



August 17, 2017

Hon. Ralph Goodale, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
269 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you with respect to my letter to you of April 10, 2017, to which I have received neither an acknowledgement nor a reply.

My letter expressed to you the deep disappointment felt by the Board of Directors, Governors and Members of the RCMP Veterans' Association about the insufficient retroactive pay increases for Regular Members of the Force for the years 2015 and 2016.

In response to media inquiries regarding the staffing crisis in the RCMP, Scott Bardsley of your Office recently stated: "More broadly, the government is working to modernize the Force to deal effectively with its long-term challenges and ensure a healthy workplace for all of its officers – which will help ensure that they are as effective as possible."

The members of the Association would like to know more about the Government's plans "to modernize the Force to deal effectively with its long-term challenges," the most urgent of these challenges being the staffing crisis that has been created and exacerbated by low pay and benefits in comparison to other Canadian police forces and by chronic and severe under-resourcing.

To have any chance of solving this crippling crisis, it is imperative that the dedicated and hard-working Members of the Force be provided with a fair and significant pay increase immediately, and to not wait for collective bargaining with any representative association that may be certified following recently adopted legislation (Bill C-7).

I would very much appreciate an acknowledgement and response to this letter, so that I might convey your reply to our members who are genuinely concerned about the rapidly declining effectiveness of the Force and the effect this has on the health, well-being and morale of its Members and their families.

Sincerely,

Al Rivard
President