

Minister  
of National Defence

Ministre  
de la Défense nationale

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0K2

6000 MELVILLE ST., VICTORIA, BC V8T 4H2  
For Information  
 Read  Mailed/Email  
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Reference ANJA

NOV 30 2018

Her Worship Barbara Desjardins  
Mayor of the Township of Esquimalt  
Municipal Hall  
1229 Esquimalt Road  
Esquimalt BC V9A 3P1

Dear Madam Mayor:

I am writing in response to your letter of January 9, 2018, which was forwarded to me by the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, about the status of the Department of National Defence (DND) property at Royal Roads. I regret the delay in replying.

I appreciate the opportunity to address this important issue. Royal Roads is a high priority divestment which is advancing somewhat faster than typically expected given its complexity. Canada Lands Corporation is currently conducting an initial assessment to determine interest in the site. If all proceeds as planned, DND should be in a position to engage in formal consultations with interested parties in late spring/early summer 2019.

There is a possibility that a portion of the site may be transferred to Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs (CIRNA) in support of treaty settlement with the Songhees First Nation. To date, two Indigenous communities (including Songhees First Nation) have expressed interest in the property. The Municipality of Colwood, Royal Roads University, Conseil scolaire francophone de la Colombie-Britannique (French language school board) and other federal government departments have also expressed interest.

DND has contracted Altus Group to conduct an appraisal of the property. An initial conservative estimate is \$60 million. It should be noted that a migratory bird sanctuary forms part of the site and that area will not be developed. Additionally, a Treasury Board submission will be required to divest of the property.

In the interim, DND continues to pay payments in lieu of taxes and cover operations and maintenance for the property.

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I trust that this information is helpful, and thank you for writing.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon. Harjit S. Sajjan, PC, OMM, MSM, CD, MP