

Sex misconduct crisis hurting military recruitment, morale: Defence Minister

The Canadian Press

HALIFAX
The sexual misconduct crisis afflicting Canada's military is hurting recruitment and morale in the ranks, Anita Anand said Friday as she used one of her first public addresses as Canada's new defence minister to lay out her priorities for the position.

Top of that list was what Anand described as significant and lasting change to the military's culture as the Armed Forces faces a crisis of confidence following complaints of inappropriate and in some cases criminal sexual behaviour involving senior officers.

It was in this context that Anand, who took over as defence minister last month from Harjit Sajjan, who was criticized for not doing more to address such behaviour among the top brass, noted the damage wrought on the military - and why culture change is her primary concern.

"This crisis is hurting morale and recruitment in the Canadian Armed Forces," she said in an address to Canadian and foreign delegates during the opening of the annual Halifax International Security Forum, which runs through the weekend.

"And I believe that in order for our military to be effective, our troops must feel safe, they must feel protected, and they must feel respected wherever they are, whatever they are doing."

Anand's speech came just under a month after she was named defence minister, becoming only the second woman to take the position after Kim Campbell held it for six months in 1993.

It also came two weeks after Anand announced she had accepted retired Supreme Court judge Louise Arbour's recent call to transfer the investigation and prosecution of military sexual misconduct cases to civilian authorities.

The minister reiterated her decision on Friday, saying the move "demonstrates that we are serious."

"I am serious and committed to



CP PHOTO ANDREW VAUGHAN

Defence Minister Anita Anand addresses the opening session of the Halifax International Security Forum, in Halifax on Friday.

transparent institutions free from conflicts of interest," she said. "This is a first step. There's no quick fix that will make these problems go away overnight."

Among those in attendance in Halifax was Gen. Wayne Eyre, the former Canadian Army commander who has been serving as acting chief of the defence staff since February, when Adm. Art McDonald stepped down due to a military police investigation into his conduct.

McDonald has since called for the government to reinstate him after military police opted not to charge him, but the government instead put him on administrative leave and promoted Eyre.

Anand later declined to provide any update on who will become the permanent defence chief or when a decision will be made, though she did take umbrage with a letter that McDonald recently sent to other senior officers making his case for reinstatement.

"The appointment of the CDS is an appointment that the prime minister makes," she said in response to a reporter's question. "I will say on the issue of Admiral McDonald that I found the letter that he wrote inappropriate."

While Anand spent the first part of her address focusing on sexual miscon-

duct in the ranks, she later went out of her way to underscore the important work that the Canadian military has been doing as the current crisis has been raging.

That included contributing hundreds of troops to long-term care facilities early in the COVID-19 pandemic, helping distribute vaccines in dozens of remote communities, and responding to more than a dozen natural disasters over the past two years.

The most recent is this week's disastrous flooding in B.C., where the first of what will likely end up being hundreds of troops have started to arrive from Edmonton to help with evacuations, sandbagging and other emergency tasks.

Anand also underscored the role Canadian troops are playing overseas, including in the Asia-Pacific region, where she noted Canadian warships have maintained a "solid presence," which includes several traverses of the Taiwan Strait.

While much of the world considers the 180-kilometre strait to be international waters, Beijing claims ownership of the strait separating mainland China from Taiwan and has repeatedly condemned such passages by warships from the U.S., Canada and elsewhere as illegal.

Embattled MP Kevin Vuong apologizes to prime minister, Liberals and supporters

The Canadian Press

Embattled Toronto MP Kevin Vuong, who was ditched by the Liberals days before the federal election after failing to disclose a withdrawn sexual-assault charge, has apologized to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Vuong also apologized to his supporters "for embarrassing them," as well as his former Liberal colleagues.

In his first interview since the Sept. 20 election, Vuong said he was "naive" and "too eager" to become an MP, and regrets the decision not to tell the party about the charge while being vetted as a candidate.

Despite being disavowed as the Liberal candidate in Spadina-Fort York days before the vote, he was elected to Parliament nonetheless and is set to take his seat as an Independent MP next week.

In an interview broadcast on the Toronto radio show Moore in the Morning on Friday, the MP said: "I erred in judgment and I made the wrong decision and I let people down."

Vuong, a former naval reservist and businessman, declined during the interview to discuss the sexual assault allegation, saying he was concentrating on being a good member of Parliament for his constituents.

The charge was laid in 2019 and later dropped.

Asked if he had been advised not to disclose it before becoming a candidate, Vuong did not directly answer, saying "people get all different types of advice."

"At the end of the day, I own the decision to not disclose. And I regret that decision," he said.

"I made the wrong call. I made a tremendous error in judgment in not disclosing. It's why I am now an Independent member of Parliament," he added.

The MP, who has faced harsh criticism on social media, said that since the election his partner has been harassed in the street while walking her dog. But he denied he has been "in hiding."

The chair of Spadina-Fort York's Liberal riding association, which funded much of Vuong's campaign, said on Friday an apology was not enough and renewed calls for him to resign.

"The time to exercise good judgment is before, not during or after holding public office. Parliament is not a classroom to learn these lessons," said Julia Metus in a Facebook post.

PUBLIC NOTICES



8AM - 4PM SPECIAL SERVICES

Electric Outages	403.529.8260
Gas Emergency	403.529.8191
Water & Sewer Emergency	403.502.8042
After Hours Special Services	403.526.2828

DEVELOPMENT PERMITS APPROVED NOVEMBER 11 TO NOVEMBER 17, 2021 PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RESIDENTIAL

845 10 STREET SE (Lot 9, Block 12, Plan 483M) PLDP20210478. Multiple Unit Residential Development (Duplex With Secondary Suites) Including Site Width/Frontage, Side Yard Setback and Site Area Variances.



2422 15 AVENUE SE (Lots 18-20, Block 23, Plan 2140AJ) PLDP20211202. Single Detached House (Demolition).

COMMERCIAL

HOME OCCUPATION

714 12 STREET SE (Lots 11 & 12, Block 13, Plan 483M) PLDP20211135. Office Use Only. Service (eCommerce).

A person claiming to be affected by a decision of the Development Officer or the Municipal Planning Commission may appeal to the Medicine Hat Subdivision and Development Appeal Board by completing and submitting to the City Clerk Department, the required Notice of Appeal form within twenty one (21) days of this publication. Notice of Appeal forms are available from the City Clerk Department, Third Floor, City Hall or on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

All Development Permits listed are subject to conditions. Further information on any Development Permit may be obtained from the Planning & Development Services Department, Second Floor, City Hall during normal business hours (Telephone 403.529.8374).

ATTENTION: UTILITY CUSTOMERS NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE CHANGES

On Monday, November 15, 2021 City Council gave first reading to the following:

BYLAW #4685 to amend Bylaw #2379, the Water Service Bylaw by amending certain rates, fees and charges; and

BYLAW #4686 to amend Bylaw #1541, regulating the use of Public and Private Sewers and Drains and the Disposal of Sewage and the Discharge of Waters and Waste into the City's Sewer System; and

BYLAW #4687 to amend Bylaw #1805, the Waste Bylaw by amending rates and charges; and

BYLAW #4688 to amend Bylaw #2244, the Electric Utility Bylaw by adjusting certain non-commodity rates charged for electric energy distribution service to residential, commercial and industrial customers of the City's Electric Utility.

BYLAW #4689 to amend Bylaw #2489, the Gas Utility Bylaw by amending certain rates, fees and charges; and

The proposed Bylaws will come into force on January 1, 2022.

A Non-Statutory Public Hearing in general accordance with the Municipal Government Act and the City's Procedure Bylaw, and consideration of the Second/Third Readings of the proposed Bylaws will be held in the City Hall Council Chambers at the address below on Monday, December 20, 2021 beginning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Copies of the above Bylaws and related documents may be inspected during normal office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm) at the City Clerk Department or accessed via the 'Proposed Bylaws' section on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

Any person who claims to be affected by any of the proposed bylaws may make representation to City Council at the Non-Statutory Public Hearings. Oral submissions are limited to five minutes.

Anyone wishing to have a written submission concerning the proposed bylaws placed before the City Council must submit it to the City Clerk Department by 12:00 noon, Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Dated at the City of Medicine Hat, in the Province of Alberta, this 20th day of November, 2021.

Angela Cruickshank, City Clerk
Phone: 403.529.8234
Fax: 403.529.8324
E-mail: clerk@medicinehat.ca

PROTECT WATER LINES FROM FREEZING

The following actions should be considered to protect your water lines:

- Repair broken windows and ensure windows/vents are closed during the winter.
- Insulate water pipes in unheated areas, including crawl spaces.
- For sinks located against a non-insulated outside wall:
 - Open the vanity door to allow warm air to reach the water pipes.
 - A light bulb placed near the water pipe may generate enough heat to keep the water flowing.
 - Heat tape wrapped around the pipe may keep the pipe from freezing.
- Residents of mobile homes should check the condition of the heat tape on their water service and water meter.
- Protect unheated indoor water meter with an insulated box and water pipes should be wrapped in insulation using heat tape.

- Outside water taps and underground sprinkler systems should have the water supply shut off inside the house at the isolation valve for the tap.
- Sprinkler lines and taps should be drained/blown out.
- A thin stream of water (as thick as a pen) running continuously from at least one tap will help prevent a frozen water service.
- If you plan to be away from home over the winter period, close the main water isolation valve located next to the water meter in your home. You should leave the heat on in your home and have someone check inside your home daily while you're away.

A frozen water service, or a burst water pipe, is an inconvenience and expense that most people would like to avoid. Please take all possible precautions to prevent this happening in your home or business.

For more information, refer to www.medicinehat.ca or contact City Assets Environmental Utilities at 403.529.8176.

www.medicinehat.ca

The Salvation Army Community Resource Centre

476 4th Street SE
(Back Alley Entrance)

CHRISTMAS BLESSING (Hamper Applications)

NOVEMBER 23RD
THROUGH TO
DECEMBER 10TH
Tuesday through Friday
11:00a.m. - 3:00p.m.



Residents of Medicine Hat and surrounding area must provide proof of address, household income, and I.D. for each family member.



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Volunteer Opportunity

The Medicine Hat Police Service Victim Assistance Unit is seeking volunteers for the following activities:

Crisis Support
Offer emotional and practical support through post-incident follow up including referrals to community agencies.

In-Station Client Support
Provide court updates, information about justice programs and assistance with victims of crime forms.

Court Support
Provide court preparation, orientation and support for witnesses during trials, and update witnesses on court decisions and outcomes.



For more information about the training provided and commitment required or to apply for this exciting and rewarding volunteer opportunity visit mhps.ca.

Applications close December 31, 2021.

