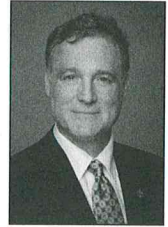




HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Robert Chisholm

Member of Parliament / Député
Dartmouth—Cole Harbour / Dartmouth—Cole Harbour



9 January 2013

Hon. Tony Clement, M.P. P.C.
President of the Treasury Board
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6

and

Hon. Peter MacKay, M.P. P.C.
Minister of National Defence
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ministers Clement and MacKay;

RE: Home Equity Assistance Program and Major Marcus Brauer, of Dartmouth, NS

I am writing to both of you again as more information has come out on the unfairness of how the Home Equity Assistance Program is being applied to some Canadian military families.

I understand that the need for changes to this policy is being presented to Cabinet. It is my hope that you will support military families who have been asked to move repeatedly and who, like my constituent Major Brauer, have suffered financially.

Evidence continues to mount that the decision of the Treasury Board to not accept proof of depressed housing markets in 2010, for the purposes of reimbursing Canadian Forces members under the Home Equity Assistance provisions of the Canadian Forces Integrated Relocation Program was wrong.

Unlike what has happened to Canadian military members like Major Brauer, the Secretary of the Treasury Board says "...Home Equity Assistance is meant to assist members who lose money on the sale of their home on posting". The situation facing many military families is dire and a positive decision needs to come forward from Cabinet that Treasury Board policies be consistent with the Department of National Defence and its administration of Home Equity Assistance Program.

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Minister Tony Clement
Minister Peter McKay
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Major Brauer submitted his application for Home Equity Assistance on May 10, 2010. His application met all the criteria set out in Section 8.2 Sale of Principal Residence APS 2009 A-PP-005-IRP-AG-001. The decision not to reimburse Major Brauer for the loss of equity upon the sale of his home in Alberta must be revisited.

Major Brauer's Case Summary can be found here: <http://www.cfgb-cgfc.gc.ca/English/2011-025.html>.

Major Brauer disagrees with the Director Compensation and Benefits Administration (DCBA) and suggests that DCBA had used a blanket Treasury Board Secretariat denial to turn down his request. The Major does believe that the Edmonton community fell within the definition of a depressed market area according to the CF IRP. At the time, he advised his career manager that he had serious concerns with his posting because he simply could not afford the housing in that area. The Private Married Quarters had lengthy waiting lists and were not available. In his case, the loss on the sale of his home has had a severe impact on his family and has pushed him very close to the point of bankruptcy.

As redress, Major Brauer requested reimbursement under the HEA for 100 percent of his loss, reimbursement for the interest he was paying on a monthly basis on the debt he has incurred in relation to the loss on the home and reimbursement of several other consequential expenses related to the denial of his original HEA application.

We look to you for support of his claim and those other Canadian Forces military families who have been treated unfairly by this program.

Sincerely,



Robert Chisholm, MP
Dartmouth-Cole Harbour

- c. Major Marcus Brauer
- c. Jack Harris, MP St. John's East, NDP Defence Critic
- c. Murray Brewster, The Canadian Press

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