

Minister  
of National Defence



Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

**MAY 09 2011**

Mr. François Lareau  
55 - 890 Cahill Drive West  
Ottawa ON K1V 9A4

Dear Mr. Lareau:

Thank you for your email of February 2, 2011.

On Monday, February 7, 2011, I appeared before the Standing Committee on National Defence as part of the Committee's study of Bill C-41, "Strengthening Military Justice in the Defence of Canada Act." I was accompanied by the Judge Advocate General for the Canadian Forces, Brigadier-General Blaise Cathcart.

Bill C-41 is a key step in the ongoing process to ensure that the military justice system remains one in which Canadians can have trust and confidence. The amendments contained in Bill C-41 will improve not only the military justice system but also the efficiency of the grievance system and the military police complaints process, and reflect recommendations made in the 2003 report by the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the late Right Honourable Antonio Lamer, as well as by the Standing Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs in its May 2009 report, *Equal Justice: Reforming Canada's System of Courts Martial*.

In acting upon the recommendations in the Lamer report and the Senate Committee's report, we are continuing to ensure that the military justice system is effective, fair, and transparent—a system that keeps pace with evolving legal standards in Canadian criminal law while promoting the operational effectiveness of the Canadian Forces.

Please find enclosed a transcript of my opening remarks to the Committee, as well as the evidence of the February 7, 2011 meeting.

I trust that this information is helpful, and thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter MacKay', written in a cursive style.

Peter MacKay

Enclosures: 4

**Canada**