

## Bill 3

### Armed Forces Reform Act

**WHEREAS** “[The Canadian Reserve is] understaffed, in some cases under-equipped, ‘and not fully ready to deploy’ on domestic...missions”<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Veterans make better employees due to their leadership skills, composure, creativity, big-picture understanding, and team player, mentality<sup>2</sup>; and

**WHEREAS** Youth unemployment rates in Canada stand at 12.9%.<sup>3</sup>

**THEREFORE HER MAJESTY, BY AND WITH THE ADVICE AND CONSENT OF THE YOUTH PARLIAMENT OF MANITOBA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

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- 1 As of January 1, 2017, the Government of Canada shall establish the Safety And Freedom Everywhere committee [**SAFE**]. This committee shall be responsible for overseeing the creation of the Canadian Guard, a defensive reserve military force that aims to enhance Canada’s national security, in which all Canadian citizens shall be enrolled for no less than 10 years.
  - (1) All citizens will be eligible to enroll at the age of 17 and must be enrolled by the age of 22.
  - (2) **SAFE** shall consist of members of the Canadian Armed Forces Regular and Reserve Forces.
    - (a) **SAFE** shall be responsible for all administrative, recruitment, and training activities related to the Canadian Guard
  - (3) Members of the Canadian Guard shall spend their working hours training to improve physical fitness, maintain facilities and equipment and to engage in further occupational training when not engaged in domestic operations.
  - (4) The Canadian Guard shall be prepared to assist the Canadian Armed Forces with any domestic operations, including but not limited to:
    - (a) National Security
    - (b) Natural Disasters
    - (c) Community Outreach
- 2 The Canadian Guard shall include both combat and noncombat occupations.
  - (1) **SAFE** will assign occupations, with enrollees’ preferences being accommodated wherever possible

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<sup>1</sup> Young, Leslie. *Army Reserve understaffed, under-equipped and not fully ready to deploy: Auditor General*, Global News. May 3, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://globalnews.ca/news/2676805/army-reserve-understaffed-under-equipped-and-not-fully-ready-to-deploy-auditor-general/>

<sup>2</sup> Robinson, Shane. *Why a Veteran Might be Your Next Best Hire*, Forbes. Aug. 12, 2013. Retrieved from: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/shanerobinson/2013/08/12/why-a-veteran-might-be-your-next-best-hire/#7d7dd51b2cc4>

<sup>3</sup> CBC News Staff. *Canada’s Jobless Rate Falls to 6.8%, 11,000 Jobs Created in November*, CBC News. Dec. 2, 2016. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/jobs-created-unemployment-1.3878080>

- (2) All members of the Canadian Guard, regardless of occupation, are to receive basic military training, including but not limited to:
  - (a) Operation of military equipment and vehicles
  - (b) Defensive military strategy and maneuvers
  - (c) Physical fitness
  - (d) First aid
  - (e) Survival skills
  - (f) Firearm safety and conflict de-escalation techniques
  
- 3 The time commitment for all members of the Canadian Guard shall be as follows:
  - (1) 35 days of basic military training
  - (2) A minimum of 100 hours per year for the remainder of the enrollee's tenure
  - (3) Necessary absences shall be accommodated on the basis that the enrollee satisfactorily meets all Canadian Guard commitments
  
- 4 Exemptions from the basic military training may be granted by **SAFE** only in extreme cases.
  - (1) Exemptions are permitted with regards to the following situations:
    - (a) An enrollee is unable to complete training due to physical or mental disability
    - (b) An enrollee is not permitted to own a firearm in Canada, has a violent criminal past, or is otherwise deemed unsafe around weaponry
    - (c) An enrollee has a verifiable religious objection to the military
  - (2) Exempted citizens shall perform community service in place of their term with the Canadian Guard
  
- 5 Citizens who fail to enroll in the Canadian Guard shall be subject to a two-year prison sentence, in addition to indefinite penalties, including but not limited to:
  - (1) Increased income tax rates
  - (2) Ineligible status in regards to employment insurance, government grants and loans, and other non-essential government services
  - (3) Loss of ability to purchase firearms or obtain hunting licenses
  
- 6 Immigrants are to enroll in the Canadian Guard within 2 years of obtaining Canadian citizenship.
  - (1) English and/or French language lessons will be provided as part of the training program where necessary
  - (2) Citizens living abroad are similarly expected to enroll in the Canadian Guard within 2 years of taking up residence in Canada
  - (3) Immigrants gaining citizenship and citizens who take up residence in Canada after the age of 50 will be exempted from all Canadian Guard obligations