

Minister of National Defence



Ministre de la Défense nationale

September 21, 1988

The Honourable Lorna Marsden, Senator
The Senate
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Marsden:

On September 12, 1988, I approved a number of changes to the Canadian Forces' Regulation concerning political activities on defence establishments.

Based on the recommendations made by the Study Group chaired by Dr. Desmond Morton, which were released last April, these changes will provide greater political freedom for dependants and civilians living on our military bases. The new version of the Regulation, which is effective immediately, is consistent with the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and will not in any way impair the political neutrality of the Canadian Forces. The changes reflecting the extension of political activities on bases are as follows:

- (a) the concept of the political neutrality of the Armed Forces of Canada will be reinforced;
- (b) political meetings, advertising and statements on the part of dependants and civilian occupants within the confines of individual married quarters in Canada will be permitted; and
- (c) the present restrictions on political canvassing and the distribution of political advertising to married quarters and single quarters in Canada will be removed subject to security and/or privacy considerations.

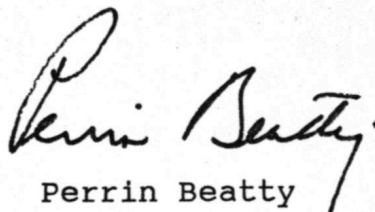
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While security or privacy considerations will dictate that some quarters remain closed to canvassing, all candidates and their representatives will be given reasonable access to married and single quarters to canvass potential voters, or to distribute political advertising. Please contact the Base Commander of the base(s) in your riding to ascertain which quarters are open for such activities.

All members of the Canadian Forces have been made aware of the new policy. A Canadian Forces Administrative Order, will be issued shortly on the authority of General Paul D. Manson, the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact to my Assistant, Katie McCunn, at 996-4450.

Sincerely,



Perrin Beatty