

Different promotion opportunities  
Different commissioning-from-the-ranks policies  
Different retirement ages, etc.

The booming economy and virtually full employment situation have also brought the inadequacies of service conditions to the fore. Inadequacies among such things as:

Moving allowance  
Professional pay  
Trades pay  
Time-in-Service recognition  
Clothing allowance  
Out of Married Quarters versus in-housing allowance  
Bachelor Barracks

Educational support both for your Service personnel and for dependents, etc.

I repeat, Mr. Chairman, these differences and inadequacies are not new; the only thing new is that our Service personnel are becoming very much aware of them.

It is the intention of the Associate Minister and I that these disparities be corrected as soon as possible. We must have equal opportunity, equal treatment for all personnel, regardless of their founding service. We must bring the conditions of service for military personnel at least up to par with that of their civilian counterparts. Unification will provide us with a golden opportunity to correct these inequities and inadequacies, and fully democratize our forces.

I am sure hon. members will agree with me that our forces in Canada and Overseas have no peers in the military tasks assigned to them. In our many international commitments to the United Nations, NATO and Norad, and in the full range of domestic and other international tasks, the special capabilities and accomplishments of Canadian sailors, soldiers and airmen are well known. Their consistent record of excellence makes me extremely proud and, indeed, delighted to be recognized as their Minister in the many national and international forums in which I am called to participate.

The Associate Minister and I are pledged to support the dignity and welfare of the individual member of the Canadian forces. Relative to other military forces, Canadian military personnel fare reasonably well. But I know that in this area no set of conditions is perfect. We are therefore dedicated to achieving the fairest and most equitable conditions for our service personnel.

We are fully aware that we are making such splendid progress in this massive re-organization of the Canadian armed forces because of the dedication and high calibre of our military personnel. No other nation has yet to take on such a program, but, then again, no other nation has, in our estimation, the consistently high quality of people to make such a program work in so short a time.

When we have successfully achieved our final goal of a single unified defence force—and I know we will—I hope that all Canadians will give credit to the people to whom it is primarily due: the men and women of the Canadian armed forces.