



THE CANADIAN BAR ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION DU BARREAU CANADIEN

The Voice of
the Legal Profession

La voix de la
profession juridique

June 27, 2003

Letter to the Editor
Ottawa Citizen
P.O. Box 5020
1101 Baxter Road
Ottawa, ON K2C 3M4

Dear Editor,

RE: CBA views on military law review, June 27, page A3

The Canadian Bar Association takes strong exception to your headline, "Military law review slammed as 'whitewash'," which attributes to the CBA, in quotation marks, a word that our 101-page submission to the independent review of the *National Defence Act* never once uses.

The CBA welcomed that independent review. While the military justice system has been greatly enhanced by the Act, the CBA still sees room for improvement and submitted a comprehensive submission containing 65 recommendations for improving the military justice system.

The recommendations fall under four themes: the need for regular, independent review of military law; opportunities to strengthen the independence of the military justice system; the ongoing need to ensure that military law conforms with the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*; and the need for technical and procedural changes to ensure fairness and efficiency and to meet the needs of the Canadian Forces.

Your sensationalist headline does a great disservice both to the CBA, which included in its brief a broad range of views and offers constructive proposals, and to former Chief Justice Antonio Lamer, whose distinguished career as a jurist brings the highest credibility to his independent review of the *National Defence Act*.

Your readers are invited to read the CBA brief on our website, www.cba.org, and see what we really said.

Yours truly,

Simon V. Potter
President
Canadian Bar Association

cc. The Right Hon. Antonio Lamer

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