referenced in a)", and then we'd add part d): "the chair organize meetings to wrap up the study of Bill C-40 as quickly as possible."

The Chair: The chair does that anyway. Do you want to rephrase part (d)?

James Bezan: It would be "the chair be instructed to organize meetings to conclude the study on Bill C-40 as quickly as possible."

The Chair: So there's no specific date.

James Bezan: No, there's no specific date. It's up to you. You are empowered.

The Chair: I'm good with that. I just want direction. I want clarity to go forward.

We have Mr. Bezan's subamendment to your amendment. I'm going to reiterate that it's eight hours for the top four ministers—

● (1330)

Sherry Romanado: No, i. and ii. are out.

The Chair: Mr. Fuhr, Mr. Doug Guzman, Alexander Jeglic—

James Bezan: First we have to vote on the subamendment.

The Chair: I'm just trying to rectify that we understand.

Then there's an additional six hours for others, and we revise part (c) to be back to its original and include (d) asking that the chair organize these meetings ASAP.

Is that correct?

James Bezan: In summation, yes.

The Chair: All in favour of the subamendment?

(Subamendment agreed to [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Amendment as amended agreed to [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

(Motion as amended agreed to [*See Minutes of Proceedings*])

The Chair: Clerk, where are we at now?

The Clerk of the Committee (Jean-Denis Kusion): We're done with this.

The Chair: The motion has passed. We have our work cut out for us. We have a lot of work ahead.

Thank you.

Monsieur Barsalou-Duval, you have a motion that you put forward earlier today. We have it now in both official languages. We will deal with you. Not with you—

Some hon. members: Oh, oh!

The Chair: We will deal with this matter appropriately, because it's important.

[*Translation*]

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

I had the opportunity to read the motion during the committee meeting. In fact, I am saying this for the benefit of those who may have misunderstood the motion—as it was, after all, rather lengthy—the idea was simply to invite the Commissioner for Official Languages to give evidence as part of the study on the "Inflection Point 2025" document, so that she could give us her opinion on the organizational changes it entails.

The Chair: All right, thank you.

[*English*]

Sherry Romanado: Will that be circulated to us?

The Chair: It's being circulated now.

Sherry Romanado: Okay. Thank you.

The Chair: Let's be clear. It has been circulated, but we need unanimous consent to discuss it further today, and I don't think we have unanimous consent. However, we do want to deal with it.

Sherry Romanado: Can I ask that we allocate time first thing at the Monday morning meeting to do it? I'd like to read it, and I haven't had time to read it.

The Chair: Mr. Barsalou-Duval, is that okay?

[*Translation*]

Sherry Romanado: Would you mind, Mr. Barsalou-Duval, if we voted on your motion on Monday? It's just that I haven't had a chance to read it, to be honest.

Xavier Barsalou-Duval: Technically, as it relates to the subject, that would be valid, so I could refuse. However, I think that, if it means it will be accepted once you've had a chance to think it over, then yes, I accept your proposal.

Sherry Romanado: Thank you.

[*English*]

The Chair: Mr. Watchorn.

[*Translation*]

Tim Watchorn: In the same vein, I would like to look at the motion properly, just to ensure that we do not duplicate the work we are already carrying out in the committee as part of our study on the situation of francophone and indigenous members of the Canadian Armed Forces. So, if the committee agrees, we will examine the motion properly to ensure that the work carried out for that study is not duplicated. We can deal with the motion on Monday.

[*English*]

The Chair: I will give you a friendly reminder that we need witnesses for Bill C-40. The deadline was Monday. We already know some of the major ones, but as for the other relevant ones, please submit them as soon as you can.

With that, ladies and gentlemen, have a great day. The meeting is adjourned.

Published under the authority of the Speaker of the House of Commons

SPEAKER'S PERMISSION

The proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees are hereby made available to provide greater public access. The parliamentary privilege of the House of Commons to control the publication and broadcast of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees is nonetheless reserved. All copyrights therein are also reserved.

Reproduction of the proceedings of the House of Commons and its committees, in whole or in part and in any medium, is hereby permitted provided that the reproduction is accurate and is not presented as official. This permission does not extend to reproduction, distribution or use for commercial purpose of financial gain. Reproduction or use outside this permission or without authorization may be treated as copyright infringement in accordance with the Copyright Act. Authorization may be obtained on written application to the Office of the Speaker of the House of Commons.

Reproduction in accordance with this permission does not constitute publication under the authority of the House of Commons. The absolute privilege that applies to the proceedings of the House of Commons does not extend to these permitted reproductions. Where a reproduction includes briefs to a committee of the House of Commons, authorization for reproduction may be required from the authors in accordance with the Copyright Act.

Nothing in this permission abrogates or derogates from the privileges, powers, immunities and rights of the House of Commons and its committees. For greater certainty, this permission does not affect the prohibition against impeaching or questioning the proceedings of the House of Commons in courts or otherwise. The House of Commons retains the right and privilege to find users in contempt of Parliament if a reproduction or use is not in accordance with this permission.

Also available on the House of Commons website at the following address: https://www.ourcommons.ca

Publié en conformité de l'autorité du Président de la Chambre des communes

PERMISSION DU PRÉSIDENT

Les délibérations de la Chambre des communes et de ses comités sont mises à la disposition du public pour mieux le renseigner. La Chambre conserve néanmoins son privilège parlementaire de contrôler la publication et la diffusion des délibérations et elle possède tous les droits d'auteur sur celles-ci.

Il est permis de reproduire les délibérations de la Chambre et de ses comités, en tout ou en partie, sur n'importe quel support, pourvu que la reproduction soit exacte et qu'elle ne soit pas présentée comme version officielle. Il n'est toutefois pas permis de reproduire, de distribuer ou d'utiliser les délibérations à des fins commerciales visant la réalisation d'un profit financier. Toute reproduction ou utilisation non permise ou non formellement autorisée peut être considérée comme une violation du droit d'auteur aux termes de la Loi sur le droit d'auteur. Une autorisation formelle peut être obtenue sur présentation d'une demande écrite au Bureau du Président de la Chambre des communes.

La reproduction conforme à la présente permission ne constitue pas une publication sous l'autorité de la Chambre. Le privilège absolu qui s'applique aux délibérations de la Chambre ne s'étend pas aux reproductions permises. Lorsqu'une reproduction comprend des mémoires présentés à un comité de la Chambre, il peut être nécessaire d'obtenir de leurs auteurs l'autorisation de les reproduire, conformément à la Loi sur le droit d'auteur.

La présente permission ne porte pas atteinte aux privilèges, pouvoirs, immunités et droits de la Chambre et de ses comités. Il est entendu que cette permission ne touche pas l'interdiction de contester ou de mettre en cause les délibérations de la Chambre devant les tribunaux ou autrement. La Chambre conserve le droit et le privilège de déclarer l'utilisateur coupable d'outrage au Parlement lorsque la reproduction ou l'utilisation n'est pas conforme à la présente permission.

Aussi disponible sur le site Web de la Chambre des communes à l'adresse suivante : https://www.noscommunes.ca