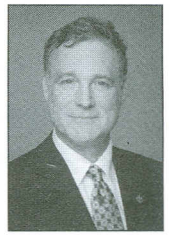




HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Robert Chisholm

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



Hon. Tony Clement
Treasury Board President
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

June 18, 2013

Dear Minister Clement,

It is with a great deal of disappointment that I write to you again about the dismissive way in which the Treasury Board is handling applicants to the Home Equity Assistance program for members of the Canadian Forces.

I have already explained the devastating impact your department's lack of fairness and compassion has had on many CF members and their families. You have already been informed that the Chief of the Defence Staff and the CF Ombudsman have supported many of these applications.

In January of this year I wrote to you and your colleague Minister MacKay yet again, appealing for action to be taken before it is too late. In particular, I wrote to you about the case of Major Marcus Brauer who was posted to Dartmouth from Alberta with his wife and five young children, and how he is now facing financial ruin.

In May, Minister MacKay replied via email to tell me that the decision to review this situation lies solely with you. I have yet to receive a reply from you and now I must update you and Minister MacKay on the real-world impact that your department's decisions are having.

Ottawa

Room 709
Justice Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-995-9378
Fax.: 613-995-9379

Constituency

530 Portland Street
Suite 204
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
B2Y 4V6
Tel.: 902-462-6453
Fax.: 902-462-6493

Ottawa

Pièce 709
Édifice de la Justice
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0A6
Tél. : 613-995-9378
Télé. : 613-995-9379

Circonscription

530, rue Portland
Bureau 204
Dartmouth (NÉ)
B2Y 4V6
Tél. : 902-462-6453
Télé. : 902-462-6493



You need to know that Major Brauer has been driven to sell his wedding band and his Medals. The emotional toll on Major Brauer and his family has become as devastating as the financial one. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reconsider this matter and do what is right before lives are further destroyed.

In closing, let me leave you with the words of Major Brauer himself, posted on his website recently, after he had sold his most prized possessions.

“As for me, there is nothing left,” he wrote. “I am a shell of a man who has fought a good fight, but until this week did not know defeat. I did the right thing, I stayed within the lines, it cost me everything.”

Please realize that your department’s unfair decisions are succeeding where our foes on the battlefield have failed. They are defeating a once-proud member of the Canadian Armed Forces who has survived Afghanistan, but may not survive his own government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Chisholm". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "C".

Robert Chisholm, MP
Dartmouth – Cole Harbour

cc Hon. Peter MacKay, Minister of Defence