

Questions asked to General De Chastelain

Question

General are you comfortable on leaving the question of sexual orientation in the military to the courts?

Answer

I've made recommendations on the sexual orientation to the courts to my Minister and he had made recommendations to the Government. How it's decided if this rule is a Government decision or a court decision is not up to me and am I comfortable leaving it with the people that I have made recommendation to. Yes.

Question

One of the conservative back-benchers has told us that the overall majority of the rank file would be against a change in policy, do you have any information, does he know what he's talking about?

Answer

We've conducted surveys as you know we conducted one in the period of 1985 when the Charter of Rights and Freedoms was discussed in Parliament and to complete a report that we are putting together on the effect of the Charter on the Canadian Forces and at that time a survey did indicate that a large number of people in the forces were against having homosexuals in the forces. To bring us up to date because that was 5 years ago, we conducted a survey, a very limited survey last year but it was procedurally flawed so the information from it is information that we're not planning to use. So I'm not sampling opinion anymore I'm just making recommendations to the Government on the policy that I think is right and I'm waiting for results of that.

002380