

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

### REPORT TO THE HOUSE

### THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

has the honour to present its

### THIRD REPORT

In accordance with its mandate under Standing Order 108(2), your Committee undertook a study on Canada's Maritime Sovereignty. It has heard evidence from a range of expert witnesses and reports its findings and recommendations.

While much of this study reflects upon the non-military roles of the Canadian Forces such as drug investigations, search and rescue, and protection against terrorism, ocean polluters, the illegal use of ocean resources and illegal immigration, the Committee firmly believes that the first principle for our forces must be to maintain a fighting capability to defend, either directly or with our allies and friends, against an armed aggressor.