

Convention Report *from the* Proceedings

45th Dominion Convention
Edmonton, Alberta
June 14 – 18, 2014

OUR MISSION IS TO SERVE
VETERANS, WHICH INCLUDES
SERVING MILITARY AND
RCMP MEMBERS AND THEIR
FAMILIES, TO PROMOTE
REMEMBRANCE AND TO
SERVE OUR COMMUNITIES
AND OUR COUNTRY.





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IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE RECORDED THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 45TH DOMINION CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ASSEMBLED AT EDMONTON, ALBERTA. CONTAINING THE CONVENTION REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES, IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL AS WELL AS HISTORICAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE READY REFERENCE.

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DOMINION COMMAND OFFICERS

HONORARY OFFICERS

Patron

His Excellency the Right Honourable
David Johnston, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General and Commander-in-Chief
of Canada

Grand President

L. Murray, C.M.M., C.D.

Dominion Honorary Vice-President

General Thomas J. Lawson, C.M.M., C.D.
Commissioner Bob Paulson, C.O.M.

Dominion Honorary Chaplain

Rabbi R. Bulka
Brigadier-General the Venerable
John M. Fletcher, C.D., Q.H.C.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dominion President

G. Moore

Dominion First Vice-President

T. Eagles

Dominion Vice-Presidents

E. Pigeau
D. Flannigan
P. Piper

Dominion Treasurer

M. Cook

Dominion Chairman

T. Irvine

Immediate Past Dominion President

P. Varga

PROVINCIAL COMMAND/SPECIAL SECTION REPRESENTATIVES/PRESIDENTS

British Columbia/Yukon

A. Stanfield

Alberta-NWT

W. Donner

Saskatchewan

D. Wells

Manitoba&NWO

D. Kidd

Ontario

B. Julian

Quebec

N. Shelton

New Brunswick

R. Love

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

R. Trowsdale

Prince Edward Island

G. Painchaud

Newfoundland/Labrador

R. Petten

Tuberculous Veterans' Section

C. Paul

DOMINION SECRETARY

B. K. White

DOMINION COMMAND PAST PRESIDENTS

 Lieutenant—General
Sir Percy Lake
British Columbia, 1925—1928

 Lieutenant—General
Sir Arthur Currie
Quebec, 1928—1929

 Lieutenant—Colonel
Leo R. LaFleche
Ontario, 1929—1931

 Major John S. Roper
Nova Scotia, 1931—1934

 Brigadier—General Alex Ross
Saskatchewan, 1934—1938

 Lieutenant—Colonel
W.W. Foster
British Columbia, 1938—1940

 Alex Walker
Alberta, 1940—1946

 Major—General C.B. Price
Quebec, 1946—1948

 Lieutenant—Colonel
L.D.M. Baxter
Manitoba, 1948—1950

 Group Captain Alfred Watts
British Columbia, 1950—1952

 Dr. C.B. Lumsden
Nova Scotia, 1952—1954

 Very Reverend
John O. Anderson
Manitoba, 1954—1956

 David L. Burgess
Ontario, 1956—1960

 The Honourable
Justice Mervyn Woods
Saskatchewan, 1960—1962

 His Honour Judge
C. C. Sparling
Manitoba, 1962—1964

 Fred T. O'Brecht
Ontario, 1964—1966

 Ronald E. MacBeath
New Brunswick, 1966—1968

 Robert Kohaly
Saskatchewan, 1968—1970

 The Honourable
Justice Redmond Roche
Quebec, 1970—1972

 Robert G. Smellie
Manitoba, 1972—1974

 Robert D. McChesney
Ontario, 1974—1976

 Douglas McDonald
Ontario, 1976—1978

 Edward C. Coley
Alberta, 1978—1980

 Al Harvey
Newfoundland, 1980—1982

 Dave Capperault
Ontario, 1982—1984

 Steve Dunsdon
British Columbia, 1984—1986

 Anthony Stacey
Ontario, 1986—1988

 Gaston Garceau
Quebec, 1988—1990

 Fred Williams
Newfoundland, 1990—1991

 Jack Jolleys
British Columbia, 1991—1994

Hugh M. Greene
Alberta, 1994—1996

 Joseph Kobolak
Ontario, 1996—1998

 Chuck Murphy
British Columbia, 1998—2000

 William (Bill) Barclay
Saskatchewan, 2000—2002

Allan Parks
Prince Edward Island,
2002—2004

Mary Ann Burdett
British Columbia, 2004—2006

Jack Frost
Ontario, 2006—2008

Wilfred Edmond
Nova Scotia, 2008—2010

Patricia Varga
Saskatchewan, 2010—2012

Gordon Moore
Ontario, 2012—present

 *Designates deceased*



TESTAMENT—ARTICLES *of* FAITH

• *The First Part* •

WHEREAS THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION was founded upon principles, which endure today, and will serve well all who belong or may belong in the future including, among others:

-  A solemn remembrance of Canadians who gave their lives so that our nation might be free.
-  Loyalty to the sovereign and to Canada.
-  Safeguarding the rights and interests of the disabled, the widows or widowers and dependants and all who served.
-  Maintaining our right to encourage our people and nation to every reasonable support to peace at home and throughout the world.
-  Maintaining in and for Canada the rule of law, encouraging the national and united spirit, ordered government and striving for peace, goodwill and friendship between Canadians and among all nations.
-  Advocating the maintenance in and by Canada of adequate defences.
-  Retaining the spirit of comradeship forged in wartime and nurtured in peacetime to the benefit of the history and unity of the nation.

AND WHEREAS throughout the history of the Legion certain values have endured to the benefit of the veteran segment, the Ladies Auxiliary and their chosen successors, all to the credit and benefit of the Canadian community.

AND WHEREAS it is the recognized duty of each segment, the one to the other, to perpetuate The Royal Canadian Legion and its principles, facilities and programs for the general welfare of our nation now and in the future.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, for ourselves and representative of our segment of The Royal Canadian Legion, covenant and renew our obligations to each other and to the nation and do solemnly declare:

REMEMBRANCE

THAT THOSE WHO DIED in the service of the nation will always be remembered together with their widows and widowers. We will remember them.

THAT REMEMBRANCE DAY shall remain and be reverently observed on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of each year by us and our successors. Lest We Forget.

THAT THE SACRIFICE made by so many shall not be in vain and we shall strive to maintain unity in our nation, together with our constant endeavour to promote and maintain peace, goodwill, and friendship within our country and throughout the world, so that all citizens may be worthy of the sacrifice they made.

JUST RIGHTS

THAT THOSE WHO SURVIVE and need our aid may be assured of reasonable and adequate assistance.

LOYALTY

THAT WE MAINTAIN OUR LOYALTY to the reigning sovereign and to Canada and its people to stand for ordered government in Canada and decline membership or to discontinue any membership to anyone who is a member of or affiliated with any group, party or sect whose interests conflict with the avowed purposes of The Royal Canadian Legion or support any organization advocating the overthrow by force of organized government in Canada or which encourages or participates in subversive activity or propaganda.

COMRADESHIP— SERVICE

THAT OUR ORIGINAL BASIS of common service and sacrifice expressed in comradeship shall survive among us and our community so that the ideals for which so many laid down their lives will be fulfilled.

MEMBERSHIP

THAT THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION remain strong and united. That those who served or are serving or have served in the armed forces of our country together with their widows or widowers and dependants and such others as from time to time are admitted and subscribe and continue to subscribe to our purposes and objects, shall be encouraged to belong provided always that we shall remain democratic and non sectarian and not affiliated to or connected directly or indirectly with any political party or organization.

THAT SO LONG AS veterans remain, or their widows or widowers, that they shall be fully and adequately represented in all the councils of The Royal Canadian Legion. Future ex-service persons shall enjoy the same privileges in perpetuity.

SYMBOLS

THE POPPY is our emblem of supreme sacrifice and must forever hold an honoured place in our hearts and image immortalizing as it does our remembrance and honouring of those who laid down their lives for ideals which they, we and all Canadians rightfully cherish. It shall challenge us to serve in peace, as in war, to help those who need our help, and to protect those who need and deserve our protection. The cross of sacrifice, on appropriate occasions, is symbolic of the same worthy principles of remembrance.

THE TORCH shall remain symbolic of justice, honour and freedom throughout our land. These were the principles for which our comrades fought and died. We of today and tomorrow covenant to hold it high lest we break faith with those who died. Justice, honour and freedom are our charge for now and forever. We serve best by fostering these principles in ourselves, our children and their children so long as The Royal Canadian Legion shall survive.

OUR BADGE is symbolic of our loyalty to our sovereign, our support to our nation in our worthy citizenship and our remembrance for our fallen comrades and fellow Canadians of like principles.

OUR FLAG, being the Canadian Flag, is representative of our nation both at home and abroad. We will uphold it ourselves and forever teach respect for it by our successors, within and without the Legion. At the same time, we will remember our historical association with the Union Jack and the Red Ensign.

• *The Second Part* •

OUR SUCCESSORS shall themselves learn and pass to their successors these principles including, when necessary, our best services in times of great need, our unique strengths to our family and community, and the worthiness of remembering their contributions in their continuing time.

• *The Third Part* •

WE, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, guarantee we will be true to these principles and, subject only to the limits prescribed by democratic law, teach and hand down them to our continuous successors without reduction but with enhanced values.

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The 45th Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion was held at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton, AB., from 14 to 18 June 2014.

ATTENDANCE

There were 966 accredited delegates carrying 2,400 proxy votes for a total voting strength of 3,366. Observers accounted for 55 people in attendance and there were 43 guests from governments and veterans' organizations from Canada and abroad.

WORKSHOPS

Four separate workshops were held at the Shaw Conference Centre Saturday afternoon prior to the official opening of the Convention on Sunday. These workshops included: Membership and Marketing conducted by Comrade Scott Ferris, Veterans, Service and Seniors conducted by Comrade Ray McInnis, Poppy and Remembrance conducted by Comrade Bill Maxwell and Outreach by Comrade Bruce Poulin. Each workshop, which lasted approximately one hour, was very well attended. In fact, more than 200 delegates participated in each of them. Feedback on these workshops was so positive that it was agreed that similar workshops would be offered again during the next Dominion Convention.

PARADE, WREATH LAYING AND OPENING CEREMONY

The beautiful weather on Sunday made for an excellent parade which started at 1:15 pm with approximately 800 delegates on parade. Led by Comrade Ken Macdonald, the parade of Provincial Command contingents and three different bands marched to the Cenotaph at the City Hall Plaza for the Wreath Laying Ceremony. The music during the ceremony was provided by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band. The Last Post and Rouse were delivered by duty bugler Sergeant Sylvain Beyries and the Lament was played by Pipe-Major Katie Buckland. The Act of Remembrance was delivered in English by Dominion President Comrade Gordon Moore and in French by the

Grand President Comrade Larry Murray. The Invocation and Benediction were delivered by Brigadier-General the Venerable John M. Fletcher, the Chaplain-General of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Placing wreaths at the ceremony were: The National Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Niki Psiharis, on behalf of the Mothers of Canada; the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada; Brigadier-General David Anderson, on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces; Deputy Commissioner Marianne Ryan, on behalf of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Honourable Doug Horner, Minister of Finance on behalf of the Government of Alberta; Councillor Dave Loken, representing the City of Edmonton; Comrade Gordon Moore, Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion; and Comrade Wayne Donner, Provincial President of ALTA/NWT Command.

The Opening Ceremonies were held at the Shaw Conference Centre and started at 2:00 pm with a music prelude given by the Royal Canadian Artillery Band followed by a spectacular performance by the PPCLI drum line. The special guests were then piped onto the stage: Comrade Gordon Moore, Dominion President; Comrade Larry Murray, Grand President; the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs; and Mrs. Niki Psiharis, the National Silver Cross Mother.

The Massed Branch Colours were marched on followed by the Legion Colours. The Opening Ritual was given by the Dominion Chairman during which the delegates remembered our fallen comrades who had passed on since our last Dominion Convention. The invocation was delivered by Brigadier-General Fletcher. The Dominion Chairman introduced the special guests to the delegates followed by a presentation of flowers to Mrs. Kathy Moore and Mrs. Niki Psiharis.

Greetings to the 45th Dominion Convention were then given by Minister Fantino representing the Government of Canada; the Honourable Doug Horner representing the Government of Alberta, Councillor Dave Loken representing the City of Edmonton, and Comrade Wayne Donner on behalf of ALTA /NWT Command. Video greetings from His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, were presented later in the business session.

Following this, the Convention was formally opened by Comrade Larry Murray. The Resolution of Loyalty was given by the Dominion President and the Grand President in a bilingual format and was adopted unanimously.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

Many delegates who attended this convention felt that it was a landmark event where many new policies affecting Legion finances were adopted, as well as recognition that the Legion must move forward and embrace the digital age if we are to address the membership issue. At the same time, delegates made it clear that they remained committed to remembrance and advocating on behalf of Veterans.

During the course of the three-day business sessions there were a number of guests who brought greetings or presented briefings for information: They included the Honourable Julian Fantino, Minister of Veterans Affairs; Mr. Daniel Dellinger, National Commander of the American Legion; Mr. Paul “Trapper” Cane, Founder of the Canadian Army Veterans motorcycle club; Mr. Guy Parent, Veteran’s Ombudsman; Colonel Conrad Namiesniowski, the Director of Cadets; John Larlee, Chairman of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board; Rear-Admiral (ret’d) Ken Doolan, the National President of the Returned & Services League of Australia; BGen (ret’d) David Kettle, Secretary General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canada Agency; Mr. Robbie Allan, National Chairman of The Royal British Legion Scotland; Major-General (ret’d) Edward Fitch, National President, Last Post Fund; Dr. Chris Simpson, President-elect, Canadian Medical Association; Dr. Alice Aitken, Executive Director, Canadian Institute for Military & Veteran Health Research; Brigadier-General Dave Anderson, Outgoing Commander 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group; Captain(N) (ret’d) John Dewar, National Business Management

Chairman, Commissionaires; Mr. Brian Watkins, Canada’s Representative on the RCEL; Lieutenant-General (ret’d) Ray Crabbe, Colonel of the Regiment, PPCLI; Commodore Mark Watson, Director General, Morale and Welfare Services; Mr. Jeremy Diamond, Campaign Director for the Vimy Foundation; Mr. Fred Johnsen, Vice-President of the Air Cadet League of Canada and Mr. David Yates from the Navy League.

At the submission deadline, Dominion Command had received 118 resolutions. Of those, 49 received concurrence from the appropriate committees with all but one being passed by the delegates. From the remaining non-concurred resolutions, 18 were brought back to the floor with 6 being approved. Six late resolutions were also considered with 2 being accepted by the delegates. It is worth noting that all approved resolutions provide policy direction for The Royal Canadian Legion for the next two years, until the next convention. In accordance with The General By-Laws, all changes of Legion policy and administrative procedures resulting from resolutions passed or by-law amendments enacted by convention will take effect on 1 October 2014.

The first day of business saw Brigadier-General Fletcher deliver the opening invocation, the LAC Chairman’s remarks, the Queen’s response to the Loyalty Resolution (delivered at the Opening Ceremonies on Sunday) and the recognition of Past Dominion Presidents: Hugh Greene, Allan Parks, Mary Ann Misfeldt, Jack Frost, Wilf Edmond and Pat Varga. The invocation on the second day was delivered by Father Janko Herbut and by Reverend Major (ret’d) Maude Parsons-Horst on the third day. These invocations were followed by the LAC Chairman’s announcements and the procedures report.

The Dominion President’s remarks on Monday centered on the declining membership and all delegates were encouraged to promote membership as our number one priority. He also emphasized the need to adopt the concept that there is only one Veteran in the eyes of the Legion. He further mentioned that the Legion is in a major state of transition towards a more digital organization and that considerable improvements were being made with regards to better internal and external communications. He concluded by urging all delegates to keep the best interests of the Legion foremost in their minds.

Elections were held on each day of Convention. Comrade Tom Eagles of Plaster Rock, NB was acclaimed as the Dominion President and Comrade Dave Flannigan of Labrador City, NL was elected as First Vice-President. Comrades Ed Pigeau, Tom Irvine and André Paquette were elected as Vice-Presidents, Comrade Mark Barham was elected as the Dominion Treasurer and Comrade Jack Frost was elected Dominion Chairman. While the elections were in progress, committee reports and resolutions were presented by the appropriate Dominion Command Committee Chairman.

Delegates passed all concurred Veterans, Service, and Seniors resolutions. Many of these resolutions call for the Legion to advocate to the federal government on a wide variety of issues that will benefit Veterans, former and serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as regular members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families. Likewise, they passed all concurred resolutions regarding Poppy and Remembrance.

The Convention passed most of the concurred resolutions regarding the move towards online memberships and digital databases for Legion members. The one exception about Membership was that the delegates opted to keep the current number of membership categories. This, despite the surveys conducted last year at each provincial command convention where delegates expressed a clear preference to reduce the number of membership categories.

Of particular significance was the change to the Legion's definition of a Veteran, which was amended and adopted. The new definition of a Veteran in the Legion General By-Laws is now as follows: "A Veteran is any person who is serving or has honourably served in the Canadian Armed Forces, the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a Special Duty Area or on a Special Duty Operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime." This change took effect immediately.

One important decision affected the budget. The delegates rejected a per capita tax increase; this will significantly affect the way in which the Legion, at all levels, will operate in the immediate

future. In practical terms, the Dominion President directed the Senior Elected Officers to undertake a program review immediately after Convention with a report to be completed and submitted to him no later than 1 January 2015. Similarly, the Dominion Secretary will conduct an in-depth review of operations at Legion House with a view of identifying potential financial savings. This report will also be submitted to the Dominion President by 1 January 2015.

During the proceedings, donations totalling \$121,311.42 to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League were collected from the branches and commands. The donations followed a presentation by Comrades Brian Watkins and Gordon Moore on the plight of Veterans in the Caribbean. The amount collected represents an almost 60% decrease since 2008.

On a Remembrance Theme, Comrade Belinda Wilson had the delegates spellbound on the third day of the convention with her presentation on her attendance on the 2013 Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance. In a powerful and emotional presentation she detailed her feelings of what she experienced during the tour.

Local, provincial and national media coverage was unprecedented due, in large part, to the high number of media products generated and distributed during Convention. A complete list of the Legion's media products drafted during Convention is available online at www.legion.ca.

The new Dominion President, Tom Eagles, closed the Convention by stressing the need for new members as well as retaining existing members. His acceptance speech is available online on the Legion website.

CLOSING CEREMONIES

Following the closure of business on the last day of the Dominion Convention, the installation of the newly elected officers and the final closing ceremony were held.

Each of the officers, or groups of officers, was escorted to the stage, presented to the Installing Officer and took their oaths. The final installation was that of the new Dominion President, Comrade Tom Eagles. Piped in by the duty piper, escorted by the Dominion Command Colours and presented for installation, Comrade Tom Eagles took his oath and was presented with his pin of

office by the newly appointed Immediate Past Dominion President Comrade Gordon Moore. While addressing the delegates, Comrade Eagles thanked his family and the membership for their support.

The closing benediction was given by Reverend Major (ret'd) Maude Parsons-Horst, the closing ritual was performed by the Dominion Command Chairman and God Save the Queen was sung to close the 45th Dominion Convention.

Comrades, good morning and welcome to this 45th Dominion Convention in Edmonton. Almost two years ago to this very day, I was elected as your Dominion President at the convention in Halifax. During that Convention whose theme was Building Bridges to the Future, I was given a clear mandate to tackle the many challenges facing the Legion and turn them into opportunities even when this meant making some important changes for the well-being of the organization. The best way I can summarize the mandate I was given is the theme we are using for this Convention: Challenge, Opportunities and Change.

We have started on this road to rejuvenation through the process of our Focus on the Future Committee commenced by Comrade Pat. And thank you to Pat for setting the train on the right track. Following on the great works by the Committee under Pat's term, I would now like to provide you with a report on what has been achieved to date and on what, I believe, needs to be done to continue building the Legion into the future.

FUTURE OF THE LEGION

One of the most important messages that I received in Halifax was the need to recognize some of the major challenges the Legion faces:

1. First and foremost is **MEMBERSHIP**. Our demographics are not working in our favour. The membership picture is not bright with 22% of our members between the ages of 70 and 79. Further, 18.7% are between the ages of 80 and 90. In other words, 2 out of 5 members are over 70 years of age. Clearly, close to 7500 members pass away each year and the demographic bubble does not look positive.
2. **COMMUNICATIONS**. We have recognized that the way we communicate internally and externally is not sufficient. We did not get our messages across and we did not pass the information internally very well. Informed members and the general public are needed to make sure that the Legion is on Canadians radar screens.

3. **VETERANS CARE**. Comrades, we delivered 14.5 million dollars from Poppy Trust Funds to our Veterans last year in programs and assistance and no one knew about this. The Legion is the only organization that walks it talk and provides services to Canada's Veterans.

Now let me address each point in reverse order.

VETERANS CARE

In 1926 the Legion was founded by Veterans to help Veterans. Let me be clear, this is our fundamental and primary mission, and we do it well.

We were founded on the need to advocate to the government with a strong and collective voice for Veterans care. Even today we are getting better at it and for those who know me; I do not give up easily.

The funeral and burial issue is a case in point. After discussions broke down with the federal government we seized the opportunity to launch a letter-writing campaign and in less than three weeks, I received a phone call from the PMO office stating that they wanted to revisit this issue. Soon thereafter the government changed its position and announced that they would increase the grant from \$3,600 to \$7,376! They said they would also look at removing all of the prescriptive restrictions on those monies so that families would receive the best coverage.

Through continued discussions throughout 2013 and up to a day before the Federal Budget 2014 with the minister of Veterans Affairs and the minister of Finance we were able to have low income post Korean War Veterans eligible for the Funeral and Burial services. Here again was an important change that we as an organization and through your actions were responsible for. Thank you on behalf of those veterans and their families.

While there is still the estate value and cost of living issue that needs to be finalized, I am sure,

through our perseverance and by working with organizations like the Last Post Fund, that we will be able to make considerable gains on this ground as well.

To the best of my knowledge, the Royal Canadian Legion was mentioned for the first time in its history in a federal budget (2012-13).

I am proud to say that the Legion sponsored the first ever Homeless Veterans Forum in April of this year. This two day forum at Dominion Command was attended by all Commands and it brought together academia, medical researchers, and professionals working in health and Veterans care as well as government agencies to discuss the problem. Building on the successful program "Leave the Streets Behind" initiated by Ontario Command, the more than 60 people who attended the forum were able to share their experience and knowledge and to identify key areas of further study. To that end, the Legion will build upon this experience and form a coordination committee to continue studying the plight of homeless Veterans. Additionally, a research sub group was formed to start focussing and sharing valuable information.

Legion advocacy continued with the New Veterans Charter. Through numerous appearances before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs and the Senate Sub Committee on Veterans Affairs, the Legion has been able to make its representation known. In conjunction with this, the Legion hosts twice annually a Veterans Consultation Assembly. This Assembly has been consistent with voicing its concerns about the most seriously disadvantaged ill and injured Veterans and their financial well being. The participating organizations for the most part have presented these concerns to the New Veterans Charter Review. We await the findings of this review and are committed to renewing our advocacy should our concerns not be addressed.

Finally in regards to Veterans care, I have to commend our service officer network that starts at the branch level and continues to the national level. The work of the service officer is never ending but fully rewarding. I have watched the caseload across our Nation explode and Comrades, there is more to come. Our service men and women need our assistance and more importantly our Reserve service men and women need to know that we are there ready and willing to help them. Reserve

personnel made up 25% of all the deployments to Afghanistan and are now home in our communities. Some may be suffering; some may not be willing to come forward. We know who they are and we need to reach out to them, so when you leave this convention, I ask that you reach out to them and show them that you care!

COMMUNICATIONS

Comrades, we have a communication challenge! We do not communicate well to each other internally, nor do we communicate well to those outside of the Legion. On top of that, our systems are outdated and rely on producing volumes of paper and sending it out through the postal system. To communicate effectively, we are badly in need of a modernization.

Social media presents a challenge to us. So to manage it we have made some structural changes at Dominion Command, amalgamating the old membership and communications departments into one new Marketing and Membership department under one Director. Many of you met Scott Ferris last year at your provincial conventions.

We also placed a much greater emphasis on internal and as well as external communications. In fact, there has been approximately 160% increase in the number of media products in the past two years! I would also argue that as Dominion President, I have given more interviews both radio and televised than at any other time in our collective memory. As a result, more Canadians are aware of The Royal Canadian Legion and our advocacy.

Through our new social media, we have also become a routine resource on Facebook and Twitter with thousands of followers and friends in the younger age groups.

Turning these challenges into opportunities for change has not been cheap. We created a whole new website, increased the number of media products and interviews exponentially to catch up and become the first responders to Veterans issues in the eyes of the public and media. This is necessary if we are to rejuvenate the Legion and make it more relevant to younger Veterans and their families.

But more still needs to be done. I still find that there are times when our communiqués and

letters are not being distributed at the branch level and that even some senior elected officials claim to have not received certain media products. So we need to do better here. We need to develop stronger ties with our branches and getting the information to them. We have begun this process to create better communication channels by having every Legion branch equipped with a computer. We need to exploit the technology to pass our information more cheaply than we do now.

MEMBERSHIP

Last and certainly not least, it is time to take the membership issue seriously.

One of the main challenges we face regarding membership is our own attitude – especially our attitude towards our younger and more recent Veterans from Afghanistan.

Over the past two years, we have had the opportunity to talk to Veterans and to receive emails from them explaining why they do not wish to join the Legion. A large number of them who are post Korean War era have said that they do not feel welcomed at their local branch. This attitude has got to stop! We must embrace all Veterans of all age groups.

A Veteran is a Veteran is a Veteran and we must never forget that the Legion was built by Veterans for Veterans. I hope I never hear again that a Legion branch turned away a modern-day Veteran! But this will only happen provided we accept the notion that we all need to accept responsibility for new members. We need to welcome these younger veterans and their families with open arms into our Legion family.

During the past two years, I have also had the opportunity to speak with a lot of people from all walks of life at various Legion branches and events across the country. I asked them if they were members and if their answer was “NO” then I would ask them why?

A lot of them said that they did not want to get involved in the politics of their local Legion branch. Comrades, if we were able to remove the politics from this organization we would grow and flourish! This “politicking” has got to stop!

Comrades, we are the largest Veterans and community organization in Canada because people want to be a part of our Legion family. Let us

encourage this by working together to increase our membership by inviting our Veterans, our RCMP members, our community neighbours and their families to join our Legion family. Work together for the betterment and the future of the greatest organization in Canada. I ask all of you to start that process today.

Aside from some attitude changes we have also tried some new initiatives and changes in the way we do things in membership. First, we placed a lot of emphasis on non-renewals as well as launched a two-year trial basis of a “One By One” Campaign. This campaign proved to be a bittersweet affair. Bitter in the sense that only 10% of Legion branches participated but sweet in the sense that these same branches were able to recruit some 1,900 new members.

If, for example, 25% of Legion members had taken part, we would have recruited some 76,750 new members! I will state now that across the country, we had eight branches that refused to accept the membership packages containing the One by One material, so they were sent back to Dominion Command. We paid double postage which is totally unacceptable.

We also looked at putting together a package to recruit serving men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces but because of concerns with the Privacy Act we could not pursue this option. That is also why we need to increase our exposure not only to the public but to the men and women of the Canadian Armed Forces, so that they will see value in joining the Legion

I am sure there will be other opportunities to increase our membership and to enhance our renewals. The trick is to focus on the positive by rebuilding an organization from within and promoting all of the positive reasons why Canadians from coast to coast should join the Legion. Just look at all the great things your Legion branch does on a daily basis in support of our Veterans, families, seniors and youth as well as our communities. From such accomplishments it is not difficult to spring into action and this is why I ask all of you to reach out to more people and increase your outreach efforts in your local communities because we have a great message to pass along to all generations of Canadians!

CONCLUSION

While there are still many more challenges, facing the new senior elected officers, I like to think that we collectively are building a better Legion. We tackled some important challenges; we turned them into opportunities for change and made some important changes that were not always popular but necessary all the same. But, we need to do more. We cannot and should not rest on past laurels and be content that we have done our jobs. We need to continue the evolution process and build an even stronger Legion.

In closing I would like to say a big thank you to my Branch for all of their support and to the members that are attending this convention.

Special thank you to the senior elected officers, comrades Tom Eagles, Ed Pigeau, Dave Flannigan, Peter Piper, Mike Cook and Tom Irvine for their work and dedication. A special thanks to comrade Larry Murray for his guidance and support over the past two years. To our past presidents for your support and the work you did on the various committees: Thank you!

Thank you to all the staff at Dominion Command, the Directors, Jennifer Morse and her staff at Legion Magazine.

Comrade Brad, a personal heartfelt thank you for your help, guidance, but most importantly your friendship especially during the past two years. To your good wife Thérèse for your friendship from Kate and Myself thank you.

To my family, our daughter Dawn, her husband Jake and to our two grandson's Reed and Drew, sorry I missed some family functions and I thank you for your love and understanding.

Last but not least, Kate, what can I say? You have stood by my side for more than forty years and now I am coming home to enjoy some downtime with you and of course a few good rounds of golf. Love you.

Thank you.

This report was report was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS, SERVICE *and* SENIORS COMMITTEE

G. Moore, *Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Vice-Chairman*
B. Wignes, *Member*
R. Love, *Member*
J.M. Deveaux, *Member*
A. Paquette, *Member*
G. O'Dair, *Member*
L. Murray, *Ex-Officio Member*
M. Tremblay, *Ex-Officio Member*
B. Leach, *Ex-Officio Member*
R. McInnis, *Secretary*
C. Gasser, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

Since Dominion Convention in Halifax in 2012, advocacy efforts have focussed on ensuring that all Veterans including members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), RCMP, and their families are treated with fairness, dignity and respect such that they are afforded the same benefits and services irrespective of when and where they served.

RESOLUTIONS

With the benefit of responses provided by various Government Ministers, the “Comments on Resolutions 44rd Dominion Convention 2012” issued by Dominion Command was published in September 2013 and distributed to Legion Branches for the guidance of all Legion members.

MANDATE OF VSS COMMITTEE

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee continues to maintain a more active advocacy stance while maintaining its focus on proving, day in and day out, to all Canada’s Veterans, including serving CAF and RCMP members and their families that The Legion cares. The Committee has also struck a renewed priority on seniors issues in Canada.

ADVOCACY

The Legion’s response to the recent suicides of CAF members was disseminated in a media release and a communiqué to all Branches. The Dominion President stressed the importance of continuing our advocacy efforts regarding the availability of mental health services to all Veterans and their families. We will continue to monitor this issue with the Chief of Military Personnel. It is also important that Legion Branches continue to welcome all Veterans, that Branch Service Officers receive their annual training such that they are

knowledgeable on programs and services available for our Veterans and that we continue to support programs as the Veterans Transition Program and Healing Waters. Lastly, the Legion is the only Veteran organization actively pursuing the Funeral and Burial program benefit with the Department of Finance.

The following highlights the details of Legion advocacy efforts on behalf of all Veterans, their families and seniors:

- a. The Committee briefed the Government on the effectiveness of the New Veteran Charter in February.
- b. The Legion issued a Letter to the Editor on 13 January 2013 addressing the unfair clawback from RCMP LTD payments.
- c. On 4 December 2013 the Legion issued a Letter to the Editor regarding mental health in the CAF.
- d. The President was key note speaker for the Canadian Institute of Military Veterans Health Research (CIMVHR) Forum in Edmonton 25-27 November 2013.
- e. On 20 November 2013 the President briefed the Senate on the proposed legislation to decrease the number of VRAB members from 29 to 25.
- f. The Legion sent a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs regarding the lack of communication to Veterans on the impact of the district office closures. The Minister responded advising that a letter will be sent to each Veteran affected by the closure of the district office in their area. As well, every case managed Veteran in the affected areas will be contacted by their case manager and

advised of the change. Additionally the government announced that they will keep a VAC employee in the local Service Canada office affected by district office closures for an indefinite period of time. This is a positive response and we should be pleased. The impact of the district office closures will continue to be monitored by Command Service Officers.

- g.* The Legion sent a Letter to the President of the Treasury Board regarding our position on a possible increase in premiums of the Public Service Health Care Plan for CAF and RCMP retirees as well as federal public service retirees.
- h.* On 26 October 2013 the Legion chaired the Veteran Consultation Group with 20 Veterans organizations in attendance. The meeting focused on the New Veterans Charter with the groups agreeing on priorities requiring immediate action.
- i.* On 24 October 2013 the Dominion President and First Vice President met with the Chair VRAB. The issues discussed included the Legion's concern over the publishing of decision letters without depersonalization and the shortage of Board members.
- j.* On 24 October 2013 the Dominion President and First Vice-President met with the VAC Executive to discuss the New Veterans Charter, closure of district offices and commemoration activities.
- k.* On 23 October 2013 the Dominion President and First Vice-President met with the Chief Military Personnel and his key staff. The issues discussed included: the CAF transition process for injured CAF personnel, Legacy of Care, Reserve Pension Program and membership opportunities for serving CAF members.
- l.* The VSS Chair participated in the VAC Stakeholders meeting on 2 October 2013 where over 20 organizations attended and stressed the importance of VAC providing an opportunity for Veterans organizations to come together.
- m.* As a result of our focused advocacy efforts the government announced on 26 September 2013 that the New Veterans Charter will be reviewed.
- n.* On 8 September 2013 the Dominion President and First Vice-President met with the Office of the Veterans Ombudsman to discuss the financial impacts of the New Veterans Charter on Veterans and their families.
- o.* On 13 August 2013 a media release was issued regarding the need for the Government to renew its commitment to the social contract for our Veterans and their families.
- p.* On 17 July 2013 the Dominion President met with the Chief Military Personnel and his staff as part of ongoing quarterly round-table discussions.
- q.* On 16 July 2013 the Legion sent letters to the new Minister Veterans Affairs Canada and Department of National Defence congratulating them on their appointment and invited them to meet with the Legion at the earliest opportunity.
- r.* On 3 July 2013 the Dominion President met with Department of Finance officials regarding the Funeral and Burial benefit through the Last Post Fund.
- s.* On 14 June 2013 the Legion sent a letter to the Minister Veterans Affairs Canada regarding the lack of progress in making timely Governor in Council Appointments to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board.
- t.* On 12 June 2013 the Dominion President provided an overview of Legion transition programs to the VAC/CAF Advisory Council in Charlottetown.
- u.* 31 May to 2 June 2013 the Legion hosted a kiosk at the RCMP Veterans AGM.
- v.* On 4 April 2013 a media release was issued announcing that the Legion concurs with Veterans Ombudsman's request for a broader review of the New Veterans Charter.
- w.* On 10 April 2013 the Dominion President held his initial meeting with the new Chief Military Personnel, MGen David Millar.
- x.* On 21 March 2013 a media release was issued regarding the Government's announcement in the federal budget on the increase in the Funeral and Burial grant and recognition that the Government will continue to work with the Legion on this issue.

- y.* 31 January 2013 was the media launch of the Legion national campaign regarding the Government's inaction to improve funeral and burial benefits for low-income Veterans.
- z.* On 29 January 2013 the Legion sent a letter to the Minister National Defence requesting support of the Veterans Transition Program as a treatment option for CAF members.
- aa.* On 11 January 2013 a media release was issued to support settlement on retroactivity issue with SISIP LTD clawback from Pension Act benefits. The Legion highlighted that this still remains an issue for the RCMP.
- bb.* On 10 January 2013 a media release was issued to support the Veterans Ombudsman Annual report.
- cc.* On 10 January 2013 a letter was sent to the Chief of Defence Staff to follow up on the inaction regarding the Legacy of Care program.
- dd.* On 9 January 2013 a letter was sent to the Minister Veterans Affairs regarding the changes to the VIP which will now provide up front grant payments.
- ee.* On 11 December 2012 a media release was issued to support the Veterans Ombudsman's report "Honouring and Connecting with Canada's Veterans: A National Identification Card".
- ff.* On 6 December 2012 a media release was issued to support the favourable decision by a New Brunswick Judge regarding a Veteran taken to small claims court for non-payment of a fee for representation services of a VAC disability claim. This media release highlighted the free services from the Service Bureau.
- gg.* On 3 December 2012 a letter to the editor was issued: "Actions Speak Louder than Words: Is this government treating our Veterans with dignity, fairness and equity?"
- hh.* On 29 November 2012 a letter to the editor was released regarding the outcome of the 3 November Veterans Consultation Group meeting and highlighting the consensus of the 17 participating Veterans organizations.
- ii.* On 29 November 2012 a media release was issued on funeral and burial issues.
- jj.* On 28 November 2012 a media release was issued to highlight The Legion's support of Aboriginal homeless Veterans research project.
- kk.* On 26 November 2012 a media release was issued to highlight the Dominion President attending the CIMVHR Forum.
- ll.* On 8 November 2012 a Letter to the Editor was issued regarding the claw back of LTD payments for the RCMP in receipt of Pension Act benefits.
- mm.* On 8 November 2012 a letter to the Minister Veterans Affairs was issued regarding the outcome of the 3 November 2012 Veterans Consultation Group meeting.
- nn.* On 2 November 2012 a media release was issued highlighting The Legion's financial support of the national expansion of the Veterans Transition Program.
- oo.* On 2 November 2012 a letter to the Minister of Public Safety was sent regarding the claw back of LTD payments for RCMP members and Veterans in receipt of Pension Act benefits. No response received.
- pp.* On 30 October 2012 a Letter to the Editor was issued highlighting the need for improved funeral and burial issues for low income Veterans.
- qq.* On 22 October 2012 the annual bi-lateral discussion with the VAC executive including the new Deputy Minister, Mary Chaput, was held.
- rr.* On 10 October 2012 a media release was issued stating Legion support of the VAC announcement to end the claw back from Earning Loss Benefits for those in receipt of Pension Act benefits.
- ss.* The Dominion President / VSS Chair sent a letter to the Minister of National Defence to express the Legion's concern with the payment of the SISIP Clawback to the most seriously disabled Veterans.
- tt.* The Dominion President / VSS Chair met with the CAF Chief Military Personnel on 10 September 2012. The Legion's continued concern with the eligibility criteria for the Legacy of Care benefits was raised.
- uu.* The Dominion President / VSS Chair met with the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada

(VAC) on 27 July 2012 to discuss a range of issues affecting Veterans. The Minister established regular bi-lateral meetings on a quarterly basis.

- vv. On 11 May 2012 a Letter to Minister National Defence was sent regarding mental health cuts in for the Canadian Armed Forces. Response was received dated 5 September 2012 and announcements to highlight improvements on 12 September 2012.

VETERANS TRANSITION NETWORK (VTN) EXPANSION

The national expansion of the VTN was announced on 3 November 2012 and was fully supported by the Legion with a media event at Legion House hosted by the Dominion President. This year the VTN delivered programs in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia and will continue to expand. This program is based on over 15 years of solid research and partnership with the University of British Columbia. The research has been peer reviewed by the Canadian Institute of Military Veterans Health Research and it is supported by VAC, Wounded Warriors Canada and True Patriot Love. Over 300 Veterans have participated in this important transition program. It is making a difference in the lives of our Veterans and their families struggling with transition from military to civilian life as a result of operational stress injuries. We need to continue to support this program.

SENIORS INITIATIVE

Given the issues facing seniors including accessibility and availability of long-term care, lack of home care assistance, increasing incidence rate of dementia and growing senior population, Comrade George O'Dair was appointed as a member of the VSS Committee to address Senior's issues and to develop a Seniors Initiative. The Seniors Initiative is in two parts:

- a. The Home Away Initiative – the concept is for Branches to provide a change of scenery for Seniors living at home and respite for the caregivers of Seniors on either a steady or occasional basis. The previously published “Program for Seniors” book (1991) has many good ideas to develop this type of concept in our Branches. In early September the Committee connected with a Social Work student to review and revise the workbook as

part of his work practicum. This workbook will provide guidance to Branches who wish to start their own Seniors program or enhance existing programs. Marketing & Membership has offered to assist with developing templates and checklists for Branches to use in an on-line format. This will be a more interactive and useful tool for Branches. The second part of the project is to work with a Branch using the workbook and develop a pilot project. Through the Ontario Provincial President, the Kanata Branch agreed to participate in the pilot project. The results of the pilot will be incorporated into the finished workbook for presentation at Convention in June.

- b. The Legion will also advocate to the federal Government that senior's home care should be part of a national strategy to include standardization, consistent service delivery and certification. A letter was sent to the Prime Minister in November encouraging the government to identify seniors' health care as a targeted priority to ensure this does not become a crisis. A follow up letter was also sent to the Provincial Presidents with a template to send a similar letter to each Provincial Premier. **To date the Committee has seen only one letter from NFLD/LAB Command.**

OUTREACH TO RESERVISTS

The VSS Committee launched the Outreach to Reserve Campaign on 1 August 2013. The VSS Committee sent letters to all 263 Reserve Units across the country advising of the Service Bureau resources, contact information and if they would like a briefing on the services available. While a small number of briefings were conducted, as a result of this initiative we were invited to provide a briefing to Army Council (the Commander of the Army and his leadership team) as well as the Army Reserve Strategic Council. A similar process will be completed next year.

HOMELESS VETERANS NATIONAL PROGRAM

The VSS Committee hosted a Homeless Veterans Summit at Dominion Command on 15-16 April 2014. Participants included Legion representatives from across the country, VAC, DND, provincial and municipal governments, Not for Profit organizations, Veterans Organizations, service providers and research institutes.

LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

The Dominion President announced the Legion Scholarship at the CIMVHR forum in Edmonton from 25-27 November. Information on the application process is on the CIMVHR website with a link to the Legion website.

SERVICE DOGS PROPOSAL

The Royal Canadian Legion is being approached at all levels to provide assistance with service dogs for injured Veterans. The funding requests are coming from Veterans and organizations to assist with the purchase of animals, training, and care. These costs are expensive and ongoing as with any other medical treatment. Funding for service dogs is not available under the current guidelines of the Poppy Fund. At the September 2013 DEC the VSS Committee and Poppy and Remembrance Committee were tasked to develop a concept for The Royal Canadian Legion to support service dogs for injured Veterans at all levels of the Legion for DEC approval. The concept is (attached) for approval by DEC.

DEC approved the national endorsement of the Courageous Companions organization and to permit Branches to provide up to \$100 per year to Courageous Companions from their Poppy Trust Fund to support the service dog program for injured Veterans. As this would have a significant impact on the accessibility and availability of this program for Veterans suffering from operational stress injuries across the country, this endorsement and funding would be contingent upon a Memorandum of Understanding between the Royal Canadian Legion and Courageous Companions and an implementation plan approved by DEC for the coordination of donations and funds. This work is ongoing and the process to donate funds will be announced in the near future.

HEALING WATERS

Project Healing Waters is a national not-for profit organization run by volunteers with a passion for fly fishing. Through fly fishing lessons and clinics, this project provides a unique outlet for healing and social rehabilitation to injured Veterans suffering from an operational stress injury. This program has had a tremendous impact on helping Veterans deal with significant psychological injuries. With endorsement from

the VSS Committee, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee approved a \$19,000 grant for 2014 to support equipment for events in Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec.

SOLDIER ON – EQUINE CAMP

Soldier On is a national Canadian Forces program with the goal of providing resources and opportunities for serving and retired CAF personnel with a permanent or chronic illness or injury to actively participate in physical, recreational or sporting activities. Dominion Command provided financial support to their Equine training camp at the RCMP Musical Ride facility, supporting a unique opportunity for ill and injured CAF Veterans to learn basic horseback instruction.

WOUNDED WARRIORS

On 11 April 2013, The Royal Canadian Legion announced a national partnership with Wounded Warriors Canada. The goal of this partnership is to reach out to a new era of Veterans across Canada and ensure they have access to the benefits and services they deserve. As Wayne Johnston, Founder of Wounded Warriors Canada has said, “The Legion is our Veteran after-the-battle buddy; a community-based resource for soldiers and their families in need of healing from all they’ve endured.” Mr. Johnson will be working across the country to inform our Veterans about the support available from the Service Officer at their local Legion Branch. Saskatchewan Command hosted with Wounded Warriors Canada a Wounded Warriors Weekend in Nipawin Saskatchewan, August 1 to 6 2013, as another opportunity to reach our Veteran audience. This was an extraordinary event which brought together 160 Veterans and their families from across Canada, UK, USA, and Australia. This year Wounded Warriors weekend will be held in Slave Lake Alberta.

LONG-TERM CARE (LTC) SURVEYOR PROGRAM CLOSE-OUT UPDATE

The final tasking for the LTC Surveyor Program was completed in May 2013. Approximately 220 volunteers were presented certificates of appreciation by their Branches. The presentations went well and only a small number of certificates were returned to Dominion Command.

OUTREACH AND VISITATION INITIATIVE

The Visitation and Outreach Initiative (OVI) contract from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) was announced on 17 December 2013. This new initiative replaced the Long Term Care Surveyor Program. VAC currently supports more than 8,700 Veterans in approximately 1,750 facilities and does not have the available resources to conduct visits with a large number of Veterans in long term care without a contractual agreement in place. This new contract allows the Government to use the Royal Canadian Legion volunteer network to visit on an annual basis the approximately 4,000 of the over 8,000 Veterans who are receiving financial assistance from VAC for long term care.

This new initiative will facilitate face to face visits with Veterans, providing them with an opportunity to have a conversation and social visit with a volunteer and to raise concerns or identify needs that might be addressed by VAC or the Legion. 86 LTC Surveyor volunteers agreed to transition to the new program and completed the recertification program.

SERVICE BUREAU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / REGIONAL COMMAND SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING

The Dominion Command Service Bureau sponsored by the respective Provincial Commands (ALTA/NWT and New Brunswick), participated in the Western Region Professional Development session in Calgary from 17-18 May and the Eastern Region Professional Development session in Saint John from 13-14 September. It is important that the participation of the Service Bureau Director continues as we embark on a Service Bureau

Network transformation concurrently with VAC's modernization.

Command Service Officers will be attending a training / professional development session in Charlottetown in 22-24 October 2014. They will benefit from consultation with VAC officials responsible for service delivery with whom they deal on a regular basis while receiving updates on latest policies and business processes.

BUDGET REPORT

For your information, a copy of the VSS Committee budget for the period 2014-2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

RESOLUTIONS

The VSS Committee has reviewed 18 Resolutions; 6 have been concurred, while 11 have been non-concurred and 1 redundant. Of the 6 that have been concurred, 4 have been merged.

CONCLUSION

During 2014 - 2016 the VSS Committee will continue their advocacy efforts focused on ensuring that all Veterans and their families are afforded the same benefits and services irrespective of when and where they served.

I move acceptance of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	8,266	14,507	10,000	10,200	10,404
PER DIEM	7,895	7,879	8,000	8,160	8,323
CDN. ASSOC. ON GERONTOLOGY	250	250	-		
CIMVHR FORUM	-	-	10,000	10,200	10,404
PRINTING, STATIONERY	1,527	1,428	1,000	1,020	1,040
TELEPHONE & FAX	229	386	600	612	624
POSTAGE	67	223	400	408	416
OUTREACH POLICIES - LEGION MAGAZINE	4,637	-	-		
BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES	-	2,901	3,000	3,060	3,121
HOMELESS VETERANS SUMMIT	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
MISCELLANEOUS	3,157	1,637	1,500	1,530	1,561
PUBLICATIONS					
• WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	2,747		-	-	-
• DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	217	8,398	-	-	-
TOTAL	28,993	37,608	39,500	40,290	41,096

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
**POPPY and
 REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE**

D. Flannigan, *Chairman*
 D. Jones, *Vice-Chairman*
 D. Kennedy, *Member*
 B. Julian *Member*
 S. Wessel, *Member*
 G. Painchaud, *Member*
 R. Brady, *Member*
 W. Maxwell, *Secretary*
 K. Therien, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Canadian Legion, through the Dominion Command Poppy and Remembrance Committee, has continued its lead role in fostering the tradition of Remembrance by providing Canadians with opportunities to Remember and honour our Fallen. Through various initiatives, the review and enhancing of existing programs and liaison with the Government, in particular with Veterans Affairs Canada, on Remembrance issues, this Committee continues to ensure that those who sacrificed their future for our freedoms are never forgotten. We will Remember them.

During the past two years, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee met on four occasions, September 2012, February 2013 and February 2014 with a teleconference in August 2013. In addition, members reviewed and discussed issues and

queries on numerous occasions through regular electronic meetings to ensure that Remembrance matters were dealt with in a timely manner.

THE POPPY CAMPAIGN

The annual Poppy Campaign continues to be the most important project of the Legion each year. Dominion Command is honoured to assist with the arrangements for the First Poppy Presentation to the Governor General which is the ceremonial launch of the campaign. This presentation is followed by ceremonial launches in each of the Provincial Commands prior to the official start of the campaign on the last Friday in October. National corporations pledged or renewed their support for the annual Poppy Campaign, including Tim Hortons, Bulk Barn, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Shoppers Drug Mart and for the first time, Target Canada.

POPPY & REMEMBRANCE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

DOMINION COMMAND SALES OF POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE MATERIAL FROM 2010 THROUGH 2013

	2010	2011	2012	2013
JANUARY	4,580.85	- 6,713.79	- 3,388.71	25,739.00
FEBRUARY	10,364.10	16,178.00	2,484.54	47.90
MARCH	7,358.86	91,449.55	979.10	6,656.07
APRIL	38,530.01	1,123.40	77,327.92	23,358.05
MAY	95,359.37	92,310.63	22,944.40	30,107.08
JUNE	137,643.62	153,728.05	146,193.67	141,680.90
JULY	323,424.88	217,367.62	285,317.22	194,131.36
AUGUST	248,050.19	693,018.40	300,849.39	42,435.49
SEPTEMBER	1,299,841.10	897,767.11	1,058,192.33	1,008,620.45
OCTOBER	196,407.39	683,072.49	1,047,836.37	909,189.42
NOVEMBER	655,456.20	677,594.32	405,314.56	717,655.10
DECEMBER	96,654.67	1,718.86	- 1,610.08	172,250.90
TOTAL	\$3,113,671.24	\$3,518,614.64	\$3,342,440.71	\$3,271,871.72
	(+ 2.6%)	(+ 13%)	(- 5%)	(- 2%)

INDIVIDUAL POPPY AND WREATH DISTRIBUTION QUANTITIES FOR 2010 THROUGH 2013

ITEM	2010	2011	2012	2013
LAPEL POPPY, BOX OF 1000	15,959	18,684	17,433	16,439
CAR / WINDOW POPPY	21,163	23,715	24,871	20,377
TABLE POPPY	4,542	3,114	3,824	3,349
#8 WREATH	3,774	3,939	3,300	3,569
#14 WREATH	19,234	20,108	19,422	18,802
#20 WREATH	8,374	9,142	8,758	8,309
#24 WREATH	581	924	954	877
#26 WREATH	69	100	84	42
POPPY SPRAY	307	362	347	268
GRASS CROSS	9,043	8,950	8,071	8,233
WHITE CROSS	2,687	2,761	2,300	2,132

The contract to produce Poppies and wreaths expired December 31, 2013. Performance from the incumbent over the past three years warranted consideration of alternative companies to perform this critical service for the Legion. Although the incumbent was capable of manufacturing our requirements for 2013 they fell weeks behind in fulfillment. This again created service problems for many branches and all commands. Calls from branch volunteers whose Poppy orders were not delivered more than a month after placing them cannot be tolerated and required action.

For this reason a RFQ process was initiated in late 2012. Proposals from several suppliers, including the incumbent, were considered. The Trico Group (TTG) was selected and has been awarded a five year contract to manufacture our Poppies and wreaths and to fulfill the requirements of the contract. The remaining finished goods produced by Dominion Regalia have been purchased and are in the process of being transported to TTG. TTG has acquired the raw materials to produce our 2014 Poppy & wreath requirements. The machine that will form and die cut our Poppies was manufactured and was scheduled for delivery to TTG on January 27, 2014. Testing has demonstrated this machine has the capacity to form and die cut 45,000 Poppies per hour. TTG has made arrangements with Corcan (Correctional Service Canada) and several community groups to assemble the Poppies.

Prices on Poppies and wreaths will not be increased for 2014 and these products will continue to be made in Canada. TTG will be

placing “Made In Canada/Fabriqué au Canada” labels on all cartons to dispel rumours that we are making the Poppies and wreaths off shore.

POPPY PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

The Committee commissioned two new promotional products for 2013. Last year 3025 packages of 500 Poppy Keepers and over 110,000 “Lest We Forget” Poppy bracelets were distributed. In 2013 we also distributed 3816 rolls of 500 Lapel Poppy stickers. For 2014 the Committee has requested the production of French and English “Poppy Campaign Supporter” stickers. Both regular and reversed window types will be produced. This concept has been copied from the Royal British Legion who gives these out to merchants who participate in the Campaign and wish to be visually recognized for doing so.

The Poppy Campaign “Promotional Materials Catalogue” and order forms are being redesigned to better communicate that orders are to be directed to Provincial Commands. For this reason Provincial Command contact information will be clearly provided in this catalogue. Order forms are also being redesigned to eliminate a redundant copy for Dominion Command as Provincial Commands no longer mail a copy to Dominion Command. A copy of the Poppy Promotional Catalogue was distributed to all branches in September 2013.

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The Legion is honoured to organize and direct this national ceremony on behalf of the People of Canada. In both 2012 and 2013, an estimated 40,000 spectators attended the Ceremony. The Silver Cross Mother for 2012/2013 was Mrs. Roxanne Priede of Grand Forks, BC. Mrs. Priede is the mother of the late Master Corporal Darrell Jason Priede who was killed in a Chinook helicopter crash on 30 May 2007 in Afghanistan. The Silver Cross Mother for 2013/2014 is Mrs. Niki Psiharis of Laval, QC. Mrs Psiharis is the mother of Sgt. Chris Karigiannis who was killed on 20 June 2007 when an improvised explosive device struck his vehicle approximately 40 kms west of Kandahar City, Afghanistan.

The period of service for all National Silver Cross Mothers will extend from 1 November to 31 October of the following year.

POSTER AND LITERARY CONTESTS

The Poster and Literary Contests are well supported by branches and Commands with over 100,000 students submitting entries from across Canada. The deadline for each Provincial Command to submit their winning entries to Dominion Command has been 15 February for the past two years and this has enabled the national results to be released before the end of March in both years. The Poster and Literary Contests Entry Forms have been revised to provide clearer direction in completing these forms, which are also available on line on our website.

2013 PILGRIMAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

From 6-20 July, 2013, Comrade Dave Flannigan led the 27 Pilgrims participating in the 2013 Pilgrim of Remembrance through France and Belgium and into the Netherlands, where they toured battlefields, paid their respects in cemeteries, reflected at memorials and explored museums.

Paris was used as the arrival and departure point for the Pilgrimage and as a result of an analysis by the Pilgrimage tour guide, John Goheen, several changes were made to the itinerary including a tour of the Falaise Gap, an extra night in both Dieppe and Ieper (Ypres) and a commemorative ceremony in Eede, the Netherlands, as well as a stop in Wimereux, France, the burial site of John McCrae. In view of the significance of 2015 in commemoration of various events in the Netherlands, the 2015 Pilgrimage will be revised

to permit the appropriate commemoration at various sites in that country with a return to Arnhem and vicinity.

The delegation included representatives from all Provincial Commands along with twelve paying pilgrims. Highlights of the Pilgrimage included a presentation of a certificate of appreciation by Comrade Flannigan to Mr. & Mrs. Hoffer, the owners of the museum "La Maison des Canadiens", for their efforts in maintaining their museum at Juno Beach and for the welcome they have extended to all Legionnaires over many years.

For the first time on the Legion Pilgrimage, the Command Pilgrims were assigned the name of a soldier (one from each Province) buried at a location on the itinerary. The Pilgrim had to research the life of their soldier and make a presentation on site. These presentations were very well received by the group and made a very deep impression on all. The group participated in the Menin Gate ceremony and also had a sunrise commemorative ceremony at the Vimy Monument. Through the visits and experiences while at these significant WW1 and WWII sites, the Pilgrims gained a unique perspective and unprecedented level of understanding of Remembrance. This special awareness will undoubtedly assist them as they fulfill their pledge to maintain the memory of those who sacrificed so much for their country.

THE POPPY MANUAL

A revised version of the Poppy Manual was distributed to all branches in September 2013.

POPPY TRADEMARK

Since the last Convention, 70 requests for the use of the trademarked image of the Poppy have been considered. All requests are recorded in the trademark log, which forms the historical account of these requests.

Two situations have prompted legal action as these companies resisted the request by Dominion Command to voluntarily cease their Poppy trademark infringement. These cases are still ongoing.

POPPY TRUST FUNDS

A summary of the revenue, expenses and disbursements of the Poppy Trust Funds, provided by Provincial Commands is as follows:

SUMMARY-COMBINED BRANCH POPPY CAMPAIGN PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPTEMBER:

PERIOD ENDING	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
REVENUE (1)	\$18,035,808	\$17,400,163	\$20,486,919	\$21,453,813	\$21,060,243
EXPENSES/POPPY MATERIAL PURCHASED FROM PROVINCIAL COMMANDS (2)	\$5,876,275	\$5,840,720	\$6,359,741	\$6,483,399	\$5,989,186
DISBURSEMENTS (3)	\$11,083,892	\$11,054,913	\$13,428,057	\$14,455,813	\$14,489,887

Note: As the reporting period is 1 October of the previous year to 30 September of the noted year:

1. Includes revenue from preceding year's Poppy Campaign
2. Includes expenses for noted year's Poppy Campaign
3. From 1 October of preceding year to 30 September of noted year.

LAPEL POPPIES TO CANADIAN EMBASSIES AND CF DEPLOYMENTS

The Legion is pleased to continue to work through the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development Canada (DFATD) to distribute Poppies to numerous Canadian Embassies, High Commissions, Consulate Generals and military deployments around the world in advance of Remembrance Day. Each location returns donations to Dominion Command which then in turn acknowledges their efforts. An example of this program was demonstrated recently in Boston, MA. A request was made by the Boston Bruins Hockey organization for Poppies for a home game and in Remembrance. Dominion Command was able to contact the Canadian Consulate in Boston and the personnel there were able to assist the Bruins with a supply of Poppies. The Minister DFATD, the Honourable John Baird, was subsequently sent correspondence expressing the appreciation of the Legion in the ongoing participation of DFATD in this program and highlighting the Boston story. This Committee receives many other expressions of appreciation and gratitude of Canadians, stationed in various locations around the world, who are able to arrange Remembrance ceremonies with the help of the Legion.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION MATERIAL

The Committee continues to work closely with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). One such partnership is the VAC package of Remembrance educational material, which includes our Youth Education Programs pamphlet on the Poster & Literary Contests and the Legion's Teaching Guide. One package is mailed to each Legion branch

and school across Canada in August/September each year and the Legion greatly appreciates the cooperation of VAC in this matter.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA MONUMENT RESTORATION WORKING GROUP

The Legion continues to be involved with and support Veterans Affairs Canada's Cenotaph/Monument Restoration and Construction Programs. These programs enable communities and organizations to apply for funding to conserve and restore existing cenotaphs and monuments and to construct new ones. Comrade Jack Frost serves as The Royal Canadian Legion's representative on the Assessment Review Committee.

LEGION BURSARIES

In each of 2012 and 2013, Dominion Command provided \$16,000 in funding to support Legion bursaries within seven Provincial Commands.

COLOUR PARTY

The Committee once again extends its appreciation and thanks to the Dominion Command Colour Party, which continues to represent the Legion at numerous local, national and high profile events throughout the year. The commitment and dedication of each member is outstanding. The Committee would especially like to thank Jim Wiles for his twenty-seven years of service on the Colour Party. Comrade Wiles had to retire in 2013 because of health issues.

OUTSTANDING CADET OF THE YEAR

Each November, the recipients of the Legion's Outstanding Sea, Army and Air Cadet of the Year travel to Ottawa as guests of the Legion to participate in commemorative events during the Remembrance period. The highlight of their trip is serving as Wreath Bearers for the Vice Regal Party during the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. The Cadets also receive a private tour of Parliament Hill including the Memorial Chamber, the Canadian War Museum and an invitation to a luncheon at Rideau Hall co-hosted by the Governor General and Chief of the Defence Staff.

2014 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed twenty-five Resolutions submitted for consideration at this Convention. These Resolutions will be dealt with later in the Convention business program.

BUDGET

A copy of the Committee budget for the period 2014-2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions they may have at this time concerning Committee expenses, however, any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention business program.

CONCLUSION

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee remains committed to ensuring that the Remembrance initiatives and programs of the Legion achieve the objective of perpetuating the memory and deeds of the Fallen. Together, with the outstanding cooperation and assistance of the Provincial Commands and branches, we will succeed in fulfilling our pledge to never forget.

I move acceptance of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	7,716	4,471	7,500	7,650	7,803
PER DIEM	5,041	3,141	5,000	5,100	5,202
POSTAGE & OFFICE	2,477	4,619	3,500	3,570	3,641
TELEPHONE AND FAX	31	100	1,000	1,020	1,040
TEACHING GUIDE UPDATE	9,048	50	1,000	1,020	1,040
WRITE OFF OLD PUBLICATIONS		-	1,000	1,020	1,040
PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	-	4,552	5,000	5,100	5,202
MISCELLANEOUS	1,480	704	1,000	1,020	1,040
TOTAL	25,793	17,637	25,000	25,500	26,010
EUROPE ZONE					
GRANT	10,000	10,000	-	-	-
EUROPE - WREATHS	105	781	1,000	1,020	1,040
	10,105	10,781	1,000	1,020	1,040
NATIONAL CEREMONIES					
TRAVEL	7,868	6,139	6,000	6,120	6,242
PER DIEM	10,172	10,977	6,000	6,120	6,242
PRINTING, STATIONERY	4,182	3,968	5,500	5,610	5,722
TELEPHONE, POSTAGE	930	425	1,000	1,020	1,040
COLOUR PARTY ACTIVITIES SUMMER & FALL	80	131	500	510	520
MEETING, PLANNING	-	335	200	204	208
REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION	4,908	5,780	4,500	4,590	4,682
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE	300	300	300	306	312
SILVER CROSS MOTHER	6,344	5,582	5,000	5,100	5,202
CADET OF THE YEAR	10,006	10,055	10,000	10,200	10,404
MISCELLANEOUS	3,823	4,210	2,500	2,550	2,601
TOTAL	48,613	47,903	41,500	42,330	43,177
PILGRIMAGE					
POPPY GRANT	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,500)	(26,010)
EXPENSES	39,771	47,875	33,500	34,170	34,853
TOTAL	14,771	22,875	8,500	8,670	8,843
TOTAL	99,282	99,196	76,000	77,520	79,070
ASSOCIATED EXPENSES (POPPY FUND)					
NATIONAL LITERARY/POSTER CONTESTS					
TRAVEL	4,354	3,107	5,000	5,100	5,202
PER DIEM	5,578	5,659	5,000	5,100	5,202
BURSARIES/GIFTS	6,530	6,615	10,875	11,093	11,314
TOTAL	16,462	15,382	20,875	21,293	21,718

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

P. Piper, *Chairman*
P. Varga, *Vice-Chairman*
T. Irvine, *Member*
R. Bennett, *Member*
A. Crewe, *Member*
C. Paul, *Member*
D. Kidd, *Member*
S. Ferris, *Secretary*
C. O'Grady, *Assistant Secretary*

OVERVIEW

Membership is everyone's responsibility. This is a phrase I have been using throughout my term as Chair of this Committee. The Legion benefits from the outstanding work of all the volunteers who act as Membership Chairs in our Branches across the country. We are equally fortunate for all the efforts of every member who renews their membership, brings in a new member, or helps promote their Legion in the community. But we must all do our part to make our Legion thrive.

We all know there are challenges in growing our Legion membership...but if we look at these as opportunities we can capitalize on, all of a sudden our outlook on what we can accomplish changes. We have opportunities to grow the number of Veterans in the Legion by inviting them to our Branches and making them feel welcome. We have opportunities to bring our family and friends into the Legion to see what we do. We have opportunities to tell all Canadians about the great work we do and how important the Legion is in our communities by getting out and sharing our success stories. When you think about...we are surrounded by opportunities to grow our membership!

Your Membership Committee has been very busy since the last convention. Here's just a snapshot of what we have been working on:

- Changing the membership forms to make it easier to join;
- Adding the option to join the Legion online;
- Developing new membership campaigns;
- Extending our reach to promote the Legion through social media, new advertising channels, and direct mail;
- Assisting on the redesign of the Legion website;

- Working with Provincial Commands to cooperate on Membership activities;
- Launching the Legion Riders motorcycle program;
- Building our partnerships with the Canadian Armed Forces, RCMP, Veterans organizations, the Ride for Dad, and other community groups to attract new members;
- Building up the capacity within the organization to engage in marketing and membership activities by restructuring the Marketing & Membership Department.

We are a strong organization. From Veterans, to track & field athletes, Cadets, Scouts, Guides, Seniors, and Canadians of all walks of life, the Legion makes a difference in the lives of thousands of people every year. As you deliberate through this convention and consider the resolutions that will guide our great organization, know that you are driving the future of the Legion and have the power to make us even stronger. It is your responsibility.

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

2013 Final Paid Membership - 307,459

- Represents 96.02 % of 2012 membership.
- Resulted in an overall loss of 12,734 members representing 2.33% of the 2012 final paid membership total.

ANALYSIS OF MEMBERSHIP 2003 - 2013

YEAR	RENEWALS	NEW MEMBERS	FINAL PAID MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERS NOT RENEWED	DECEASED MEMBERS	TOTAL POTENTIAL RENEWALS	GAIN/(LOSS) IN MEMBERSHIP
2013	284,056	23,403	307,459	28,665	7,472	21,193	-12,734
2012	296,771	23,422	320,193	28,128	7,310	20,818	-12,016
2011	308,075	24,134	332,209	27,579	7,491	20,088	-10,936
2010	317,684	25,461	343,145	23,103	7,441	15,662	-5,083
2009	322,925	25,303	348,228	29,545	7,732	21,813	-11,974
2008	334,366	25,836	360,202	30,834	8,167	22,667	-13,165
2007	347,125	26,242	373,367	33,461	7,998	25,463	-15,217
2006	361,932	26,652	388,584	35,215	8,321	26,894	-16,884
2005	375,831	29,637	405,468	31,140	9,100	22,040	-10,603
2004	385,497	30,574	416,071	34,629	9,030	25,599	-13,085
2003	397,945	31,211	429,156	36,656	8,847	27,809	-14,292

AWARDS

2012 Membership Achievement Award

– presented to NFLD/Labrador Command in recognition of best overall membership performance. The Command had 99.23% of their paid 2011 membership total.

2013 Membership Achievement Award –

recognizes the Command with the best overall membership record over the previous year. This year the race was incredibly close with the following results:

COMMAND	PERCENTAGE
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR	98.40%
MANITOBA&NWO	97.39%
QUEBEC	97.08%
BC/YUKON	96.82%
SASKATCHEWAN	96.09%
ALBERTA-NWT	95.97%
PEI	95.67%
NS/NU	95.55%
ONTARIO	95.45%
NEW BRUNSWICK	93.84%

Congratulations once again to Newfoundland/Labrador for winning this award in 2013.

2012 Renewal Award – For 2012 and 2013 no Commands were higher in renewals than the previous year.

2014 Early Bird Award – Presented to PEI Command with a 1.15% increase in Early Bird Renewals.

In 2013 344 Branches earned 75% or more in early bird renewals. This is up from 307 Branches in 2012.

Branch Membership Achievement Award

– In 2013 we are pleased to announce that 552 Branches received recognition for achieving 100% or more of their previous year's membership.

BRANCH CHARTERS ISSUED OR CANCELLED

YEAR	SURRENDERED	REVOKED	NEW	TOTAL BRANCHES
2012	15	0	1	1469
2013	18	0	0	1451

ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS

A complete review of all advertising was conducted in late 2012 with the following objectives:

- Ensure we were reaching our target audiences – Existing Legion members, CAF, RCMP, and the greater Canadian public;
- Ensure there was some measurable way to track the success of the ads – web tracking, impressions, or linked to a specific campaign.

In general, Dominion Command will only engage in advertising that is national in reach. With our advertising we are seeking to engage in a level of return that will meet typical industry averages for the types of media chosen. Established norms will be in the range of 0.1% to as high as 3% response to any advertising. So this means that if we spend \$5,000 on an ad, it must generate at least that same amount in membership – or 100 new

members. To get 100 members from an ad with 0.1% return it must reach at least 100,000 people who will action it. In this light it becomes easier to base our media selections on where we will expect the best results. Certainly this is only one metric, but it is a useful one.

The Legion also began incorporating web tags in our print ads to track where people coming to our website may have seen an ad. And thanks to our newly designed website and the ability to track online advertising, we have been able to start to build information showing where our online members are coming from when they join. This again, helps us make better buying decisions when it comes to advertising.

In 2012 and 2013 the following table represents advertising conducted by the Legion:

2012 CAMPAIGNS

MEDIA	AD TYPE	FREQUENCY	REACH
LEGION MAGAZINE	PRINT	12 TIMES	594,000 PLUS READERS
ESPRIT DE CORPS	PRINT	6 TIMES	20,000 READERS
FRONTLINE	PRINT	2 TIMES	7,000 READERS
VANGUARD	PRINT	6 TIMES	8,500 READERS
RCMP QUARTERLY	PRINT	4 TIMES	14,000 READERS
BLUE LINE	PRINT	6 TIMES	6,000 READERS
FORCES NEWSPAPERS	PRINT	12 TIMES	APPROX 35,000 READERS
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC	PRINT	6 TIMES	350,000 PLUS READERS
CANADIAN MILITARY FAMILY MAGAZINE	PRINT	4 TIMES	7,500 READERS
BLUE JAYS NETWORK	RADIO	SEPT – OCT	NATIONAL ACROSS 23 RADIO STATIONS

2013 CAMPAIGNS

MEDIA	AD TYPE	FREQUENCY	REACH
BLUE JAYS NETWORK	RADIO	MAY 20 – OCTOBER 10, 2013	NATIONAL ACROSS 23 RADIO STATIONS
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC	PRINT	4 TIMES SEPT – DEC	350,000 PLUS READERS
ESPRIT DE CORPS	PRINT	4 TIMES SEPT – DEC	20,000 READERS
CANADIAN MILITARY FAMILY MAGAZINE	PRINT	4 TIMES SEPT – DEC	10,000 READERS
LEGION MAGAZINE	PRINT	12 TIMES	594,000 PLUS READERS
RCMP QUARTERLY	PRINT	2 TIMES FALL & WINTER	14,000 READERS
POSTMEDIA	ONLINE	SEPT – DEC	1.2 MILLION VIEWS

MARKETING ADVERTISING & PROMOTION BUDGET REVIEW (BUDGETED FIGURES)

YEAR	AMOUNT
2012	\$210,933
2013	\$451,000
2014	\$429,000

NON-RENEWAL MAILINGS

In 2012 and again in 2013, Dominion Command sent out letters directly to members who had not renewed as of the end of April.

	2012	2013
RENEWAL LETTERS MAILED	71,000	73,000
COST (APPROX)	\$53,000	\$56,000
MEMBERS RENEWED	13,137	16,046
DOMINION COMMAND PER CAPITA	\$10.65	\$10.65
TOTAL REVENUE	\$139,910	\$170,890
RETURN ON INVESTMENT	\$86,910	\$114,890

What is perhaps most interesting in this chart is the fact that in both 2012 and 2013, we had more than 70,000 members who had not renewed their memberships. This is a huge number and does not include those who have passed away. Opportunity yet again! There are clearly many branches that have some best practice examples of how they renew members. We see this from those branches that obtain 90-100% renewals. In the summer of 2014, we will deliver a package of materials that all branches will be able to use to assist them with renewals including the following items and others yet to be determined:

- Sample renewal letters;
- Renewal Posters for in-branch display;
- Sample e-mail notices for branches to send out;
- Sample web pages for branches to display on their own websites;
- “Most Wanted” posters, Membership thermometer displays, thank you cards and other best practice concepts received from branches.

NEW CAMPAIGN INITIATIVES

ONE-BY-ONE CAMPAIGN

Campaign Dates – May 1 – November 15, 2013

- April 1- May 1 provided branches with awareness of upcoming campaign;
- Monthly updates provided to all Commands with request to share to branches;
- Updates on website, and social media;
- Monthly prize draw announcements to all Commands and prize winners at the branch level;
- In-branch posters, table cards, coasters, tally sheets.

RETURN ON INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

EXPENSES	
PRINTING	23,800
DESIGN FEES	3,000
LEGION PRIZES	2,000
	\$28,800
REVENUE (AS PER CAMPAIGN TICKETS)	\$40,681
NET RETURN	\$11,881

ONE-BY-ONE BY COMMAND—NEW MEMBER PROFILE

COMMAND	BASED ON TALLY SHEETS RECEIVED	BASED ON CAMPAIGN TICKETS ENTERED
TOTAL	1990	1801
01 – BC/YUKON	713	636
02 – ALTA-NWT	234	243
03 – SASK	67	40
04 – MAN&NWO	78	73
05 – ONT	620	547
06 – QC	74	56
07 – NB	12	6
08 – NS/NU	167	126
09 – PEI	0	11
10 – NFLD/LAB	25	40
13 – DC	0	4
19 - EUROPE	0	19

The success of the campaign warrants running it again and this was approved by the Membership Committee to run again in 2014 from February to the end of May. Results from this campaign are included as an update with this report as we have just received them.

ONLINE MEMBERSHIP

As of 27 January 2014 we have recorded the following online memberships:

YEAR	TOTAL MEMBERS	REVENUE
2013	189	\$3,150.63
2014	177	\$8,848.23
2015	82	\$4,099.18
2016	56	\$2,799.44
2017	40	\$1,999.60
2018	29	\$1,449.71
TOTAL		\$22,346.79

2013 Members only paid \$16.67 owing to the pro-rated membership dues structure in place. It is important to note we have not officially promoted this online membership as yet, rather it is resulting from our direct mail campaigns, insert programs and online advertising.

DIRECT MAIL & INSERT CAMPAIGNS

THANKS FOR WEARING YOUR POPPY MAY CAMPAIGN Mailed May 13, 2013

This was a multilevel campaign specifically designed to test the response to joining the Legion. Seven different lists were selected and these addresses were divided into half. One half received a large brochure and the other a small letter. In May, 48,415 pieces were mailed out and we received 308 new members (271 BRCs, 29 online and 6 by phone). We have no direct way to track members that would have joined at the branches. This represents a .54% response rate.

EXPENSES – PRINTING AND POSTAGE	\$23,520
REVENUES - 308 MEMBERS X \$49.99	15,397
RETURN ON INVESTMENT (LOSS)	(\$8,123)

LEGION MAGAZINE INSERT TO DIRECT SUBSCRIBERS – IF YOU LIKE THE MAGAZINE, YOU’LL LOVE THE LEGION Mailed August 28, 2013

This four page ‘megalogue’ was inserted into magazines going to Direct Subscribers, newsstand and CAF personal in isolated posts around the globe. This represents a minimum of a 2.16% response rate. This effort was cost shared with Canvet so no design fees were charged and we paid for 50% of the postage.

EXPENSES – PRINTING AND POSTAGE	\$4,000
REVENUES – 59 MEMBERS X \$49.99	2,950
– 50 MEMBERS X \$16.67 (ONLINE)	834
RETURN ON INVESTMENT (LOSS)	(\$216)

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONAL/PROCESSING MATERIAL

By now you will have all seen the new Membership form. The Membership and Marketing Department is reviewing all processing forms with a view to enhancing their functionality, simplifying them and updating the designs to reflect our new logo. By the end of 2014 all Membership processing forms will be updated.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has brought forward four resolutions to this convention which will be presented later in the agenda.

BUDGET

A copy of the Committee budget for the period 2014-2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions they may have at this time concerning Committee expenses, however, any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention business program.

CONCLUSION

As I wrap up my term as Chair of the Membership Committee I want to sincerely thank all members of the Legion for their ongoing commitment to our organization, their work in supporting the causes of the Legion, and their efforts to grow our membership. It has been an honour for me to work with Dominion President Gordon Moore and all members of the Dominion Executive Council. It has been a particular honour to Chair this committee with the members we had. You are all exceptional people.

Our committee's efforts have been supported by a great team at Dominion Command and their

efforts, once again, have been essential to the success we all lay claim to.

I have said I see nothing but opportunity before the Legion. What it will take to realize upon it is the commitment of each and every one of us to open our doors, and open our arms to welcome in those who want to join our ranks. The Legion is for everyone who wants to support the causes of the Veteran, their family, Remembrance and our communities. As we prepare to celebrate our 90th anniversary, may we all enjoy 90 more years!

I move acceptance of this report.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	6,223	7,288	7,000	7,140	7,283
PER DIEM	7,887	3,931	7,000	7,140	7,283
PRINTING AND OFFICE	860	144	500	510	520
POSTAGE	256	14	250	255	260
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF	-	-	-		
PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEW	-	-	-		
TELEPHONE & FAX	-	13	500	510	520
MISCELLANEOUS	4,731	388	5,000	5,100	5,202
	19,957	11,778	20,250	20,655	21,068
PRINTING & STATIONERY					
MEMBERSHIP FORMS	7,345	6,514	8,500	8,670	8,843
EARLY BIRD CERTIFICATE	-	-	500	510	520
EARLY BIRD STICKERS	-	2,872	3,000	3,060	3,121
NEWS LETTER	1,451	-	-	-	-
RCL WELCOMES YOU (BOOKLET)	9,763	-	-	-	-
FLYERS AND POSTCARDS	9,833	-	-	-	-
BOOKMARKS	2,183	-	-	-	-
EARLY BIRD POSTER	1,842	-	-	-	-
THE RCL & C.F. BROCHURE	-	-	-	-	-
MEMBERSHIP GIFT PACK	4,149	-	-	-	-
FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR CF RETIREES	5,435	-	-	-	-
REMINDER NOTICE	-	-	-	-	-
NON RENEWAL MAILERS	55,685	-	-	-	-
	97,686	9,386	12,000	12,240	12,485
NATIONAL ADVERTISING					
CANVET ADS	29,408	-	-	-	-
ESPRIT DE CORPS	3,503	-	-	-	-
RCMP QUARTERLY	6,328	-	-	-	-
BASE NEWSPAPERS	39,728	-	-	-	-
VANGUARD	5,404	-	-	-	-
MEMORIAL CUP	6,215	-	-	-	-
BLUE JAYS	8,136	-	-	-	-
BLUE LINE	16,498	-	-	-	-
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC	27,384	-	-	-	-
UBIQUITOUS	1,723	-	-	-	-
NEW RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN	20,822	-	-	-	-
MISC. ADVERTISING	2,028	-	-	-	-
	167,178	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	284,820	21,164	32,250	32,895	33,553

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

T. Eagles, *Chairman*
R. Trowsdale, *Vice-Chairman*
M. Emery, *Member*
R. Risebrough, *Member*
W. Donner, *Member*
M. Arsenaault, *Member*
M.C. (Dick) Wells, *Member*
B. Poulin, *Secretary*
L. O'Neill, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Outreach Committee has met in Ottawa three times since the 2012 Dominion Convention, and emails have been exchanged on matters of importance. This report summarizes the Committees' activities over that period and introduced a draft communications plan and budget for 2014-2016. It has been very active time for the Committee as the Communications Department underwent changes as a result of a communications audit and a review process to see what it could do to market the Legion in the future.

GENERAL

The Outreach Committee program for the Legion is run on a two-year cycle with budgeted plans accepted by Dominion Convention being the basis for work between Conventions. I am most pleased to report that the Outreach Committee achieved the goals set by you in 2012.

PROJECT REPORT

The following projects were completed during the past two years:

- a. **Social Media Outreach:** As the Legion works to support and grow our online presence, we are able to create stronger organization and a more positive image of the Legion with the Canadian public. Dominion Command has begun using social media as a proactive outreach and communications tool. In March 2013, Dominion Command began to actively use Facebook and Twitter accounts, posting news releases and information on Legion activities.
- b. **Internet:** In October 2013 Dominion Command launched its new website in both official languages. Providing more online communications through social media also took a big leap forward this past Fall

and the Legion really made its presence known on Facebook and Twitter (facebook.com/CanadianLegion and twitter.com/RCL_DC). Those interested can expect to see videos become a regular feature of our communications in 2014.

- c. **Media Products:** In terms of media products, a new public relations manual was drafted and approved for distribution. There were also 54 news releases, media advisories and letters to the editors in 2013 and other 22 media products in 2012 for a total of 76 media products between 2012 and 2013. By way of comparison there were 32 media products between 2010 and 2012.
- d. **Surplus Computers:** In an effort to create a better communications network and provide some on-site educational training for our members at the local level, Dominion Command has negotiated an agreement with the federal government to pick up government computers that have been deemed surplus. While the final numbers have not been finalized at this time, it was agreed that any or all of the 1,456 branches could receive a computer if it so desired. It is hoped that every Legion branch will have a computer by the end of 2014. This will allow all Branches to have access to the Internet and greater communication among other branches, districts, zones and commands.
- e. **Training:** Training in PR and Media Relations was still available at Dominion Command at a shared cost with the requesting agency. To that end, a monthly Public Relations Officer Teleconference between commands was set up beginning in February 2013.

- f.* **Support to other Committees and Programs:** The following major support functions were completed during the reporting period:
- i.* **Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships:** During the period we supported two national track and field championships, one in Charlottetown, PE and one in Langley, BC. We provided plans and an on-site support as well as photographic and web-site support.
 - ii.* **Membership:** PR assistance has largely consisted of graphical and photographic support and the production of recruiting campaign brochures. This included but was not limited to a new Legion Brand Logo and the creation of a Legion Riders Program for motorcycle enthusiasts who are or would like to be members of the Legion.

THE PLAN – 2014 TO 2016

As mentioned earlier, the Committee intends to carry on with the recommendations of the Focus on the Future Committee. Our plan includes the following:

- a.* **Committee Support:** We will continue to support all Dominion Command committees with the support they need to carry out their programs.
- b.* **Provincial Command and Branch Support:** The provincial commands and branches will be supported as need be and as resources are available including workshops at various command conventions.
- c.* **Internal Communication:** The Committee will continue its plan to modernize its website as it continually

reviews, updates and adds to the site on a regular basis. It will also continue to oversee the distribution and software update of computers to every command.

- d.* **External Communication:** The Committee will continue to take every opportunity possible to educate the general public and targeted audiences on our purposes, objects, programs, through the use of the media, social media and the continued provision of timely and accurate information on the Legion.

RESOLUTIONS

There were 3 resolutions considered by this Committee.

BUDGET

For your information a copy of the Outreach Committee budget for the period 2014 to 2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they may have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee members for their dedication and commitment to the task. I would also like to thank you, the members, for being a part of The Royal Canadian Legion of which I am so proud to be a member.

I move acceptance of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION—DOMINION COMMAND
OUTREACH COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
DIRECT EXPENSES					
TRAVEL	12,597	5,902	9,000	9,180	9,364
PER DIEM	9,930	3,754	6,000	6,120	6,242
PRINTING, STATIONERY	110	169	1,000	1,020	1,040
TELEPHONE & FAX	333	566	500	510	520
POSTAGE	-	402	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	329	336	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	23,299	11,128	16,500	16,830	17,167
OUTREACH SECTION					
MEDIA MONITORING	31,592	33,176	-	-	-
MEDIA DISTRIBUTION	3,415	14,977	25,000	25,500	26,010
LISTINGS	653	-	-	-	-
TRAINING/LIAISON					
PER DIEM	1,480	6,663	5,000	5,100	5,202
TRAVEL	1,512	8,985	5,000	5,100	5,202
ADVERTISING	12,580	-	-	-	-
RESEARCH	22,600	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	73,832	63,800	35,000	35,700	36,414
GRAND TOTAL	97,131	74,929	51,500	52,530	53,581

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

E. Pigeau, *Chairman*
P. Poirier, *Vice-Chairman*
A. Stanfield, *Member*
M. Atkinson, *Member*
N. Shelton, *Member*
R. Petten, *Member*
L. Washburn, *Member*
D. Martin, *Secretary*
A. Keeling, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Sports Committee has met four times since the 2012 Dominion Convention – twice in Ottawa and twice by teleconference. The committee’s focus remained one of containing costs, improving both the member sports program and the National Youth Track and Field Championships.

MEMBER SPORTS GENERAL

Membership sports, at the national level, have had a long tradition within the Legion. Starting in 1957 with Regular Curling, the introduction of Senior Curling and Darts in the 70’s, Cribbage in 1989 and the newest addition Eight Ball in 2012, membership sports has remained a fixture and a unifying force. Based on a national survey of branches initiated in February 2012, with an average return at 37% with a high return from ALTA-NWT at 42% and a low return from QUE at 17%, member sports continues to have significant interest and participation from Legion members.

Cribbage and Darts remain strong throughout the country and have full participation from all provincial commands. Eight Ball has a strong participation rate throughout the country and since its introduction in 2012 nine commands have entered teams with QUE Command missing in 2012 and BC/YUKON missing in 2013. Curling continues to experience marginal participation and is no longer part of the sports curriculum in Ontario, Alberta/Northwest Territory and New Brunswick Commands. As well, no team was entered by NFLD/LAB in 2014.

On behalf of efforts from CANVET Corby’s distilleries has been acquired as a sponsor for Dominion Darts for the years 2014 and 2015. Their annual contribution of \$25,000 has been used to promote Legion darts as well as to provide hosting grants of \$500 to provincial host branches and to provide branches across the country with

a chance to win one of a \$5000, \$3000 or \$2000 branch improvement grants.

MEMBER SPORTS – POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following points were approved by motion or by the Sports Committee:

- a. **Member Sports Hosting Grants.** These grants are designed to assist branches in the hosting of national championships and the transportation of competitors. These were increased to:
 - Curling - \$2000 branch and up to \$1500 transportation.
 - All others - \$800 branch and up to \$1500 transportation.
- b. **Member Sports Awards Banquet.** Held at the end of every Legion Members Sport competition was designated as mandatory attendance for all Legion sponsored competitors.
- c. **Curling.** Was reduced from seven days to six and will be conducted starting on a Saturday and ending on a Thursday.
- d. **Sports Guide.** A new version of the Sports Guide was updated, reprinted and sent to all branches in Nov 2013

2013 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

An update is provided on the outcome of member sports events for 2013:

a. Curling Hosted by:	16 - 20 March 2013 Branch #27, Bloomfield Station, PE
<u>Champions</u>	Branch #83 Deloraine, MB
b. Cribbage Hosted by:	26 - 29 April 2013 Branch #38, Liverpool, NS
<u>Champions</u> Singles:	Branch # 9 Winnipeg, MB
Doubles:	Branch #91, Victoria, BC
Team:	Branch #62, Peace River, AB
c. Darts Hosted by:	3 - 6 May 2013 Branch #44, Chester, NS
<u>Champions</u> Singles:	Branch #420 Blythe, ON
Doubles:	Branch #212 Lasalle, QC
Team:	Branch #160 Dartmouth, NS
d. Eight Ball Hosted by:	24 - 27 May 2013 Branch #4 Fredericton, NB
<u>Champions</u> Singles:	Branch #098 Kingston, NS
Doubles:	Branch #060 Estevan, SK
Team:	Branch #026 Sackville, NB

2014 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results for the 2014 member sports championships were not available at printing however the complete results are available on the Legion Web site. The host venues were:

a. Curling Hosted by:	15 - 20 March 2014 Branch #20 Dauphin, MB
b. Cribbage Hosted by:	25 - 28 April 2014 Branch #23 North Bay, ON
c. Darts Hosted by:	2 - 5 May 2014 Branch # 632 Orleans, ON
d. Eight Ball Hosted by:	23 - 26 May 2014 Branch #261 Tecumseh, ON

TRACK & FIELD - GENERAL

The Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships remains the premiere Legion Program for Canadian youth under the age of 18 years. Sanctioned, by Athletics Canada, as the official Canadian championships in track & field for the youth and midget categories both the profile of the event and the participation level continues to increase. Over the past two years several awards were garnered for this program:

- a. The Corporate Excellence Award. The Royal Canadian Legion, as the originator, organizer and main backer of the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships and its associated provincial programs has been awarded, at the Canada's Sports Hall of Fame's 40th Canadian Sport Awards (in 2012), "The Corporate Excellence Award" which recognizes and celebrates a corporation that provides outstanding support to Canadian sport. From the Minister of State for Sport the Honourable Bal Gosal: "To the Royal Canadian Legion, I thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting Canadian sport excellence. Together, we are working to ensure that our athletes continue to proudly represent Canada on the international stage".
- b. Sponsor of the Year. The Royal Canadian Legion was awarded the "Sponsor of the Year" award in 2013 (by the Canadian Sports Tourism Alliance) for its conduct and support of the 2012 Legion Nationals.
- c. Executive of the Year. "The Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships are a window into future Canadian World Championships and Olympic Games Athletics Teams. To stage this Canadian Championship requires the coordination of national, provincial and local organizations, sponsors and volunteers. To successfully present the Championships and keep all the moving parts in order and functioning at their highest level requires a Local Arrangements/ Host Organizing Committee that has a vision, commitment and delivers. Such was the case for the 2013 LAC of the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships. It was for the first time in the history of the Championships lead by the Ladies Auxiliary – the BC/Yukon Command Ladies Auxiliary. The LAC not only raised almost 1.12 Million

dollars in Cash and Value-in-Kind support but brought the Championships to the people of Canada and reconnected Alumni and Friends of the Legion Championships. It opened a new chapter in the storied history of the Legion involvement with Track & Field in Canada. BC Athletics is pleased to recognize the Local Arrangements Committee of the 2013 Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships as the BC Athletics Executive of the Year.”

The committee continues to pursue avenues of savings through independent travel bookings with airlines, providing revenue sharing activities with the host committee and proactively seeking sponsorship partners. National sponsorship partners over the past two years include Home Hardware, MBNA and the Running Room.

Hand in hand with sponsorship was the promotion of the games and the Legion. The committee in concert with the Local Arrangement Committees formed a coordinated campaign to promote the event both nationally and within the local area of the respective host sites through a national poster distribution program to Legion branches and All Home Hardware stores across Canada. Partnerships were formed with SHAW Cable and Vision TV to air game highlights, a specific web site was created (yo.ca) by the 2013 LAC and all elements of the electronic spectrum including Twitter, Facebook and Flickr were utilized.

2012 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2012 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 15 -21 August at the University of PEI Athletic Facility located in Charlottetown, PEI. The total attendance was 331 Legion sponsored athletes, 36 chaperones and 25 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 486 open category athletes.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes and coaches, a clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2012 two minutes of silence were observed on 19th Aug at the UPEI and a remembrance ceremony was held on the afternoon of 20 August at the Cavendish Beach Monument both to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the raid on Dieppe.

The Lt Gov of PEI the Honourable Frank Lewis attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception at the Faculty Lounge at UPEI. Further receptions were held at Branch #1 Charlottetown (chaperones) and at the Haviland Club Charlottetown (coaches) on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the UPEI in the Wyatt Dining Hall with currently serving Major D. Brasseur, Canada's first female F-18 pilot as the guest speaker - in commemoration of 70 years of female inclusion in the military. As well current Olympian Jared Connaughton (men's 4 x 100 relay) attended and formally spoke to the gathered audience.

The meet was held on 17-19 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at UPEI was in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three day period under the excellent organization of the meet director Peter Lord and Athletics Canada. During the competition 2 Canadian Youth and 21 Legion records were broken. The top Legion female athlete was Mariam Abdul-Rashid from ONT and the top male athlete was Davis Edward from ONT. Both were presented a trophy on behalf of MBNA Canada.

New for this year was the naming of the Top Female award as the LeRoy Washburn Trophy and the Top Male the Jack Stenhouse Trophy. LeRoy Washburn was in attendance to present and Jack Stenhouse's widow Dorothy Stenhouse was also in attendance to present.

2013 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2013 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 7 - 13 August at the McLeod Athletic Park located in Langley Township, BC. The total attendance was 321 Legion sponsored athletes, 35 chaperones and 25 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 416 open category athletes.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes and coaches, a clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2013 Peacekeepers Day was observed on 9th Aug at the McLeod Athletic Park and a remembrance theme

of the 60th anniversary of the end of hostilities on the Korean Peninsula was prominent throughout.

The LGov of BC the Honourable Judith Guichon attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception at the athletic Field House located at the McLeod Athletic Park. Further receptions were held at Branch #6 Cloverdale (chaperones) and at Branch # 265 Aldergrove (coaches) on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at Trinity Western University in the main dining hall with former Olympian Lynn Kanuka as the guest of honour.

The meet was held on 9-11 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at McLeod Athletic Park is in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three day period under the excellent organization of the meet director Brent Dolfo and Athletics Canada. During the competition 1 Canadian Youth and 12 Legion records were broken. The top Legion female athlete receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy was Chicago Bains from BC/YUKON and the top male athlete receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy was Joseph Maxwell from ONT.

2012 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

An administrative oversight resulted in the 2012 convention resolutions from ALTA-NWT not being presented to the floor at convention. As a compromise the committees who were responsible to review these resolutions were asked to do so as part of their committee agendas. The Following resolutions dealt with were:

- Legion Shuffleboard (no 5) – as a national sport, and
- Legion Euchre (no 12) – as a national sport.

The committee felt, based on the information at hand (including the 2012 Sports Survey) that there was no room for expansion to a national level for the recommended sports. Therefore the resolutions were not supported.

2014 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The committee has reviewed one submitted resolution. This resolution will be dealt with later in the convention proceedings.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2013-2014 budgets for Member Sports, the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships and the Sports Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Sports Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The Legion Sports Committee continues to focus on the development and advancement of the Legion Sports programs with a view to improve programs while reducing costs, promote the Legion and enhance membership.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Committee for their support and dedication throughout the past two years.

I move acceptance of my report.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	9,926	3,863	5,000	5,100	5,202
PER DIEM	7,841	3,701	5,000	5,100	5,202
T & F LAC					
CHARLOTTETOWN - 2012	5,389	-	-		
LANGLEY- 2013/14--OTHER 2015/16	4,244	8,651	10,000	10,200	10,404
PRINTING, STATIONERY	1,854	164	4,000	4,080	4,162
TELEPHONE & FAX	408	110	800	816	832
POSTAGE	2,173	237	300	306	312
WRITE OFF OLD PUBLICATIONS	-	-	-		
PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	-	6,927	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	2,137	572	2,500	2,550	2,601
TOTAL COMMITTEE	33,972	24,224	27,600	28,152	28,715

	SASKATOON SK	BLOOMFIELD STATION PE	DAUPHIN MB		
CURLING					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	20,512	18,213	25,000	25,500	26,010
COMMITTEE	3,786	2,270	4,000	4,080	4,162
AWARDS & PRIZES	1,645	2,240	2,300	2,346	2,393
ENTERTAINMENT	390	300	300	306	312
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,040	2,081
TOTAL CURLING	29,334	26,523	35,100	35,802	36,518

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
DARTS	VANCOUVER BC	CHESTER NS	ORLEANS ON		
SPONSORSHIPS	-	-	(25,000)	(25,500)	(26,010)
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	31,904	17,515	30,000	30,600	31,212
COMMITTEE	1,688	2,558	2,600	2,652	2,705
AWARDS & PRIZES	2,243	2,654	2,300	2,346	2,393
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	-	200	200	204	208
ENTERTAINMENT	400	800	800	816	832
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL DARTS	37,235	25,227	12,400	12,648	12,901

	INNISFAIL AB	LIVERPOOL NS	NORTH BAY ON		
CRIBBAGE					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	21,467	22,702	35,000	35,700	36,414
COMMITTEE	911	1,586	3,000	3,060	3,121
AWARDS & PRIZES	2,278	2,839	2,300	2,346	2,393
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	400	800	800	816	832
ENTERTAINMENT	200	200	200	204	208
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL CRIBBAGE	26,256	29,627	42,800	43,656	44,529

	VICTORIA BC	FREDERICTON NB	TECUMSEH ON		
EIGHT BALL					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	17,080	21,052	30,000	30,600	31,212
COMMITTEE	5,282	1,877	3,000	3,060	3,121
AWARDS & PRIZES	2,055	2,635	2,300	2,346	2,393
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	400	800	800	816	832
ENTERTAINMENT	200	200	200	204	208
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,000	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL EIGHT BALL	26,016	28,064	37,800	38,556	39,327

TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	118,841	109,441	128,100	130,662	133,275
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	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS	CHARLOTTETOWN PE	LANGLEY BC	LANGLEY BC		
TRANSPORTATION	171,517	213,072	230,000	234,600	239,292
ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS	163,113	171,601	180,000	183,600	187,272
COMMITTEE - TRAVEL	6,300	13,255	10,000	10,200	10,404
COMMITTEE - PER DIEM	21,431	11,603	17,600	17,952	18,311
LOCAL COMMITTEE	-	580	1,000	1,020	1,040
KITS / SUPPLIES / MEDALS	12,820	4,586	11,500	11,730	11,965
BUSES	-	8,091	10,000	10,200	10,404
HONORARIA	4,660	3,000	4,000	4,080	4,162
TRAVEL / PER DIEM - OTHER	977	-	-	-	-
RECEPTION	596	2,809	2,200	2,244	2,289
MEDICAL	30	38	1,000	1,020	1,040
ATHLETIC FACILITIES	-	-	4,000	4,080	4,162
EQUIPMENT / MTG ROOMS	2,529	44	2,000	2,040	2,081
CLINICIANS	-	-	2,000	2,040	2,081
OFFICIALS	567	-	4,000	4,080	4,162
MEDIA COVERAGE & PR	11,801	-	-	-	-
FREIGHT & EXPRESS	-	1,040	3,000	3,060	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	1,137	476	1,000	1,020	1,040
TOTAL EXPENSE	397,478	430,195	483,300	492,966	502,825
LESS PROV PORTION	(93,515)	(127,564)	(106,000)	(108,120)	(110,282)
SUB TOTAL	303,962	302,632	377,300	384,846	392,543
RECOVERIES					
REGISTRATION - NON LEGION ATHLETES	(28,455)	(19,103)	(12,000)	(12,240)	(12,485)
SPONSORSHIPS	(27,000)	(27,000)	(20,000)	(20,400)	(20,808)
GRANT - VAC	(25,000)	-	-	-	-
OTHER	(1,200)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RECOVERIES	(81,655)	(46,103)	(32,000)	(32,640)	(33,293)
NET EXPENSE TRACK & FIELD	222,308	256,528	345,300	352,206	359,250
TOTAL COMMITTEE	33,972	24,224	27,600	28,152	28,715
TOTAL TRACK & FIELD	222,308	256,528	345,300	352,206	359,250
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	118,841	109,441	128,100	130,662	133,275
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE	375,121	390,193	501,000	511,020	521,240

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

B. Leach, *Chairman*
L. Murray, *Ex-Officio*
D. (Buster) Brown, *Member*
R. Price, *Member*
W. Martin, *Member*
D. Martin, *Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Defence & Security Committee has met 4 times since the last convention. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period.

GENERAL

The committee has been proactive in its areas of responsibility monitoring the effectiveness of policies governing the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in reference to equipment, training and compensation. In cooperation with the VSS Committee, as a member of the Conference of Defence Associations and through direct liaison with the applicable department or office the committee has both challenged and requested change to the status quo in a variety of areas that have been found to be lacking or requiring improvement. Some of the committees work is highlighted in this report.

COMMITTEE MANDATE/TERMS OF REFERENCE

In 2012 the committee assumed the responsibility of supporting select CAF activities intent on fostering closer links with the Legion and enhancing morale. With this responsibility a new and important function dealing with the recognition and morale of the CAF has been added. Therefore in order to recognize the importance of this addition it was formalized in the committee's terms of reference.

CAF LIAISON

Through a conscientious effort the committee has established and fostered direct links with the CDS, VCDS, CMP and Service Commanders. This line of communication has and will continue to serve the Legion well as a conduit to express pressing concerns and coordinate efforts in the areas that affect the efficiency of the CAF and the morale of those serving.

LEGION CONNECT

The project formally known as the Virtual Legion has been finalized and was released to the general

veteran's population in Spring 2014. Designed as an interactive social platform the impetus for this initiative is to facilitate access for young serving members of the CAF to the RCL and its Branches. At the same time it will ease the access for retiring /retired CAF members and Reservists to the RCL.

Additionally although in its early stages this site is also envisioned to create a more cohesive veterans presence that will help to create a more unified and expeditious voice on issues that concern the entire veterans community.

RCMP VETERANS ASSOCIATION

The committee discussed the revised commitment to support the RCMP under the same committee terms of reference as those for the military. It was felt that there needed to be a more formal dialogue with the RCMP veterans in order to establish their concerns and priorities. As such meetings have been conducted with members of the RCMP Veterans Association hierarchy both in person and through other means to ensure an open dialogue exists and to provide assistance where possible.

RCMP VETERANS – PENSION CLAW BACK

A major issue for RCMP veterans has been the recent court decision won by CAF veterans relating to the claw-back of SISIP under their Pension Act in relation to disability pensions.

RCMP LTD (same as SISIP) is being clawed back under their Pension Act in relation to their disability pensions. Despite the recent court victory by CAF veterans the RCMP veterans are forced to take a class action suit against the federal government, even though it is an identical situation to the CAF pension claw back.

The Committee supports the RCMP veterans in pursuit of equal treatment in this area of pension claw backs. Further to this support the VSS Committee has submitted a resolution for the 2014 Convention as well as being proactive through a letter to the RCMP, Minister of Public

Works and MVA outlining the disparity between the RCMP and CAF on pension claw backs.

CAF SPORTS SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

In late 2012 the committee conducted a handover of responsibilities from the Outreach & Community Relations Committee (now defunct) in the area of CAF support. Specific responsibilities gained were:

- Sponsorship of CAF Sports Championships and CAF Sports Awards Ceremony including the CAF Male and Female Coach of the year awards.
- Operation Santa Claus (distribution of a Christmas gift to deployed CAF and RCMP personnel).
- Operation Canada Day (distribution of a Canada Day gift to deployed CAF and RCMP personnel).
- Nijmegen March (support of a visit by CAF Nijmegen Team personnel to Vimy Ridge).

Since the assumption of the above listed activities the committee has worked in conjunction with the Dominion Supply Department to deliver what has turned out to be well received gifts for both Canada Day and Christmas. The Dominion Supply Department is to be congratulated for the effort put forward to make these programs a success.

The Nijmegen March support includes a Legion participant as part of the CAF contingent. A wider distribution of information on the availability of this opportunity to the Legion population has resulted in an increased interest and a wider pool of applicants.

The CAF Sports Championship sponsorship program has been put on hiatus as the committee, after deliberation, did not feel that the return on investment was in keeping with the objectives - primarily Legion recognition of support provided. The committee continues to examine the options and opportunities available.

ARCTIC STAR MEDAL – AUTHORITY TO WEAR

The Arctic Star, a campaign medal of the United Kingdom, has been awarded for operational service in WWII north of the Arctic Circle (66 degrees 32 minutes north latitude). Under the terms of issue members of the RCN are eligible for this award unless recognized for a similar award from the

Canadian government – there is none! Currently this medal is not authorized for wear in Canada.

The Legion with the support of the committee has sent a letter to Rideau Hall requesting the inclusion of the Arctic Star in the Canadian Honours system.

RECOGNITION OF SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS – HIGHWAY OF HEROES

With the cessation of the deployment of Canadian forces to Afghanistan an important chapter in the support of our military is coming to a close. A focal point of support was the Highway of Heroes where those who gave their lives were recognized on the route by an outpouring of support by people positioned along the way. In behind the scenes were several organizations such as the coroners department, fire departments, OPP and supporting Legion branches who all contributed to making this highway/event(s) such a poignant and memorable national occurrence of support for our deployed men and women. The committee agreed that there should be some form of formal recognition to these supporting organizations. In February 2014 DEC approved the recommendation and those organizations that were part this great initiative will be recognized for their support.

CADET BUDGET CUTBACKS - CLOTHING

The committee's attention was drawn to an announcement in December 2013 reference cutbacks within the cadet organization that have focused on issue clothing and uniforms. Of particular concern is the comment made by the Director of Cadets, stating that "Regrettably you will have to wear your personal parka over your uniform if the weather conditions warrant it".

It was thought that although cutbacks appear to be a necessity in this day and age the cutting of the cadet clothing budget was a step in the wrong direction. Safety, esprit de corps, public perception, individual affordability as well as erosion of faith in the program are all by products of this action and the subsequent announcement. The rationale for both the area selected for cutbacks as well as the ill thought out public relations plan dealing with these cutbacks damages the credibility of the organization especially in light of previous reviews that have outlined where cost efficiencies could be realized.

As the Chief of Review Services – 2013 Cadet Program Review has outlined the excesses of the bureaucracy of the cadet organization and has made solid recommendations as to where and how both cost and delivery can be reduced and improved – as a note reducing the clothing budget was not one of them. The common sense approach taken by this report based on facts and figures offers a blueprint to reducing costs without affecting the overall integrity of the program.

The Legion, as avid supporters of the cadet program understands the need to reduce costs and that every department must do its share. However the current announced cutbacks to the cadets follows no credible reduction strategy and ignores the already ample documentation outlining a prudent course of action – all to the detriment of the cadet program.

A letter was dispatched to the CDS requesting the decision to cut back on cadet clothing be revisited with a view to reverse what seems to be a hasty and poorly thought out plan to reduce expenditures.

CITIZENSHIP – WAR BRIDES

There is an ongoing saga whereas veterans, and children of veterans who, through bureaucratic oversight, are being denied their legitimate birthright to Canadian citizenship. The committee after having reviewed one such case has advocated that “the policies that have caused these errors were not generated by the present government but rather are a result of layered rulings, legislation and law whose combined implementation over an extended period have caused anomalies denying citizenship to veteran’s families. As well it is acknowledged that doing the right thing on a

broad basis may in some bureaucratic mind create loopholes in citizenship policy leaving the door somewhat ajar for undesirables. Regardless of the reason for inaction or refusal we are also aware that should the facts be as stated then the people who are assigned to make such rulings have had a breakdown in the application of ‘common sense.’”

As such a letter was dispatched to the Prime Minister outlining these concerns and asking the government to conduct a timely review of the facts of those involved and if the facts are proven accurate rectify this unnecessary citizenship uncertainty. An announcement by the Minister of Immigration in early January 2014 has indicated movement on this citizenship issue and hopefully there will be a solution shortly.

2014 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has reviewed two resolutions for consideration at this convention. These resolutions will be dealt with later in the convention proceedings.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2013-2014 budgets for Defence & Security Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Defence Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

I would now ask a member of the Dominion Executive Council to move acceptance of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	4,971	4,694	5,500	5,610	5,722
PER DIEM	5,152	3,810	5,500	5,610	5,722
PRINTING, POSTAGE,	296	751	150	153	156
TELEPHONE & FAX	48	-	100	102	104
MISCELLANEOUS	351	-	400	408	416
ANNUAL VIMY AWARD & AGM	4,970	5,620	6,000	6,120	6,242
CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATION FEE & CIC FEE	2,000	2,116	2,150	2,193	2,237
LEGION CONNECT	38,681	46	40,000	40,800	41,616
COMRADESHIP AWARDS	3,164	2,224	6,000	6,120	6,242
CF SPONSORSHIPS					
SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP & AWARD CEREMONY					
SPONSORSHIPS	17,000	-	17,000	17,340	17,687
TRAVEL AND PER DIEM	-	-	1,000	1,020	1,040
OPERATION SANTA CLAUS	11,980	13,505	16,000	16,320	16,646
OPERATION CANADA DAY	13,263	14,719	16,000	16,320	16,646
NIJMEGEN	8,000	8,000	8,000	8,160	8,323
REGIMENTAL ANNIVERSARIES	20,000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	129,875	55,486	123,800	126,276	128,802
LESS: RECOVERY FROM TROOP MORALE FUND	(15,000)	-	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE	114,875	55,486	123,800	126,276	128,802

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

G. Moore, *Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Vice-Chairman*
P. Varga, *Member*
B. White, *Secretary*
R. McInnis, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of The Royal Canadian Legion's RCEL Committee continues to be the support of veterans in the Caribbean countries whose organizations and governments are unable to provide full care for their needs. With the recent addition of Antigua and Barbuda back into the RCEL, the Legion is now responsible for 15 countries in the Caribbean region. Legion programs are focused on the provision of individual assistance as veterans in need are identified. Although the numbers can fluctuate given personal circumstances in 2014 we are caring for 241 veterans and widows while in 2013 we cared for 257 veterans and widows. Time is taking its toll on these proud peoples.

Our ability to meet the needs of the veterans and widows in the Caribbean region is directly attributable to the branches of the Legion that continue to donate to the fund on an annual basis. In 2012 you donated \$315,856.13 to this fund and in 2013 you donated \$202,153.87. These donations have enabled the Committee to meet the needs of the destitute, but we continue to need funds to continue our work even though there are a declining number of those who need our help. Inflation and our further commitment to help the member organizations in the Caribbean with their medical and administrative grants is a major concern.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

A total of \$534,878.43 has been committed or spent on support activities in the Caribbean since this Committee reported to you in 2012. This number includes the funds expended in 2012 and 2013. A further \$260,000 has been committed for 2014 out of a total budget of \$431,719 which leaves a small margin of reserve. We are continuing to hold our grants meetings in the year preceding the allocation for ease of handling, accounting and reporting.

- a. Individual and Administrative Assistance – In 2012 we were able to help 156 veterans and 126 widows with the standard rates of

assistance set for them. In 2013 we helped 133 veterans and 124 widows and so far in 2014 we have helped 121 veterans and 119 widows.

- b. Poppy Material - Poppy material is provided free of charge on request to assist the local Legions to raise funds for themselves. Material valued at \$15,049.35 was donated in 2012 and \$17,890.77 worth of material was provided in 2013, shipping cost \$9,116.48. Requests for 2014 are approximately \$35,000 including shipping costs. This amount cannot be finalized until we receive all the requests and the shipping bills.
- c. Emergency Assistance – To date we have not had to deal with any emergencies in the region but we do keep the surplus that occurs because of unforeseen circumstances in the region for that purpose.
- d. SCOWP and Projects - Our contribution to the RCEL Standing Committee on Welfare Projects funding for 2012 through 2014 remained constant at \$5,500 per year to assist with the maintenance of the Curphey Veterans Home in Jamaica.
- e. Other Assistance and Projects - Eyeglass collection and distribution is no longer needed. The provision of regalia items such as crests, badges, banners, ties, berets and clothing was maintained and the costs charged to the ordering organization.

LIAISON VISITS

In 2013 scheduled visits were made to Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent by the Dominion President and Dominion Secretary. These visits allow for an audit of procedures to be conducted to ensure that the monies donated are reaching those intended to receive it. Barbados is very independent and does not need assistance grants. While in Grenada and St Vincent, both organizations are well organized and doing an excellent job in ensuring the funds are reaching the veterans and widows. In 2014, a Caribbean nations meeting was hosted by the Barbados

Legion. Of the 15 countries who agreed to attend the meeting, only seven were there but those attending participated actively and an excellent regional discussion occurred. The rising costs of shipping material to the Caribbean region was discussed and solutions are being investigated that would permit shipping material in bulk to two locations for further shipment within the region.

THE LEGION AND THE RCEL

The RCEL is conscious that its primary role or core business of providing assistance is decreasing. As our veterans decline, the RCEL believes it is well suited to assist other benevolent service organizations in reaching those nationals who service in the British forces. This is called agency work. This is particularly true for the Caribbean region as many nationals currently serve with the British.

The RCEL has commenced planning for its 100th anniversary which will occur in Cape Town, South Africa in 2021. Cape Town was the place where the RCEL was formed.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the RCEL Committee Budget and our RCEL Fund is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The Royal Canadian Legion continues to do its part for the Caribbean region and the ex-service veterans and widows. This is largely due to your generosity in graciously donating the funds necessary to carry out this work. Without your assistance this would not be possible and that is why we are demanding ever increasing accountability from the nations to ensure your donations are reaching the veterans and widows in need. At times, this is challenging but I can personally attest that our monies are reaching the veterans and widows in need. While the work continues, the grim reality is that this work will not be required as we lose more of these veterans to age demographics.

I move acceptance of this report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
RCEL COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
MEETINGS					
PER DIEM	840	870	900	918	936
CARIBBEAN LEGION LIAISON					
TRAVEL	22,902	10,037	23,000	23,460	23,929
PER DIEM	10,856	9,533	12,000	12,240	12,485
POSTAGE, PRINTING	285	304	300	306	312
TELEPHONE & FAX	39	28	50	51	52
MISCELLANEOUS	175	244	350	357	364
TOTAL	35,097	21,016	36,600	37,332	38,079

RCEL ASSISTANCE FUND

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
RESERVE	445,448	491,442	431,719	387,949	339,449
INCOME					
DONATIONS	315,856	202,154	200,000	200,000	200,000
POPPY LEVY	-	-	-	-	-
INTEREST	1,796	1,824	1,500	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	763,100	695,420	633,219	589,449	540,949
EXPENDITURES					
POPPY	15,049	17,890	25,050	25,000	25,000
ASSISTANCE	256,410	235,480	210,220	210,000	200,000
EDUCATION	-	-	-	-	-
PROJECTS	-	-	-	-	-
EMERGENCY	-	320	-	-	-
SHIPPING	-	9,117	10,000	15,000	15,000
MISCELLANEOUS	199	894	-	-	-
TOTAL	271,658	263,701	245,270	250,000	240,000
SURPLUS +/- (DEFICIT)	491,442	431,719	387,949	339,449	300,949

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND

RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

R. Goebel, *Chairman*
 K. Sorrenti, *Vice-Chairman*
 B. Kiley, *Member*
 R. S. Heiter, *Secretary*

STATISTICS

Your Committee continues to report activity by calendar year to provide information that is meaningful. Statistics shown below represent figures for the two year period ending 31 December 2013.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis and processes applications for the MSM, MSA and the Palm Leaf in a timely manner. There is no backlog of applications.

COMMITTEE MANUALS

Following the 2012 Convention in Halifax, changes and updates were necessary to committee manuals. The Committee agreed that the best course of action regarding the committee manuals (*Ritual and Insignia Manual, Honours and Awards Manual and Protocol Manual*) was to merge them into one comprehensive manual. The combined manual is titled “*The Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual*” and following a labour intensive initiative by the committee, it was put into print in April 2014. The Chaplain’s Manual remained separate and was issued in revised form in April 2012.

AWARD	2012 APPROVED	2012 RETURNED	2012 TOTAL	2013 APPROVED	2013 RETURNED	2013 TOTAL
MSM	49	20	69	42	35	77
MSA	3	3	6	13	5	18
PALM LEAF TO MSM	23	4	27	20	6	26
PALM LEAF TO MSA	2	2	4	3	3	6
MEDIA AWARD	14		14	6		6
FRIENDSHIP AWARD	66	-	66	55	-	55
TOTAL REVIEWED	157	29	186	139	49	188

FOUNDERS AWARD

The first Founders Award was presented at the 2012 Convention to actor Paul Gross. Following this Convention, the committee was tasked with the responsibility of drafting a criterion for the award. This was completed by the committee and approved by D.E.C. The guidelines for this award is now included in the new *Ritual, Awards and Protocol manual*.

2014 CONVENTION PROTOCOL

Following the 2012 Convention, concerns were raised regarding the possibility of avoiding duplication with the wreath laying ceremony and opening ceremonies at Dominion Convention. As a result, the Committee was tasked with revising the two ceremonies to avoid duplication. This included ensuring that the LAC for the 2014 Dominion Convention received appropriate information regarding ceremonial and Colour Party protocol for the various Convention ceremonial events. The Committee Chairman reports that the revised

opening ceremony for Dominion Convention, as approved by DEC, will be implemented in 2014.

COMMITTEE WEBSITE LINK

The Committee Secretary continues to be in contact with the Marketing and Communications section and is following the progress on the Ritual and Awards information being posted on the Legion web site. The Marketing Director reports that work continues on the site and the Ritual and Awards section. Once the Committee’s section appears on the website, the Committee will then continue to improve and expand the website section.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

The Ritual and Awards Committee has taken an active part in making suggestions and comments to the Focus on the Future Committee. This included a report on the Focus on the Future initiatives being undertaken by the Ritual and Awards Committee. The Committee has also taken an active part in implementing changes that

emanated from a review of the Legion's Marketing and Communications Strategies.

RESOLUTIONS

In preparation for the Dominion Convention, the committee reviewed a total of 5 resolutions. All were non-concurred by the committee.

NATIONAL HONOURS

Following the 2012 Convention, and at the request of the Dominion President, the committee was tasked with the responsibility of National Honours. This included a meeting with the Acting Director of Honours, The Chancellery of Honours at Rideau Hall, to determine what National Honours were available to Legion members and the criteria for such awards. Following this meeting, the committee drafted a section for our Ritual, Awards and Protocol manual to make the membership aware of what National Awards are available, the criteria for the various awards, and how the committee could assist in making application for such awards. This new section received D.E.C. approval and is contained in the new manual.

HONOUR ROLL INITIATIVE

A new initiative was introduced by the Ritual and Awards Committee that has received DEC approval for introduction at the 2014 Dominion Convention. This initiative involves the production of an Honour Roll similar to the ones currently located in Legion Branches, government buildings, schools and libraries across Canada that lists and honours those Veterans from their community who served in WWI, WWII and the War in Korea. The new Honour Roll being introduced will include the names

of Canadian Armed Forces, civilian police and firefighters, as well as other civilians who served in an operational theatre in one of the recognized Peacekeeping/Military missions since 1953 in which Canada participated. A presentation of this initiative will be given during the presentation of this report at the 2014 Dominion Convention.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Ritual and Awards Committee budget for the period 2012-2014 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I thank the Dominion President for his kind appointment to chair your committee. I also wish to thank the members of the Ritual and Awards Committee for their dedicated efforts and the members of the Dominion Command Staff for their diligence and support.

The Ritual and Awards Committee is committed to maintaining the highest standards for Legion awards, and for the protocol, ritual and ceremonies practiced by members, Branches and Commands of the Legion. The Committee is an active partner in the process of change and renewal currently taking place throughout the Legion. This committee remains fully committed to these goals.

I would now ask a member of the Dominion Executive Council to move adoption of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	1,224	1,213	1,900	1,938	1,977
PER DIEM	2,817	2,723	3,800	3,876	3,954
PRINTING, STATIONERY	230	-	500	510	520
TELEPHONE & FAX	64	65	200	204	208
POSTAGE	456	102	500	510	520
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	1,339	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	4,633	3,831	-	-	-
TOTAL	10,763	7,934	6,900	7,038	7,179

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
**CONSTITUTION *and* LAWS
COMMITTEE**

J. Rycroft, *Chairman*
D. Eaton, *Vice-Chairman*
T. Irvine, *Member*
G. O'Dair, *Member*
S. Clark, *Secretary*
D. Martin, *Assistant Secretary*

GENERAL

The purpose of this Committee is to advise the Legion on constitutional matters arising from interpretation of the Act of Incorporation and The General By-Laws which occurred between Conventions. All requests for rulings are to be directed to the Secretary of the Committee at Dominion Command; committee consideration is then coordinated via electronic means only – email or teleconference.

THE GENERAL BY-LAWS MANUAL

The General By-Laws manual was revised and distributed by 1 October 2012.

AMENDMENTS TO PROVINCIAL COMMAND BY-LAWS

In 2012-2014, the Committee reviewed and approved proposed amendments to the Provincial Command By-Laws for eight commands.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

Since the last Convention held in Halifax, NS in June 2012, the Dominion Executive Council has approved six By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 and 89 are presented with this report and are submitted to this convention for ratification under Section 6(2) of the Legion's Act to Incorporate. If not ratified, they will cease to have effect at the end of this convention.

BY - LAW NO. 84

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 14th day of June 2012 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SECTION 505.

Replace the current wording of Section 505. with:

505. Subject to Section 5 of the Act and these By-Laws and except with respect to the revocation of charters and the revocation of membership, the provincial president and the provincial executive council shall exercise within their jurisdiction like powers to those granted to the Dominion President and the Dominion Executive Council under Article IV, subject to any obligation contained therein, including measures set out in Sections 419 and 420 of these By-Laws.

SUBSECTION 418.a.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 418.a. with:

418.a. The Dominion President may, after enquiry and for cause clearly stated, revoke or suspend the charter or powers of any command, branch or auxiliary, or suspend any officer thereof, or revoke the membership of any member, or take any other action necessary or advisable for the good of the Legion, and shall report to the Dominion Executive Council upon the action taken.

BY - LAW NO. 85

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 8th day of September 2012 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SUBSECTION 304.e.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 304.e. with:

304.e. Where the complaint is against a current or former Branch President, Zone, District or Provincial Command

officer, and where it relates to an alleged offence arising out of their duties while serving or having served in this position, it must be lodged with the Provincial Secretary.

SUBSECTION 304.f.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 304.f. with:

304.f. Where the complaint is against a current or former Provincial President or a Dominion Command Officer, and where it relates to an alleged offence arising out of their duties while serving or having served in this position, it must be lodged with the Dominion Secretary.

SUB-SUBSECTION 304.b.iii.

Amend the current wording of Sub-subsection 304.b.iii. to read:

304.b.iii. sign the complaint;

SUB-SUBSECTION 304.b.iv.

Insert as Sub-subsection 304.b.iv.:

304.b.iv. Enclose payment of a complaint filing fee in the amount of \$100 payable to the Branch or Command with which the complaint is filed. The filing fee shall be returned to the complainant unless the complaint is dismissed in its entirety at the complaint hearing; and

SUB-SUBSECTION 304.b.iv.

Re-number the current Sub-subsection 304.b.iv. to read 304.b.v.

SECTION 506.

506. A Command shall make provision in its By-Laws for implementation and management of administrative fees for lodging complaints and appeals under Article III of these By-Laws.

BY - LAW NO. 86

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council via consensus by E-mail this 9th day of May 2013 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Insert after Section 929:

COMPLIANCE WITH CANADIAN LAW

930. The Royal Canadian Legion will be governed by An Act to Incorporate The Royal Canadian Legion and these By-Laws.

931. To comply with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, in an off-Convention year at Command level, there shall be an annual meeting held which will have as a minimum the following agenda:

- a.* Presentation of the audited financial statements.
- b.* Approval of the auditors.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

932. In the case of Dominion Command, notice shall be provided in a Legion Magazine issue not more than 90 days and not less than 21 days before the annual meeting.

Notice shall specify:

The Dominion Executive Council of The Royal Canadian Legion hereby gives notice of an Annual General Meeting of the organization which will take place at (time), (date), (location).

Agenda for the meeting:

- a.* Presentation of the audited financial statements.
- b.* Approval of the auditors for (years).

This meeting is being held to fulfill the requirements of the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act. Members wishing to make comment or raise

questions on these two items may do so by written submission to Dominion Command, 86 Aird Place, Ottawa, ON K2L 0A1 to be received no later than (date 30 days prior to the meeting).

Documentation pertaining to the annual meeting shall be made available on the Legion website at www.legion.ca at least 21 days prior to the annual meeting or upon written request by a member enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope received at Dominion Command at least 14 days prior to the annual meeting.

- 933.** Members may make submissions on the agenda items in writing to Dominion Command which will be considered at the meeting if received at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 934.** A quorum for the meeting shall be 15 members of The Royal Canadian Legion.

PROVINCIAL COMMANDS

935. Every Provincial Command shall make provisions in its By-Laws for notice of and the holding of an Annual Meeting in the off-Provincial Convention year which will have as a minimum the following agenda:

- a. Presentation of the audited financial statements.
- b. Approval of the auditors.

BY - LAW NO. 87

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 23rd day of February 2014 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SUBSECTION 101.d.

Insert as Subsection 101.d.:

101.d. VETERAN: A Veteran is any person who is serving or who has honourably served in the Canadian Armed Forces,

the Commonwealth or its wartime allies, or as a regular member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, or as a Peace Officer in a Special Duty Area, or on a Special Duty Operation, or who has served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime.

SUBSECTIONS 101.d TO 101.o.

Re-number the current Subsections 101.d. - 101.o. to 101.e - 101.p.

SUB-SUBSECTION 1104.a.i.

Replace the current wording of Sub-subsection 1104.a.i. with:

1104.a.i. a Veteran and their family who are in need of assistance.

BY - LAW NO. 88

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council via consensus by E-mail this 6th day of March 2014 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SECTION 602.

Delete Section 602 in its entirety.

SECTIONS 603-618.

Re-number the current Sections 603-618 to 602-617.

BY - LAW NO. 89

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council via consensus by E-mail this 24th day of March 2014 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SECTIONS 222-224.

Delete Sections 222-224.

SECTIONS 225-229.

Re-number the current Sections 225-229 to 222-226.

NEW CANADA NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATIONS ACT

The new Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act (CNCA) came into effect on 17 October 2011. Not-for-Profit organizations were given three years to comply with this new Act. The committee assessed the impact of this new legislation on the organization, seeking input from both Industry Canada and a leading expert in charity and not-for-profit law.

The Legion opted to continue to be governed by our own Special Act of Incorporation legislation but to be compliant with CNCA, we must hold an annual meeting in non-Convention years. This requirement has now been implemented at the Dominion Command and Provincial Command levels.

THE GREAT WAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

The Great War Veterans Association (GWVA) is also affected by the new CNCA. The GWVA is incorporated under the Canada Corporations Act and not the Special Act of Incorporation, as with The Royal Canadian Legion. Although no Veterans or branches of the GWVA remain, the Legion committed in 1974 to protect the name from use by any other group. In order to protect the name, honour the association and eliminate any need to pursue compliancy with the CNCA, the Legion has now trademarked "The Great War Veterans'

Association of Canada" name; the Charter will now be surrendered.

EXPULSION PROCEDURE

It has been Legion practice that any disposition of expulsion is not confirmed until received and reviewed by Dominion Command. This administrative practice is not consistent with subsection 310.b. of The General By-Laws. An expulsion recommended at the branch level, therefore, will now be served on and reviewed by the Provincial Command as the next superior command.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Constitution and Laws Committee budget for the period 2014-2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will be deferred until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

I would now ask a member of the Dominion Executive Council to move acceptance of my report.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	1,664	76	200	204	208
PER DIEM	651	165	600	612	624
PRINTING, STATIONERY	419	404	500	510	520
TELEPHONE & FAX	111	69	100	102	104
POSTAGE	295	420	350	357	364
MISCELLANEOUS	-	224	100	102	104
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OF OLD STOCK	1,618	-	1,800	1,836	1,873
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	4,537	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
TOTAL	9,296	1,358	8,650	8,823	8,999

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

C.R. Paul, *President*
K. Merola, *First Vice-President*
P. Varga, *Second Vice-President*
M. Wolfe, *Secretary Treasurer*
B. Wignes, *Past President*

GREETINGS

On behalf of the four TVS branches and their members we express greetings to all delegates to convention and members of the Dominion Executive Council for a successful convention here in Edmonton.

INTRODUCTION

Bi-annually in conjunction with the Dominion Convention members and delegates of the Tuberculosis Veterans Section gather to conduct their own convention. The last convention was held in June 2012 in Halifax, NS.

At our last convention, delegates re-elected me to a second term as their President. I follow in the footsteps of many dedicated comrades who have been successful in maintaining a solid voice for lung disabled veterans and their families. I am committed to doing my best and to continue to be an active voice for lung impaired veterans and their families. We, like most Legion Branches strive to increase membership and try to maintain a high level of renewals. Unfortunately due to deaths our numbers shrink monthly. Because of the fact that only comrades with lung ailments and or those that are chest disabled can join TVS, we don't have a lot of people to recruit from. We rely on those comrades in the Legion that would like to support us to Dual In to one of our Branches. I would like to thank those on Dominion council that have supported TVS over the years.

HISTORY

A brief historical overview is offered to remind Legionnaires of the special relationship of the Tuberculosis Veterans Section to the Royal Canadian Legion. The Tuberculosis Veterans Association of Canada (TVA) was organized in 1917.

In 1925 when Field Marshal Earl Haig came to Canada to urge the formation of the Canadian Legion, TVA had over 7,000 members and had been very successful in obtaining war disability pensions for respiratory disabled veterans.

The TVS gave the Legion its financial start by providing \$10,000.00, which in the early 1920's was considered a substantial sum. The TVS also made available to the Legion a number of very experienced service officers who had proven their value in dealing with thousands of claims, and who were familiar with veteran's legislation.

TVA took a prominent part in the Unity Convention held in Winnipeg in November 1925. On the 1st of September 1926 in Victoria, B.C., the most solemn Articles of Faith were signed by Sir Percy Lake, thus creating the Tuberculosis Veterans Section (TVS) of the Canadian Legion.

CONVENTION

In keeping with practices established prior to the Unity Convention in 1925, we the Tuberculosis Veterans Association (TVA) and the Tuberculosis Veterans Section (TVS) held our convention on June 9th 2012 in Halifax. This convention reconfirmed its commitment to represent the special interests of respiratory disabled veterans for the immediate future.

Reports were tabled by the four designated TVS branches. These reports are retained by the National Secretary -Treasurer along with minutes. Copies are also sent on to Dominion Command.

The Tuberculosis Veterans Section (TVS) has maintained four branches since the last convention. These branches exist in Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon and Saint John. Total membership stands at under 500 as of the end of 2013. This is a decrease of a small number of members. We face the same membership challenges as regular legion branches. While the decline in membership is due in the most part to the deaths of many aging members, several have been due to non-renewals. All branches are working to re-connect with these non-renewals to bring them back into the legion family.

ACTIVITIES

Since the convention in June 2012 we have had four teleconference calls. The executive is presenting a resolution to accept the revised by-laws; to our 2014 TVS Convention; for approval. Once TVS has passed the resolution to accept the revised by-laws, the by-laws will be forwarded to DEC for approval.

Branches held scholarship meetings, worked hard through the Poppy Campaign, held and took part in Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Many Branch members also visited public school to assist the students with their Remembrance Day Services.

We endeavor to work closely within the community by working with local branches in our cities, through the zones or districts, and with our Provincial Commands respectfully.

GENERAL

TUBERCULOSIS:

Most people in Canada don't worry about Tuberculosis, it seems to effect people world wide but not so much here, usually any cases of TB are in the North among our first nations peoples. At one time TB was thought to be totally eradicated but now its on the rise again.

Tuberculosis news articles appear to be on the increase as of late. From Saskatchewan news media outlets several articles have appeared since we last met in Halifax.

In Dec 2012 a student on the campus at University of Saskatchewan tested positive for active TB. Hundreds of student and faculty members; who may have come in contact with the infected

student; were notified and while the risk was low for these individuals all received letters advising them to be tested. The last news report specified that 589 individuals tested have been cleared and no new active TB cases had been found at the university. Since the news report and follow-up of this story, many individuals had still not come forward to be tested.

A news article from the 6th of November 2013 shares information related to a new Mobile Drug Resistant Test Device. In 2012 an estimated 8.6 million people globally developed TB with 1.3 million deaths reported. This new rapid test will be called Q-TB, and is based on a DNA sputum analysis. The results will also help in diagnosing the treatment of the patient. Interested in the full story google Science Daily and click on news.

In Saskatchewan, the Health Minister hopes to launch a new multi year strategy to combat TB in Saskatchewan. There are approximately 80 cases reported each year in the province. With this in mind we must strive to keep the efforts on going in our fight to eliminate this disease.

CONCLUSION:

As I come to the end of my second term as TVS President I would like to thank the members of the Dominion Executive Council, the Dominion Secretary and his staff for their kind words, their friendship and most of all their guidance in assisting me through these last 4 years. I must also thank the members of our TVS Branches across Canada and their Provincial Representatives.

I move acceptance of my report.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

L. Murray, *Chairman*
G. Moore, *Member*
T. Eagles, *Member*
Defence and Security Cttee, *Members*
C. Belzile, *Member*
B. White, *Secretary*

GENERAL

As previously reported to the delegates at convention the focus of this committee has been to bring the various veterans organizations in Canada together to discuss issues facing our serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and our veterans. This has proven to be a very valuable forum in turbulent times for veterans' issues in Canada.

At the request of those attending the meetings the frequency of meetings was increased to two per year. In 2012 one meeting was held in November while in 2013 a meeting was held in April and again in October. I am pleased to report that attendance at these meetings has grown and over 20 groups with 50 representatives attended the meeting in October 2013.

ISSUES

I mentioned that the veteran world has been turbulent over the past two years. As a result of the gaps in the New Veterans Charter this has become a focus for discussions within the group. Collectively the group has been able to reach a consensus on the issues which have been brought to the attention of the government. It was hoped that the 2014 budget would have addressed them but it did not. The main issues deal with those who are most severely disadvantaged by their injuries and comprise the following:

- The Earning Loss Benefit (ELB) must be improved to provide 100% of pre-release income, continue for life and include increases for projected career earnings for a Canadian Armed Forces member;
- The maximum disability award must be increased consistent with what is provided to injured civilian workers who received general damages in law court; and
- The current inequity with regards to ELB for Class A and Class B (less than 180 days) Reservists for service attributable injuries must cease.

The Legion has long advocated for these changes and this will become a major focus of our advocacy efforts since these issues were not addressed in the 2014 budget.

Other issues of concern or discussion items are:

- **Funeral and Burial Benefits.** Legion advocacy, supported by the other groups, resulted in an increase in eligibility and budget to the Last Post Fund to be able to provide funeral and burial benefits for those in need. The Legion actively discussed these issues directly with the Minister of Finance and his staff.
- **Government Funding for Veterans.** As mentioned previously, the consensus is that services for veterans should not be adversely affected through budget reductions or the organizational transition of VAC. All continue to watch this closely.
- **Research.** The Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Research is becoming the research clearing house for our veterans and serving members. This institute continues to grow and is becoming more recognized.
- **New Veterans Charter (NVC).** The review of the NVC presents new opportunities for all organizations to make presentations on how best to improve services and benefits for veterans. The principal issues listed above are ones that can be fixed now without a long extended review. The Legion's focus will be to increase advocacy to ensure that these solutions are actively considered and pursued.
- **Use of Assist Animals for Therapy.** Again this type of therapy is receiving more prominence than ever before. The Legion has considered it through the VSS Committee.

Those are the major issues currently being discussed by the Committee and the various veterans' organizations.

BUDGET

The Veterans Consultation Group Committee budget is enclosed with this report. Delegates may raise any questions concerning the budget at this time, but motions for change will have to wait until the full budget is brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

This forum for discussion allows for honest and frank discussion with our comrades from other organizations. It permits us to find consensus

on issues of urgency that can further assist our veterans and their families. This forum also serves to break down individual organizational barriers and provides an opportunity for the Legion to demonstrate its professionalism and programs to assist veterans.

Thank you Comrades. I move acceptance of this report as presented.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	2,740	5,599	5,100	5,202	5,306
PER DIEM	2,643	4,616	5,100	5,202	5,306
PRINTING & OFFICE	28	-	50	51	52
TELEPHONE	31	41	50	51	52
POSTAGE	17	-	50	51	52
MISCELLANEOUS	-	374	50	51	52
TOTAL	5,459	10,631	10,400	10,608	10,820

G. Moore, *Chairman*
All Members SEO, *Members*
D. Jones, *Member*
L. Murray, *Facilitator*
B. White, *Secretary*

GENERAL

Comrades, it has been four years since this Committee has been in existence. At the last Dominion Convention you approved an updated mission statement, a new vision statement and our core values. So where have we been focusing on from there?

The mission of the Committee has always been to:

“To examine the operations of The Royal Canadian Legion and to provide recommendations to the Dominion Executive Council which would lay the foundation for future operations and planning within the Legion.”

Within that mission the Terms of Reference were to:

1. Review the Aims and Objects of the Legion.
2. To confirm our Mission Statement.
3. To develop a Vision Statement to support the long term viability of the Legion.
4. To prioritize programming.
5. To develop a long term financial plan to support programming.
6. To develop a branding strategy that will define the Legion, attract members and demonstrate our relevance in today’s Canada.
7. To develop a road map for our future.

Within that framework, I am happy to report that we have accomplished numbers 1, 2, and 3. We continue to develop together the other tasks and there is more work on the way.

Over the past two years we have actively sought your engagement and advice on where the Legion needs to go in the future. Through surveys and questionnaires at your provincial conventions we have encouraged your input. Your advice has been greatly welcomed and if the emails received to date are any indication, you are ready to take advantage of this Convention’s motto: **“Challenge, Opportunity, Change”**. So where are we today?

NATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGY

Clearly through your input that indicates a large demand for training material, we continue to develop a national training strategy that is accessible and easy to use. With the improved Legion web site, more will be available in the near future that is ready to use and easily adaptable to your situation.

PROGRAM REVIEW

In past years program reviews have held a negative connotation and usually resulted in requests for more money. That is the wrong way to look at program reviews. Reviews being conducted today by your Committees are looking at programs that have not been altered in years with a view to updating the programs and ensuring that your monies are being well spent. This is a change that is needed throughout the Legion. We collectively are accepting of the status quo and that has not helped in advancing our programs to meet the needs of our members or in attracting new members. We need to continue reviewing our activities at all times. Your input through the questionnaires has really helped in this area that needs to happen at all levels of the Legion.

Money is tight! This is no revelation but program reviews continue to ensure that you are getting the best value for you membership dues at all levels of the Legion.

CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

For too long we have lived in a “US and THEM” environment. This needs to stop. The Committee has actively sought your engagement on the future of the Legion. We need the input and the reality check on what we can collectively accomplish. It is understood that we all have different levels of engagement and focus. Many branches are suffering terribly and do not have time to worry about national level issues. That said, our veterans are among us and we need to listen to what their needs are. Our communities need us, as we are the largest community volunteer organization in the country. We cannot let them down; we need to be

the cornerstone of the community, the Guardians of Remembrance and the providers of assistance. That is and will be our legacy.

To achieve this, we all need to be engaged and committed.

NEXT STEPS

So what is left to do and what is next? Membership is the lifeblood of the organization. And I now challenge you: Are we reaching out to potential members and service personnel or are we perpetuating that old problem of being content in our worlds and not letting anyone else in? Ask yourselves that question and see what answer you get. Not only yourself, but ask the members of your branch what are they doing to encourage an engaged and active membership! The answers vary but there is one thing in common, if we are not concerned about renewing and building our membership, we will fade away. I am not sure that is what we want to happen.

So where do we go from here? We need to continually review our activities and plan for the future. We do need a plan, not just at the

Dominion level but one that is right and suited at the local level, one that suits your specific needs. We need to continually review our programs and be fiscally accountable for what we do. We need to respect our Aims and Objects and to follow them. We need to be strong Legionnaires who are ready to face the challenges, seize the opportunities and to make the changes necessary that will take us into the future.

BUDGET

For your information a copy of the Focus on the Future Budget is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning the Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, the choice are ours. The challenges are great but the opportunities are even greater.

I move acceptance of my report.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
FOCUS ON THE FUTURE COMMITTEE**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	15,939	10,713	6,500	6,630	6,763
PER DIEM	14,458	9,721	6,500	6,630	6,763
PRINTING & OFFICE	86	39	50	51	52
POSTAGE	49	21	50	51	52
TELEPHONE & FAX	56	43	50	51	52
SURVEY & COMMUNICATIONS	219	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	250	255	260
TOTAL	30,807	20,537	13,400	13,668	13,941

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

E. Pigeau, *Chairman*
J. Frost, *Vice-Chairman*
W. Edmond, *Member*
P. Miller, *Member*
M.A. Misfeldt, *Member*
B. Misener, *Member*
A. Parks, *Member*
G. Peters, *Member*
P. Poirier, *Member*
P. Varga, *Member*
S. Wessel, *Member*
T. Irvine, *Contributor*
S. Clark, *Secretary*

GENERAL

The purpose of this committee is the development and maintenance of programs designed to promote leadership training within the Legion. While this committee will not be responsible to organize or conduct training sessions, it will assist in the development of seminars to be presented by Provincial Commands and branches or for the independent review by members. Since its formation following the 2012 Dominion Convention, the members have met six times; with the exception of the inaugural meeting, all meetings are conducted by teleconference.

MODULES

Ten individual modules group a variety of topics where training will be focused. This information will benefit members who wish to take on leadership positions at all levels of the organization or simply to increase their knowledge of the Legion. The modules are Legion Orientation; Branch Management; Job Descriptions and Responsibilities; Elections; Honours, Awards and Protocol; Commemorations and Ceremonial; Public Relations and Community Outreach; Conducting Meetings and the Democratic Process; Listening and Interpersonal Skills; Mediation and Conflict Resolution.

INPUT FROM PROVINCIAL COMMANDS

Collaboration and communication with Provincial Commands was essential to the committee's work. Many Commands already have established leadership training programs and the ideas and material they shared proved to be a valuable resource.

WEBSITE

The Dominion Command website will be the medium to make this resource available, providing a central location for members to find the information they require. The educational tools in support of each module will be provided in a variety of formats, such as webinars, downloadable files, brochures, audio, video and website links.

An opt-in opportunity will also be available: module registrants can opt-in to receive an automated email advising of updates as new information becomes available in that module.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Leadership Development Committee budget for the period 2014-2016 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this committee will be deferred until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

I move acceptance of my report.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
TRAVEL	6,953	-	500	510	520
PER DIEM	7,222	-	500	510	520
PRINTING & OFFICE	17	76	100	102	104
POSTAGE	-	-	100	102	104
TELEPHONE & FAX	23	142	200	204	208
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	500	510	520
TOTAL	14,215	218	1,900	1,938	1,977

REPORT OF THE DOMINION SECRETARY

B. White, *Dominion Secretary*
S. Clark, *Director Administration*
R. McInnis, *Director Service Bureau*
T. Murphy, *Director Finance*
S. Ferris, *Director Marketing
and Membership*
P. Underhill, *Director Supply*

INTRODUCTION

Comrades, it is my pleasure to be able to report on the activities at Dominion Command since my last report to Convention in 2012. As I reported back in 2012, these past two year have been active for Dominion Command and the Staff at Legion House. Our role is to support the Elected Officers of the Legion by providing administrative support and issues management, to conduct the day to day business of the Dominion Command Committees and to provide services to our provincial commands, branches and most importantly to our members.

The Staff at Legion House are as concerned as you are about our future. I can honestly state that we have the most dedicated and committed Staff than any other organization that we do business with.

These past two years have been ones of change; something that we promised before and something that we are delivering on. In keeping with the theme of this convention, “**Challenge, Opportunity, Change**”, we have embraced many challenges, realized the opportunities and are making changes. Through the many provincial convention questionnaires, we are listening to what you, our members, want us to move forward with. We are embracing technology to simplify the passage of information, to reduce needless costs of wasted and endless reproduction of paper and to reduce the costs of getting that information to you. Our new web site is a wealth of information and contains all the up to date material and manuals that you need. It also provides all the advocacy positions of the Legion as approved by our Committees.

As we move forward with implementing change, I want to highlight a few areas where we have made great progress in the past two years.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

At last year’s provincial conventions, you started to see the results of how we are making changes

at Dominion Command and increasing our ability to communicate and market the Legion. Comrade Scott Ferris was given the opportunity to attend most if not all provincial conventions and to provide a briefing on marketing and membership. This briefing resonated with many and the positive comments in return have been encouraging. But not only in the marketing sense, we have also practically doubled our outreach and communication ability with a renewed sense of national advocacy. Through your Dominion Command Committees we have effectively been able to influence government decisions for the betterment of our Veterans. The Funeral and Burial benefits increases and eligibility criteria are great examples of our newfound voice. There is certainly more that has occurred as reported in the Committee reports and there will certainly be more to follow.

In working with the Membership Committee we are also bringing changes to increase our membership. Membership is the lifeblood of any organization and we need to continually focus on engaging and renewing our members. As well, we need to provide a welcoming atmosphere to attract new members, both military and non military. The online membership process is beginning to bear fruits and members are transferring their membership to local branches. It continues to be a work in progress as we learn each day how to improve. I am very pleased at the progress of the Marketing and Membership Department and the people that we have there.

Our Supply Department continues to focus on the provision of service. Comrade Peter and his crew manage and coordinate not only the provision of essential services to the Legion through the supply chain management but as well our retail aspect. The web store is doing well and more recently we have added the Poppy Web Store that provides excellent products to all. Comrades, revenues generated through these sales go back into our programs. We all benefit through strong sales.

The Service Bureau provides what I call the sharp end of our business by providing counselling and benevolent assistance to our Veterans. Yes, we are seeing an increased need for these services not only at the national level but also right down to the branch level. Our Canadian Armed Forces have gone through an intensive period of deployment and warfare. These Veterans live in our hometowns and we know them, now we need to reach out to them and give them the assistance they need. They deserve no less. We have undergone some extensive personnel changes in the Service Bureau since the last convention, but these are dedicated and committed personnel who deeply care for our Veterans and I commend them for the countless hours that they commit to our Veterans, not only at the national level but also at the provincial level and especially our volunteer service officers at the branches. Our veterans are our raison d'être.

The Administration Department is where the rubber hits the road. All of the Legion's programs are managed through the Administration Department as well as all the administration needed to run the Legion, Dominion Command and support the Committees. Comrade Steven and his personnel are adept at providing the best service for the best price to ensure that our programs are well managed and coordinated.

We sometimes joke that the Finance Department is one that exists but rarely understand how it works. I have to give Comrade Tim and his personnel due credit for all that they do for the entire Legion in keeping our books and in keeping all the financial records in top shape. The audits

certainly attest to the professionalism of those in our Finance Department and their dedication.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, when I first stepped on to this stage in 2010 to provide you with my report, I promised you that Dominion Command is open for business. We have made great strides forward since then and continue to evolve to meet the needs of our Veterans and our organization. In conjunction with the Dominion Executive Council and the continuing efforts of the Focus on the Future Committee, Dominion Command continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the Legion.

Before, I close; I would like to thank all of you on behalf of the staff at Dominion Command. Without you and your commitment, we, as an organization, cannot meet our stated Aims and Objects. Imagine your community and our Veterans without our local Legion branches; what a sad world that would be.

I would ask a member of the Senior Elected Officers to move the adoption of my report.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

M. Cook, *Chairman*
 G. Moore, *Vice-Chairman*
 B. White, *Member*
 T. Murphy, *Secretary*

This Committee has the responsibility for the investment of the funds that were originally collected, the reinvestment of the earnings generated by the Fund and to ensure all disbursements are in accordance with the mandate of Convention.

This fund was instituted by Convention as a perpetual memorial to those who have fallen in the service of Canada. By the mandate of Convention, the Fund can only be used to supplement Track and Field when required and other special projects as agreed by Convention. Convention has also directed that the base amount in the Fund must not fall below \$1,500,000.

The total balance in the Fund as at December 31, 2013 was \$1,817,846. These funds are invested in the following areas. \$885,000 was invested in Government bonds, \$575,000 was invested in a Pooled Bond Fund that contains a mixed portfolio of consisting of various corporate bonds, \$335,000 in a Pooled Equities Fund with the balance in short term deposits and cash.

The earnings yield on investments for 2012 was 3.4% and 2.5% for 2013.

Interest rates are still at historic lows and have been for the past several years. This has reduced our investment returns. As our higher earning older bonds mature they are replaced by new

bonds at the current rates available. It is hard to predict investment markets trends but interest rates increases are expected to be modest over the next two years.

Our current bond holdings have interest rates that range from 1.90% to 4.90%. Two years ago the range was 3.05% to 6.0%. Our forecast for returns on investments for 2014 and 2015 are 2.90% and 3.10% respectively.

The Fund has provided a grant for the annual Legion National Track and Field Championships. For the period from 1996 to 1997 and from 1999 to 2006 this grant was \$125,000 per year and in 1998 an additional \$125,000 was provided for a total of \$250,000 for that year. From 2007 to 2009, the grant was reduced to \$75,000 in order to help preserve the Fund balance. Starting 2010 the grant has been temporarily suspended to give the Fund a chance to rebuild itself. The balance in the Fund will be reviewed annually to see when a grant can be reinstated.

A summary of the Operations of the Fund from its inception in 1966 to 2013, a total of 47 years of activity, can be found in schedule A (attached). An analysis of the changes in the Fund balance is presented below.

I move the acceptance of my report.

FUND BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER:

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
	\$1,737,641	\$1,784,164	\$1,817,846	\$1,853,000	\$1,890,000
DECREASE - INCREASE +	+4.8%	+2.68%	+1.90%	+2.00%	+2.00%

SCHEDULE A—CENTENNIAL FUND

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE AND FUND BALANCE FROM JANUARY 1, 1966 TO DECEMBER 31, 2013

REVENUE			6,362,544
EXPENSE			
ACTION PROGRAM			133,817
DOMINION COMMAND			
TRACK AND FIELD	1974 - 1992	2,174,724	
TRACK AND FIELD	1996 -2009	1,725,000	3,899,724
GERIATRIC FELLOWSHIP	1981 - 1992		1,152,015
FUND MANAGEMENT FEES	1996 - 2013		388,198
			<u>5,573,754</u>
NET REVENUE			788,790
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS			1,029,056
FUND BALANCE (INCLUDING UNREALIZED GAINS) AT DECEMBER 31, 2013			<u>1,817,846</u>

Action Program—Promotion, publicity, travel and administration.

Dominion Command Track and Field—Thirty meets involving approximately 11,800 participants in total.

Geriatric Fellowship—Training for 91 doctors, 50 nurses, 11 physiotherapists and 9 occupational therapists.

Fund Management Fees—Administration fees for investment fund management by RBC Phillips Hager & North investments.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
FINANCE / BUDGET COMMITTEE

M. Cook, *Chairman*
G. Moore, *Vice-Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Member*
D. Flannigan, *Member*
T. Irvine, *Member*
P. Piper, *Member*
E. Pigeau, *Member*
P. Varga, *Member*
T. Murphy, *Secretary*
B. White, *Assistant Secretary*

The Dominion Executive Council approved a presentation to Convention by the Finance / Budget Committee on the requirement for a per capita tax increase. The full report and recommendation of the Committee will be distributed at registration.

At the 2006 Convention a Per Capita Tax increase of \$4.50 was approved. At that time it was acknowledged that in the early years this increase would contribute to an operating surplus but with steadily declining membership numbers we would eventually move into a deficit. To plan for this eventuality surpluses generated by this increase were put into a Per Capita Tax Reserve. This reserve peaked at the end of 2011 at \$4,115,869 and since then we have had to draw down \$956,899 of this reserve to fund the operating deficits in 2012 and 2013.

Comrades, since we last met, the number of members has fallen by 24,750. With the continuing reduction in the number of members it is expected that this reserve will be fully depleted by the end of the first quarter of 2016.

To stop this draw on the reserve and to offset the decline in the membership numbers and the effects of inflation, a per capita tax increase will be proposed. Each delegate received a Finance / Budget Committee report at registration which will be presented for discussion and decision later in the proceedings.

On the Statement of Revenue and Expenses, I would like to highlight a few items.

Firstly, in the revenue section:

This is where we face our most serious challenges.

The funds generated by Per Capita Tax have declined steadily due to a reduction in the number of members in our organization. This is a serious problem for the Legion. Investment earnings have fallen from a peak of \$570,000 in 2008 to \$459,000 in 2013. Interest rates are at historically low levels and as bonds mature they are renewing at lower rates. As the three year budget projections show, this revenue source is expected to decline as investments will need to be cashed in to cover the operating deficits for this period. The impact of the decline in membership numbers has become evident in other areas as well. The amount generated by our MBNA

MasterCard is falling and Supply sales have softened.

What is different is that we are taking a proactive approach to the issue of declining membership. Various initiatives have been launched in an effort to boost the membership numbers.

On the expense side, I would like to point out the following.

Within the Department, Section and Committee budgets the current level of programs and services will be maintained. The only changes will be due to cost inflation and these will be minimal.

At the last Convention, it was recognized that we lacked the capacity to promote and market the Legion and its programs and activities. To be successful, we needed to attract members. To attract members, the public needed to know what the Legion does.

Since then, the communications strategy has been completely overhauled and a reorganization of the Membership and Communications and Outreach departments was completed. One department now handles marketing, membership and communications. As part of this, a new web site has been constructed; and press conferences and releases have become the regular practice. This has increased our profile in the country as evidenced by the increase in the number of queries from media and interest by other organizations in closer associations with the Legion. The Legion connection with the Canadian Forces has been strengthened through Military outreach initiatives such as promotion of Canadian Forces Appreciation Days, holding a Homeless Veterans Summit and our role in the Veterans Transition Network.

In the drive to improve membership numbers, the One-by-One campaign was launched. To assist Branches a membership recruitment kit will be released this year. Spring and fall membership drives were initiated; with mail outs to households that are not on the Legion membership list and

inserts that were placed in community based newspapers. To try to obtain an alternate stream of funds, on Line memberships were initiated in November 2013.

I would point out to continue to operate in a deficit position is unsustainable as the projections show. An examination of the current level of programs and services may have to be undertaken at some point to achieve a breakeven point in the operations.

Attached are the financial statements with the actual results for 2012 and 2013 and the forecasts for 2014 through 2016.

Finally, I propose that our auditors, for these many years, Price Waterhouse Coopers be retained.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that Price Waterhouse Coopers be re-appointed as our auditors for the ensuring years 2014 and 2015.

Comrades, we have provided you with a full accounting of the actual expenses for the years 2012 and 2013 and estimates for the next three years. I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have concerning these.

I move acceptance of my report.

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
PER CAPITA TAX	5,740,478	6,309,064	6,050,000	5,796,920	5,543,840
CANVET					
AGENCY FEE & SUPPORT	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
INVESTMENT INCOME	460,137	459,261	435,000	421,950	392,414
SERVICE BUREAU REVENUE	608,000	553,000	636,000	616,325	660,651
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT	1,853,490	1,728,020	1,800,000	1,735,000	1,664,662
LEGION HOUSE					
TENANTS	72,439	72,438	72,000	72,000	72,000
INTERNAL	316,000	316,000	316,000	316,000	316,000
MISCELLANEOUS					
MASTER CARD	75,043	64,966	62,000	59,584	57,169
OTHER	89,080	64,778	65,000	65,000	65,000
ESTATE BEQUEST	-	240,212	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	9,614,666	10,207,739	9,836,000	9,482,779	9,171,736
EXPENSE					
LEGION MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	2,449,530	3,164,096	3,015,000	2,889,720	2,764,440
ADMINISTRATION	873,184	879,113	917,000	935,339	954,047
IT SECTION	297,483	279,901	305,200	311,304	317,530
MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP	-	963,367	932,600	951,252	970,277
MARKETING (FORMERLY OUTREACH)	341,937	-	-	-	-
MEMBERSHIP	568,145	-	-	-	-
MARKETING, ADVERTISING, PROMOTION	-	432,046	489,000	498,780	508,756
FINANCE	382,490	385,699	398,600	406,572	414,703
SERVICE BUREAU	756,608	675,636	794,300	770,406	825,814
SUPPLY	1,806,487	1,677,511	1,744,725	1,764,352	1,784,990
COMMITTEES	1,492,496	1,270,498	1,371,490	1,440,920	1,427,738
MISCELLANEOUS	210,946	155,755	163,500	171,770	170,205
DEPRECIATION	120,225	119,762	120,000	122,400	124,848
EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	394,024	415,138	415,000	423,300	431,766
LEGION HOUSE	334,257	332,967	334,000	340,680	347,494
TOTAL EXPENSE	10,027,812	10,751,491	11,000,415	11,026,795	11,042,608
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(413,146)	(543,752)	(1,164,415)	(1,544,016)	(1,870,872)
PER CAPITA TAX RESERVE UTILIZED	413,147	543,752	1,164,415	1,544,016	450,539
UNRESTRICTED SURPLUS UTILIZED	-	-	-	-	1,420,333
TOTAL RESERVES UTILIZED	413,147	543,752	1,164,415	1,544,016	1,870,872
NET INCOME (LOSS)	0	0	-	0	0

**DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
ADMINISTRATION**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	636,445	661,749	677,000	690,540	704,351
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	12,100	10,882	11,900	12,138	12,381
OTHER BENEFITS	56,929	60,398	63,000	64,260	65,545
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	7,437	8,846	8,100	8,262	8,427
TOTAL PERSONNEL	712,912	741,874	760,000	775,200	790,704
OFFICE SUPPLIES	62,324	35,069	53,000	54,060	55,141
TELEPHONE	11,625	14,425	13,000	13,260	13,525
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	10,940	13,078	12,000	12,240	12,485
PRINTING, STATIONERY	9,145	7,804	10,000	10,200	10,404
STAFF TRAVEL	607	754	1,000	1,020	1,040
INSURANCE	19,437	19,735	20,000	20,400	20,808
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,160	112,363
STAFF RECRUITMENT	4,313	7,718	6,000	6,120	6,242
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	7,708	4,848	7,000	7,140	7,283
TRAINING	8,174	7,809	9,000	9,180	9,364
TOTAL EXPENSE	958,184	964,113	1,002,000	1,022,040	1,042,481
LESS: CHARGED TO:					
MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
SERVICE BUREAU	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
POPPY FUND	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,500	26,010
	85,000	85,000	85,000	86,700	88,434
NET EXPENSE	873,184	879,113	917,000	935,340	954,047

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
IT SECTION (ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	201,321	171,568	173,000	176,460	179,989
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	3,600	2,825	3,100	3,162	3,225
OTHER BENEFITS	14,210	14,956	15,600	15,912	16,230
TOTAL PERSONNEL	219,130	189,349	191,700	195,534	199,445
OFFICE SUPPLIES	40	182	100	102	104
TELEPHONE	1,133	3,429	3,500	3,570	3,641
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	53	22	100	102	104
PRINTING, STATIONERY	227	141	300	306	312
STAFF TRAVEL	-	-	100	102	104
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,404
MISCELLANEOUS	88	44	400	408	416
NETWORK & PC					
MAINT. CONTRACTS/LEASES	54,620	60,822	69,000	70,380	71,788
PROGRAMMING & SUPPORT	2,685	7,506	20,000	20,400	20,808
SUPPLIES & OTHER	7,226	12,250	8,000	8,160	8,323
WEBSITE & INTERNET CONNECTIVITY & SUPPORT	26,281	20,157	26,000	26,520	27,050
TOTAL EXPENSE	321,483	303,901	329,200	335,784	342,500
LESS: CHARGED TO:					
ADMINISTRATION	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
FINANCE	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MEMBERSHIP	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MARKETING (OUTREACH)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
SERVICE BUREAU	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
SUPPLY	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
CANVET	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,480	24,970
NET EXPENSE	297,483	279,901	305,200	311,304	317,530

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
AGENCY FEE	-	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
TOTAL REVENUE	-	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	-	591,420	621,000	633,420	646,088
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	-	9,351	10,600	10,812	11,028
OTHER BENEFITS	-	59,099	60,000	61,200	62,424
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	-	20,627	20,000	20,400	20,808
TOTAL PERSONNEL	-	680,496	711,600	725,832	740,349
OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	3,746	9,000	9,180	9,364
TELEPHONE	-	8,813	8,000	8,160	8,323
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	-	39,468	40,000	40,800	41,616
PRINTING, STATIONERY	-	3,781	4,000	4,080	4,162
ON LINE MEMBERSHIP	-	31,876	-	-	-
STAFF TRAVEL	-	387	1,000	1,020	1,040
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	-	64,000	64,000	65,280	66,586
MISCELLANEOUS	-	3,064	7,000	7,140	7,283
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	-	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	-	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
MEMBERSHIP CARDS, FORMS AND PAPER	-	17,371	28,000	28,560	29,131
MEMBERSHIP PACK OUT	-	19,447	20,000	20,400	20,808
PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS	-	13,332	-	-	-
LEGION WEBSITE & INTERNET	-	3,743	4,000	4,080	4,162
WEBSITE UPGRADE	-	37,842	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	-	963,367	932,600	951,252	970,277
NET EXPENSE	-	563,367	532,600	551,252	570,277

**DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING (FORMERLY OUTREACH)**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	269,209	-	-	-	-
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	3,600	-	-	-	-
OTHER BENEFITS	24,141	-	-	-	-
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	296,950	-	-	-	-
OFFICE SUPPLIES	3,825	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE	4,650	-	-	-	-
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	654	-	-	-	-
PRINTING, STATIONERY	1,963	-	-	-	-
STAFF TRAVEL	59	-	-	-	-
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	19,000	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	1,999	-	-	-	-
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	-	-	-	-
NETWORK & PC					
MAINT. CONTRACTS/LEASES	-	-	-	-	-
PROGRAMMING & SUPPORT	-	-	-	-	-
SUPPLIES & OTHER	-	-	-	-	-
LEGION WEBSITE & INTERNET	1,361	-	-	-	-
WEBSITE UPGRADE	8,475	-	-	-	-
WEB STORE DEVELOPMENT	-	-	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE	341,937	-	-	-	-

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MEMBERSHIP SECTION (ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
AGENCY FEE	400,000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	400,000	-	-	-	-
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	340,743	-	-	-	-
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	6,600	-	-	-	-
OTHER BENEFITS	43,404	-	-	-	-
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	14,731	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	405,479	-	-	-	-
COMPUTER:					
MEMBERSHIP CARDS, FORMS AND PAPER	25,666	-	-	-	-
STATIONERY, SUPPLIES	3,432	-	-	-	-
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	45,000	-	-	-	-
MEMBERSHIP PACKOUT	11,615	-	-	-	-
POSTAGE & EXPRESS	36,996	-	-	-	-
PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS	-	-			
MISCELLANEOUS	4,430	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE	2,527	-	-	-	-
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	-	-	-	-
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	30,000	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	568,145	-	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE	(168,145)	-	-	-	-

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
MEDIA - PRINT					
CANVET ADS		30,442	29,700	30,294	30,900
ESPRIT DE CORPS		4,520	-	-	-
RCMP QUARTERLY		3,164	3,500	3,570	3,641
BASE NEWSPAPERS		-	-	-	-
VANGUARD		-	-	-	-
BLUE LINE		-	-	-	-
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC		18,645	26,000	26,520	27,050
UBIQUITOUS		480	5,000	5,100	5,202
ADVERTISING		-	5,000	5,100	5,202
PROMOTION		-	-	-	-
LEGION POLICY POSITIONS		18,296	18,000	18,360	18,727
ADVERTISING OTHER		4,131	19,800	20,196	20,600
MEDIA - AUDIO					
MEMORIAL CUP		1,180	8,000	8,160	8,323
BLUE JAYS		42,697	-	-	-
PSA'S		-	5,000	5,100	5,202
AUDIO - OTHER		109	-	-	-
MEDIA - VIDEO					
PSA'S		-	6,000	6,120	6,242
VIDEO - OTHER		-	25,000	25,500	26,010
MEDIA - INTERNET					
MEDIA INTERNET - OTHER		55,980	57,500	58,650	59,823
MEDIA - PUBLIC RELATIONS & EVENTS					
MEDIA COVERAGE & P.R. (T &F)		12,136	25,000	25,500	26,010
MEDIA COVERAGE & P.R. - OTHER		22,662	20,000	20,400	20,808

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION (CONT'D)

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS					
MEMBERSHIP GIFT PACK		4,051	-	-	-
FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR CF RETIREES		4,592	10,000	10,200	10,404
NON RENEWAL MAILERS		57,176	80,000	81,600	83,232
INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR RENEWALS / RECRUITMENTS (1 X 1)		23,393	25,000	25,500	26,010
EARLY BIRD CAMPAIGN		-	6,000	6,120	6,242
NEW RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN		63,374	20,000	20,400	20,808
MARKETING - PROGRAM		9,345	20,000	20,400	20,808
DESIGN PROGRAM		28,487	20,000	20,400	20,808
OTHER		15,485	10,000	10,200	10,404
OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL					
NEWS LETTER		1,715	-	-	-
FLYERS AND POSTCARDS		-	10,000	10,200	10,404
BOOKMARKS		-	3,500	3,570	3,641
WE CARE POSTER		-	5,000	5,100	5,202
EARLY BIRD POSTER		-	4,500	4,590	4,682
THE RCL & C.F. BROCHURE		-	6,000	6,120	6,242
RCL NEEDS YOU BROCHURE		-	6,000	6,120	6,242
POSTERS/BROCHURES		1,258	5,000	5,100	5,202
RCL WELCOMES YOU BROCHURE		-	4,500	4,590	4,682
OTHER		8,728	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE		432,046	489,000	498,780	508,756

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	358,212	368,435	375,000	382,500	390,150
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	6,600	6,063	6,600	6,732	6,867
OTHER BENEFITS	39,369	39,008	42,000	42,840	43,697
TOTAL PERSONNEL	404,182	413,505	423,600	432,072	440,713
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,369	1,353	2,000	2,040	2,081
TELEPHONE	2,559	3,184	2,500	2,550	2,601
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	6,144	5,572	8,000	8,160	8,323
PRINTING, STATIONERY	4,459	1,145	3,000	3,060	3,121
STAFF TRAVEL	307	226	500	510	520
AUDIT FEES	56,297	55,166	52,000	53,040	54,101
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,580	30,172
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	2,150	1,598	3,000	3,060	3,121
TOTAL EXPENSE	509,466	513,749	526,600	537,132	547,875
LESS: CHARGED TO:					
SUPPLY	51,977	53,050	53,000	54,060	55,141
CANVET	75,000	75,000	75,000	76,500	78,030
	126,977	128,050	128,000	130,560	133,171
NET EXPENSE	382,490	385,699	398,600	406,572	414,703

**DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
SERVICE BUREAU**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
POPPY FUND GRANT	608,000	553,000	636,000	616,325	660,651
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	501,051	503,032	564,000	575,280	586,786
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	9,600	8,113	9,800	9,996	10,196
OTHER BENEFITS	44,361	46,515	54,500	55,590	56,702
TOTAL PERSONNEL	555,012	557,661	628,300	640,866	653,683
OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	7,220	7,277	7,000	7,140	7,283
TELEPHONE	5,742	6,733	7,000	7,140	7,283
POSTAGE	6,555	9,194	10,000	10,200	10,404
STAFF TRAVEL	6,946	7,075	9,000	9,180	9,364
VAC - LIAISON	1,118	568	3,000	3,060	3,121
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	46,818
SERVICE OFFICERS CONFERENCE	35,576	-	39,000	-	40,000
LEGION CARES PROGRAM	57,670	-	-	-	-
ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION	-	8,022	10,000	10,200	10,404
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	2,770	1,106	3,000	3,060	3,121
TOTAL EXPENSE	756,608	675,636	794,300	770,406	825,814

**DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT**

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
SALES OF SUPPLIES	1,853,490	1,728,020	1,800,000	1,735,000	1,664,662
LESS COST OF GOODS	799,196	778,752	792,000	810,546	799,038
GROSS MARGIN	1,054,294	949,267	1,008,000	924,454	865,624
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	503,931	518,589	521,000	531,420	542,048
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	9,600	8,549	9,200	9,384	9,572
OTHER BENEFITS	60,946	64,144	69,000	70,380	71,788
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	44,683	21,339	42,000	42,840	43,697
TOTAL PERSONNEL	619,160	612,622	641,200	654,024	667,104
TELEPHONE	8,741	8,489	9,000	9,180	9,364
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	77,330	62,463	65,000	66,300	70,626
PRINTING, STATIONERY	6,237	4,472	6,000	6,120	6,242
STAFF TRAVEL	4,886	4,855	6,000	6,120	6,242
INSURANCE	1,559	1,600	1,500	1,530	1,561
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	62,424
STORAGE	2,921	379	-	-	-
POPPY STORE	-	3,780	-	-	-
WEB STORE - TI CONNECTION LINE	12,570	12,600	12,600	12,852	13,109
ADVERTISING/CATALOGUE DISTRIBUTION	145,312	70,470	80,000	81,600	88,232
WRAPPING MATERIAL	32,163	18,654	27,000	27,540	32,341
FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT	51,977	53,050	53,000	54,060	55,141
OFFICE SUPPLIES	785	416	3,000	3,060	3,121
BAD DEBTS	1,850	1,700	2,000	2,040	2,081
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
MISCELLANEOUS	1,132	1,372	3,000	3,060	3,121
EXPENSE TOTAL	1,032,624	922,923	975,300	994,806	1,026,952
LESS: POPPY FUND CHARGEBACK	(41,000)	(41,000)	(41,000)	(41,000)	(41,000)
NET EXPENSE	991,624	881,923	934,300	953,806	985,952
GAIN OR (LOSS)	62,670	67,344	73,700	(29,352)	(120,328)
PROVINCIAL COMMAND SHARE@ 25%	(15,668)	(16,836)	(18,425)	-	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER DIRECT COSTS	47,003	50,508	55,275	(29,352)	(120,328)

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
RCEL					
CONFERENCE	-	15,000	15,000	15,300	15,606
SCOWP	1,287	1,681	2,000	2,040	2,081
RCEL TOTAL	1,287	16,681	17,000	17,340	17,687
REQUEST FOR SUPPORT	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,400	20,808
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	-	4,010	-	5,000	-
DOMINION BURSARIES	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,320	16,646
HISTORICA (EWC)	100	66	500	510	520
LEGAL & OTHER	50,456	44,693	45,000	45,900	46,918
MBP ADS	30,496	31,956	33,000	33,660	34,333
LEGION POLICY POSITIONS	3,120	-	-	-	-
TRANSLATION (NOTE)	40,449	32,349	32,000	32,640	33,293
MARKETING					
AUDIT	47,867	-	-	-	-
PROGRAM	1,172	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	210,946	155,755	163,500	171,770	170,205

***Note: Translation**

This amount reflects the cost of translation services only. It does not include the extra printing and paper costs for the minutes of meetings, manuals, publications or Convention documents. These costs are distributed throughout the departmental expenses under “office supplies and printing and stationary”. Some costs are recovered for the resale items.

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
LEGION HOUSE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
REVENUE					
RENT TENANTS	72,438	72,438	72,000	73,500	73,500
RENT CHARGE TO DEPTS					
ADMINISTRATION	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,000	110,000
MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
MEMBERSHIP	-	-	10,000	10,200	10,200
SERVICE BUREAU	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
SUPPLY DEPT	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	61,200
FINANCE	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,600	29,600
MARKETING (OUTREACH)					
IT SECTION	29,000	29,000	19,000	19,400	19,400
TOTAL REVENUE	388,439	388,438	388,000	388,000	388,000
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	23,212	23,347	23,600	24,072	24,553
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	500	384	500	510	520
OTHER BENEFITS	3,988	4,172	3,900	3,978	4,058
TOTAL PERSONNEL	27,700	27,904	28,000	28,560	29,131
ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE	5,227	6,117	7,000	7,140	7,283
A/C, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING	39,392	25,230	35,000	35,700	36,414
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR	75,271	82,017	65,000	66,300	67,626
CLEANING CONTRACT & SUPPLIES	49,646	51,879	51,000	52,020	53,060
FUEL	8,250	8,848	11,000	11,220	11,444
LIGHT & POWER	45,947	46,083	49,000	49,980	50,980
WATER AND SEWAGE	966	1,379	2,000	2,040	2,081
TAXES	47,435	48,969	51,000	52,020	53,060
INSURANCE	4,424	4,541	5,000	5,100	5,202
RESERVE FUND	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
TOTAL EXPENSES	334,257	332,967	334,000	340,680	347,494
GAIN OR LOSS	54,181	55,470	54,000	47,320	40,506

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
COMMITTEES & ELECTED OFFICERS EXPENSE

	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
COMMITTEES					
1 VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS	28,993	37,608	39,500	40,290	41,096
2 POPPY & REMEMBRANCE	99,282	99,196	76,000	77,520	79,070
3 MEMBERSHIP	284,820	21,164	32,250	32,895	33,553
4 OUTREACH	97,131	74,929	51,500	52,530	53,581
5 RCEL	35,097	21,016	36,600	37,332	38,079
6 SPORTS	375,121	390,193	501,000	511,020	521,240
7 RITUAL & AWARDS	10,763	7,934	6,900	7,038	7,179
8 CONSTITUTION & LAWS	9,296	1,358	8,650	8,823	8,999
9 DEFENCE & SECURITY	114,875	55,486	123,800	126,276	128,802
10 VETERANS CONSULTATION	5,459	10,631	10,400	10,608	10,820
11 FOCUS ON THE FUTURE	30,807	20,537	13,400	13,668	13,941
12 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	14,215	218	1,900	1,938	1,977
COMMITTEE TOTAL	1,105,859	740,270	901,900	919,938	938,337
13 ELECTED OFFICERS	90,724	181,846	118,200	162,564	122,975
14 DEC/SENIOR ELECTED OFFICERS	82,360	83,434	96,700	98,634	100,607
15 DOMINION CONVENTION	213,553	264,948	254,690	259,784	265,819
SUB-TOTAL	386,637	530,228	469,590	520,982	489,401
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,492,496	1,270,498	1,371,490	1,440,920	1,427,738

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
DOMINION CONVENTION

	2010 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGET	2015 BUDGET	2016 BUDGET
DEC						
TRAVEL	36,316	23,182	-	25,500	-	25,500
PER DIEM	69,788	57,042	-	62,000	-	62,000
STAFF						
TRAVEL	15,572	18,709	-	20,000	-	20,000
PER DIEM	49,384	55,046	-	62,000	-	62,000
PAST PRESIDENT						
TRAVEL	9,073	6,091	-	7,500	-	7,500
PER DIEM	2,540	12,948	-	15,000	-	15,000
DC ZONE COMMANDERS						
TRAVEL	2,707	2,206	-	2,400	-	2,400
PER DIEM	4,702	3,624	-	3,500	-	3,500
OTHER						
TRAVEL	591	1,729	-	5,000	-	5,000
PER DIEM	4,654	5,623	-	6,000	-	6,000
ENTERTAINMENT	-	2,318	-	2,400	-	2,400
CREDENTIALS	4,650	5,296	-	5,500	-	5,500
PRINTING & DESIGN						
CONVENTION REPORTS	35,193	19,726	-	20,000	-	20,000
OTHER	6,709	3,629	-	4,000	-	4,000
TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION	3,571	7,663	-	8,000	-	8,000
POSTAGE	23,222	27,538	-	30,000	-	30,000
FREIGHT	5,545	4,689	-	5,000	-	5,000
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES						
PRESIDENT RECEPTION	18,690	18,329	-	20,000	-	20,000
OTHER	2,490	2,939	-	3,000	-	3,000
CONVENTION CENTRE	87,539	85,113	-	110,000	-	110,000
CONVENTION OPERATION	84,365	125,834	-	130,000	-	130,000
CEREMONIES	39	1,139	-	1,000	-	1,000
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE	3,000	11,546	-	4,000	-	4,000
SUPPLY	-	1,079	-	1,000	-	1,000
	470,340	503,037	-	552,800	-	552,800
REVENUE	59,624	60,928	-	70,000	-	70,000
SUB-TOTAL	410,716	442,109	-	482,800		482,800
PROVISION	(250,000)	(250,000)	250,000	(250,000)	237,456	(239,755)
TOTAL	160,716	192,109	250,000	232,800	237,456	243,045
COMMITTEE (FROM 15A)	16,245	21,444	14,948	21,890	22,328	22,774
TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE	176,961	213,553	264,948	254,690	259,784	265,819

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
NET REVENUE RECONCILIATION
DECEMBER 31

2012

NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			(1,011,125)
ADD (LESS): RESERVES REALIZED (TAKEN)	PILGRIMAGE	(9,000)	
	DOMINION CONVENTION	250,000	
	BUILDING	(12,181)	
	RCEL CONFERENCE	45,000	
	PER CAPITA TAX	413,146	
	PENSION PLAN	-	686,965
ADD (LESS): FUND TRANSFERS FROM (TO)	RCEL FUND	-	
	CENTENNIAL FUND	-	
	POPPY FUND	608,000	
	TROOP MORALE FUND	15,000	
	PENSION TRANSFERS	(395,125)	
	INVESTMENT FUND - BUILDING AMORTIZATION	96,285	324,160
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			0

2013

NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			(554,581)
ADD (LESS): RESERVES REALIZED (TAKEN)	PILGRIMAGE	9,000	
	DOMINION CONVENTION	(250,000)	
	BUILDING	(16,713)	
	RCEL CONFERENCE	(15,000)	
	PER CAPITA TAX	543,752	
	PENSION PLAN	(15,000)	256,039
ADD (LESS): FUND TRANSFERS FROM (TO)	RCEL FUND	-	
	CENTENNIAL FUND	-	
	POPPY FUND	603,000	
	PENSION TRANSFERS	(400,138)	
	INVESTMENT FUND - BUILDING AMORTIZATION	96,284	299,146
	LESS: YEAR END AUDIT ADJUSTMENTS		(604)
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			0

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Financial Statements
December 31, 2013



April 4, 2014

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2013 and the statements of changes in fund balances, operations – general fund, operations – externally restricted funds and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

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"PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command as at December 31, 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

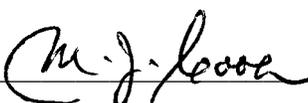
Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	6,269,097	6,635,849
Accounts receivable (note 3)	2,087,391	2,163,883
Due from Canvet Publications Ltd. (note 8)	7,217	–
Inventories		
General	1,487,563	1,643,886
Poppy promotional material	126,634	91,930
Prepaid expense	200,130	137,655
Prepaid subscriptions	1,298,038	1,644,172
	<u>11,476,070</u>	<u>12,317,375</u>
Marketable investments (note 4)	22,268,651	21,641,699
Capital assets (note 5)	5,880,713	6,044,946
Pension asset (note 6)	868,900	134,200
	<u>40,494,334</u>	<u>40,138,220</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 7)	822,274	868,121
Per capita tax received in advance	2,637,784	3,322,828
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd. (note 8)	–	1,054
	<u>3,460,058</u>	<u>4,192,003</u>
Retirement obligation (note 6)	501,000	478,359
	<u>3,961,058</u>	<u>4,670,362</u>
Fund balances		
General Fund		
Unrestricted	4,645,992	4,483,041
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	5,876,941	6,039,288
Other internally restricted (note 9)	5,091,002	5,347,041
Pension Plan Fund (note 6)	868,900	134,200
Investment Fund	9,417,220	9,226,505
Externally Restricted Funds	10,633,221	10,237,783
	<u>36,533,276</u>	<u>35,467,858</u>
	<u>40,494,334</u>	<u>40,138,220</u>

Signed on behalf of the Dominion Executive Council

 President

 Treasurer

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	Balance – Beginning of year \$	Net revenue (expense) for the year \$	Transfers from (to) \$	Balance – End of year \$
General Fund				
Unrestricted	4,483,041	(338,535)	501,486	4,645,992
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	6,039,288	(216,046)	53,699	5,876,941
Other internally restricted (note 9)	5,347,041	–	(256,039)	5,091,002
	15,869,370	(554,581)	299,146	15,613,935
Pension Plan Fund (note 6)	134,200	334,562	400,138	868,900
Investment Fund (note 4)	9,226,505	286,999	(96,284)	9,417,220
	25,230,075	66,980	603,000	25,900,055
Externally Restricted Funds				
Poppy Trust Fund	7,873,066	1,024,157	(603,000)	8,294,223
Centennial Fund	1,784,164	33,682	–	1,817,846
RCEL Fund	491,443	(59,724)	–	431,719
Benevolent Fund	89,110	323	–	89,433
Total externally restricted funds	10,237,783	998,438	(603,000)	10,633,221
	35,467,858	1,065,418	–	36,533,276

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Operations – General Fund

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue		
Administrative fees (note 8)	75,000	75,000
Building rental (note 8)	72,439	72,439
Dividends	74,755	44,526
Estate bequests	240,212	–
Interest	384,506	415,611
MasterCard (MBNA)	64,966	75,043
Miscellaneous (note 8)	62,870	89,079
Per capita tax	6,309,064	5,740,478
Subscription agency fee (note 8)	400,000	400,000
Supply sales	1,728,020	1,853,490
	<hr/> 9,411,832	<hr/> 8,765,666
Expense		
Administration	771,113	764,084
Building	316,254	322,076
Committees	1,079,498	1,745,332
Marketing, advertising and promotion	432,048	–
Finance	431,699	428,490
Information technology	269,901	287,483
Legion Magazine – subscriptions (note 8)	3,161,585	2,449,530
Marketing, membership and communications	899,367	846,082
Miscellaneous	140,755	259,110
Service bureau	630,636	711,608
Supply –		
Operation	838,759	947,291
Cost of sales	778,752	799,196
Amortization –		
Furniture and equipment and computers	70,010	70,473
Building	146,036	146,036
	<hr/> 9,966,413	<hr/> 9,776,791
Net expense for the year	<hr/> (554,581)	<hr/> (1,011,125)

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Operations – Externally Restricted Funds

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013				2012	
	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Total \$	Total \$
Revenue						
Donations	97,488	–	202,154	–	299,642	368,746
Interest	127,057	48,456	1,825	323	177,661	185,943
Dividends	7,728	4,784	–	–	12,512	8,232
Poppies and wreaths	2,897,136	–	–	–	2,897,136	3,034,660
Promotional aids	374,736	–	–	–	374,736	307,781
Other	11,824	–	–	–	11,824	12,090
	3,515,969	53,240	203,979	323	3,773,511	3,917,452
Expense						
Advertising and promotional materials	60,115	–	–	–	60,115	32,158
Poppy contests	15,383	–	–	–	15,383	16,464
Poppies and wreaths	1,430,524	–	–	–	1,430,524	1,497,636
Promotional aids	214,002	–	–	–	214,002	178,166
Trademark defence	17,232	–	–	–	17,232	24,554
Freight	246,153	–	–	–	246,153	252,688
General	117,425	11,019	–	–	128,444	114,915
Amortization – furniture and equipment	1,886	–	–	–	1,886	1,887
Welcome home – Afghanistan veterans	–	–	–	–	–	3,404
Benevolent support and assistance	103,344	–	263,703	–	367,047	363,051
Afghanistan veterans' memorial	–	–	–	–	–	5,000
Homeless veterans	–	–	–	–	–	5,319
Veterans Transition Network	250,000	–	–	–	250,000	250,000
Grants – other	18,000	–	–	–	18,000	–
	2,474,064	11,019	263,703	–	2,748,786	2,745,242
Revenue (expense) before the undernoted	1,041,905	42,221	(59,724)	323	1,024,725	1,172,210

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Operations – Externally Restricted Funds ...continued

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013				2012	
	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Total \$	Total \$
Net changes in fair value of marketable investments						
Realized	(21,700)	(6,482)	–	–	(28,182)	(4,211)
Unrealized	3,952	(2,057)	–	–	1,895	(10,636)
	(17,748)	(8,539)	–	–	(26,287)	(14,847)
Net revenue (expense) for the year	1,024,157	33,682	(59,724)	323	998,438	1,157,363

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net revenue (expense) for the year –		
General Fund	(554,581)	(1,011,125)
Pension Plan Fund	334,562	(579,308)
Investment Fund	286,999	42,174
Externally Restricted Funds	998,438	1,157,363
Items not affecting cash –		
Provision for pension plan (recovery)	(334,562)	579,308
Provision for retirement obligation	46,167	52,200
Amortization	217,932	218,396
Realized gains on sales of marketable investments	(300,896)	(36,025)
Unrealized losses on marketable investments	43,476	11,757
Loss (gain) on foreign exchange	1,177	(3,059)
Contributions to pension plan	(400,138)	(395,125)
Cash paid for retirement obligation	(23,526)	(57,158)
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(257,392)	(923,456)
	<u>57,656</u>	<u>(944,058)</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on sale of marketable investments	8,676,035	2,653,123
Purchase of marketable investments	(9,046,744)	(3,596,894)
Purchase of capital assets	(53,699)	(45,725)
	<u>(424,408)</u>	<u>(989,496)</u>
Net change in cash for the year	(366,752)	(1,933,554)
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	6,635,849	8,569,403
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	<u>6,269,097</u>	<u>6,635,849</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	76,492	(907,274)
Due from Canvet Publications Ltd.	(7,217)	–
Inventory –		
General	156,323	(85,754)
Poppy promotional material	(34,704)	(5,580)
Prepaid expense	(62,475)	186,699
Prepaid subscriptions	346,134	(398,450)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(45,847)	3,926
Per capita tax received in advance	(685,044)	356,745
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	(1,054)	(73,768)
	<u>(257,392)</u>	<u>(923,456)</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

1 Purpose of the organization

The Canadian Legion was incorporated in 1926 under the Companies Act, and its name was amended to The Royal Canadian Legion in 1961 by an Act of Parliament. The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (“the Dominion Command”) is a not-for-profit organization under subsection 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from income taxes.

2 Significant accounting policies

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Fund accounting

Pension contributions and the actuarially determined pension expense are accounted for in the Pension Plan Fund.

Interest and dividends earned on marketable investments are accounted for in the General Fund or in the Externally Restricted Fund to which they relate. Realized and unrealized gains and losses on marketable investments held in the General Fund are accounted for in the Investment Fund. The Investment Fund was established January 1, 1998 by transferring all investments held at that time.

Externally Restricted Funds are accounted for as follows:

Poppy Trust Fund

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund (“Poppy Trust Fund”) accounts for the sales of poppies and wreaths and poppy promotional material to the Provincial Commands and local branches. The funds raised are used to assist Canadian ex-service personnel and their dependants and ex-service personnel of Commonwealth and allied countries living in Canada in necessitous circumstances; to pay operating expenses of the Dominion Command Service Bureau where required; and to provide a grant to the RCEL Fund to support veterans in the Caribbean.

Centennial, RCEL and Benevolent Funds (“Special Funds”)

Special Funds are accumulated to finance special activities, including a youth track and field camp and grants to Commonwealth veterans in the Caribbean.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

Cash equivalents

Investments with maturities at the date of acquisition of three months or less are considered cash equivalents as they are readily convertible to cash and are not subject to significant changes in value.

Inventories

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost, determined on a first-in, first-out basis, and net realizable value.

Marketable investments

Marketable investments are recorded at fair value in the statement of financial position and changes in fair value are included in net revenue of the year of the Investment Fund or appropriate Externally Restricted Fund.

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

Capital assets are amortized on a straight-line basis, over their estimated useful service lives, at the following annual rates:

Building	2.5%
Furniture and equipment	10.0%
Computers	10.0%

Employee future benefits

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Pension Plan is a multiemployer, contributory, defined benefit pension plan that covers all employees of the Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion – New Brunswick Command and Canvet Publications Ltd. The annual pension payable is based on final average earnings and years of credited service.

In addition to the plan, the Dominion Command provides a defined benefit retirement allowance for its employees who have a minimum number of years of service and have attained a minimum age.

Under the immediate recognition approach, actuarial gains and losses and past service costs are included in the cost of employee future benefits for the year. The accrued benefit obligations are measured annually as at December 31 of each year.

The accrued benefit obligation related to the pension plan is measured based on the most recent actuarial valuation report prepared for funding purposes. The retirement obligation is measured based on an actuarial valuation report prepared specifically for accounting purposes.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

Revenue recognition

Externally restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate externally restricted fund. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Per capita tax is recorded as revenue in the year it is received unless it relates to a future year, in which case it is deferred and recorded as revenue in the year to which it relates.

Allocated expenses

A portion of Information Technology expenses (system maintenance, programming, computer parts and internet connectivity) is allocated to Administration, Finance, Marketing, membership and communications, Service bureau and Supply – Operation expense in the General Fund in order to reflect support and management oversight provided to those areas. These expenses are allocated based on estimates of time spent by the relevant information technology personnel on those areas during the year.

A portion of Administration expenses (salaries and general office) is allocated to Marketing, membership and communications and Service bureau expense in the General Fund, and to General expense in the Poppy Trust Fund, in order to reflect support and management oversight provided to those areas. These expenses are allocated based on estimates of time spent by the relevant administrative personnel on those areas during the year.

A portion of Supply – Operation expenses (salaries and general warehouse) is allocated to General expense of the Poppy Trust Fund in order to reflect warehouse storage costs, shipping and handling for the Poppy Trust Fund inventory, and processing of sales. General warehouse costs are allocated based on \$7 per square foot of the total warehouse space dedicated to Poppy Trust Fund inventory. The remaining expenses are allocated based on estimates of time spent by the relevant personnel during the year.

3 Accounts receivable

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Commands, branches and members		
General	469,140	267,394
Poppy Trust Fund	1,098,617	1,182,956
Other		
General	268,350	459,172
Poppy Trust Fund	172,743	170,339
Accrued interest	78,541	84,022
	<hr/> 2,087,391	<hr/> 2,163,883

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

4 Marketable investments

	2013		2012	
	Fair value	Cost	Fair value	Cost
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Fund	17,329,616	16,989,090	16,833,567	16,447,670
Poppy Trust Fund	3,145,685	3,071,184	3,071,554	3,001,005
Centennial Fund	1,793,350	1,747,946	1,736,578	1,689,117
	<u>22,268,651</u>	<u>21,808,220</u>	<u>21,641,699</u>	<u>21,137,792</u>

Net gains on sales of marketable investments of \$332,370 (2012 – \$43,295) and net decreases in unrealized gains and losses of \$45,371 (2012 – \$1,121) relate to the general investment portfolio and are accounted for in the Investment Fund.

	2013		2012	
	Fair value	Cost	Fair value	Cost
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Government and government guaranteed bonds	11,674,144	11,619,278	10,551,985	10,329,226
Pooled bond funds	4,849,634	4,750,912	6,211,013	6,012,316
Corporate stocks and pooled equity funds	5,744,873	5,438,030	4,878,701	4,796,250
	<u>22,268,651</u>	<u>21,808,220</u>	<u>21,641,699</u>	<u>21,137,792</u>

Government and government guaranteed bonds bear interest at fixed rates ranging from 1.9% to 5.5% and mature between 2014 and 2023 (2012 – 1.9% to 5.5% and mature between 2013 and 2019).

The pooled bond funds invest in high quality, short and long-term government securities and corporate bonds, bearing interest at fixed rates.

The Dominion Command invests, directly and through pooled equity funds, in companies in various industries, including metals and minerals, oil and gas, industrial products, utilities and financial institutions.

0% (2012 – 14%) of marketable investments are denominated in U.S. dollars.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

5 Capital assets

	2013		2012	
	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net \$	Net \$
Land	950,220	–	950,220	950,220
Building	5,841,416	1,058,761	4,782,655	4,928,691
Furniture and equipment	337,731	264,311	73,420	81,224
Computers	230,770	156,352	74,418	84,811
	7,360,137	1,479,424	5,880,713	6,044,946

	2013		2012	
	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net \$	Net \$
General Fund	7,341,271	1,464,330	5,876,941	6,039,288
Poppy Trust Fund	18,866	15,094	3,772	5,658
	7,360,137	1,479,424	5,880,713	6,044,946

6 Employee future benefits

Extrapolations of actuarial valuation reports prepared as at January 1, 2013 and February 1, 2011 (2012 – January 1, 2012 and February 1, 2011), indicated the following information about the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit plan, respectively, as at the measurement dates of December 31 each year:

	2013		2012	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$
Fair value of plan assets	–	16,616,300	–	14,552,200
Accrued benefit obligation	(501,000)	(15,747,400)	(478,359)	(14,418,000)
Pension asset (retirement obligation)	(501,000)	868,900	(478,359)	134,200

Pension expense recovery recorded for the year for the plan was \$334,562 (2012 – pension expense of \$579,308) and is accounted for in the Pension Plan Fund.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

7 Government remittances

Workers' safety insurance premiums of \$1,212 (2012 – \$1,334) are included within accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

8 Controlled entity

The Dominion Command controls Canvet Publications Ltd. ("Canvet"), a federally incorporated entity, as the shareholders of Canvet are officers of the Dominion Command. Canvet publishes and distributes "Legion Magazine", which is sold to the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion, non-member subscribers and the general public.

Canvet has not been consolidated in the Dominion Command's financial statements. A summary of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of Canvet as at December 31, 2013 and 2012 is as follows:

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Financial position		
Total assets	3,038,562	2,611,375
Total liabilities	1,999,836	2,180,040
Shareholders' equity	1,038,726	431,335
	<u>3,038,562</u>	<u>2,611,375</u>
	2013 \$	2012 \$
Results of operations		
Total revenue	4,379,490	3,618,925
Total expense	3,772,099	3,450,048
Net earnings for the year	<u>607,391</u>	<u>168,877</u>
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities	463,783	845,974
Investing activity	(33,326)	(10,353)
	<u>430,457</u>	<u>835,621</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

The accounting policies followed by Canvet are similar to those followed by the Dominion Command except that Canvet's contributions to the pension plan are included in total expense when determining net earnings for the year.

The following transactions with Canvet are included in expenses of the General Fund:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Legion Magazine – subscriptions	2,864,625	2,218,566
Advertising	101,553	106,127
Design services	41,572	11,007

The following transactions with Canvet are included in revenues of the General Fund:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Administrative fees	75,000	75,000
Building rental	59,664	59,664
Network support charge (included in miscellaneous revenue)	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee	400,000	400,000

Balances with Canvet are non-interest bearing with no specified terms of repayment.

These transactions are considered to be in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount established and agreed to by the related parties.

9 Internally restricted fund balance

The Dominion Command internally restricts a portion of its General Fund balance for expenses that will be incurred in the future.

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Legion Magazine	1,445,000	1,445,000
Building	180,053	163,340
RCEL conference	15,000	–
Convention	250,000	–
Pension	15,000	9,000
Special purpose	26,979	26,979
Per capita tax	3,158,970	3,702,722
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	5,091,002	5,347,041

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

10 Commitments and contingencies

The Trico Group Inc. supplies the Poppy Trust Fund with poppies and related remembrance materials under an agreement which is in effect until December 31, 2018.

The Dominion Command is also committed to the following payments for equipment under various leases:

	\$
Year ending December 31, 2014	37,403
2015	37,403
2016	30,128
2017	27,703
2018	6,926

11 Allocation of expenses

Information technology expenses have been allocated within the General Fund as follows:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Administration	3,000	3,000
Finance	3,000	3,000
Marketing, membership and communications	6,000	6,000
Service bureau	3,000	3,000
Supply – Operation	6,000	6,000

Administration expenses have been allocated as follows:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
General Fund – Marketing, membership and communications	30,000	30,000
General Fund – Service bureau	30,000	30,000
Poppy Trust Fund – General	25,000	25,000

Supply – Operation expenses of \$41,000 (2012 – \$41,000) have been allocated to General expense of the Poppy Trust Fund.

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

T. Eagles, *Board Chairman*
G. Moore, *Board Vice-Chairman*
B. White, *Secretary*
M. Cook, *Director*
D. Flannigan, *Director*
T. Irvine, *Director*
E. Pigeau, *Director*
P. Piper, *Director*
P. Varga, *Director*
J. Morse, *General Manager*

INTRODUCTION

Legion Magazine is thriving.

BUDGETS

The magazine is well positioned to continue operations without an increase in the cost of an annual subscription to the end of 2020. In 2013, Canvet exceeded budget expectations with strong advertising sales, a one-time subsidy from The War of 1812 Fund and a welcome increase in funding from the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF). The good news continued into 2014 with another increase in funding from the CPF, solid ad sales and a strong retail response to our special interest publication on the Victoria Cross. It is important to note that all Canvet budgets are predicated on the continuation of the CPF.

CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

Canvet is pleased to report that it has been approved for the highest subsidy amount to date under the Aid to Publishers component of the CPF. The magazine has been granted \$703,150, almost \$77,000 more than our last funding. To put this in context, over the last seven years this funding has almost doubled, increasing by 190%, an unanticipated and very welcome influx of capital. However the magazine has now reached the grant maximum and if the number of magazine subscribers remains unchanged then the grant should stabilize at \$700,000. If circulation declines it is reasonable to expect the subsidy to decline by an equal measure.

Legion Magazine must re-apply annually and we are awaiting the outcome of our last application. This fund is crucial to operations and over the last ten years has saved Legion Magazine almost five and a half million dollars. The Department of Canadian Heritage has listed as ineligible any periodicals “that primarily report on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization.”

Since Legion Magazine is a general interest military history magazine focussing on the stories of Canada we remain optimistic. This continuing financial asset cannot be underestimated.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

Since the last Convention, four new partners have joined the Member Benefits Package (MBP) which brings the total to twelve. The newest four are:

1. **Shaw Direct**, a satellite TV provider, is offering every Legion branch that comes on board two free high definition satellite receivers and free installation (up to \$300). Shaw will also offer every Legion member and Legion branch the American Heroes Channel free of charge.
2. **Corby Spirit and Wine Limited**, a marketer and distributor of fine spirits, has committed \$25,000 annually to the National Darts Championship. You might know them better as Wiser’s Canadian whiskies, Lamb’s rum, ABSOLUT vodka, Kahlúa, and many other wines and spirits.
3. **We Care Home Health Services**, one of the largest home health care providers within Canada, is offering Legion members and their families a 10 per cent discount off everything from support for bathing and dressing, housekeeping, nursing services, pediatric care, live-in care, remote health monitoring, transportation to and from appointments and relief for family caregivers.
4. **Premier Care in Bathing**, designers, manufacturers and installers of Walk-in Baths, Powered Baths and Easy Access Showers, is offering Legion members and their immediate family a \$1,925 exclusive discount on the purchase and installation of Walk-in and Powered Baths and Easy Access Showers.

The other partners also have much to offer Legionnaires and their families.

5. **Arbor Memorial**, a Canadian corporation which provides interment rights, cremations, funerals, associated merchandise and services, is offering Legion members and their immediate families a discount of 10 per cent on a pre-arranged funeral, burial or cremation and a 5 per cent discount if you don't pre-plan. In addition, members will benefit from the use of their lounges, where available, on a complimentary basis, including a hostess and tea and coffee -- a savings of \$500-\$600 per arrangement.
6. **ancestry.ca**, the world's largest online family history resource, helps members discover their ancestors, build a family tree or even contact others doing similar research. Legion members will receive the exclusive one-time offer of 50 per cent off a world deluxe annual membership
7. **Dell Canada Inc.**, the number one computer systems provider in the world, has created discounts designed to help members and their families stay in touch. They are offering up to 30 per cent in savings on carefully selected computers, and 10 per cent off all Dell mobility products.
8. **Medipac Travel Insurance** offers easy trip extension, competitive rates and exclusive Legion discounts. To demonstrate their commitment Medipac will share their support with your branch every time a member of The RCL purchases travel insurance from them.
9. **Home Hardware** has committed to contribute \$20,000 annually to The RCL's Canadian Youth Track and Field Championships.
10. **Carlson Wagonlit Travel**, one of the world's largest travel companies, offers exclusive \$50 - \$100 per booking savings with Trafalgar Tours and Insight Vacations (applies to tours of 10 days or longer); a minimum 15 per cent savings at Park'N'Fly airport locations across Canada; and up to 25 per cent savings off of best car rental rates with National/Alamo.
11. **Philips Lifeline Canada**, the provider of an easy-to-use medical alarm service.

Lifeline is offering RCL members and their dependants two months free service when they subscribe to their personal response and support service.

12. **MBNA Canada Bank's** commitment translates to significant financial support of the Legion's national programs.

Since Convention last met Connect Hearing, Relocation Services, Travelodge Canada and PPG Architectural Coatings (formerly ICI Paints) are no longer partners in The RCL MBP. Any member who purchases products from these organizations will no longer receive The RCL MBP discounts from them.

One of the other benefits of these partnerships is the expertise they have offered Dominion Command to help save money and time. For example Carlson Wagonlit Travel has helped with both the Youth Pilgrimage, the ONE x ONE campaign prize for 2013 and 2014 as well as the upcoming 2014 Dominion Convention in Edmonton. Dell has a discounted computer package for branches, Shaw offers branches two free high definition satellite receivers along with free installation up to \$300 while partners like Lifeline and We Care offer educational sessions on health for interested Commands. We invite delegates and all legionnaires to visit your Member Benefit Partner booths in the exhibition area.

ENGLISH CONTENTS

Legion Magazine's editorial content through 2012-2013 lived up to the magazine's motto: We Are Canadian History/We Are Canada Today. Canadian military history was well represented with in depth stories that coincided with major wartime anniversaries: The War of 1812, the victories at Vimy Ridge and Hill 70, the disaster at Dieppe, the significance of the Korean War then and now, and the fighting over Sicily. These features served as excellent primers for those wanting to learn more about Canada's military past. Canada's modern military operations were also well represented on the magazine's pages with features on Canadian Armed Forces post-combat activities in Afghanistan, the ongoing challenge of dealing with operational stress injuries and the CAF's Arctic sovereignty patrols. As well, Canvet continued to publish features and news stories on the issues facing veterans today,

such as their entitlement to pensions and benefits and access to health care.

In 2013 the magazine made a special effort to produce several long-form features on topics ranging from war and remembrance, to PTSD, and the tragic death of a Canadian UN peacekeeper in Lebanon.

All in all, the magazine published 688 English pages in 2012 with an increase to 704 pages in 2013 and expects to return to the regular publishing schedule of 672 pages in 2014. In addition, the magazine published two 100-page special interest publications on WW II and Korea along with posters, maps and timelines.

FRENCH INSERT

We published 160 French pages in 2012 with an increase to 168 in 2013 and we expect to return to the regular publishing schedule of 144 pages in 2014. The magazine provides a French section which is available to any member at no extra charge.

AWARDS

Late 2013 Canvet was again named a finalist for the Governor General's History Award for Excellence in Popular Media. Over the last five years Canvet has won or placed in nine awards in its field.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For your information, the full audited Canvet financial statements are provided separately.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Financial Statements
December 31, 2013



April 4, 2014

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Shareholders of Canvet Publications Ltd.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canvet Publications Ltd., which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2013 and the statements of earnings and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

*PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
99 Bank Street, Suite 800, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1P 1E4
T: +1 613 237 3702, F: +1 613 237 3963*

"PwC" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canvet Publications Ltd. as at December 31, 2013 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Professional Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

Canvet Publications Ltd.

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,775,919	2,345,462
Accounts receivable	60,197	71,562
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (note 4)	–	1,054
Prepaid expense	138,655	147,087
	<u>2,974,771</u>	<u>2,565,165</u>
Capital assets (note 3)	<u>63,791</u>	<u>46,210</u>
	<u>3,038,562</u>	<u>2,611,375</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 5)	220,703	203,653
GST/HST payable (note 5)	45,922	111,192
Income taxes payable	117,492	6,242
Due to The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (note 4)	7,217	–
Deferred revenue	242,780	213,652
Subscriptions received in advance	1,189,725	1,489,141
	<u>1,823,839</u>	<u>2,023,880</u>
Retirement obligation (note 6)	<u>175,997</u>	<u>156,160</u>
	<u>1,999,836</u>	<u>2,180,040</u>
Shareholders' equity		
Capital stock		
Authorized – 50,000 common shares		
Issued – 9 common shares	9	9
Retained earnings	1,038,717	431,326
	<u>1,038,726</u>	<u>431,335</u>
	<u>3,038,562</u>	<u>2,611,375</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors

 Director  Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Earnings and Retained Earnings

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Revenue		
Subscriptions (note 4)	2,909,058	2,256,701
Newsstand sales	6,941	17,793
Advertising (note 4)	598,457	634,827
	<hr/> 3,514,456	<hr/> 2,909,321
Expense (schedule)		
Magazine	1,593,822	1,638,813
Employees	961,445	903,716
Administrative (note 4)	664,115	471,848
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	400,000	400,000
	<hr/> 3,619,382	<hr/> 3,414,377
Loss before the under noted	<hr/> (104,926)	<hr/> (505,056)
Other income		
Canadian Periodical Fund	678,243	608,304
Interest income	20,044	10,239
Special editions	119,006	79,314
Other (note 4)	47,741	11,747
	<hr/> 865,034	<hr/> 709,604
Earnings before income taxes	760,108	204,548
Provision for income taxes	<hr/> (152,717)	<hr/> (35,671)
Net earnings for the year	607,391	168,877
Retained earnings – Beginning of year	<hr/> 431,326	<hr/> 262,449
Retained earnings – End of year	<hr/> <hr/> 1,038,717	<hr/> <hr/> 431,326

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Cash flows provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net earnings for the year	607,391	168,877
Items not affecting cash –		
Amortization	15,745	13,946
Provision for retirement obligation	19,837	13,813
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(179,190)	649,338
	463,783	845,974
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(33,326)	(10,353)
Net change in cash for the year	430,457	835,621
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	2,345,462	1,509,841
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	2,775,919	2,345,462
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	11,365	31,267
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	1,054	73,768
Prepaid expense	8,432	2,532
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	17,050	18,337
GST/HST payable	(65,270)	23,567
Income taxes payable	111,250	(7,606)
Due to The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	7,217	–
Deferred revenue	29,128	151,205
Subscriptions received in advance	(299,416)	356,268
	(179,190)	649,338

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

1 Nature of operations

Canvet Publications Ltd. (“the Company”) is incorporated under the Canada Business Corporations Act. The Company publishes and distributes “Legion Magazine”, which is sold to the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion, non-member subscribers and the general public.

The Company’s objectives are to publish informative articles and information on Canadian military history and current events with an emphasis on military and veterans’ issues.

2 Significant accounting policies

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Cash equivalents

Investments in a money market mutual fund are considered cash equivalents as they are short-term, highly liquid investments that are not subject to significant changes in value.

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

Office equipment and computer equipment are amortized over their estimated useful service lives using the declining-balance method at rates of 20% and 30%, respectively.

Employee future benefits

The Company provides a defined benefit retirement allowance for its employees who have a minimum number of years of service and have attained a minimum age.

The retirement obligation is measured based on an actuarial valuation prepared specifically for accounting purposes. Under the immediate recognition approach, actuarial gains and losses and past service costs are included in employees’ expense for the year.

In addition to the retirement allowance, the Company participates in The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Pension Plan, which is a multiemployer, contributory, defined benefit plan that covers all employees of the Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion – New Brunswick Command and the Company. The annual pension payable is based on final average earnings and years of credited service.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

The Company's portion of the plan is accounted for as a defined contribution plan such that the Company's contributions to the plan are included in employees' expense in the statement of earnings and retained earnings. A pension asset has not been recorded in the balance sheet.

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized in the period received unless the amount relates to future issues, in which case the amount is deferred and recorded as revenue in the year to which it relates.

3 Capital assets

			2013	2012
	Cost	Accumulated	Net	Net
	\$	amortization	\$	\$
		\$		
Office equipment	143,440	108,470	34,970	21,132
Computer equipment	274,378	245,557	28,821	25,078
	417,818	354,027	63,791	46,210

4 Related party transactions

The shareholders of the Company are officers of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (“the Dominion Command”).

Balances with the Dominion Command are non-interest bearing with no specified terms of repayment.

The following transactions with the Dominion Command are included in revenue:

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Subscriptions	2,864,625	2,218,566
Advertising	101,553	106,127
Design services (included in other income)	41,572	11,007

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2013

The following transactions with the Dominion Command are included in expense:

	2013 \$	2012 \$
Accounting and computer services	75,000	75,000
Building rental	59,644	59,644
Network support charge	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee	400,000	400,000

These transactions are considered to be in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount established and agreed to by the related parties.

5 Government remittances

In addition to GST/HST payable presented separately on the balance sheet, workers' safety insurance premiums of \$162 (2012 – \$63) are included within accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

6 Employee future benefits

Extrapolations of actuarial valuation reports prepared as at January 1, 2013 and February 1, 2011 (2012 – January 1, 2012 and February 1, 2011) indicated the following information about the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit pension plan, respectively, as at the measurement dates of December 31 each year:

	2013		2012	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension plan \$
Fair value of plan assets	–	16,616,300	–	14,552,200
Accrued benefit obligation	(175,997)	(15,747,400)	(156,160)	(14,418,000)
Surplus/deficit	(175,997)	868,900	(156,160)	134,200

The Company's contributions to the overall defined benefit pension plan of \$100,394 (2012 – \$95,575) are included in employees' expense in the statement of earnings and retained earnings. A pension asset has not been recorded in the balance sheet.

7 Commitments

The Company is committed under a rental agreement with the Dominion Command to make annual payments of \$59,664 for office space.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Schedule of Expense

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
Magazine		
Editorial contributions	103,800	104,169
Freight and express	2,726	3,008
Illustrations	41,046	42,018
Postage	742,062	777,907
Printing	694,215	703,326
Desktop publishing	9,973	8,385
	1,593,822	1,638,813
Employees		
Salaries	770,574	725,594
Other benefits	190,871	178,122
	961,445	903,716
Administrative		
Accounting and computer services (note 4)	75,000	75,000
Advertising commission – CCM	94,595	99,740
Building rental (note 4)	59,664	59,664
Correspondents' meeting	–	9,700
Design and production expenses	17,127	–
Directors' meetings	7,805	6,000
Editorial travel	46,209	46,466
Insurance	13,547	13,444
Miscellaneous	7,084	6,970
Network support charge (note 4)	3,000	3,000
Newsstand expense	30,056	22,240
Office supplies	10,605	10,849
Postage	6,317	4,492
Printing and stationery	3,134	1,130
Professional fees	14,077	16,130
Repairs and maintenance	25,810	–
Sales promotion	64,619	64,386
Special edition – War of 1812	144,370	–
Staff recruitment and training	12,499	6,770
Subscriptions	2,492	3,339
Telephone and fax	10,360	8,582
Amortization	15,745	13,946
	664,115	471,848
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	400,000	400,000
Total expense	3,619,382	3,414,377

CREDENTIALS REPORT

T. Wheeler, *Chairman*
 L. Rallis, *Member*
 D. Gosselin, *Member*
 D. Golding, *Member*
 D. Gordon, *Member*
 P. Cook, *Member*
 C. Saunders, *Member*
 V. Mitchell-Veinotte, *Member*
 B. MacLachlan, *Member*
 B. Slaney, *Member*

COMMAND		16 JUNE		17 JUNE		18 JUNE		OBSERVERS
		ACCREDITED	PROXY	ACCREDITED	PROXY	ACCREDITED	PROXY	
BC/YUKON	633	162	471	162	471	162	471	10
ALBERTA-NWT	530	207	323	207	323	207	323	18
SASKATCHEWAN	225	88	100	88	100	88	100	3
MANITOBA & NWO	326	78	234	78	234	78	234	4
ONTARIO	1351	285	973	285	973	285	973	7
QUEBEC	199	9	36	9	36	9	36	1
NEW BRUNSWICK	131	23	92	23	92	23	92	4
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT	282	57	120	57	120	57	120	3
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	30	16	0	16	0	16	0	0
NEWFOUNDLAND/ LABRADOR	65	22	43	22	43	22	43	2
DEC/PDP	24	11	0	11	0	11	0	0
US ZONES	16	6	4	6	4	6	4	2
EUROPE ZONE	6	2	4	2	4	2	4	0
TOTALS	3818	966	2400	966	2400	966	2400	55

The figures denote the Command entitlement to delegates and proxies based upon the final 2013 figures for Life, Ordinary, Associate and Affiliate Voting members (General By-Laws Section 903).

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON
**DOMINION CONVENTION
 RESOLUTIONS**

G. Moore, *Chairman*
 P. Varga, *Vice-Chairman*
 S. Clark, *Secretary*

STATISTICS

The following table provides statistics on the number of resolutions submitted by Provincial Commands and by Dominion Command Committees for consideration by the delegates at Convention.

COMMANDS	CONCURRED AT PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS	FROM BRANCHES THROUGH PROVINCIAL COMMANDS	LATE RESOLUTIONS	TOTAL NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS
BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON	5	13	0	18
ALBERTA-NWT	10	6	0	16
SASKATCHEWAN	9	0	0	9
MANITOBA & NWO	3	1	0	4
ONTARIO	4	11	0	15
QUEBEC	2	3	0	5
NEW BRUNSWICK	8	1	0	9
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT	0	1	2	3
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	1	0	0	1
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR	0	0	0	0
DOMINION COMMAND COMMITTEES	0	0	0	40
TOTALS	42	36	2	120

The total number of resolutions to be considered is 120. For comparison purposes, in 2012 a total of 86 resolutions were presented to the delegates at Convention.

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ABBREVIATIONS

In dealing with the resolutions it should be noted that each has an assigned code and number.

Those abbreviations for Commands such as QUE., ALTA-NWT, etc. are well known. The number following the Command is simply a control number.

The /C following a resolution indicates that it was approved by a Provincial Convention. The procedure for bringing to the convention floor any non-concurred resolution in Part II is that a provincial caucus will decide which of their Command resolutions to bring to the floor and designate who will present the explanation.

Various standing or national committees have generated resolutions and the following is a list of the abbreviations used:

DEC	Dominion Executive Council
SEO	Senior Elected Officer
VSS	Veterans, Service and Seniors
P&R	Poppy and Remembrance
MBR	Membership
D&S	Defence and Security
R&A	Ritual and Awards
C&L	Constitution and Laws
OR	Outreach

RESOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY
THIS 45TH DOMINION CONVENTION

LOYALTY RESOLUTION

14 JUNE 2014

The members of The Royal Canadian Legion send greetings to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and humbly desire to convey to Her Majesty this expression of loyalty and allegiance.

Members will meet in celebration of our 45th Dominion Convention at Edmonton, Alberta during the period 14-18 June 2014.

We remain profoundly indebted to Your gracious Majesty's service and leadership in guiding the Commonwealth of Nations and pray that Your Majesty may long be spared to continue to guide the destinies of these great nations.

I remain Your Majesty's humble and obedient servant.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Queen was pleased to receive the message of loyal greetings, sent on behalf of the members of The Royal Canadian Legion on the occasion of their Forty-Fifth Dominion Convention which is being held over the next few days in Edmonton, Alberta.

Her Majesty much appreciates your continued support and, in return, sends her best wishes to all those who are present for a most successful and enjoyable gathering.

Private Secretary

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

302. DOMINION COMMAND SUPPLY DEPARTMENT PROFIT SHARING

BC/YUKON 13

WHEREAS Dominion Command supply department is set up on a profit sharing basis between Dominion Command and Provincial Commands;

WHEREAS expenditures related to the running and promotion of the Dominion Command supply department are decided with no input from provincial commands;

WHEREAS the profit sharing is based on the remaining profits after expenses; and

WHEREAS expenditure decisions have caused substantial decreases in the provincial share of the revenues:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the profit sharing from Dominion Supply revenues be set at 5% of gross margin shared between provincial commands before supply operating expenses are applied.

303. DOMINION COMMAND COST OF OPERATIONS – TRAVEL POLICY

BC/YUKON 14

WHEREAS national membership in the Legion has declined significantly in the last 15 years and continues to decline into the projected future;

WHEREAS the majority of the dollars needed to operate Dominion Command come from per capita taxes from members; and

WHEREAS members have required their Provincial Commands to reduce costs and exercise fiscal restraint:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that travel expenses only be authorized for Dominion Command Officers and staff, not family accompanying them.

305. DOMINION COMMAND COST OF OPERATIONS – RCEL INSPECTIONS

BC/YUKON 18

WHEREAS National Membership in the Legion has declined significantly in the last 15 years and continues to decline into the projected future;

WHEREAS the majority of the dollars needed to operate Dominion Command come from per capita taxes from members; and

WHEREAS members have required their Provincial Commands to reduce costs and exercise fiscal restraint:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that travel expenses only be authorized for the assigned inspection team, not family accompanying them.

VETERANS, SERVICE *and* SENIORS

GENERAL

1. VETERAN PRIORITY FOR HEALTH CARE VSS 1

WHEREAS various legislative acts concerning Veterans provide for a liberal interpretation and application so that the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to those who have served their country and their dependants may be fulfilled;

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act has been drafted without specific reference or regard for Veterans and their dependants; and

WHEREAS members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, personnel of the Canadian Forces, clients of provincial workplace health and safety insurance boards and prisoners in federal custody are exempt from the strictures of the Canada Health Act effectively giving them priority over Veterans and dependants on increasingly long wait lists for health care and specialized medical sources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that government legislation and regulations be amended to afford Veterans and their dependants' priority access to health care in Canada after release.

2. EMPLOYER TAX CREDIT INCENTIVE TO HIRE VETERANS VSS 2

WHEREAS Veterans should be recognized for their service and sacrifices to their country;

WHEREAS it is important that Veterans have the opportunity to transition to meaningful employment following their service to their country; and

WHEREAS wounded Canadian Forces (CF) members or survivors have unique needs and

often face significant physical and financial challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to encourage private employers to provide jobs to Veterans, that these private employers that hire Veterans should receive a tax credit from the Federal Government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an additional tax credit should be provided to private firms that hire wounded warriors or their survivors.

3. VETERANS IDENTIFICATION CARD/VETERANS FAMILY IDENTIFICATION CARD VSS 3

WHEREAS the Record of Service Card – NDI 75 is issued to members leaving or who have left the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) with 10 or more years of service;

WHEREAS the CAF issues a voluntary Military Family Identification card (MFID) to spouses and dependants of CAF members;

WHEREAS upon release from the CAF, the MFID is no longer valid;

WHEREAS any Veteran who has served his/her country voluntarily and has completed Occupation Classification training successfully is highly deserving of being provided a visible recognition of his/her service to Canada in the form of a Veterans ID card;

WHEREAS this recognition is also especially important for families. CAF families are the backbone of the CAF, and the MFID card is official recognition of both the military family as an integral part of the organization, and the pride with which CAF spouses/partners and children contribute toward and support the efforts of our personnel and our country;

WHEREAS the creation of a Veterans family identification card will restore this official recognition and pay tribute to the sacrifices of families made in support of Canada. When a Veteran dies, the widow/widower has no standard means of recognition that he/she is the widow/widower of a Veteran; and

WHEREAS the creation of a card will provide visible recognition of service and facilitate contact, communication and outreach with Veterans and their families on the availability of programs and services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada provide a Veterans Identification card for all CAF Veterans and a Veterans Family Identification card to honour the inherent resilience of Veterans families and pay tribute to the commitment and dedication made in support of Canada.

**401. RE-OPEN VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA OFFICES
NS/NU 4**

WHEREAS Veterans of our great nation have fought for and guarded our freedoms;

WHEREAS they have been professionally and adequately served by 32 Veterans Affairs Canada offices;

WHEREAS eight of those offices, both large and small, were closed by the Department of Veterans Affairs without appropriate or convincing evidence and with an estimated savings of a mere \$6.2 million; and

WHEREAS alternative services for all Veterans, especially needy ones, are and will be woefully inadequate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada re-open offices that have closed and revoke any plans to close other offices.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

**4. ENSURE DISABLED VETERANS RECEIVE A FAIR, EQUITABLE INCOME CONSISTENT WITH A NORMAL CAREER FOR THEIR LIFETIME
VSS 4**

WHEREAS Veterans are eligible for the Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) (75% of pre-release salary (taxable) to a minimum of \$40,000 while they participate in the Rehabilitation Program;

WHEREAS Veterans who are permanently and totally incapacitated can receive the Earnings Loss Benefit until they reach age 65;

WHEREAS it is particularly devastating for Veterans who are injured at a young age because they will continue to be compensated at low salary level for the remainder of their lives; and

WHEREAS economic hardship is created for Veterans who reach age 65 and have been unable (because of their injury) to build up their Canada Pension or save for retirement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to ensure disabled Veterans while undergoing rehabilitation and searching for a job, receive a fair, equitable income consistent with a normal military career, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) should set the Earning Loss Benefit at 100% of earnings for life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for life-long recipients, VAC should increase the Supplementary Retirement Benefit to 6% of ELB earnings and make it non-taxable.

**5. EARNINGS LOSS BENEFIT DISPARITY FOR PART-TIME RESERVISTS
VSS 5**

WHEREAS Earnings Loss Benefit is now set at a minimum of \$40,000 per year for Regular Force Veterans and full-time Reservists undergoing rehabilitation or who cannot return to work;

WHEREAS part-time Reservists (Class A and Class B less than 180 days) who have been injured attributable to their military service are compensated with a minimum of \$24,300 per year;

WHEREAS part-time Reservists have the same needs as Regular Force Veterans and full-time Reservists; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has stated that a minimum income of \$40,000 per year is required to ensure that basic needs of food, shelter and clothing are met, yet denies this same level of support to part-time Reservists who cannot work and

who have been injured attributable to their military service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC end the income disparity of the Earnings Loss Benefit to part-time Reservists and provides those Canadian Armed Forces Veterans who have been injured attributable to their service the same benefits regardless of the nature of their service, and where and when they served.

**6. DISABILITY AWARD FOR NON ECONOMIC LOSS
VSS 6**

WHEREAS under the New Veterans Charter, a Disability Award is meant to recognize and compensate for the non-economic impacts of a service-related disability such as pain and suffering;

WHEREAS the amount of a Disability Award is adjusted yearly for cost of living and other factors; and

WHEREAS the benefit is supposed to have kept pace with civilian court awards for pain and suffering but has not had an increase in the seven years since the New Veterans Charter came into force:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Disability Award be increased to keep pace with civilian court awards for pain and suffering.

**7. PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT ALLOWANCE (PIA)
AND PIA SUPPLEMENT
VSS 7**

WHEREAS the Permanent Impairment Allowance (PIA) is a monthly taxable benefit payable for life in three grade levels that compensates for the lack of career opportunities and progression;

WHEREAS the Permanent Impairment Allowance Supplement is a monthly supplement that compensates for the inability to perform any occupation that is considered to be suitable gainful employment;

WHEREAS almost 90% of PIA recipients are awarded the lowest grade level;

WHEREAS 761 or 53% of Veterans who are assessed to be totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) and who suffer from a permanent physical or mental health problem that prevents them from engaging in suitable gainful employment are not awarded the benefit that is designed to compensate severely and permanently impaired Veterans for a lack of career opportunity and progression;

WHEREAS approximately 40% of the close to 300 totally and permanently incapacitated (TPI) Veterans who are assessed at a disability level of at least 98%, and who are presumably very seriously disabled, are not in receipt of the PIA and Supplement;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada does not track the reasons why applications for the PIA or the PIA Supplement are denied or explain the reasons for the level awarded;

WHEREAS accessibility to the benefit may be unfairly restrictive; and

WHEREAS there is insufficient information to assess where there is a valid reason for this situation or whether the eligibility criteria are too stringent:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada conduct a review of the accessibility and eligibility criteria to determine its effectiveness in providing fair economic support for the lack of career progression; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada conduct a review of the Veteran cohort deemed TPI and not receiving the PIA and PIA Supplement and ensure that Veterans eligible receive the very benefit that is designed to compensate them for the lack of career opportunities.

**8. DISABILITY AWARD FINANCIAL COUNSELING
VSS 8**

WHEREAS some Veterans and their families find it difficult to manage a large lump sum of money wisely and would benefit from financial counseling and support; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provides \$500 for financial counseling; this is not sufficient to obtain ongoing financial counseling services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC increase funding up to \$2,500 to allow Veterans and their families to engage qualified financial advisors.

9. VAC DISABILITY AWARD CALCULATION 1 TO 4% VSS 9

WHEREAS if a disability award is paid between 5% and 100%, it is paid under Schedule “I” which means that at 5% you are paid 5% from the 100% disability rate;

WHEREAS if a disability award less than 5% is paid the Veteran does not receive 1% to 4% of the 100% disability award rate;

WHEREAS presently the payment for 1% disability is \$837.31, not 1% of \$298,587.97, which would be \$2,985.87;

WHEREAS presently the payment for 2% disability is \$1,674.60, not 2% of \$298,587.97, which would be \$5,971.75;

WHEREAS presently the payment for 3% disability is \$2,511.93, not 3% of \$298,587.97, which would be \$8,957.62; and

WHEREAS presently the payment for 4% disability is \$3,349.22, not 4% of \$298,587.97, which would be \$11,943.50:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this is an unfair practice as the disability award percentage from 1% to 4% does not represent a true percentage of the total 100% disability award payable rate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the disability award to be paid is less than 5%, it is to be paid at the true percentage of the total 100% disability rate.

10. DEATH BENEFIT UNDER THE NEW VETERANS CHARTER VSS 10

WHEREAS under present legislation, single members of the Canadian Armed Forces

(CAF) whose death is attributable to military service are not eligible for a death benefit;

WHEREAS CAF members who are married or in a common-law relationship are eligible for a death benefit;

WHEREAS the death benefit is provided as compensation for the non-economic loss related to the life-long pain and suffering of the family;

WHEREAS compensation for the loss of earnings is provided in the Financial Benefits Program; and

WHEREAS such inequities are contrary to the basic equalities for which the members of the Canadian Armed Forces died to secure:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all CAF members whose death is attributable to military service be granted a death benefit provided for under the New Veterans Charter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such benefits be retroactive to 2006.

11. EXTENSION OF VAC FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS VSS 11

WHEREAS funeral and burial benefits may only apply to Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans who qualify for Earnings Loss Benefits or the Income Support Program;

WHEREAS the eligibility criteria for these benefits are likely to be very restrictive since eligibility for these programs requires the successful completion of the Rehabilitation Program;

WHEREAS there is the potential that some Regular and Reserve Force Veterans do not have enough money in their estate to pay for funeral and burial benefits but will not qualify for funeral and burial benefits because they have not qualified for Earnings Loss and Income Support Benefits; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has an obligation to ensure that these very low income Veterans receive a dignified funeral:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Last Post Fund funeral and burial benefits be made available to all those CAF Veterans who have insufficient financial means and eliminate the complex eligibility requirements which is contrary to the “need principles” enshrined in the Canadian Armed Forces Military and Veterans Re-establishment and Compensation Act (CFMVRCA).

12. INCREASE OF SURVIVOR/DEPENDANT ESTATE EXEMPTION
VSS 12

WHEREAS the Survivor/Dependant Estate Exemption is the key parameter for approval or denial of funeral and burial benefits for Veterans;

WHEREAS in February 1995 the Federal Government reduced the estate exemption from \$24,030 to \$12,015 as part of budget reduction of all departments;

WHEREAS the reduced exemption is considerably less than the poverty level and it has not been adjusted since 1995;

WHEREAS the end result is that hundreds of the poorest of our Veterans have been denied funeral and burial benefits during the past 13 years;

WHEREAS the current situation is causing much grief and burden on families of Veterans when they discovered that they cannot obtain financial support for funeral and burial benefits although the estate is valued at less than the poverty level;

WHEREAS prior to 1995 the estate exemption was subject to an indexing formula based on annual changes to the Consumer Price Index (CPI); and

WHEREAS the estate exemption has not been increased, the number of Veterans applying for funeral and burial benefits has increased, particularly by World War II Veterans who in many cases have limited financial resources but are above the estate exemption reduced in 1995:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs take the necessary action to restore and increase the Survivor / Dependent Estate Exemption to a level not less than the poverty level as determined by Statistics Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT each year thereafter, introduce a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) equal to Statistics Canada’s annual adjusted CPI for this exemption.

13. EARNINGS LOSS, CFIS AND WVA BENEFIT RETROACTIVITY
VSS 13

WHEREAS on April 4, 2013, the Federal Court approved that past SISIP Long Term Disability (LTD) clawback amounts are to be refunded retroactive to June 1, 1976;

WHEREAS on May 9, 2013, with a news release by the Honourable Peter MacKay, then-Minister of National Defence, and the Honourable Steven Blaney, then-Minister of Veterans Affairs, announced that the Government of Canada would not be appealing the Federal Court’s May 1, 2012 decision regarding the offset of Pension Act disability benefits from the SISIP LTD income support benefit. In the same news release, the Honourable Steven Blaney stated: “I am happy to announce that our Government is taking action to harmonize our disability benefits at Veterans Affairs Canada to reflect the planned changes to SISIP;” and

WHEREAS the decision on retroactivity VAC benefits including Earnings Loss, Canadian Forces Income Support and War Veterans Allowance is still outstanding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that for Veterans and their families impacted by this outstanding decision, that VAC act expeditiously and be upfront with this issue, ensure harmonization between programs and confirm retroactivity.

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (VIP) *and* HEALTH BENEFITS

14. RATIONALIZATION OF ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR HEALTH CARE BENEFITS VSS 14

WHEREAS the current policies covering the delivery of Health Care Benefits are very complex, and for that reason very difficult to understand, even from the perspective of those who administer these benefits;

WHEREAS these policies are even more complex from the perspective of recipients who are often frail;

WHEREAS the cost of drugs and remedial appliances are continually rising;

WHEREAS the Health Care Benefits provided, especially Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and treatment benefits are insufficient to meet the needs of Veterans and caregivers; and

WHEREAS because of the complexity associated with various entry gates and eligibility criteria, Veterans are often wary to even ask for benefits, let alone understand their eligibility requirements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) undertake a comprehensive rationalization of the eligibility criteria for Health Care Benefits. The entitlement criteria should be more manageable for decision makers and Veterans and their families such that it is streamlined from the current 18 categories to a maximum of four categories as recommended in “Keeping the Promise”, the 2006 Report of the Gerontological Advisory Council.

15. VIP BENEFITS FOR ALL FRAIL VETERANS VSS 15; SASK 2/C; NB 8/C

WHEREAS Veterans who apply for Veterans Independence Program (VIP) benefits are often frail and are approaching the end of their life;

WHEREAS the processing of applications for VIP benefits for frail Veterans is only considered when these Veterans have established eligibility for a disability or low income, resulting in long delays and often increased expenditures for Veterans Affairs Canada; and

WHEREAS VIP is key to keeping Veterans independent and safe in their own home:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Veterans be deemed eligible for VIP benefits based on need, irrespective of their having established disability entitlement or low income status, as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Committee in their 2006 Report “Keeping the Promise”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Allied World War II and Korean War Veterans be deemed eligible for VIP benefits based on need irrespective of their income as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Committee in their 2006 Report “Keeping the Promise”.

16. EXTENSION VIP BENEFITS TO SURVIVORS VSS 16; SASK 3/C

WHEREAS eligibility criteria for Veterans Independence Program (VIP) benefits for survivors is the result of extending and expanding the benefit over many years;

WHEREAS VIP is not available to all survivors of World War II and Korean War Veterans and is dependent on a complex eligibility criteria grid difficult for decision makers and Veterans to understand; and

WHEREAS the survivors of Veterans have supported their spouses for many years and their contribution should be recognized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada end the complex eligibility criteria for VIP benefits and extend the benefit to all survivors of all Veterans including the survivors of Allied Veterans. This benefit should be granted to these survivors based on need as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Committee in their 2006 Report “Keeping the Promise”.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL EXPOSURE

VSS 17

WHEREAS the Government announced an ex gratia payment for those exposed to Agent Orange based on whether or not potential beneficiaries were living, or had worked and trained in the Gagetown area during a specific time frame and within a specific area;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will award disability benefits for direct exposure to Agent Orange based on stringent and unrealistic eligibility requirements including handling, touching or being directly exposed to such chemicals but will not recognize the effects of secondary exposure such as training in a field and dispersing soils by digging, churning up the ground with various ordnances where Agent Orange, or other chemicals were dispersed; and

WHEREAS VAC will not generally recognize environmental exposure to radiation such as residues of Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition as a causal link to the award of disability benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC recognize and review the Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines related to Agent Orange exposure and to DU as significant determinants of a disability.

18. AGENT ORANGE APPLICATION

VSS 18

WHEREAS there has been much discussion and controversy concerning the spraying of Agent Orange in Base Gagetown;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) announced an extension of the ex gratia compensation program of \$20,000 to 30 December 2011;

WHEREAS despite the deadline, illnesses and diseases will continue to be diagnosed for many years and the Government has an obligation to recognize these families; and

WHEREAS the eligibility criteria of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) conditions related to Agent Orange exposure - Update

2004 continue to apply and do not include the conditions in the IOM Update 2010:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC remove the artificial deadline and continue the program to ensure that all the families impacted by Agent Orange are recognized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC amend the program's eligibility criteria to include the conditions related to Agent Orange exposure in the IOM Update 2010.

19. ACCESS TO PENSIONERS' DENTAL SERVICES PLAN FOR VETERANS

VSS 19

WHEREAS there is no access to the Treasury Board Pensioners' Dental Services Plan for Veterans (and their families) who are medically released with less than 10 years of service and who do not qualify for an immediate annuity from the Canadian Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS there is no access for the families of Veterans who die with less than two years of service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) provide the same access to the Treasury Board Pensioners' Dental Services Plan to Veterans and their families as that provided to them by VAC for the Public Service Health Care Plan.

20. EXTEND EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

VSS 20

WHEREAS the Education Assistance Program provides financial assistance for post-secondary education to the children of Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members who have lost their lives attributable to their military service; and

WHEREAS CAF members who have suffered severe and permanent impairment attributable to their service lack the financial means to save for their children's post-secondary education and face significant lifelong challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada recognize the

lifelong challenges and financial limitations of CAF members who have been totally and permanently incapacitated and extend the Education Assistance Program benefits to the children of these families.

21. VIP BENEFITS – SURVIVING SPOUSE

NB 5/C

WHEREAS a surviving spouse of a Veteran in receipt of VIP benefits is receiving:

- a. housekeeping, but not ground maintenance, or
- b. ground maintenance, but not housekeeping;

WHEREAS this situation occurred because the Veteran applicant, when applying for VIP benefits, did not feel that one or the other of these benefits was warranted or required as he/she was capable of performing the task, or that his/her spouse could provide the service at that particular time. Therefore WHY apply for the benefit;

WHEREAS current VAC policy, upon the Veteran's death, the particular VIP benefit in place at the time of death in the household will remain in place for the surviving spouse; and

WHEREAS the surviving spouse, who is now aging, may have some physical medical problems, may be quite frail, but when applying for the other missing VIP benefit that they are not receiving, are being denied because it was not in place prior to the death of the deceased Veteran:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that when the surviving spouse applies for the VIP benefit that was not in place prior to the Veteran's death, that due consideration be given by VAC and the benefit of doubt be applied in each individual case to assist the surviving spouse to remain at home and in the community. It must be remembered that the surviving spouse is not at fault and is now being penalized because of course of action or lack of requirements that were taken by the deceased spouse when applying for VIP benefits at the particular time.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES/RCMP

22. IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CAF MEMBERS, VETERANS AND FAMILIES

VSS 21

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) administers Operational Stress Injury(OSI) clinics for Veterans;

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces (CF) administers Operational Trauma and Stress Support Centres (OTSSC) for Canadian Forces members;

WHEREAS Veterans must change over to different practitioners and different models of care when they retire while CF members and families cannot access VAC OSI clinics in a seamless fashion; and

WHEREAS there is a definite capacity problem to meet the growing needs for mental health care while families cannot access this care in their own right:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Forces (CF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) harmonize the delivery of mental health care for CF members and Veterans suffering from Operational Stress Injuries and modify the regulations to provide mental health care for families in their own right.

23. FUNDING FOR VETERANS TRANSITION PROGRAM TREATMENT

VSS 22

WHEREAS the mandate of The Royal Canadian Legion is the welfare of our Veterans;

WHEREAS many Veterans suffer from operational stress injuries;

WHEREAS it is imperative that these Veterans maintain and receive the best treatment options to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS the Veterans Transition Program has been delivering a mental health treatment program since 1998:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces provide funding for serving CAF members when there is a need.

24. EXTEND LEGACY OF CARE PROGRAM
VSS 23

WHEREAS when the Legacy of Care Program was announced, the news release indicated that all injured Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members would be eligible for the benefits;

WHEREAS when implemented, the eligibility for the Canadian Armed Forces Attendant Care Benefit, the Care Giver Benefit and the Spousal Education Upgrade Benefit was restricted to “Afghanistan only” injured CAF members and their families; and

WHEREAS the Legacy of Care Program categorizes seriously ill and injured CAF members by where they served:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces recognize that those who sustain illness and injury while serving their country should have access to the same benefits, regardless of the nature of their service and where and when they serve. The Legacy of Care Program benefits should be available to all those who serve their country regardless of where they were injured.

25. OUTREACH TO RESERVISTS
VSS 24

WHEREAS the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are relying more on Reservists to help meet Canada’s current international commitments: for example, one of every four CAF members who have deployed to Afghanistan are Reservists and a higher proportion of Reservists are soldiers who are at greater risk of being injured;

WHEREAS although Reservists are eligible for New Veterans Charter services, it is often more difficult to connect them to access Department of National Defence/Canadian Armed Forces (DND/CAF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) programs because they

tend to reintegrate into their civilian lives or community immediately following their deployment and may not be aware of the programs and benefits available to them; and

WHEREAS the DND/CAF Reserve Mentor Liaison Team four year pilot project proved successful in following up with over 90% of Reservists who had deployed and reaching out to most Reservists to communicate on available health benefits and services. This project has ceased and has not been replaced:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC and the DND/CAF implement an outreach program to ensure all Reservists and their families are aware of the available health programs and services.

26. MILITARY FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRES SERVING TRANSITIONING FAMILIES
VSS 25

WHEREAS Military Family Resource Centres (MFRC) currently provide services to serving Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members and their families; and

WHEREAS according to DND release data, on average approximately 5,000 CAF members release annually and the VAC Life after Service Study states that 25% of these members have difficulty transitioning to civilian life. Therefore approximately 1,250 release CAF members and their families face a difficult transition and could benefit from continued support from MFRCs for key services as information and referral, employment support and respite child care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the CAF and Veterans Affairs Canada provide funding to ensure that MFRC services are available to Veterans and their families experiencing difficult transitions and continue to have access to the MFRC services.

27. RESERVE FORCE PENSION PLAN BUYBACK DELAYS
VSS 26

WHEREAS the Reserve Force Pension Plan was introduced in 2007 to provide a defined benefit pension plan for Reserve

Force members based on salary and years of service;

WHEREAS the creation of a Reserve Force Pension Plan is a positive development to bring equity to Reserve Force members and recognize their service to Canada;

WHEREAS an Office of the Auditor General spring 2011 audit examined how the Reserve Force Pension Plan was planned and implemented. The audit found that the Pension Plan was delayed with many Reservists waiting for their pension benefits;

WHEREAS in 2012 the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Accounts report tabled to the House of Commons stated that the Department of National Defence has to improve on the deficiencies with the implementation of the Reserve Force Pension Plan and eliminate existing backlogs in distributing pension benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence, as a priority, take the necessary action to reduce backlogs in the processing of Reserve Force Pension Plan buybacks, improve controls and enhance communication of the program to Reserve Force members regarding their benefits.

28. REVIEW THE REQUIREMENT FOR DUAL VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS
VSS 27

WHEREAS SISIP Vocational Rehabilitation and Long Term Disability (LTD) program is a mandatory program to provide coverage for service and non-service related disabilities and while in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members pay 15% of their insurance premiums and the Government pays 85%;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada offers vocational rehabilitation and income support programs after release;

WHEREAS the relationship with SISIP leads to arbitrary time and benefit limits which prevent Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) from developing the seamless, transparent, equitable and easy-to-navigate system

of benefits it wants to offer Veterans and families;

WHEREAS Veterans report that they have to work with two distinct systems and programs which is confusing, and that they do not receive enough help to work through the process;

WHEREAS the Office of the Auditor General in a 2012 report states that “similar income support and vocational rehabilitation programs in each department continue to create confusion and difficulties,” and further recommends that National Defence and Veterans Affairs Canada conduct a joint analysis of the costs and benefits of each department operating similar programs; and

WHEREAS the Veterans Ombudsman’s recent report on the New Veterans Charter reports that the dual vocational rehabilitation and income support programs can be confusing for medically releasing CAF members. The report states; “That transition support for Veterans is complex is unquestionable; when two different government agencies provide the same program to the same Veteran, it does little to reduce the complexity”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence (DND) and VAC conduct an analysis of the costs, benefits and outcomes of operating two similar programs to determine the future direction of the program with the goal of providing seamless service while reducing confusion and complexity of understanding the programs.

29. DETERMINATION OF CFSA SURVIVOR PENSIONS
VSS 28

WHEREAS Canadian Armed Forces members and their families rely largely on superannuation (pension for service) to provide the main portion of their retirement income;

WHEREAS Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA) provides for a survivor allowance paid at only 50% of the member’s superannuation pension based on

a formula conceived in different economic times; and

WHEREAS a survivor faces many lifestyle adjustments, particularly with regard to basic living expenses typically exceeding 50% of the expenses borne by a couple prior to the pensioner's death:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CFSA survivor allowance be paid in an amount equivalent to at least 70% of the member's pension, which is closer to the norm in private sector pension plans.

30. ELIMINATION OF THE CANADA PENSION PLAN (CPP) OFFSET AT AGE 65
VSS 29; ONT 12

WHEREAS Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members who retire with Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA) pension benefits are subjected to an abatement in these benefits when they reach age 65 and are eligible to receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits;

WHEREAS this in effect reduces CFSA benefits when these benefits are most needed;

WHEREAS CAF members have in effect contributed to both the CPP and the CFSA, and that the CFSA Pension Fund has accrued a large surplus; and

WHEREAS CAF members were never asked whether or not they wanted a "stacked approach" to CFSA and CPP benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the CPP offset at age 65 be eliminated and that CFSA surplus funds be used to pay "stacked benefits" similar to the benefits provided to Members of Parliament.

31. 10% ANNUAL REDUCTION IN PAID-UP DEATH BENEFIT UNDER SUPPLEMENTARY DEATH BENEFIT (SDB)
VSS 30

WHEREAS with the passage of Bill C-78 in 1999, the annual 10% reduction in coverage of the paid-up Death Benefit for Public Servants now commences at age 66; however,

the same reduction for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members starts at age 61; and

WHEREAS this disparity in benefits clearly disadvantages CAF members who loyally served their country:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the annual reduction in coverage of the paid-up Death Benefits be delayed until age 66 to bring it in line with that of Public Servants.

32. ELIMINATE LTD CLAWBACK FROM RCMP DISABILITY BENEFITS
VSS 31

WHEREAS as a result of a class action law suit initiated by Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Veterans in January 2012 a landmark Federal Court decision rejected the reduction in disability pension payments for military members and ruled that its practical effect was particularly harsh to the most severely disabled Veterans;

WHEREAS the Federal Government accepted this ruling and announced that it will discontinue the offset of long term disability benefits from disability pension payments for military members;

WHEREAS similar to the lawsuit launched by disabled CAF Veterans, disabled RCMP members launched a class action lawsuit in 2008 challenging the Government's practice of Long Term Disability benefits available from Great West Life Insurance Company being reduced by the amount of the Veterans Affairs Canada Disability Benefit paid to compensate disabled RCMP Veterans for their pain and suffering; and

WHEREAS the Government continues with this unfair practice for RCMP Veterans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Government immediately cease this practice and undertake the necessary action to ensure disabled RCMP members receive the full-entitlement and compensation they so richly deserve.

33. EVALUATE VETERANS TRANSITION PROGRAM FOR RCMP MEMBERS

VSS 32

WHEREAS nearly 15 years ago, BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion partnered with the University of British Columbia to create the Veterans Transition Program (VTP) under the stewardship of Doctors Marvin Westwood and David Kuhl;

WHEREAS the VTP is a group-based intervention that leverages the power of soldiers helping soldiers in providing a strength based, non-stigmatizing approach to help soldiers recover from operational stress injuries and launch into civilian lives;

WHEREAS the program has proven to be successful throughout its 15 year history in assisting soldiers transitioning from their military careers into healthy, productive and contributing civilian lives; and

WHEREAS the VTP would be a valuable program to assist RCMP members suffering from an operational stress injury transitioning to civilian life:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED on behalf of all RCMP, that the Government evaluate the Veterans Transition Program as a program to assist RCMP members transition from service to civilian life.

34. RCMP MEMBERS DISABILITIES

NB 3/C

WHEREAS in 2012, an RCMP member in receipt of a disability pension (which includes a hearing disability) of one percent (1%) or more, may apply for an Attendance Allowance, if he/she is incapable or unable to assist themselves for feeding, bathing, dressing, toileting, mobility or medicating. They can apply by just telephoning or emailing to VAC. NO FORMS REQUIRED;

WHEREAS upon receipt of the telephone or e-mail request, a VAC caseworker will contact them and arrange for a home nursing assessment. If the RCMP member is entitled to these services, they will be assigned an entitlement level applicable to their particular

medical and/or degree of assistance required; and

WHEREAS we agree that this is a positive step to assist our physically-disabled RCMP members, however, it has been our experience that those physically-disabled RCMP members are also seeking some assistance and support to assist them in their endeavours of housekeeping and grounds maintenance because they are physically disabled (as mentioned above) incapable of performing these tasks because of mobility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that if the RCMP member is so incapacitated to carry out and perform his/her basic physical needs (as described above) and if there is a requirement of additional benefits, such as housekeeping and grounds maintenance, that the VAC caseworker consider this during the interview and recommend such service to VAC, because of the mobility factor.

RESEARCH

35. VETERANS HEALTH RESEARCH

VSS 33

WHEREAS founded in 2008, CIMVHR is a pan-Canadian network of 26 Canadian universities focused on facilitating new partnerships, collaborations, funding and access to data and study populations to establish a sustainable and independent Canadian military and Veteran health research program;

WHEREAS the institute exists to harness the national research capacity to ensure the men and women who serve and have served our country have access to the most current healthcare knowledge possible; and

WHEREAS the long term effect of independent research on military and Veteran health is significant to ensure a successful transition and a lifelong quality of life:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government provide sufficient funding to CIMVHR to establish itself and ensure

its long term success as a truly Canadian independent centre of expertise for military and Veteran health research.

36. CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF HEALTH RESEARCH (CIHR) TO ESTABLISH VETERANS AS A PRIORITY SUBPOPULATION GROUP

VSS 34

WHEREAS CIHR is Canada's leading health research funder and allocates funding for health research in Canada;

WHEREAS there is a lack of research on military Veterans health research focused on the unique Canadian military operation experience; and

WHEREAS the long term effect of research on military and Veteran health is significant to ensure a successful transition and a lifelong quality of life:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CIHR identify Veterans as a priority subpopulation for research to ensure that funding is allocated to meet the needs of military and Veteran health research in Canada.

SENIORS

37. LEGISLATION FOR PENSION PROTECTION

VSS 35

WHEREAS many large corporations are in financial trouble and individual pensions are at risk; and

WHEREAS the Federal Government is able to pass legislation to modify pension, corporation and bankruptcy laws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government enact legislation to better protect individual pensions.

38. CANADA SENIORS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

VSS 36

WHEREAS Canadian seniors generally value their independence and prefer to age in their own familiar home and community;

WHEREAS age-related physical limitations or health needs, which restrict a seniors ability to maintain a home or live without support, prematurely drive seniors into care facilities; and

WHEREAS the cost effectiveness of providing properly administered support services to defer the institutionalization of seniors with the desire and capacity to remain independent in their own familiar home and community has been demonstrated through the Veterans Affairs Canada, Veterans Independence Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada follow up on a recommendation of The Royal Canadian Legion adopted by the Prime Minister's (PM) Task Force on seniors that a national Seniors Independence Program be implemented to assist seniors to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as they are able.

LONG TERM CARE

402. VETERANS LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL

NS/NU 3

WHEREAS Veterans Long Term Care Beds are available only to World War II and Korea Veterans;

WHEREAS Beds are becoming available as the Veterans numbers are diminishing; and

WHEREAS Canadian Armed Forces Veterans with a service related disability and requiring level 2 treatment that could be using these beds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED Dominion Command petition the Minister of Veterans Affairs that all Canadian Armed Forces Veterans with a service related

disability and requiring level 2 treatment be entitled to a long term care bed at a Veterans hospital or similar facility.

POPPY *and* REMEMBRANCE

39. NAVY LEAGUE OF CANADA – SUPPORT FOR FUNDING FROM DND BC/YUKON 1/C

WHEREAS in each Community where there is a Navy League Cadet program, the funding necessary for the program needs to cover: housing, Cadet uniforms, Officer uniforms, Cadet activities, and this falls onto the Navy League Cadets. AS WELL as the expectation of their support of the Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Program;

WHEREAS there is no Department of National Defense financial support for any factor of the Navy League Cadet Program, as there is for the Air Cadet Program, the Army Cadet Program and the Sea Cadet Program;

WHEREAS in the past the Navy League of Canada has depended on financial support from The Royal Canadian Legion and other community organizations; and

WHEREAS with the decline of membership in The Royal Canadian Legion and the Legion's increased expenses and restrictions on the use of donations from the Legion's Poppy fund, this creates a hardship to the funding of the Navy League Cadet Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion will support the Navy League of Canada, in their application for support for funding from the Department of National Defense.

40. ANNUAL VETERANS VISIT – MEAL COST SASK 7/C

WHEREAS costs continue to increase every year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the amount allowed to be spent on a meal for a Veteran be increased from up to \$18 to up to \$25 from the Poppy fund.

41. USE OF POPPY FUNDS NS/NU 2

WHEREAS the Poppy Fund ensures that Veterans and their families are cared for, provide assistance to, and treated with respect that they truly deserve;

WHEREAS the Poppy Trust Fund may be used once a year to provide an annual visit to a Branch for any local Veterans to offer a meal and camaraderie up to eighteen dollars (\$18) excluding alcoholic beverages or other services such as entertainment; and

WHEREAS the Poppy Trust Fund may be used once a year to cover the reasonable transportation expenses of Veterans to and from the local Branch:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Poppy Trust Fund may be used once a year to offer a meal up to twenty-five dollars (\$25) for a spouse/caregiver accompanying a Veteran or a widow/widower accompanied by a caregiver if required.

313. POPPY FUND – SECTION 1116 BC/YUKON 11

WHEREAS The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion allow for the use of Poppy Funds under section 1116, for the purpose of funding Veteran Transition Programs, make allotments not exceeding 50 percent of the balance in the Poppy Trust Fund on the thirtieth (30th) day of September in the Poppy Year preceding the expenditure;

WHEREAS The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion allow for the use of Poppy Funds under section 1107, to support the RCEL, by making allotments not exceeding twenty-five percent of the total available in the account on the date prior approval is requested;

WHEREAS BC/Yukon Command established the VTP with UBC and in 2013 it became its own entity under Veterans Transition Network and is now supported nationally and is one the most vital programs offered to our Veterans; and

WHEREAS BC/Yukon Command has had to deny acceptance of SUE requests from branches as the requests were above the 50% entitlement under section 1116, yet would have been approved if the same formula was used as in section 1107.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article XI Poppy Fund of The General By-Laws be amended to change the amount in section 1116 to read, not exceeding twenty-five percent of the total available in the account on the date prior approval is requested preceding the expenditure.

316. USE OF POPPY TRUST FUNDS FOR VETERAN'S SUFFERING FROM POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

ALTA-NWT 14

WHEREAS Veteran's diagnosed with PTSD as a result of Service;

WHEREAS it has been proven that service dogs are a direct benefit to the general and mental health of a Veteran; and

WHEREAS the Government will compensate Veterans for medication only and that the Veteran has to bear the total cost associated with service dogs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, subject to the prior approval of the Provincial Command Office, a District or Branch may, for the purposes of supporting costs associated with service dogs, expend a portion of the money in the Poppy Trust Account, not exceeding twenty-five percent (25%) of the total available in the account, on the thirtieth (30th) day of September in the year preceding the expenditure.

MEMBERSHIP

43. ABILITY TO APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP VIA ELECTRONIC MEANS

MBR 2

WHEREAS currently all applications to the Legion must be made in writing;

WHEREAS the increasing use of electronic correspondence, such as e-mail, is widely accepted as replacing solely written forms of correspondence and other transactions/communications/agreements are taking place over video conferencing solutions such as SKYPE and Facetime; and

WHEREAS by agreeing to terms and conditions as stipulated in an electronic document, such as an e-mail, PDF or scanned documents, or other forms of electronic correspondence, may be accomplished by clicking a check-box or having a person reply with their acceptance and that such acceptance is recognized as legally binding:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion should also accept applications for membership, renewal or reinstatement by electronic means as those described above.

44. EXTEND THE NUMBER OF YEARS OF SERVICE A MEMBER IS ABLE TO BUY BACK

MBR 3

WHEREAS Legion By-Law 1204 a. stipulates that a lapsed member may buy back their current year's membership and/or the preceding two years only;

WHEREAS this same By-Law recognizes extraordinary cases where, with proper documentation, lapsed members may renew and buy back exceptional numbers of years of service; and

WHEREAS in an effort to facilitate the process of reinstating lapsed members the Legion recognizes the need to extend the years of service a lapsed member may buy back:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this By-Law be changed to reflect that a lapsed member will be eligible to buy back the current year and any years of unpaid dues.

45. TO CHANGE QUALIFICATIONS FOR RCMP MEMBERS TO JOIN THE LEGION

MBR 4

WHEREAS under General-Bylaw 206 e. a member of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police must have served a minimum of one year with the Force before being eligible to apply to the Legion for membership;

WHEREAS a member of the RCMP, upon graduating from training at Depot, is considered by the Force as being a full-fledged member of the RCMP;

WHEREAS these same individuals will meet all the age and citizenship requirements to become members of the Legion; and

WHEREAS there is no time restriction for members of the Canadian Armed Forces to have served before being able to join the Legion;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this By-Law be changed to reflect that members of the RCMP are eligible to join the Legion upon graduation from training at Depot.

46. MEMBERSHIP FORMS

BC/YUKON 8

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion's very existence is dependent on the renewal and recruitment of members;

WHEREAS it is an onerous task of ensuring this information is delivered in a timely fashion to meet the deadlines set out by Dominion Command;

WHEREAS it is reliant on volunteers, either elected or appointed into the position as membership chair to complete the numerous forms that are required for new applicants, transfers, data changes and death notification; and

WHEREAS this is a very arduous task for branches regardless of membership numbers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command develop a simplified single form that will address all the necessary information for membership input requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dominion Command also provides the ability for electronic submission of the new form by branches.

47. MEMBERSHIP – ELECTRONIC PAYMENT AND PRE-AUTHORIZATION OF DUES PAYMENTS

BC/YUKON 16

WHEREAS recruitment and retention programs have been developed and implemented at both Dominion and Provincial Command levels to focus efforts on membership recruitment and retention;

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion continues to see a reduction in membership numbers;

WHEREAS some Commands have successful recruiting campaigns bringing in new members while renewal and retention efforts fail; and

WHEREAS there are electronic and pre-authorized methods of payment in the finance industry:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command develop and implement a program to permit payment of membership dues online or through an automatic dues deduction system from the member in their preferred method; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dominion Command develop and implement a program to permit automatic renewal of membership dues through pre-authorized payments.

48. FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO NEWLY RETIRED VETERANS

ALTA-NWT 5/C

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion created a program in June 2008 that offers newly retired Veterans a free one year membership;

CONSTITUTION *and* LAWS

WHEREAS a holding branch has been set up at Dominion Command for these newly retired Veterans;

WHEREAS membership in this holding branch is valid for one year and, once the free membership period has expired, members are notified and asked to transfer their membership to a local Branch of their choice;

WHEREAS members who do not transfer their membership to a local Branch at the end of the one year free membership are moved into Branch 13-013;

WHEREAS section 224 of The General By-Laws states in part “upon approval of the application, the applicant upon initiation shall become a member. Initiation shall include the declaration of loyalty to the Sovereign”;

WHEREAS the purpose of the initiation is twofold: to have the member declare his/her loyalty to the Sovereign and to welcome the new member to The Royal Canadian Legion fraternity;

WHEREAS membership in the holding branch does not provide the new member with the opportunity to declare his/her loyalty to the Sovereign nor does it provide for the initiation of the member as stipulated in section 302 of the Ritual and Insignia Manual; and

WHEREAS discussions with a large number of these new members, who recently retired from CFB Wainwright, indicate that they do not renew their membership at the end of the one year free term as they do not feel they are a part of our organization:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the free one year membership to Newly Retired Veterans Program be continued. However, the membership should be at the Branch nearest to the declared address on release or at a Branch of the member’s choice. Upon receipt of the one year free membership card, it would then be that Branch’s responsibility to conduct the initiation ceremony including the declaration of loyalty.

49. ELECTIONS ALTA-NWT 16

WHEREAS section 6. b. of the *Rules of Procedure For Legion Meetings* contradicts the fundamentals of a democratic society in matters respecting the conduct of elections by not ensuring that each member has the opportunity to cast a ballot for each candidate, particularly in the case of advance polling, e.g., a Vice-President who has dropped down to the next level having not been successful at the first level nominated;

WHEREAS section 1303 of *The General By-Laws* respecting Matters of Procedure states in part “In all matters of procedure not provided for in the By-Laws of any command or branch, the provisions of the Legion’s “Rules of Procedure for Legion Meetings” shall apply...”; and

WHEREAS the fundamentals of a democratic society include competitive elections that are fair both substantively and procedurally and each vote has an equal weight, each citizen an equal opportunity to vote and each candidate has an equal right to support from those who chose to vote for him:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion replace section 6. b. of the *Rules of Procedure for Legion Meetings* with wording that ensures that all Branches in all Commands conduct their elections in the same manner thus ensuring consistency in the conduct of an election and that each member has an opportunity to cast a ballot and that each candidate has an equal opportunity to receive support after having dropped to a lower level.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

326. VETERAN IDENTIFICATION CARD

ONT 8

WHEREAS various companies and government agencies have begun offering special considerations to veterans but ask for proof of service;

WHEREAS those of our veterans who completed service more than twenty years ago were given their service documents and these are not easily carried at all times; and

WHEREAS the government, when asked to issue a suitable, i.e. wallet size identification card, has sited cost as the first impediment:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion be prepared, and so indicate to DND and VAC to issue such a card;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this would be handled in the same manner as various Provincial Commands dealing with the issuing of veterans license plates and Dominion Command would issue a wallet size card indicating the bearer did serve honourably in Her Majesty's Forces.

ADDRESS TO THE 45TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Honourable Julian Fantino
Minister Of Veterans Affairs

Good Morning, Bonjour

Thank you Gord for that kind introduction as you've probably gathered I'm one of those people just can't keep a steady job but let me tell you how proud and honoured I am to have this job. So Mr. Moore, Mr. Eagles, members of the Dominion Executive honoured veterans, delegates, distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Messieurs et Mesdames, Bonjour.

As I said during the Opening Ceremonies it's indeed an honour for me to join you and not just as Canadian Minister of Veterans Affairs but as a proud member of The Royal Canadian Legion and as a proud Canadian. Your Legion has earned the admiration and respect of Canadians everywhere. Indeed since its inception in 1926 the Legion has been a leading voice for generations of men and women who have served our great country and those who continue to serve Canada today.

You've also been an important partner for our government which is why we are proud to work with you on a number of important initiatives and that includes our new one year partnership, The Veteran Outreach and Visitation Initiative. Through this new program, we're tapping the Legions national network of volunteers to visit approximately four thousand veterans who are receiving financial assistance from our government for their long term care. The Legion is well positioned to reach out to these veterans which is why I am pleased to announce today that our government will be exercising its option to extend the one hundred and twenty thousand dollars contract for an additional one year. I'm also pleased to announce that we will be doubling the value of that contract to two hundred and forty thousand dollars so that we can support twice as many visits to these veterans in long term care facilities. Under the terms of the contract extension the Legion will make some

eight thousand visits in these establishments and visiting of our veterans. The comments and insight gathered during these visits will also be helpful to ensure that we continue to provide excellent service and support to our most vulnerable veterans. This partnership represents a chance for our government to enhance the care we provide to veterans further support the important work you are doing everyday on the ground.

Friends there few responsibilities of a national government than that which is more urgent or more important than caring for and supporting the men or women and their families that have served our Country so well. I realize the significance of my portfolio, and I am truly dedicated and willing and able and persevere to the extent that I can to ensure that veterans continue to be a priority I know that this is something we share in common. And so I welcome the chance to talk about the substantial progress that we've made during the first year in this particular ministry of Veterans Affairs for me at least my ultimate interests is in the road ahead. Your president talked about some those issues but I want to also talk about the kinds of things that I see we need to do moving forward. I want to talk about staying focused on the increasing complex and diverse needs of Canada's veterans and their families. And let me say right from the outset that I readily admit that there's still much work to be done, gaps to be filled and issues to be resolved. Indeed there are things I wish I could, all of us wish we could correct, change at the flick of a switch or otherwise guarantee perfection in all that we do all of the time. However, perfection is not of this world. But I'm prepared to continue taking a measured approach I'm willing to put in any effort required to get things right. And so my overriding message today is to ask you to work with us help us continue to make progress together.

Now let me change direction a wee bit. Ladies and Gentlemen you know that I'm not a career politician. In fact I spent most of my career in policing criticizing politicians and now I am one of them. I spent my whole adult life as a police officer and as a police leader. Sworn to uphold the law and dedicated to public service. I put my name on the ballot because I share many of the same hopes and dreams that you have for a future for our country. And I want our communities to be safe. I want hard working Canadians to have a real shot at getting ahead. I want Canada to be a country that continues to be respected around the world for its defense of freedom, democracy and human rights. A country that stands by its principles and a country that will forever remember the sacrifice of our veterans especially those brave souls who gave their all. I also know that serving in government means doing what is right no matter how great the obstacles or how difficult the challenges and there is no shortage of obstacles and challenges. However, be that as it may, I am not deterred. Veterans deserve our very best and you have my word that our government will do everything it can to continue supporting veterans and their families.

Friends no other government in our nation's modern history has done more to meet the needs of Canada's veterans and their families and to that end it doesn't mean that the work is done. Since 2006 we have invested significantly in new funding to enhance veterans' benefits programs and services. And we've done so during some of the most fragile economic times in living memory. I made some very painful but necessary belt tightening exercises. Our government is like a lot of Canadian families many of you as you well know we've had to make adjustments in our finances. We are no different. And yet that hasn't stopped us from committing new funding to veterans programming year after year, year over year. You saw that again in February with our new federal budget. Our economic action plan for 2014 builds on our previous investments in veterans' issues. We've committed another one hundred and eight million dollars over three years to ensure that modern day veterans of modest means have access to a dignified funeral and burial as is their right. Budget 2014 also contain provisions to get more veterans greater access to good jobs in the federal public service. Simply put veterans released from the military because of a

service related injury or illness will be given first consideration for any job they are qualified to fill in the federal public service. We will also ensure that all medically released veterans keep their existing priority status for a full five years. And that eligibility for still serving members that they be allowed to compete for internally advertised federal positions and that eligible veterans be given a hiring preference when it comes to competing for external advertised positions that they are qualified to fill.

Priority hiring for veterans is one more way we can address the issue and concerns that we've heard recently regarding the transition of military personnel to civilian life. We are encouraged by their employers are doing the same. To fill their staffing needs by hiring some of the approximately ten thousand professionally trained and highly skilled men and women who leave the Armed Forces year after year. Budget 2014 includes other important investments, for example it allocated two point one million dollars to enhance our delivery of vital services through our online my VAC account network. More recently we've announced five hundred thousand dollars for a pilot project to study the use of psychiatric service dogs to assist veterans with post traumatic stress disorder.

We presented the first Arctic Star medal to recipients who served in the Canadian military. And our core budget 2014 announced our plans to also commemorate the end of Canada's mission in Afghanistan beginning with the incredibly moving national day of honour last month. The National day of honour was a powerful display of our nations enduring pride and gratitude for the more than forty thousand men and women who served during the twelve year Afghan mission and the one hundred and fifty eight courageous Canadians who made the ultimate sacrifice. Our thoughts and prayers will always be with their families, friends and colleagues and we will never forget them.

You saw that earlier this month with our ceremonies to mark the seventieth anniversary of D Day and the battle of Normandy. I as I indicated will never forget being in Normandy this month with an impressive contingent of veterans of the second World War, one of whom celebrated his 101st birthday on June the 12th. And he did land on Juno Beach seventy years ago. Joining with

them was indeed a life altering experience as I have personally felt. But we joined the world and Canada was very prominent in receiving a thank you and expressing our gratitude to those brave men that served in that particular conflict. And they like you truly reflect the very best of what it means to be Canadian. Between now and 2020 we will continue to commemorate our rich military history by marking more milestone anniversaries from the first and second world wars. And we will do so while maintaining the proper balance between commemorations and providing the full support and benefits veterans and their families deserve. Commemorations are very important aspect of educating Canadians, especially new Canadians and of course are young people about the sacrifice the acts of heroism and unselfish contribution that has made Canada our cherished quality of life the freedom and opportunities that this great nation has to offer. And about which this and generations to come must never take for granted.

I've often said in policing, speaking to police officers that if we don't know our history, if we don't know where we have been, if we don't remember and show appreciation of those who have served before us on whose shoulders we now travel, chances are we won't know where we are going. And I would like to suggest that commemorations is a duty and responsibility and neither I nor others in government can ever forget the importance of showing that leadership as I mention especially to educate current and future generations about Canada's history. The sacrifice and the contribution that so many people made, spilling the blood that has been spilled to enable us to enjoy the quality of life that we enjoy in this country.

I would now like to talk a brief moment about other areas. First we need to keep cutting red tape I am absolutely frustrated you must be, about the protracted the difficulty that people are incurring just to access services from Veterans Affairs Canada. Primarily the eighteen page application form. We need to remove those impediments that are slowing us down and are frustrating people and we need to ensure that we are better able to serve the needs of our veterans and their families. As I've said many times our government is allergic to red tape I certainly am and we want to make life easier for veterans. And that's why among other things

we've introduced new upfront payments for those receiving housekeeping, grounds maintenance services through the Veterans Independence Program and just last fall we simplified such things as the vocational rehabilitation program to make it easier for eligible veterans to access up to seventy five thousand eight hundred dollars for new training to enable them to segue into good jobs. And that we won't stop there, in fact my colleague Laurie Hawn, a former fighter pilot who was with us here yesterday, and a current member for Edmonton Centre has tabled a private member's bill to eliminate any hurdles standing in the way of sharing information quickly between the Department of National Defense and Veterans Affairs Canada.

We also need to improve the way we communicate with veterans and with all Canadians and you know that as well as I do. We need to make communications more personal easier and more readily available. We need to keep the dialogue going and that's why I try and visit as many Legion halls and speak to as many veterans as I can as I travel around to get a sense of comfort and understanding about the issues that are affecting people directly on the ground. And that's why I was at the Legion's national forum and I thank the Dominion Command for inviting me at the Homeless Veterans Forum in April. I have certainly been impressed by the breath and quality of the ideas that I've been hearing and not all just from the Legion but widely also from the kinds of discussion one has, sidebars with veterans with the advice they were receiving from obviously the ombudsman, Mr. Guy Parent who has been very, very strong and very committed and doing what he can to help veterans and their families and obviously enable us to do a better job. And of course the ideas that are coming forward from our employees at Veterans Affairs Canada and they are obviously our front line people and I like to suggest that they are committed, they are dedicated they are trying hard to do the job for veterans and we don't thank them enough for the service they provide as well. And these interactions are leading to inform in common sense solutions and that's why I wanted to be here and I'm grateful for the invitation, but it brings me to other important issues.

As a veterans programming providing sufficient care and support, I've appreciated your frank comments to date, I've been listening to what

you've been saying for example on the disability award, on the earnings loss benefit and with regards to reservists. Gord as your president and his team have been equally forceful on other matters such as progressing applications faster, giving the benefit of the doubt more generously on disability benefits and helping to train Service Officers more thoroughly on Veterans Affairs policies and procedures. We are taking all of these points and concerns seriously, but as you know we have just received a parliamentary committee report on its comprehensive review of the new Veterans Charter. It's a substantial and thoughtful document that requires some time to study and fully digest, but I assure you it will not be collecting dust. What's important however is that this parliamentary review has allowed Canadians and veterans and their representatives including the Legion to voice their opinion and to be heard by a democratically elected parliamentary body from all federal parties. And the result of the committee's extensive consultations is a unanimous report with fourteen recommendations supported by members of the three main political parties. And what I am proposing now is that we take a little bit of time to review what the committee has recommended. Following which we will proceed to an implementation phase.

Ladies and Gentleman I truly appreciate the attention and the hospitality that you have extended to me. And I want you to know that the work that you are doing here, at this convention and on the ground in your respective branches is an important part of the road forward.

And to that end I want to welcome Tom Eagles on board as your new Dominion President and to pledge to him and to all of you our continued cooperation and collaboration. Your deliberations here in Edmonton will not fall on deaf ears. We're paying attention and we truly do support your efforts. And we are truly grateful for your devotion to veterans, your care for their families and your dedication to Canada.

Ladies and Gentlemen, finally I would like to close by recognizing your outgoing Dominion President. A man who has embodied and who does embody the very spirit of The Royal Canadian Legion. And it's over three hundred thousand members I can tell you for the year that I've known Gord, I've known him to be very passionate, committed

and dedicated. That's why I cannot ever get mad at him because he's sincere. And if I can ask Gord to come forward, I would like to present him with the highest honour that I can award him. Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Government of Canada it is my privilege to present to you Gord the Minister of Veterans Affairs commendation in recognition of your exceptional leadership and your steadfast service in support of Canada's veterans and their families and through your passionate and tireless efforts you have brought great honour to the Legion and you certainly have made a real and lasting difference in the lives of Canada's most deserving men and women and for which I sincerely thank you on behalf of the Government of Canada and on behalf of my ministry.

SPEAKING NOTES TO THE 45TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
COMMANDER 1 CMBG

Brigadier-General D.J. Anderson
Commander 1 CMBG

Thank you Mike Cook for that kind introduction.

Dominion President: Gordon Moore,

Grand President: Larry Murray,

President-elect: Tom Eagles,

Distinguished Veterans and members of the
Legion,

Ladies & gentlemen.

- I am very pleased to be here with you this afternoon on behalf of the Chief of Defence Staff, General Tom Lawson.
- Before I start, I thought I would share something I learned recently from my 11 year old niece. She has been studying the history of the Roman Empire, and I asked her what the most important thing was that she learned about Julius Caesar. She thought about it, for a minute, and then said “he gave very long speeches, and then they stabbed him to death.” To avoid the fate of Julius Caesar I intend to keep my remarks very short...
- I would like to thank the Royal Canadian Legion, on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces, for the support, guidance and leadership that you have given to those that have retired, been injured, wounded or are suffering from illness.
- The Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Armed Forces are part of the same family. I have been fortunate to have served with some of you here this afternoon be it on operations in Afghanistan, Bosnia, or Cyprus, in training at Wainwright, Gagetown, Petawawa, and all the other great vacation spots. Some of us may in fact have raised a few pints together in pubs and yes, Legions. Thank you for this opportunity to address you.
- Two years ago, General Walt Natynczyk addressed the Dominion Convention in Halifax. His message was one of partnership, trust and co-operation. You are here in Edmonton because you understand the importance of achieving this, and you understand the challenges faced by providing this support, most especially to our newest veterans, many of whom, served in Afghanistan.
- Over 40,000 soldiers served in Afghanistan, a point highlighted when the Canadian flag was lowered for the last time in Kabul on 12 March this year. This was celebrated on the National Day of Honour on 9 May. On this day we saw an outpouring of support from people all across the nation. And while the focal point was the parade in Ottawa, the occasion was marked across the country, and perhaps most especially here, at CFB Edmonton. Edmonton-based soldiers have a long and complex involvement with the war in Afghanistan. They were the first deployed in 2002. They provided the first troops into Kandahar in 2005 with the Provincial Reconstruction Team, and in 2006 with the 1 Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (PPCLI) Battle Group. They provided the close out mission in Kandahar, and were the first to deploy on the Training Mission, and the last to return.
- Over the past 12 years, the war in Afghanistan, a war that lasted longer than WW1, WW2 and Korea, saw 40,000 Canadians serve. These are 40,000 new veterans who need or will need your support in the years ahead when they finally hang up their uniforms for the final time.
- I am certain that the Legion will continue to help those that have lost loved ones in Afghanistan and at home and be a support

base for those that have been injured or are suffering from wounds both visible and invisible.

- And our Canadian Armed Forces soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen who leave the Forces also need your help especially with the transition to the civilian sectors.
- But it is equally important to acknowledge that although Afghanistan is our latest conflict, it is no more important than other campaigns that soldiers, serving and retired, have contributed to.
- The Cold War didn't win itself. Peacekeeping only worked if you had peacekeepers. Our seas and skies have not policed themselves. Yes, Afghanistan is important, but it should not be allowed to over-shadow the contributions of Canadian soldiers, sailors and airmen and airwomen over the last 50 years. And it most certainly should not push our efforts in Korea and two World Wars into the shadows.
- In short, we must remember to honour the service of all, and in this, The Canadian Armed Forces can learn a lesson or two from The Royal Canadian Legion.
- Now, as important as it is to acknowledge and honour our past, as an institution the Canadian Armed Forces must continue to master the present and keep an eye on the future.
- When General Walt Natynczyk addressed you two years ago there were 1300 soldiers serving on expeditionary operations. Now there are even less, just 709 Canadian Armed Forces personnel are deployed internationally, the lowest levels since the Korean War.
- That does not mean that peace has broken out all over. We still live in uncertain times. Factors and forces are arising that many thought had left us forever. The return of large-scale geo-politics is evident in events from places as far-flung as Eastern Europe to the Sea of China. Transnational and intra-national threats ranging from terrorism to insurgency to large-scale criminal endeavours continue to disrupt the natural flow of discourse, politics and commerce.
- You combat uncertainty with readiness that is both appropriate to the threat and is sustainable, from both a financial and a human perspective. Canada's Armed Forces remain ready, and have had the occasion to demonstrate this fact to the government, the people of Canada and indeed the world in the recent weeks.
- A fortnight ago, I had the honour of sending off the main body of the Para Company of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry flying to Europe to link up with the advance party. Canada now has 120 paratroopers and supporters in Poland working with other NATO forces as part of Op REASSURANCE. Moreover, HMCS Regina is in the Mediterranean supporting NATO reassurance measures in Europe after it recently departed the Arabian Sea where it had been providing maritime security in the Middle East region for the previous three months. The Royal Canadian Air Force also has personnel deployed supporting the CF-18 Hornets in Romania and we have numerous staff in key positions at the NATO Headquarters in Europe.
- Canada is a strong supporter of NATO since its founding 65 years ago and is committed to supporting our partner nations. The Canadian Armed Forces continues its commitment to promoting global security and maintaining transatlantic partnerships by providing modern, deployable capabilities and highly trained personnel to allied efforts.
- We are currently on operations in Africa including the United Nations stabilization mission, Op CROCODILE to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- Additionally, we have Canadians serving in Darfur, South Sudan, Haiti, Golan Heights, on the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt, Jerusalem, Kosovo and one officer serving on Task Force CYPRUS. This year marked the 50th anniversary of our first deployment to Cyprus.
- At home, the Canadian Armed Forces has recently completed the biggest exercise planned for 2014. In Wainwright, Alberta nearly 4,000 soldiers from across Canada, 450 airmen and airwomen and 550 foreign soldiers from the United Kingdom and the

United States took part in Exercise MAPLE RESOLVE.

- So, although we are not currently committed to a large-scale fight, for the first time in 12 years, we must still be ready. As Aaron Rodgers, the quarterback of the Green Bay Packers said, “I get paid to win games in the regular season – I make my legend in the playoffs.” For the past 12 years we have been taking the fight to the Taliban and Haqqani network in Afghanistan. That is like going to the Super Bowl every year without the need to get back to the basics, back to our regular season.
- With so few personnel deployed in operations overseas this is our opportunity to reconstitute and to be ready for anything that Canada requires from us. I am certain that we are up to that challenge, much as all of you were in your day. The basic building block of our nation’s military power has not changed, our Soldiers. Drawn from across this great nation, they join the Forces with a ‘bedrock of decency’ and just plain goodness that characterises all Canadians. That fundamental strength of character is honed and shaped by our world-class training systems into the service men and women who stand ready to answer the call of the nation. It continues to be my honour to serve them, and I am heartened by the thought that they will be supported after service by such great institutions as The Royal Canadian Legion.
- In closing I would like to re-emphasize that your commitment to the Legion and to all veterans is not just important to our veterans but also to our country. We have an opportunity to ensure that this soldier-civilian link is stronger. It needs to be. And we have to expect that the Legion can provide those that leave the Canadian Armed Forces with better assistance tailored to their needs.
- We must also continue to support the families of those that have died, been injured or are suffering from illness and we must continue supporting veterans as they transfer from the Forces to the civilian sector.
- And although veterans have received much support and assistance from community groups and from the general population, there is still a lot room for improvement especially by consolidating the efforts of many support groups.
- As I depart for my next job in Washington, D.C., I am left with the knowledge that I have served with some of the finest soldiers in Canada. Some of them will retire from the Canadian Armed Forces or have retired. You must woo them and attract them to join – and you may have to search for new methods to do so. Once you have them, use them. Use their knowledge and resources. Be united in your commitment to the Veterans. Stay committed to your fundamental cause, as the veterans of this nation, old and new, deserve no better.
- I am honoured to have been asked to represent the Canadian Armed Forces here this afternoon and to have been given the opportunity to highlight the reasons that the Legion is important to me. Thank you and I welcome your questions.

ADDRESS TO THE THE 45TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT—PPCLI

LGen (ret'd) R.R. Crabbe
*Colonel of the Regiment
Princess Patricia's
Canadian Light Infantry*

Thank you very much for that kind introduction and what a pleasure it is to be here for what is my third opportunity to speak at a Legion Dominion Convention.

I am always very pleased to say that my life was very much shaped by The Royal Canadian Legion, as a young boy growing up in the farming community of Neepawa Manitoba. Being from a family of 12, growing up had its challenges and difficulties. Had Branch 23 of the Legion not sponsored the local hockey and baseball teams, I would not have had the opportunity to play these sports and develop into a marginal junior hockey player. It was the Legion that sponsored a trip for me and two other high school students to attend a united national seminar. I was able to join the local air cadet corps, sponsored by the Legion. And I was fortunate enough to receive a scholarship from Branch 23 – and this was instrumental in my being able to attend university.

My parent's social life – like so very many in Neepawa – revolved around the Legion. My father became a Life Member, a membership of which he was extremely proud. It was the Legion that organized and conducted the annual Remembrance Day – at which all school children in town attended – and other events of Remembrance. And I well recall the large parade of Veterans and serving soldiers from Shilo marching through the town in remembrance of our World War 1, 2 and Korean War Veterans.

And in the end, Branch 23 – like the other more than 1400 branches across Canada – was carrying out its primary missions of (1) serving our veterans (2) promoting Remembrance and (3) supporting and serving the community and in turn this great country we live in. And having been back to Neepawa on several occasions, this great work by the Legion continues today as it does across Canada.

All of these were very influential for a teenager growing up on the prairies, and i am very grateful for the what Legion did for me, our family, and hometown. And i know that this is typical of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who are the beneficiaries of the wonderful work carried out by The Royal Canadian Legion.

The Dominion Convention this year is particularly important given that it has been 100 years since the start of World War 1, and 70 years from the largest military operation ever undertaken - the D-day invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944.

I am also very pleased to say that this year also marks the 100th anniversary of Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, a regiment that was privately raised by a Montreal businessman and entrepreneur, Hamilton Gault, in response to the war, and which has been part of Canada's Regular Army since its formation. The Royal Canadian Legion was very kind and extremely generous in supporting the regiment's centennial art show which has been a huge success in Calgary and has now moved to Edmonton; and if time permits, I would encourage you to see this very unique and remarkable show in the enterprise center just down the street on Jasper Avenue.

World War 1 was of course one of the most influential and significant events that shaped the history and the very nature of our country as Canada's contribution and sacrifices to the war efforts are unparalleled in modern history. At the outbreak of WWI, Canada was a mere 47 years old and a nation of 8 million people. Yet, Canada raised a military of almost 650,000 men and women at a time when our military mobilization base and capacity was, to say the least – rudimentary. 60,000 Canadians died fighting in WWI. They are buried in the Province of Flanders in Belgium, France, England and other locations – their existence marked with a traditional white cross with a Canadian Maple Leaf emblazoned on it.

Given the horrific conditions faced by the soldiers in that war, far too many Canadians have no known grave – their names engraved on the arch of the Menin Gate at Ypres, Belgium – just a few kilometers from where many fell, and now of course, represented by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at the foot of the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

160,000 soldiers were also wounded in World War One, many of them with incapacitating injuries that they would live with for the rest of their lives.

The Canadian Corps that stormed Vimy Ridge at Easter 1917, was one of the toughest fighting organizations on either side of the war. They captured the ridge when other nations' armies had failed to do so, and set the mark for generations of Canadian soldiers to achieve.

Often forgotten in the war effort are the hundreds of thousands of Canadians – mostly women – who toiled day and night in the munitions, arms and vehicle factories across Canada in support of the Commonwealth war effort. Thousands were involved selling war bonds to finance the war. Farmers worked feverishly to produce grains and foods to sustain the fighting force. Mothers were raising families on their own because their husbands were at war.

Canada's last survivor of World War 1 passed away a few years ago, and one of the challenges now is to ensure that the people of Canada – especially the young people – do not forget the immeasurable contribution made by this nation to the war effort, and above all, do not forget the 60,000 Canadians killed in that conflict. This will be - I believe - one of the challenges of Remembrance that the Legion will face as we get farther and farther away from the war, the Canadians who fought in it, and the families impacted by World War 1.

I would like to offer a few comments on the theme of this year's convention; (Challenge – Opportunity – Change), especially as it relates to Veterans. It is certainly not necessary to remind this audience of the significant challenges that Veterans have faced over the past 10 years, related largely to the New Veteran's Charter and in my view, a misunderstanding of the needs of today's Veterans as opposed to what have been referred to as the "older veterans". It is very clear in

Legion governance that a Veteran is a Veteran is a Veteran – whether they served in World War 1, World War 2, Korea, Peacekeeping, the Cold War or served as a member of Canada's military here at home. And so it should be and must be.

While every national program has its warts, I believe it is fair to say that the Veterans of WW1, WW2 and Korea have been and are well cared for. The real challenge is the "modern veteran" who has faced different, and in some cases, much more complex issues than those great men and women who fought Canada's previous wars. These challenges manifest themselves on the battlefield and unfortunately, during post-conflict. There are far too many genuine and sincere stories of soldiers who have struggled to obtain needed care; struggled with bureaucracy, with the military in some cases, and with themselves. Let me give you an example.

A very brave and courageous soldier lost both legs above the knees in Afghanistan. As we can all appreciate, this was a very traumatic life changing event that altered not only the life of this soldier, but his family as well. Months and months of counselling and therapy were physically and mentally demanding, but the real demands were to come later when he attempted to obtain assistance for which he was clearly eligible. The onus was on him to seek out each one of these "entitlements"; wheel chair, funding, home renovations to cater for his permanent incapacitation, etc. He found he was dealing with one part of the bureaucracy for a chair, another for home renovations, another for funding and so on. This is a soldier who left his legs on the battlefield on behalf of our country.

The correct approach would be to say: we very much appreciate your service, recognize that your life has forever changed, and given that we as a government put you in harm's way and you were incapacitated as a result, we are now going to ensure you get what you need to enjoy the optimum quality of life for the rest of your life, that you and your family rightly deserve. Then look at all the needs of that individual in a holistic way and ensure that there is indeed a quality of life for the family that is just and fair. The onus must not be in the individual to go looking or searching for help – that help needs to be at the forefront of his or her recovery. To me it is relatively simple: this country directs soldiers to

go to war on behalf of the people of Canada - and our soldiers, sailors and air men and women fully understand the unlimited liability they accept in this regard; in doing so, a soldier becomes incapacitated; on behalf of all Canadians, we are going to do everything we can now, to ensure you live a life with your family to the best of our and your ability.

There is an opportunity to change this and make it much better than it is today. Changes for the good of those who serve and indeed, to attract others who will take the view that if they are harmed and need help, they can count on our nation supporting them and their families. There have been changes and there have been improvements, but it is my view that there is still plenty of room for improvement.

The Legion has done a tremendous job in so many ways through its Service Bureau Network and its over 1400 branches in this regard. There is a tremendous opportunity to take this further by assuming a more “holistic approach” to the provision of services and needs for Veterans and their families who have given so much for Canada. This is particularly challenging for members of the Reserve Forces who by and large, do not have the same degree of access to the support provided to the military nor the knowledge of the various Veteran programs, and as more and more reservists volunteer to serve on operations, this aspect of our Veteran programs become even more important. I know the Legion has identified these outreach challenges and are working toward ensuring that the services and advice are more accessible and available, and in a similar way have reached out through partnering with the university of bc in support of the Veteran’s Transition Program. These are real challenges that affect real people and there are opportunities in this regard for change that can and will have positive outcomes in support of Veterans. In short, I believe what we all need to work toward is this legitimate care and support being provided without having to endure the very stressful process of seeking out and justifying the need.

These stories of Veterans not being able to readily access services to which they are entitled – and more importantly. Which they deserve – is related to a broader challenge that has often been referred to as the social mandate between the government of our country and the men and women who

serve in our military. This authorization to act in a particular way on a public issue given by the people to its government is fundamental to the success and well being of our Veterans. In simple terms, the mandate says that if the government places soldiers in harm’s way and that soldier is injured or killed, then the government has a mandate to ensure that the soldier and his or her family are taken care of in a manner that we as Canadians would expect. After all, soldiers, sailors, airmen and air women are day in and day out putting their lives on the line on behalf of the government and in turn, the people of the country.

This mandate may not be written or inscribed in any legal document or embedded in the constitution. As you may be aware, this social mandate – although espoused by the military and government leaders for years as a fundamental of service to country – is being challenged from a legal perspective. That’s easy to do I would suggest as there is probably no legal document or precedence that clearly enunciates the most fundamental responsibility of a government toward its military. But I think we would all agree that morally and fundamentally, such a mandate must exist.

That is not to suggest that we do not need regulations and guidelines that spell out the support available to Veterans and their families; we certainly do. But let’s have a very clear understanding of this fundamental contract between our national government and our military, and then apply this in a generic and holistic sense to veterans in need, and Veterans who have given their all, for our country.

With regard to the other pillar of the Legion’s mission – that of Remembrance – I would offer that Canadians have been extremely responsive to our Remembrance programs, large and small. I have attended many Remembrance Day ceremonies in Winnipeg that are standing room only. And what is most pleasing to see is the age of many of the attendees – younger Canadians who appear to take a genuine interest in remembering and paying tribute to our fallen and wounded and what they did for the betterment of our nation. This has definitely been a trend locally and nationally, and certainly the National Remembrance Day service conducted at the National War Memorial by the Legion continues to attract more and more Canadians

who genuinely want to recognize, acknowledge and thank those who gave their lives. The annual ritual of wearing a Poppy to honour our war dead is one of the few shared civic actions that remains in our society today and I would suggest that Canadians do so as a personal thanks and respect for those who died for Canada.

One could argue that this has been spurred on by Canada's participation in the Afghan war and the media coverage of our 155 soldiers killed in action there. And this is probably a partial explanation. In any event, Canadians in general appear to be genuinely very appreciative of our Veterans and our Remembrance of them. The Legion's work with youth, pilgrimages, literary contests, scholarships and so on are very much a part of keeping this Remembrance relevant to us as Canadians.

The challenge of course will be to maintain this level of support for our Remembrance, not only nationally, but also in the more localized services and activities of Remembrance. This can best be done by ensuring an understanding and appreciation for the immeasurable impact our military has had and continues to have on the history and development of Canada.

In this regard, there is one area of our education that I believe needs to be addressed - and that is in the teaching of Canadian history in our education system, and specifically about Canada's war efforts throughout our relatively short history. Canadians can be justifiably very proud of our country and the history that got us there. And some of the most significant aspects of our history rests with our military contributions to WW1, WW2, Korea and Afghanistan, and of course, our peacekeeping record which is second to none. Canadian soldiers, sailors, airmen and air women have given a lot to the development of our country - and as many have argued, have been our greatest contributor to our international development. It has come at a great cost and sacrifice. And we must not allow these sacrifices to go unrecognized.

I applaud the Legion's advocating for more Canadian history in our schools and certainly an inclusion of the undeniable facts of our history related to wars that have shaped and moulded our nation so very much over the past 147 years. The challenge will be, once again, to overcome the inertia and resistance to telling the history

of wars, of Canadians being killed, and of the terrible devastation and destruction and death that accompany wars. But these are undeniable facts of our history to which young Canadians must be exposed, if for no other reason than to get an appreciation and understanding of the tremendous sacrifices by young Canadians that has contributed so vastly in achieving so much as a country in such a relatively short period of nationhood.

While there will no doubt be many challenges - in perpetuating the Legion as an institution, its membership, funding and support - there will also be many opportunities that will provide ways ahead to further solidify the Legion as a necessary and very important national institution. As always, the challenge is to get out front of the issues and seek out the opportunities that they provide. I commend the Legion for its outstanding work in our communities, for being the true guardian of our Remembrance, and for the leading institution in support of our deserving Veterans. You can be justly proud of your contributions to this wonderful country we live in.

Ladies and gentlemen, let me thank The Royal Canadian Legion once again for the outstanding work and contributions that you make to Canada. You are indeed the keeper of the keys of Remembrance, the leaders in Veterans care and the provider of services to hundreds of communities across this country - largely through volunteer work - it is why the Legion remains one of Canada's truly national institutions.



June 14 – 18, 2014

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

COMMAND _____