



Government  
of Canada

Veterans  
Ombudsman

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Ottawa, ON  
K1P 6C3

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Ombudsman  
des vétérans

C.P. 18 Succ. B  
Ottawa, (ON)  
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August 23, 2010

Mr. Gordon Jenkins  
President  
North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

I am writing to you today to invite you to join my “Strategic Council” that will be composed of the heads of major Veterans’ organizations and myself, as the Veterans Ombudsman.

The key objective of the OVO Strategic Council will be to share the priorities of our respective organizations to eliminate any conflicts or confusion as we pursue our respective independent agenda. The organizations that I hope will be represented include:

- RCMP Veterans Association
- Royal Canadian Legion
- National Council of Veterans Associations in Canada
- Gulf War Veterans Association of Canada
- Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association
- Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping
- The Army, Navy and Air Forces Veterans in Canada
- Korean Veterans Association of Canada
- Special Needs Advisory Group
- Canadian Merchant Navy Veterans Association
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization

As the President for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in Canada, you will be a valued member of this Council.

I propose to hold the first meeting on September 14<sup>th</sup>, from 11:30 to 15:00. It is my intention to present the following topics:

- The purpose of the OVO Strategic Council and the relationship between the OVO and Veterans’ organizations, from the OVO’s perspective
- The OVO accomplishments to date
- The key priorities of the OVO until the end of first mandate in November 2010
- The OVO beyond November 2010

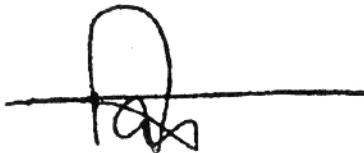
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I encourage you to contribute agenda items that will promote our collective understanding of the priorities and challenges of your organization.

On another matter, I firmly believe that both the department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Review and Appeal Board are misinterpreting Benefit of the Doubt as it is articulated in Veterans legislation; I fully intend to pursue this as my number one priority in the closing months, of my first term as Veterans Ombudsman. I have enclosed a draft discussion paper "A Primer on Benefit of the Doubt" for your consideration. I would appreciate any comments or criticisms you might have to offer.

In closing, I have asked Colleen Soltermann, my Director of Strategic Liaison, to contact your office in order to confirm your availability for the proposed September 24th meeting of the OVO Strategic Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'P' followed by a horizontal line and some smaller, less distinct characters below it.

Pat Stogran  
Colonel (Retired)  
Veterans Ombudsman

Attachment