

Airdrie, Alberta  
September 5, 2014

MY FILE: 075

Ms. Suzanne Legault  
The Information Commissioner of Canada  
Place de Ville, Tower B  
112 Kent Street, 7th Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 1H3

Dear Ms. Legault:

**Re: MISSING INFORMATION COMPLAINT DND FILE: A-2014-00344**

Please find attached a copy of my original *Access to Information Act* request and a copy of the ridiculous 17-page response I received from the DND dated August 26, 2014 received on September 4, 2014. I wish to complain about the missing information.

I specifically requested the following: *Reference is being made to the Department of National Defence (DND) involvement in the emergency response to the flood in High River, Alberta in June of 2013 and the assistance the Canadian Forces provided to the RCMP to conduct their door-to-door searches and seizures. For the period from June 20, 2013 to present, please provide copies of all High River reports, briefing notes, and Question Period notes prepared for the Minister (including drafts) and copies of High River correspondence read by the Minister.*

The department's response just includes letters related to the request for emergency flood assistance from Alberta, the follow-up response from the Minister of Public Safety and the Minister of Defence. The pitiful response from the department fails to provide copies of reports, briefing notes, QP notes prepared for the Minister of Defence and fails to provide copies of additional correspondence received between June 2013 and May 10, 2014 when I submitted my request. The following points explain why I am convinced a substantial number of records are missing from this response.

1. It is impossible given the amount of media coverage of what has happened in High River, Alberta and the role played by more than 300 Canadian Armed Forces personnel who participated in this action and witnessed and assisted the RCMP initiate forced entries, and unwarranted searches of thousands of homes and seizures without warrant of hundreds of firearms, ammunition, magazines, other weapons, drugs, stolen property, etc, etc, between June 20, 2013 to June 27, 2013, for the political staff and bureaucrats in the DND never to have prepared reports, briefing notes, QP notes or whatever they called their advice to the Minister to avoid ATIP requests such as mine.

.../2

2. The following exchange of e-mails comes from the department's response to my ATIP request (DND File: A-2014-00169) dated August 18, 2014 (See URL to this 109 page document below):

**DND ATI RESPONSE - ROLE IN HIGH RIVER LAW ENFORCEMENT - AUG 18, 2014**

<https://nfa.ca/sites/default/files/DND%20ATI%20Response%20-%20Role%20in%20High%20River%20Law%20Enforcement%20Aug%2018%2C%202014.pdf>

NOTE: If you have trouble opening this long URL you can also access it through this link <https://nfa.ca/firearms-facts> and scroll down to the document at the bottom of the page.

(a) PDF page 26 - June 27, 2013, LFWA Desk Officer asks: **"Request confirmation whether or not CAF personnel assisted with the removal of firearms from High River residences. ASAP response is requested."**

(b) On PDF page 27 the follow-up e-mail asks: **"The reporter, \_\_\_\_\_ is filing on this tonight. He's had gun organizations tell him the military entered homes as well. MNDO has asked to confirm ASAP if this actually occurred."**

(c) Further on PDF page 27 the e-mail clarifies: **"PMO is saying that gun organizations are saying this."**

(d) On PDF page 28 Captain Tompkins' e-mail states: **"Roger sir. I'll find out."**

While the DND's ATIP response never does include the record with what Captain Tompkins found out, the fact that the PMO wanted to know if the "military entered homes" and "assisted with the removal of firearms" in High River, it is absolutely certain that the Minister received reports confirming or denying these actions by his troops, because these actions would have meant that the soldiers disobeyed his direct orders and the orders given the troops by the Chief of Defence Staff when they were deployed. Obviously, the Minister and his staff would have been even more involved than the PMO. The only question that raises, is why weren't these records, reports, briefing notes, correspondence provided in the DND's response to my request?

3. Also see my letter to Minister of National Defence - **Canadian Forces Engaged In Law Enforcement In High River - May 19, 2014 - Based on the evidence obtained so far, it appears the Canadian Armed Forces aided and abetted the RCMP's unwarranted searches and seizures from High River homes.**

[http://www.cdnshootingsports.org/2014/05/Letter\\_re\\_Canadian\\_Forces\\_in\\_High\\_River\\_20140519.html](http://www.cdnshootingsports.org/2014/05/Letter_re_Canadian_Forces_in_High_River_20140519.html)  
<https://nfa.ca/news/letter-minister-nicholson-canadian-forces-engaged-law-enforcement-high-river-may-19-2014>

If I can see these obvious contradictions in the DND's story, then so can the staff responsible for keeping the Minister of Defence fully briefed. It is inconceivable that there are no records of their constant updates to the Minister of the situation related to the CAF's role in High River and the media coverage related to it.

4. The DND has twelve *Access to Information Act* request files as a result of my requests. I have filed six delay complaints and six missing records complaints with the Office of the Information Commissioner.

Additionally, most responses were arbitrarily delayed for months and months as a result of extensions imposed. It is obvious that there is a concerted effort by the DND to withhold any and all documents that would expose the Canadian Armed Forces to any negative publicity related to the forced entries of hundreds of High River homes and the unwarranted seizures of firearms from those homes.

The Minister of Defence must have been briefed about the fact that these *Access to Information Act* requests have been filed and that information has been withheld and that there is a high possibility that all the records may have to be disclosed once the Information Commissioner completes her investigations. Where are the records of these reports to the Minister?

5. Soldiers who witnessed the RCMP's illegal and inappropriate acts in High River have informed us that they have been told to shut up by their superiors. This could not have happened without the Minister being fully informed of these orders being given. The 330 Canadian Armed Forces personnel who were deployed in High River have a side of the story that remains a secret to this date. Surely these soldiers' secrets haven't also been withheld from their own Minister?

6. While the truth may not be pretty it is vital that the whole truth be told about what actually happened in High River. On August 7, 2014 the National Firearms Association released poll results showing that fifty-three percent of decided residents in High River who responded to the poll would refuse orders to evacuate their homes in the event of another flood. See links to media coverage below.

SUN NEWS VIDEO - HIGH RIVER FALLOUT - AUGUST 12, 2014 20:12

Brian Lilley's Interview with Lorne Gunter A new poll shows that the majority of High River residents would refuse to leave their homes in the next emergency because of the RCMP's illegal gun grab.

<http://www.sunnewsnetwork.ca/video/featured/prime-time/867432237001/high-river-fallout/3727434608001>

CALGARY SUN: RCMP GUN GRAB HAS SERIOUS...REPERCUSSIONS! (Print Edition headline)

BY LORNE GUNTER, QMI AGENCY - SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2014 05:00 AM MDT - 57 comments

<http://www.calgarysun.com/2014/08/08/gunter-poll-shows-fallout-from-high-river-gun-grab-continues>

CANADA'S NATIONAL FIREARMS ASSOCIATION NEWS RELEASE POLL OF HIGH RIVER RESIDENTS SHOWS A DISMAL LACK OF TRUST IN RCMP

A large percentage of the residents of High River, Alberta would refuse another evacuation order.

<https://nfa.ca/news/poll-high-river-residents-shows-dismal-lack-trust-rcmp>

It is vital that the public's trust in the RCMP and the Canadian Armed Forces be restored **before** other towns, cities or provinces in Canada declare a state of emergency, otherwise people will put themselves and their families at unnecessary risk, with injuries and deaths being the likely result. A thorough public airing of whole truth and nothing but the truth is the only way to restore this trust.

7. It could be that these records were excluded from the DND's response to me because they are being kept secret by being labeled as "Cabinet confidences". Having said that there must be a record of the Minister being advised of all these "Cabinet confidences" without disclosing the Cabinet secrets themselves. While it may be expedient for the department to hide the truth from the public and the media it is inexcusable and needs to be corrected by the Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

Thanks for your help to expedite my previous complaints about missing information on my High River ATIP requests and I look forward to working with your investigators on this file. Please have them call if they have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Dennis R. Young  
1330 Ravenswood Drive SE  
AIRDRIE AB T4A 0P8  
Home Phone: 587-360-1111  
E-Mail: [dennisryoung@telus.net](mailto:dennisryoung@telus.net)

cc Right Honourable Stephen Harper, Prime Minister of Canada  
Honourable Rob Nicholson, Minister of Defence  
Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Public Safety  
Honourable Peter Mackay, Minister of Justice  
Chairman Ian McPhail, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP



National Defence  
National Defence Headquarters  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K2

Défense nationale

Received  
4 Sept 2014  
OL5

Our file: A-2014-00344

AUG 26 2014

Mr. Dennis R. Young  
1330 Ravenswood Drive, SE  
Airdrie, Alberta  
T4A 0P8

Dear Mr. Young:

This is further to your request submitted under the *Access to Information Act* for:

***From June 20, 2013 to present, copies of all High River reports, briefing notes, and Question Period notes prepared for the Minister (including drafts) and copies of High River correspondence read by the Minister.***

Enclosed please find all requested records that could be located using the Department's best efforts, within the constraints of the *Act*. You will note that certain information has been withheld from disclosure pursuant to sections 23, and 69 of the *Act*.

Please be advised that you are entitled to file a complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner concerning the processing of your request within sixty days of the receipt of this notice. In the event you decide to avail yourself of this right, your notice of complaint should be addressed to:

Office of the Information Commissioner  
30 Victoria Street  
Gatineau, Québec K1A 1H3  
Tel: 1-800-267-0441  
Fax: 819-994-1768

Should you require clarification or assistance regarding your request, please contact Jamie Hoffman of my staff at 613-992-0058 or by e-mail at [Jamie.Hoffman@forces.gc.ca](mailto:Jamie.Hoffman@forces.gc.ca) or use our toll free number 1-888-272-8207.

Yours truly,

*Cathy Leclair-Saint*  
Julie Jansen

Director  
Access to Information and Privacy

Enclosure: CD

Canada

DM2013-896348-11

# UNCLASSIFIED/SANS CLASSIFICATION

**Subject:** CANADIAN FORCES SUPPORT  
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF  
ALBERTA

**Document No.:** 1340891

**Doc Date:** 21 June 13

**Control No.:** DM2013-896348

**DM Signed:** 21 June 13



National Defence

Défense nationale

National Defence Headquarters  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de la Défense nationale  
Ottawa, (Ontario)  
K1A 0K2

s.69(1)

21 June 2013

The Minister

CANADIAN FORCES SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ALBERTA

1. On 21 June 2013, you received requests from Minister of Public Safety for the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces to respond to flooding in the Southern Foothills region of Alberta (Tabs A . Based upon your direction, the Canadian Armed Forces deployed and are assisting the Province of Alberta in supporting provincial and municipal authorities in their flood relief operations through the:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering, logistic and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place;
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry in to those areas evacuated, damaged, or that are otherwise in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

2. Although the Government of Alberta has indicated that medical services are likely to be disrupted by the flooding, they have not requested medical assistance and Canadian Armed Forces personnel are restricted to providing emergency care only. If medical assistance beyond emergency care is requested by the Province, your authorization will be required.

3. Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not engage in law enforcement activities. Should the support of the Canadian Armed Forces be required to provide assistance to law enforcement authorities, it will be the subject of another request.

4. In accordance with current financial policies, the Department of National Defence will continue to capture all incremental costs associated with services provided and recover appropriate incremental costs from the applicable federal government department.

s.69(1)

5. We recommend that you sign the enclosed letter to the Minister of Public Safety (Tab C) formally indicating that the Canadian Armed Forces will respond to the requests and the enclosed letter confirming your authorization and direction to the CDS that the Canadian Armed Forces is to provide the support listed above (Tab D).



T. J. Lawson  
General  
Chief of the Defence Staff



Richard B. Fadden  
Deputy Minister

Enclosures (4)

Tab A - Letter from the Minister of Public Safety to the MND

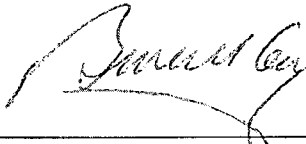
Tab B -

Tab C - Letter from the MND to the Minister of Public Safety

Tab D - Letter from the MND to the CDS

Approved

JUN 21 2013



JUN 21 2013

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

The Honourable Peter Mackay, P.C., Q.C., MP  
Minister of National Defence



Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

JUN 21 2013

The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
Sir Wilfred Laurier Building  
340 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Dear Colleague,

I am writing in response to your communications of 21 June 13 requesting the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces in support of the Government of Alberta as it responds to the flooding in the Southern Foothills region of Alberta.

Pursuant to section 273.6 (1) of the *National Defence Act*, I confirm that the Canadian Forces can provide support to the Province of Alberta in its operations to mitigate the effects of the flood. I have therefore authorized the Canadian Forces to provide the following assistance:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering, logistic and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place;
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry in to those areas evacuated, damaged, or that are otherwise in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

I acknowledge that the Canadian Armed Forces has not been requested to provide medical services despite that fact that these services have been disrupted, and note that Canadian Armed Forces personnel are therefore restricted to providing emergency care. If further medical assistance beyond emergency care is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not engage in law enforcement activities. If assistance to law enforcement authorities is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Canada

- 2 -

In accordance with the Treasury Board "Policy on Interdepartmental Charging and Transfers Between Appropriations," the Department of National Defence will capture all incremental costs associated with services provided and recover those costs from your department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter MacKay".

Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.

s.69(1)

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

JUN 21 2013

General T.J. Lawson  
Chief of Defence Staff  
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building  
101 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

General,

In response to your letter of 21 June 2013 from the Minister of Public Safety to me requesting the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to the Province of Alberta to respond to widespread flooding in Southern Foothills region of Alberta, I have responded to the Minister of Public Safety to confirm that pursuant to sections 273.6(1) of the *National Defence Act*, the CAF will provide support to the Province of Alberta in its operations to support provincial and municipal authorities in their flood relief operations. Based on this letter, I authorize the Canadian Armed Forces to provide the following assistance to the Province of Alberta to support them in their flood relief operations:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering, logistic and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place;
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry in to those areas evacuated, damaged, or that are otherwise in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

Although the Government of Alberta has indicated that medical services are likely to be disrupted by the flooding, they have not requested medical assistance. CAF personnel are therefore restricted to providing emergency care only. If further medical assistance beyond emergency care is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

.../2

Canada

- 2 -

Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not engage in law enforcement activities. If any assistance to law enforcement authority activities are required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Peter MacKay".

Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

JUN 21 2013

The Honourable Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of National Defence  
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

Dear colleague:

A serious situation has developed in the province of Alberta as a result of the recent flooding in the Southern Foothills region of the province. The Alberta Minister Responsible for Emergency Response has assessed that the current situation requires resources beyond those available to the province of Alberta and he has requested federal assistance in dealing with this urgent situation (see enclosed) in the province and specifically, the resources of the Canadian Forces (CF).

Based on collaborative federal planning efforts and after reviewing the Alberta request, it appears that the unique assets and skill of the CF are required to provide assistance to the province in their operations to mitigate the effects of the flooding. In summary, the following assistance is requested by the government of Alberta to deal with this:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Aerial and ground resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place; and
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry into those areas evacuated, damaged, or that otherwise are in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

I trust you will agree that the provision of this assistance cannot be accomplished effectively without the assistance of the CF, and that the provision of such assistance involves public service.

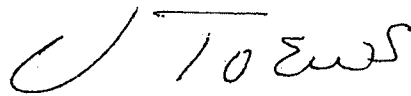
Canada

Given the foregoing, and pursuant to subsection 273.6(1) of the *National Defence Act*, I respectfully request that you issue directions to authorize the CF to provide assistance to the government of Alberta in responding to the flooding situation in that province.

No assistance to law enforcement by the CF under subsection 273.6(2) of the *National Defence Act* is anticipated at this time.

Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Toews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "T".

Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

Enclosure: (1)

**Robinson LCol DP@ADM(Pol) DWH Pol@Ottawa-Hull**

---

**From:** Reichert Maj KA@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull  
**Sent:** Friday, 21, June, 2013 09:55  
**To:** Robinson LCol DP@ADM(Pol) DWH Pol@Ottawa-Hull  
**Cc:** Thornley LCol MJ@SJS Operations@Ottawa-Hull; Zorz Cdr J@SJS Operations@Ottawa-Hull  
**Subject:**

Sol-Cli Privilege.

Cheers,

Keith

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Antonyshyn LCol D@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull  
**Sent:** Friday, 21, June, 2013 09:45 AM  
**To:** Cambron LCol JMPP@CJOC HQ@Ottawa-Hull; Flavin Cdr TCP@AJAG Edmonton@Edmonton; Troisfontaines LCol AJL@AJAG Winnipeg@Winnipeg  
**Cc:** Reichert Maj KA@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull; Turner Maj SE@JAG DLaw OPS@Ottawa-Hull; Philippe LCol MB@CJOC HQ@Ottawa-Hull; Wakeham Col BJ@DJAG Reg Svcs@Ottawa-Hull; Killaby Cdr PC@JAG DLaw OPS@Ottawa-Hull  
**Subject:**

Antonyshyn W.D.D. LCol/lcol Assistant to Deputy Judge Advocate General Operations  
Assistant du juge-avocat général adjoint/ Opérations  
(613) 943-5684 | david.antonyshyn@forces.gc.ca | Facsimile/Télécopieur : (613) 992-5678  
Office of the Judge Advocate General, National Defence | NDHQ Major-General Pearkes Building, 101 Colonel By Drive, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2  
Cabinet du Juge-avocat général | QGDN, Édifice Major-Général Pearkes, 101 Promenade Colonel By, Ottawa ON K1A 0K2  
Government of Canada | Gouvernement du Canada

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Cathcart MGen BB@JAG Judge Advocate General@Ottawa-Hull  
**Sent:** Friday, 21, June, 2013 09:41 AM  
**To:** Donaldson VAdm AB@VCDS@Ottawa-Hull  
**Cc:** Antonyshyn LCol D@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull; Gleeson Col PK@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull; Bos M@ADM(Pol) D NATO POL@Ottawa-Hull; Reichert Maj KA@JAG DJAG OPS@Ottawa-Hull; Holman LCol RF@JAG SA@Ottawa-Hull; Sinclair J@ADM(Pol)@Ottawa-Hull  
**Subject:**

S/C Privilege

Cheers.





The Honourable Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.  
Minister of Public Safety  
Sir Wilfred Laurier Building  
340 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Dear Colleague,

I am writing in response to your communications of 21 June 13 requesting the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces in support of the Government of Alberta as it responds to the flooding in the Southern Foothills region of Alberta.

Pursuant to section 273.6 (1) of the *National Defence Act*, I confirm that the Canadian Forces can provide support to the Province of Alberta in its operations to mitigate the effects of the flood. I have therefore authorized the Canadian Forces to provide the following assistance:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering, logistic and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place;
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry in to those areas evacuated, damaged, or that are otherwise in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

I acknowledge that the Canadian Armed Forces has not been requested to provide medical services despite that fact that these services have been disrupted, and note that Canadian Armed Forces personnel are therefore restricted to providing emergency care. If further medical assistance beyond emergency care is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not engage in law enforcement activities. If assistance to law enforcement authorities is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

In accordance with the Treasury Board "Policy on Interdepartmental Charging and Transfers Between Appropriations," the Department of National Defence will capture all incremental costs associated with services provided and recover those costs from your department.

Sincerely,

Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.

General T.J. Lawson  
Chief of Defence Staff  
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building  
101 Colonel By Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

General,

In response and letter of 21 June 2013 from the Minister of Public Safety to me requesting the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) to the Province of Alberta to respond to widespread flooding in Southern Foothills region of Alberta, I have responded to the Minister of Public Safety to confirm that pursuant to sections 273.6(1) of the *National Defence Act*, the CAF will provide support to the Province of Alberta in its operations to support provincial and municipal authorities in their flood relief operations. Based on this letter, I authorize the Canadian Armed Forces to provide the following assistance to the Province of Alberta to support them in their flood relief operations:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering, logistic and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place;
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry in to those areas evacuated, damaged, or that are otherwise in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

Although the Government of Alberta has indicated that medical services are likely to be disrupted by the flooding, they have not requested medical assistance. CAF personnel are therefore restricted to providing emergency care only. If further medical assistance beyond emergency care is required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Canadian Armed Forces personnel will not engage in law enforcement activities. If any assistance to law enforcement authority activities are required by the Province, then another request will need to be submitted and approved.

Sincerely,

Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

JUN 21 2013  
JUN 21 2013

The Honourable Peter MacKay, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of National Defence  
Major-General George R. Pearkes Building  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2

Dear colleague:

A serious situation has developed in the province of Alberta as a result of the recent flooding in the Southern Foothills region of the province. The Alberta Minister Responsible for Emergency Response has assessed that the current situation requires resources beyond those available to the province of Alberta and he has requested federal assistance in dealing with this urgent situation (see enclosed) in the province and specifically, the resources of the Canadian Forces (CF).

Based on collaborative federal planning efforts and after reviewing the Alberta request, it appears that the unique assets and skill of the CF are required to provide assistance to the province in their operations to mitigate the effects of the flooding. In summary, the following assistance is requested by the government of Alberta to deal with this:

- Evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons;
- Safeguarding of critical infrastructure from flooding;
- Aerial and ground resupply of those areas isolated by flooding as requested by civil authorities;
- Provision of engineering and humanitarian relief support to those communities that must shelter in place; and
- Assistance in informing the public of the need to avoid entry into those areas evacuated, damaged, or that otherwise are in need of control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees.

I trust you will agree that the provision of this assistance cannot be accomplished effectively without the assistance of the CF, and that the provision of such assistance involves public service.

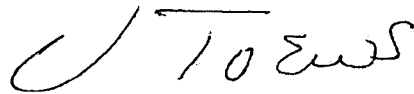
Canada

Given the foregoing, and pursuant to subsection 273.6(1) of the *National Defence Act*, I respectfully request that you issue directions to authorize the CF to provide assistance to the government of Alberta in responding to the flooding situation in that province.

No assistance to law enforcement by the CF under subsection 273.6(2) of the *National Defence Act* is anticipated at this time.

Your support in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic Toews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V" and "T".

Vic Toews, P.C., Q.C., M.P.

Enclosure: (1)

June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013,

The Honourable Victor Toews  
Office of the Minister  
Public Safety Canada  
269 Laurier Avenue, 19<sup>th</sup> floor.  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A0P8

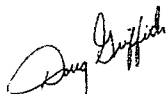
Dear Minister,

As you are no doubt already aware, we are seeing flooding of unprecedented historical proportions in the Southern Foothills region of Alberta, requiring an emergency and humanitarian response that will exceed the current capacity of many of our smaller communities, and in the immediate term, the Province of Alberta. I am therefore writing to seek your support in the provision of the Canadian Forces (CF) to assist us with the evacuation and safeguarding of at risk persons and critical infrastructure threatened by this fast moving disaster and its effects. Likely tasks would include the aerial and ground resupply of those areas isolated by flooding and the destruction of transportation networks, the provision of engineering and humanitarian relief support those communities that must shelter in place for a significant period of time, and assistance in the access control or re-entry those areas evacuated, damaged, or that otherwise need control and surveillance in order to ensure the safety of emergency personnel and evacuees. I do not foresee a requirement to use the CF members as peace officers, and I do not see a requirement to arm them for these humanitarian and disaster response duties:

I anticipate requiring military support until the affected communities have re-established critical life support services, including power, water and medical services, and movement and resupply via ground transportation routes is safe and sustainable. I would also request to retain the support of the CF until after the peak water mark has passed safely through Medicine Hat, which is anticipated to be on or about 24 June 2012.

I do not make this request lightly, and appreciate the support of the Federal Government and the members of the Defence and Public Safety teams have shown the people of Alberta in this time of dire need.

Sincerely



Douglas Griffiths

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Minister Responsible for Emergency Response