

Chief of Military Personnel



Chef du personnel militaire

National Defence
Headquarters
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de
la Défense nationale
Ottawa (Ontario)
K1A 0K2

23 September 2014

Gwen Bird
President
BC Library Association
Suite 150 – 900 Howe Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 2M4

Dear Ms. Bird,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Ottawa Citizen article on social media use by Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members, particularly ill and injured members. My apologies for the delay in responding to your letter. It was inadvertently misdirected and I have only just received it.

Let me begin by saying that the care and support of ill and injured CAF members and their families is a high priority. To that end, the Joint Personnel Support Unit was specifically created to provide focused, personal support to our ill and injured.

Noting your concern, I assure you that all CAF members, including those who are ill and injured, can communicate publicly about their own experiences and expertise. Their stories provide compelling insight into their tremendous effort and unique contribution to the defence of Canada. Consistent with the Government of Canada communications policy, all members of the CAF are also expected to be aware of the policies regarding appropriate use of social media, as well as other regulations that apply to military service. The form that our members sign confirms they have been briefed and understand the policies.

It is in everyone's interest, both military and civilian, to be reminded of the realities, both positive and negative, of social media. I do appreciate your concern and thank you for your continued interest in the well-being of our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.B. Millar".

D.B. Millar
Lieutenant-General