



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

Canadian Military Colleges Faculty Association
L'Association des professeurs(es) des collèges militaires du Canada
CMCFA • APCMC

May 29, 2013

The Honourable Peter Gordon MacKay
Minister of National Defence
509s Center Block
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

We want to thank you for your letter of 24 May 2013 with respect to the *Report of the CAUT Commission on Governance of the Royal Military College of Canada*. We were heartened by your assurance that the intent of the Department of National Defence is “to fully support RMCC in its role as a military unit and as a Canadian University that provides first class instruction without compromise.” We were also pleased that you felt the Report is useful and “will be considered for any future planning at RMCC.”

In relation to RMCC being a proper Canadian University, we want to express our concern about announced process for the selection of the next Principal of RMCC to be carried out through the Privy Council Office. That violates the fundamental practices of every university in Canada with respect to the hiring of its executive head. Conducting the search in this manner is contrary to published criteria for membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) and the current terms of reference for the RMCC Board of Governors (BoG). In fact, we believe the decision reflects contempt for long-established principles of university governance and undermines the credibility of RMCC as a university.

The nub of the problem is that the process for finding and appointing a new Principal is being run entirely outside the university, which in turn destroys any claim RMCC might have had to the independence of its Board of Governors, a key criterion for AUCC membership. As we understand it, the PCO-run committee will comprise representatives of the PCO, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), and the office of the Minister of National Defence (MND). We are also given to understand that the Chair of the RMCC Board of Governors was a late addition to the committee. Although we are glad that the Board Chair has been added, this is not an adequate substitute for the process that exists in every other university in Canada where the decision is made by the Board of Governors with significant faculty input.

We are perplexed why this process would be imposed on RMCC. It is certainly contrary to the recommendations of the CAUT Commission that urged RMCC to move toward a more traditional university governance model (including the addition of faculty representatives to the Board of Governors), not away from it. One of the terms of reference of the RMCC Board is “recommending candidates to the Minister of National Defence for appointment to the position of Principal.” But, with the PCO running the process entirely, the current Board of Governors will have no say at all, nor

.../2

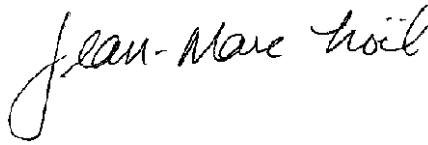
will faculty. Without faculty representation on the search committee, proper assessment and vetting of candidates will be nearly impossible.

We hope that you will use your authority as Minister to return the selection process to a committee established by the Board of Governors, with faculty participation, which will then forward recommendations to you. The selection of Principal is a terribly important decision for the future of RMCC and for it to continue to be a first-class Canadian university; it needs to follow a selection process that empowers the faculty and the Board of Governors that has the knowledge and expertise to provide you advice regarding who should be selected.

Yours sincerely,



James L. Turk
Executive Director
Canadian Association of University Teachers
2705 Queensview Drive
Ottawa, ON K2B 8K2



Jean-Marc Noël
President
Canadian Military Colleges Faculty Association
120 Clarence Street,
P.O. Box 577 Kingston Main
Kingston, ON K7L 4W5

/mmp