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SENATE

STANDING SENATE COMMITTEE
ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND DEFENCE

THE HONOURABLE COLIN KENNY
CHAIR



CANADA

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COMITÉ SÉNATORIAL PERMANENT
DE LA SÉCURITÉ NATIONALE ET DE LA DÉFENSE

L'HONORABLE COLIN KENNY
PRÉSIDENT

Monday August 28th, 2006

Mr. John E. Melbourne
National Vice President
Air Force Association of Canada
P.O. Box 2460
Station "D"
Ottawa, ON K1P 5W6

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dear Mr. Melbourne,".

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of August 11, 2006 to the Hon. Gordon O'Connor, Minister of National Defence, about the need to update Canada's Fixed-Wing Search and Rescue capacity.

Our Committee agrees with the comments made by your association, namely that the Buffalo and Hercs are too old and should be retired. The Buffalos were supposed to be replaced some time ago and the SAR flying is also very hard on our limited SAR fleet.

In Part IV Chapter 3 of our recent report entitled *The Government's No. 1 Job*, you will see that the Committee has pushed for the purchase of new search and rescue equipment. Recommendation 39 states "[t]he government re-energize the 'fast track' acquisition of approximately 20 to 24 aircraft to fulfill the fixed-wing search and rescue role so that the first of these aircraft can be delivered by 2007."

Thank you for keeping the committee informed about the work of your association and especially your interventions to the Minister. We are hopeful that, with all the pressure, the government will fast-track the acquisition of new search and rescue equipment.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin Kenny" followed by a stylized signature.

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