



**Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association**

**National Headquarters: P.O. Box 905, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, K7L 4X8**

[www.cpva.ca](http://www.cpva.ca)

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The Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Veterans Affairs and Minister of State (Agriculture)  
Veterans Affairs Canada  
14th Floor, 66 Slater Street  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0P4  
23 August 2010

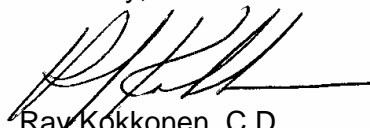
Dear Mr. Blackburn:

I am writing to you because the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association (CPVA) has considerable anxiety and regret about the government's recent, hard to understand decision not to renew the term of Mr. Pat Stogran in the position of the Veterans Ombudsman. As the CPVA was an original pioneer and a strong advocate of the proposal to create the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman (OVO), we understandably have a natural vested interest. Clearly, the matter also should be of the highest concern for all veterans organizations.

Foremost, it is the sincere belief of CPVA that it is an issue of utmost importance for all veterans that the OVO continue to exist, and to expand in keeping with veterans' requirements. As well, it is the opinion of CPVA that the best course of action would be to retain Pat Stogran as the Ombudsman. However, if the change is made it is crucial that it be arranged so that a thorough handover can be done by Mr. Stogran to ensure that his hard-earned and critical lessons learned are not lost. Finally, it is somewhat uncertain that a new Ombudsman with Mr. Stogran's superior leadership capabilities and his genuine concern for veterans actually can be found to replace him if the change is implemented.

The CPVA commends Pat Stogran for his outstanding service as the Ombudsman. Although he was the first in the position, he very ably made major progress in many tough-to-resolve veterans' issues. In a number of cases, he was strongly opposed by government functionaries but was proven right in the end. Truly, he has been the ideal Ombudsman for veterans and could continue to make an invaluable contribution in the position.

Sincerely,



Ray Kokkonen, C.D.  
President

cc: Veterans Organizations