

News Release

For Immediate Release

MP Ruby Sahota Applauds Canada's New Defense Policy

07/06/2017 – Ottawa, Ontario – Ms. Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North, applauds the Government of Canada's commitment to supporting our women and men in uniform. The defense policy released today supports their dedication and the pivotal role they play in making Canada strong, secure and engaged at home, in North America and in the world.

Yesterday, Defense Minister Harjit S. Sajjan released *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, a long-term defense policy that commits to a range of new investments for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), its members, and their families.

The Government of Canada is committed to ensuring Canada's defense needs are being met at home and abroad. Under this policy, defense spending will grow from \$18.9 billion in 2016-2017 to \$32.7 billion in 2026-2027.

This includes increasing the Regular Force by 3,500 personnel and the Reserve Force by 1,500 personnel, while also meeting gender and diversity targets. It also includes critical investments in important areas such as space and cyber, intelligence and targeting and most importantly, support to the health and welfare of military personnel.

The Government of Canada is also committed to ensuring effective recruitment, training, and retention of the future work force. This policy will place an unprecedented focus on ensuring Canadian service personnel and their families are well supported, diverse and resilient, physically, psychologically, and socially.

Canada's new Defense Policy also prioritizes investing in the future of the armed forces. This includes investing in 15 Surface Combatants, 2 Joint Support Ships, 5-6 Arctic Offshore Patrol Ships, and replacing the CF-18 fleet with 88 advanced fighter aircraft.

The investments made under *Strong, Secure, Engaged* will deliver the support and capabilities our women and men in uniform need and deserve as they work to make Canada strong at home, secure in North America, and engaged in the world.

QUOTES

“I find it incredibly encouraging that this policy contains changes that directly reflect the suggestions raised during the consultation I held in Brampton North in July 2016. *Strong, Secure, Engaged* recognizes that the women and men in uniform are the Canadian Armed Forces’ most important capability.”

Ruby Sahota, Member of Parliament for Brampton North

“*Strong, Secure, Engaged* is fully costed, and it’s fully funded. It is a sign of the Government of Canada’s commitment to providing our women and men in uniform with the care and equipment that they need, and it places the Canadian Armed Forces on a solid footing going forward. I’m confident that these investments will have a direct, positive impact on our members and their families.”

Defense Minister Harjit S. Sajjan

-30-

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