

General Jennie Carignan Chief of the Defence Staff National Defence Headquarters 101 Colonel By Drive Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2 CANADA

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Dear General Carignan,

Congratulations on taking command of the Canadian Armed Forces! I wish you every success in your new appointment and look forward to working with you. We highly recognise Canada's contribution to NATO's eastern flank as an FLF framework nation in Latvia. We as NATO allies need to continue our efforts in developing our national forces to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defence.

Thank you for informing me of the Canadian candidate for the Director General International Military Staff position. We believe that Vice-admiral Scott Bishop is a very strong candidate for this important post.

I will be attending the 2024 Halifax International Security Forum on 22-24 November, and have accepted the invitation to speak there. In conjunction with this visit to Canada, it would be very much appreciated, if I could meet you e. g. on Monday, the 25th of November before flying back to Europe. Please kindly let me know whether the meeting is feasible in the 22-25 November timeframe. I can let my staff deal with travel arrangements accordingly.

Thank you and I wish you All the Best in this challenging post.

Yours sincerely,

Andrus Merilo Major General

Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces