

January 28, 2009

Right Honourable Stephen Harper, PC, MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Langevin Building  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper:

After you were elected in 2006, you made the necessary arrangements to establish a separate standing committee on Veterans Affairs for the House of Commons.

Unfortunately, the same arrangements were not made to institute a separate committee for Veterans Affairs in the Senate. Given the small number of Conservative Senators in the Senate, it would have made it difficult to fulfill time commitments to already existing standing committees.

However, your recent appointment of 18 new senators has, for the first time in years, restored the Senate to the full compliment of 105.

Given the debt we owe to Veterans, their families and dependants, I would hope that you would now take the opportunity to instruct the Government Leadership in the Senate to propose a separate stand alone Veterans Affairs Committee to deal with the many concerns of our Canadian Veterans.

Sincerely,

Percy E. Downe  
Senator

c.c. Senator James Cowan, QC  
Senator Marjory LeBreton, PC