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CDS ANNOUNCES CHANGE IN POLICY

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OTTAWA -- The Chief of Defence Staff, General A.J.G.D. de Chastelain announced today that the Canadian Forces will no longer deny enrolment to homosexuals who otherwise meet entry standards.

This decision, which is effective immediately, follows a lengthy re-examination of the Canadian Forces' policy towards homosexuals. It is fully consistent with the Government's acceptance of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Equality Rights to ensure that sexual orientation is a prohibited ground of discrimination.

"The Canadian Forces of today believe that an individual's sexual orientation is irrelevant to whether or not that individual can perform his or her job," said General de Chastelain.