

Convention Report *from the* Proceedings

46th Dominion Convention
The Royal Canadian Legion
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador
11 - 15 June 2016

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.





.....

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE RECORDED
THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 46TH DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
ASSEMBLED AT ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR. 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.

.....

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-Presidents

General J.H. Vance, C.M.M., M.S.C., C.D.
Commissioner B. Paulson, C.O.M.

Dominion Honorary Chaplains

Rabbi R. Bulka
Brigadier-General G. Chapdelaine, C.D., Q.H.C.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Dominion President

T. Eagles

Dominion First Vice-President

D. Flannigan

Dominion Vice-Presidents

E. Pigeau
T. Irvine
A. Paquette

Dominion Treasurer

M. Barham

Dominion Chairman

J. Frost

Immediate Past Dominion President

G. Moore

PROVINCIAL COMMAND/SPECIAL SECTION REPRESENTATIVES/PRESIDENTS

British Columbia/Yukon

M. Tremblay

Alberta-NWT

C. Strong

Saskatchewan

K. Box

Manitoba & NWO

M. Willis

Ontario

B. Weaver

Quebec

N. Shelton

New Brunswick

H. Harper

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

S. Wessel

Prince Edward Island

J. Yeo

Newfoundland/Labrador

F. Sullivan


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 Misfeldt
British Columbia, 2004—2006

Jack Frost
Ontario, 2006—2008

Wilfred Edmond
Nova Scotia, 2008—2010

Patricia (Pat) Varga
Saskatchewan, 2010—2012

Gordon Moore
Ontario, 2012—2014

Tom Eagles
New Brunswick, 2014—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 flag 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 46th Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion was held at the St. John's Convention Centre in St. John's, N.L. from 11 – 15 June 2016. It was preceded by a meeting of the Dominion Executive Council on 11 June. This Convention had special significance, as it commemorated the Legion's 90th year of excellence of service to Veterans as well as the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel – both important milestones in our country's heritage.

ATTENDANCE

There were 966 accredited delegates carrying 2,065 proxy votes for a total voting strength of 3031. The number of delegates in attendance remained unchanged from the previous Dominion Convention in Edmonton but there were 335 less proxy votes that were carried. There were 110 observers in attendance and 57 guests from government and veterans' organizations from throughout Canada and overseas.

WORKSHOPS

Three workshops were held at the Delta Saturday afternoon prior to the official opening of the Convention on Sunday. These workshops included: (1) Welcoming Members: Getting the Grump out of the Legion. During this workshop delegates heard from three Veterans: Master Corporal (ret'd) Jody Mitic, currently serving Canadian Armed Forces Reservist Sergeant Craig Hood, and Warrant Officer (ret'd) Paul Nichols with Comrade Bruce Poulin as the moderator; (2) Marketing Membership: Ways to Help Recruit, Renew, Retain which was conducted by Comrades Bruce Poulin, Dion Edmonds and Leah O'Neill; (3) Membership and Technology: Making Enrollment and Processing Easier – An Introduction to the New Membership Software Program, presented by Comrades Randy Hayley and Karen Harris. Each workshop lasted one hour and was attended by approximately 300 delegates and observers.

WREATH LAYING AND OPENING CEREMONIES

A parade and wreath laying ceremony was held on Sunday, June 12th. The Parade formed up at Water Street, below Signal Hill, at 10 am. The Parade Marshall was Comrade Terrance Hurley and the Parade Commander was Comrade Doug McCarthy; the Dominion Command Colour Party led the parade, followed by the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band and Dominion Command Officers followed by approximately 800 Legionnaires representing all Commands. Also in the parade were the Canadian Army Veterans Motorcycle Club, Freedom Riders Motorcycle Club, and Legion Riders. The Parade proceeded down Water Street and halted facing the Newfoundland National War Memorial. The other bands participating in the parade were the Combined Pipes and Drums, The Church Lads Brigade Band, and the Signal Hill Tattoo Fife and Drums

The Master of Ceremonies was Comrade Patrick Dunne and the invocation and benediction were given by the current Chaplain General of the Canadian Armed Forces, Brigadier-General Guy Chapdelaine. The Last Post and the Rouse were played by Warrant Officer Jim Prowse from the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Band and the Lament was played by Patrick MacDonald from the St. John's Pipes and Drums. The Act of Remembrance was recited by Comrades Tom Eagles in English and Larry Murray in French.

The wreath laying ceremony began with a wreath placed by the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Honourable Frank Fagan, followed by Mrs. Sheila Anderson, the National Silver Cross Mother; Veterans Affairs Canada - the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans' Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence; Canadian Armed Forces - Brigadier-General James Camsell; Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Chief Superintendent Peter Clark; Government of NL - Premier Dwight Ball; City of St. John's - Councilor at Large Tom Hann; Royal Newfoundland Regiment - Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Furlong, Commanding Officer; The Royal

Canadian Legion - Comrade Tom Eagles, Dominion President; and Newfoundland and Labrador Command - Comrade Frank Sullivan, President.

After the wreath laying ceremony the Parade proceeded down Water Street where the salute was taken by His Honour Frank Fagan, Dominion President Comrade Tom Eagles and the National Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Sheila Anderson of Yellowknife, NT from the Reviewing stand at the Court House. The Parade then marched into the St. John's Convention Centre.

At 1 pm the special guests were piped onto the stage: Lieutenant Governor Frank Fagan and Mrs. Patricia Fagan; Comrade Tom Eagles, Dominion President and Mrs. Cheryl Eagles; Mrs. Sheila Anderson, National Silver Cross Mother; Comrade Larry Murray, Grand President; the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence; Premier Dwight Ball, Councillor Tom Hann and Comrade Frank Sullivan, President of NL Command.

The Massed Branch Colours were marched on followed by the Legion Colours. The Atlantic Vocal Ensembles performed the national anthem followed by a memorable rendition of Ode to Newfoundland. The Opening Ritual was given in English and French by the Dominion Chairman and Comrade Richard Blanchette during which the delegates remembered our fallen comrades who had passed away since our last Dominion Convention. A virtual Poppy Drop was conducted during the silence. The invocation was delivered by Brigadier-General Guy Chapdelaine. Following the Massed Branch Colours march off, the Dominion Chairman introduced the special guests followed by a presentation of flowers to Mrs. Patricia Fagan, Mrs. Sheila Anderson and Mrs. Cheryl Eagles. Making the presentations were CPO1 Brianna Gosse, 166 Fort Townsend Sea Cadet Corps and the Top Sea Cadet in Canada; CWO Zachary Barrens, 2562 Queen Elizabeth Army Cadet Corps; and WO1 Harrison Lathem, 510 Lions / St. Bonaventure Air Cadet Squadron and the Top Air Cadet in Canada in 2015.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada extended video greetings to the delegates, followed by the President of NL Command, Comrade Frank Sullivan; St. John's City Councillor Tom Hann; the Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador,

the Honourable Dwight Ball, and the Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Labrador, His Honour Frank Fagan. His Honour concluded his remarks by officially opening the 46th Dominion Convention. The Resolution of Loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen was given by the Dominion President and the Grand President in a bilingual format and was adopted.

CONVENTION KEYNOTE SPEAKERS AND GREETINGS

Throughout the three days of Convention, delegates had the opportunity to listen to a number of keynote speeches and presentations that highlighted work being done by a variety of organizations and individuals on behalf of Veterans and their families. These presentations provided multiple perspectives, information on challenges and opportunities, and shared support for Canada's Veterans and the Legion.

There were three keynote speakers. The first day was the Honourable Kent Hehr, Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Associate Minister of National Defence, who reemphasized his mandate letter and a number of initiatives the government is looking at to better serve Canada's Veterans. The second day saw the National Silver Cross Mother, Mrs. Sheila Anderson, who spoke of her loss and the need to take better care of our Veterans. On the third and last day, the keynote speaker was Brigadier-General James Camsell, the Deputy Commander, 5th Canadian Division who spoke on behalf of the Canadian Armed Forces; his remarks were preceded by a video address from the Chief of the Defence Staff General Jonathan Vance.

Throughout convention, a number of guests brought greetings to the delegates from their organizations. They were: Guy Parent, Veterans' Ombudsman; Daniel Ludwig, Past National Commander, the American Legion; Mr. Chris Simpkins, Director General, the Royal British Legion; Don Peckham, Navy League; Robert Gill, Army Cadet League; and Brigadier-General Kelly Woiden, National Cadet & Junior Canadian Ranger Support Group.

CONVENTION BUSINESS - SUNDAY

For the first time, convention business got underway on Sunday afternoon, immediately following the Opening Ceremony. The first report was delivered by the Grand President. This was immediately followed by the Dominion President's report in which a motion was introduced and

passed creating the Legion Operational Stress Injury Special Section. With a focus on mental health, this is a significant move forward for the Legion in support of Canada's Veterans and their families. The Operational Stress Injury (OSI) Special Section is a national, member-driven, Veteran-led, grass-roots initiative that will bring focus to Veterans and families affected by OSI, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other mental health issues.

The Dominion President also spoke separately on the Legion's accomplishments, new partnerships, like our organization's support of Invictus Games Toronto 2017, and clarified misinformation that had been circulating about our organization's financial accountability and transparency.

The Dominion Treasurer's report followed which was subsequently adopted later in the proceedings (Tuesday). As part of the Legion's fiscal responsibility, the Dominion Treasurer presented the current and projected financial environment for the next six years and outlined the options of fixing the revenue stream or cutting programs and services. It was clear that cutting programs would be detrimental to the organization, and would only be a short term fix. A minimal increase in per capita tax would compensate for both a declining membership and inflationary costs, and ensure Dominion Command could continue to offer programs and services that support the organization. For less than a cup of coffee per year, members could ensure the Legion continues to honour and serve Veterans and our communities. The Dominion Treasurer introduced a motion to increase the member per capita tax, in increments of \$1.25 for 2017 and an additional \$1.25 in 2018.

Nominations for all elected positions were then opened. Following the Dominion Chairman's call for an adjournment at 5:30 pm, provincial commands held their respective provincial caucuses. This was an important change from previous conventions where the provincial caucuses were held on Monday. This change was made as part of the overall effort to reduce the length of the convention by one full day.

CONVENTION BUSINESS - MONDAY

On Monday, the second day of convention business, the Invocation was delivered by Provincial Command Padre Reverend Ian Wishart. The Queen's response to the Loyalty Resolution

was conveyed, the credential report for the day was given and there was a second call for nominations for all elected positions. Comrade David P. Flannigan was acclaimed as Dominion President. Two ballots were needed to elect the Dominion First Vice-President and delegates voted Comrade Tom Irvine into that office.

Also elected were the three Dominion Vice-Presidents, Comrades Bruce Julian, Andre Paquette and Angus Stanfield,

A highlight on Monday was an opportunity for the delegates to hear from three Canadian Veterans, Master Corporal (ret'd) Jody Mitic, Sergeant Craig Hood and Warrant Officer (ret'd) Paul Nichols. They shared their stories about the help they received from the Legion and how our organization is making a difference in the lives of serving and retired military men and women. Their presentations were extremely well received.

Throughout the day, each Dominion Committee Chairman delivered a report to the delegates on their committee's work and achievements for the past two years. A resolution was adopted that reaffirmed the Legion's commitment to ensuring the Government of Canada upholds the principals of a long-standing covenant in its defence and Veterans policies. Through this resolution the Legion will continue to hold the Government of Canada accountable to its promises.

Rick Mercer, CBC-TV personality, accepted the Legion's 2016 Founders Award from our Dominion President, Tom Eagles and captivated delegates with his spirited and meaningful presentation. The award, introduced in 2012, is given to an individual or an organization for extraordinary achievement in an area that exemplifies and advances the purposes and objects of the Legion in the spirit and vision of the Legion's founders. Rick Mercer received the award because he exemplifies a grateful nation's concern and support for Canada's Veterans and serving Canadian Armed Forces members through words and deeds. Of particular note is his involvement with the military's "Stigma" project and how we must counter the misconceptions of mental illness.

Major (ret'd) Peter Boyle, President Valour Canada, and Major-General (ret'd) Bob Meating, announced the 2017 General Sir Arthur Currie Award recipient would be The Royal Canadian Legion. This annual presentation is made to recognize Canadians

or organizations that have made a significant contribution to Canada's military history and heritage.

CONVENTION BUSINESS – TUESDAY

Tuesday, the third and final day of convention business, began with the Invocation by Father Michael Horlick.

A major focus of the day was the presentation by Dominion Treasurer, Comrade Mark Barham, on the much anticipated accounting of the Dominion Command Budget. As fiscal responsibility and transparency are a priority for the Legion, Comrade Barham provided a complete and detailed report of Dominion Command spending for the General Fund. As happens every year, the Command Budget underwent a full and thorough audit through Price Waterhouse Coopers. Comrade Barham walked delegates through the Dominion Command Statement of Revenue and Expenses report, section by section. He provided detailed information on the entire report, including accounting for salaries, travel expenses, program costs and operational costs, and addressed questions from delegates throughout the presentation. After operating from a deficit position in recent years, Dominion Command had cut expenses by \$1 million and is now operating at a surplus.

After discussion, delegates overwhelmingly voted to approve the per capita increases, which will commence for the 2017 membership year.

Delegates also voted to reappoint Price Waterhouse Coopers as the Dominion Command auditor for 2016 and 2017. The Dominion Treasurer's report was approved. In an unprecedented show of support, Comrade Barham received a standing ovation from the delegates for his clarity and for ensuring delegates had a complete and full understanding of the budget and Dominion Command spending.

That same day, Brian Watkins from the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) spoke about the current situation facing the plight of Commonwealth and former Commonwealth Veterans and widows – some 40,000 people through the world.

Dominion President Comrade Tom Eagles also made a presentation on the conditions found in the Caribbean region by Legion representatives as part of its work with the RCEL. Donations to the

RCEL fund (Canada) were taken and \$136,947.64 was collected. There were additional funds collected and pledges of \$33,055.00 for a total of \$170,002.64. The fund provides an annual grant to the needy veterans and widows of veterans in 16 Caribbean countries.

On the subject of donations, \$3,314.48 was collected from the floor for the Legion's Operational Stress Injury Special Section.

Balloting for the final two elected positions was conducted, with Comrade Mark Barham acclaimed as Dominion Treasurer and Comrade Bill Chafe voted in as Dominion Chairman.

Steve Wallace, Invictus Games Toronto 2017 spoke to the delegates about the upcoming games and how the Legion's support in terms of resources, volunteers and financial contributions are crucial to the overall success of this event in 2017.

Charles Piercey and Manny Raspberry delivered an emotional and inspiring presentation about their experience on the 2015 Pilgrimage of Remembrance where they visited several important First and Second World War Canadian battlefields and cemeteries in northern France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Dr. Chris Simpson, Past President of the Canadian Medical Association spoke to the delegates about the continuing challenges the medical community faces when dealing with mental illness and the need for the Legion to remain involved in advocating for better treatment of Canada's ill and injured Veterans.

RESOLUTIONS

In all, delegates discussed 38 concurred, late, brought-back or amended resolutions. Many focused on advocating to Government to expand the criteria for contract beds, long term care facilities, and Veteran units and wings to include all Veterans of the Canadian Armed Forces or Allied Forces, of any era, based on health needs. This was a significantly lower number of resolutions compared to the 2014 convention when 120 resolutions were presented to the delegates for consideration.

A resolution to reduce the number of membership categories from four to three was soundly defeated in favour of the status quo. That said, the possibility of recognizing Veterans through a cloth scroll or

brass plate on the Legion blazer was left open for further discussion by DEC.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The installation of elected officers was conducted by the Grand President, Comrade Larry Murray. Once the installation was completed, the new Dominion President addressed the delegates, followed by the Benediction from Reverend Wishart. Comments followed from the Local Arrangements Committee for Winnipeg 2018, delivered by Chairman Comrade Rick Bennett on behalf of his co-chairman Roland Fisette, and the convention proceedings ended with the closing comments of the Local Arrangements Committee Chairman for St. John's 2016, Comrade Berkley Lawrence. The Dominion Chairman conducted the closing ritual.

POST-CONVENTION MEETINGS

The newly installed Senior Elected Officers met post-convention on Wednesday, followed by a meeting of the whole Dominion Executive Council.

CONCLUSION

The major highlights of the 46th Dominion Convention were the:

- election of a New Dominion President and Senior Elected Officers;
- creation of the Legion Operational Stress Injury Special Section;
- collection from the floor of \$170,002.64 for the RCEL Fund;
- the Treasurer's report which the delegates unanimously adopted with a standing ovation;
- increase in the per capita tax of \$1.25 for each of the 2017 and 2018 membership years;
- re-affirmation of Canada's sacred obligation to Veterans;
- keynote speakers' address;
- Special guest presenters: Master Corporal (ret'd) Jody Mitic, Sergeant Craig Hood and Warrant Officer (ret'd) Paul Nichols;
- announcement of the General Sir Arthur Currie Award from Valour Canada to The Royal Canadian Legion in 2017;
- 2015 Pilgrimage presentation;

- decision on the status quo on membership categories; and
- presentation of the Legion Founder's Award to Rick Mercer.

Throughout Dominion Convention, delegates had opportunities to talk about the issues and challenges facing Veterans and the Legion, provide input and recommendations, collaborate on ideas, and vote on resolutions that will guide the organization forward. As the Legion marches ahead, we are working to evolve into an organization that is more open, consultative, and focused on our core mission. Together, through our membership, we are making a difference for Veterans and their families.

Comrades,

Welcome to St. John's and our 46th Dominion Convention celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Legion and more importantly the 100th Anniversary of Beaumont Hamel. These are historical milestones in our Nation and in the Legion. I thank you all for being here to share this time and I know through experience that the Local Arrangements Committee under the solid stewardship of Comrade Berkley Lawrence has done a superb job in getting ready for this event. In fact, I would hazard to say that most of NL Command has had some hand in organizing this event.

Almost two years ago to this very day, I was elected as your Dominion President. During that Convention in Edmonton, you gave the elected officers and myself a clear mandate to tackle the many challenges facing the Legion and in particular our finances. Challenges yes, but we see these as opportunities to build a solid foundation for the future survival of this great organization. To that end, when I spoke to you in Edmonton, I proposed a six point action plan which, I felt, would leave the Legion a better place. A better place to serve, a better place to volunteer, and a better organization to carry on the great work that we do across this country.

Allow me to go over those six points and highlight what has happened in the past two years and let you decide for yourselves.

FINANCE

Your message was clear and I have devoted much of my time in office to our financial well-being. In this area, I believe we have made substantial gains, which are:

- In my six-point action plan I spoke of the need to do business better and more efficiently, and this has brought financial benefits. We have reduced the number of members on committees and merged other

committees. Meetings were reduced in favour of more teleconferences. And the work still was accomplished.

- When I assumed office as Dominion President, I made it clear that deficit financing would not be an acceptable business practice and that we needed to build a reserve fund for future rainy days.
- With the help of our Dominion Treasurer Comrade Mark, we adopted a zero based approach for all budgeting. We are continuously reviewing our bottom line in terms of operating expenses and our commitments.

Comrades, the adoption of this policy has dramatically changed our overall financial situation from a deficit to a surplus situation – the first time Dominion Command has been able to register a surplus in a long time.

We are also in the final steps of creating The Legion National Foundation. This Foundation will Honour Our Heroes and it is hoped that it will encourage corporate donors to give so that we can continue to achieve our mission to look after Veterans and their families, to promote Remembrance and to build strong communities.

The application is with the CRA for the final approval for a charitable status. I think it is going to be a huge step forward for us; we already have our first donation from Dr. Paul Kavanagh, the creator of Op Veteran at the Canadian War Museum, who has donated and strongly believes that Honouring Our Heroes is everyone's duty.

MEMBERSHIP

Comrades, membership keeps me awake at night! This does not only include recruiting new members, but retaining and renewing the members that we already have. On an average basis we have close to 29,000 members who do not renew. We need to change this statistic.

Comrades, as you are aware, our membership numbers have been declining since 1986 and we must accept the fact that there is no silver bullet that can fix this issue and many approaches need to be followed. And I am not the first Dominion President to try and address this issue either, but I do believe we are taking some steps to move the yardsticks and try to stop the leaks from the membership bucket.

This means new ideas, new initiatives and better business practices because the status quo is not acceptable. To do nothing means the Legion, as we know it, will cease to exist by the time we reach our centennial in 2026. So let me give you a quick summary of three initiatives that we are following:

- **First is the new membership system:** In my six-point action plan I spoke of the need to assist branches with administration and operations. With that thought in mind I am pleased to report that we are moving forward with this project which will do two important things: (1) make it easier to join the Legion; (2) increase our ability to communicate with our members.

We have already begun spreading the word about this new membership system through the Marketing Team and how it will make membership a much easier process. It will reduce branch administration of the membership process and reduce the time it takes to process memberships. And less paperwork at the branch level means it will be easier for branch membership chairman to do their jobs. Everybody involved with Memberships stands to gain from this new system.

I am also pleased to report that the implementation plan is on schedule and will be done at the same time as the launch of the membership website for command, branch and member use. Both have begun testing this month with a go live date of early July.

- **Second point related to membership is the Ladies Auxiliary:** This is not about the LA losing their years of seniority; it's not about changing their membership fees. It's about recognition and engagement for all the great work and effort that they do on behalf of the Legion. The fate of the Ladies Auxiliary and the fate of the Legion are one in the same, so let's get an LA representative

to the DEC table. Let's share more ideas and I remain hopeful, based on the initial feedback from a teleconference with the Ladies Auxiliary in September 2015 that this file will move forward after Dominion Convention when the new president is installed.

- **The third and final initiative I want to mention regarding membership is Membership Categories:**

Comrades, I know this issue is a very passionate one among our members from all categories, but the need to recognize Veterans within our organization just will not go away.

It needs to be fixed. A Veterans organization that does not recognize Veterans in a special way is often seen as an organization that has lost its focus.

I understand that the Chairman of the Membership Committee will address this issue later but if I may say this, for the time being, everywhere I go, Veterans tell me that they want to be recognized. So we need to make some changes to the membership categories. I am convinced we can do this while still maintaining our organization's sense of inclusiveness and not the other way around. So I am asking for your support.

LEGION BRANCHES

Another point contained in my six-point action plan was to encourage our branches to become centres of hospitality and become more ingrained in the community. I am pleased to report that both Quebec Command and New Brunswick Command have created new Legion Branches in their respective commands thereby increasing our footprint in our communities. Nova Scotia / Nunavut Command is creating a virtual Branch to cater to those who want to be a member of the Legion but are unsure or unable to join a specific Legion branch.

KEEP MEMBERS BUSY

We still need to work on allowing our new members to become more involved in the operations of the Legion branch. We know that the more members we keep busy the more they become aware of the positive work we do and the greater the chance they will stay. People join organizations to become part of them, not to feel

left out. So engage new members and keep them engaged.

BRANCH OUTREACH

We still need to encourage our branches and members to extend personal invitations to attend Legion activities to those outside of the Legion. It is my hope that with the distribution of computers during the past few years combined with our new website and new membership system and the increased use of social media should make it easier for Legion branches to reach out and extend invitations to members of their local community. This, in turn, should generate greater awareness and perhaps lead to an increase in membership. Our communities need to see the value of what the branch does each and every day in their community.

COMMAND RESOURCES

The last of my six point action plan that I spoke of two years ago was the need for our elected officers at all levels to fulfill the duties and responsibilities that they were entrusted with. Too often, some branches have demonstrated that they are unable, unwilling to operate on sound business practices.

I want to tell you that all levels of command are there to help, not punish, we want ALL of our Legion branches to succeed. So please look at your district commands, provincial commands and even Dominion Command as resources that can help. The old acronym still applies: Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) principle applies to the Legion more than ever.

FUTURE OF THE LEGION

Comrades, from my humble beginnings as a member of the Legion in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick in 1977, I never sought nor did I dream of becoming the Dominion President. Rather, like most of us here today, my decision to join the Legion was based on the belief that the Legion is simply the best place for Veterans and all Canadians to work together in the spirit of comradeship. To follow when needed and lead when necessary!

While the sunset may be fast approaching on my term as your Dominion President, the work of the Legion remains. So let me talk to you about a couple of new initiatives that are being developed.

OSI SPECIAL SECTION

Comrades, I am very pleased to introduce a new, member-led initiative at this Convention. While many of you may already be aware of it through press releases and other announcements, I would like to say a few words about the proposal to establish the Operation Stress Injury Special Section of The Royal Canadian Legion.

The OSI Special Section is a grass roots, member-driven initiative that was brought to the Dominion Executive by a group of Veterans who saw the need for the Legion to focus on the needs of Veterans and their families suffering from operational stress injuries.

Much like the focus that was brought to tuberculosis victims in 1925 with the formation of the Tuberculosis Veterans' Section, these Veterans have developed a proposal to focus some of the Legion's attention to those affected by OSI.

The founding members of the OSI Special Section didn't just bring an idea to the Dominion Executive Council. They brought a mature proposal with an interim Executive that represents a broad cross-section of Veterans, supported by draft By-Laws and Regulations, a strategy to improve outreach to Veterans and their families and to improve public awareness of Veteran mental health issues.

When you vote on formally accepting the OSI Special Section as an integral part of the Royal Canadian Legion, you will be voting on whether or not additional attention and efforts need to be made to help Veterans and their families who are affected by operational stress injuries. This isn't about increasing budgets; it isn't about adding to a bureaucracy.

This is about Veterans reaching out to Veterans to help them get the care that they need – wherever they may be. It is about the Legion living up to its sacred trust and keeping the faith so that no Veteran is forgotten. Above all, it is about supporting veterans and their families to face the struggles that come about from their service today be it here in Canada, in peace support operations, or in conflicts and wars abroad.

The silent are often the most difficult to help; they are also the most difficult to reach. Through this initiative, we believe that Veterans and their families will be able to get the help that they need

and that we can stem the increase in Veteran suicide, homelessness, and addiction just to name a few of the consequences of operational stress injuries.

I must point out however, that the OSI Special Section will not deliver healthcare services. Members will work with local and provincial authorities to ensure that appropriate services are available and connect members and their families with those services. We don't want to duplicate existing services rather replicate working service models across the country and connect Veterans and their families to these services such as our own Service Bureau.

The Section will also advocate for Veterans' mental health and work to improve public awareness and to de-stigmatize Veteran mental health issues.

While we obviously encourage Veterans to join the Legion, as with the rest of our mandate, a Veteran does not need to be a member of the Legion or the OSI Special Section to get help from the Legion.

Not since 1925 has the Legion made an organizational change that would focus some of our efforts on a particular medical and social challenge facing our Veterans and their families. I trust that I can count on your support in approving the establishment of the Operation Stress Injury Special Section of the Royal Canadian Legion and make this member-driven, Veteran-led initiative a reality.

MOTION: I move to establish the Operational Stress Injury Special Section as a Special Section within the structure of The Royal Canadian Legion with one voting representative on the Dominion Executive Council.

INVICTUS GAMES 2017

Again this past April, The Royal Canadian Legion announced their commitment to further support the recovery of ill and injured Veterans by becoming a signature sponsor for the Invictus Games Toronto 2017.

I know some have questioned the use of Poppy Funds to support these games. Comrades, sport has been and will always be a mainstay in the life of a military person. Sports build comradeship, teamwork, confidence, strength and esprit de corps.

When a military member becomes injured, they feel left outside of their peers, they fell alone and different. Sport is an excellent way for the ill and injured to become reengaged, to regain strength and to become a member of the team again.

Sport also allows the ill and injured to make that difficult transition to their new normal.

This is also a very important move forward in combatting the stigmatism that comes with mental health issues and operational stress injuries. These games, the first of its kind on Canadian soil will present opportunities for Legion members to take part in the torch relay that will stop at 30 Legion branches across Canada and provide some of the 1,500 volunteers needed to run the 11 sporting events with participants from 16 nations.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, what an incredible mission we have to serve, what an incredible team that assures our continued mission success – even after 90 years! My two years as your Dominion President have been the busiest of my life and as I am about to hand over the reigns, I really believe that the Legion makes a difference. Not only in the lives of our communities but in the lives of our Veterans. For 90 years, this great organization has stood the test of time, have met the challenges head on and created new opportunities. There is no other organization in the country that can achieve what we do collectively nor are there any on the horizon. We are the cornerstones of our communities and the guardians of Remembrance. The Legion is strong and we the members gathered here today make it strong. Be proud of your accomplishments but do not be afraid to meet the challenges and to create new opportunities.

As I wrap this up, I want to say a big thank you to my Branch for all of their support and to the members that are attending this convention.

I also want to say a special thank you to the senior elected officers who have shared my vision and served so well under my term. I wish you all well in this convention and for the futures that it may hold for you.

There is a special someone who goes largely unnoticed but is deeply appreciated. Comrade

Larry our Grand President is an extraordinary Canadian and staunch Legionnaire. Larry your support and advice throughout my term has been well appreciated and I thank you.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the staff at Dominion Command. Comrades, with each trip to Ottawa I had the honour of visiting and working with all the staff at Dominion Command and Legion Magazine. I can honestly state that without them, the Legion would not be able to do the things that it does. From running programs to planning national events and to representing us all in front of Parliament and Senate, we are well served. My sincerest appreciation goes to Comrade Brad as our Dominion Secretary and his spouse Thérèse. Your leadership at Legion House goes without question as does your advice. Cheryl and I thank you both for your dedication and support.

Last but not least, I want to thank my family: My wife, Cheryl Giberson, our four children—Ryan, Daniel, Brook and Brett and two granddaughters, Killian and Ella. As I said the last two years have been some of the busiest of my life and you all have been there to listen, to guide and to pick me up when I needed it. When one takes on the role of Dominion President, one does not fully realize the commitment nor the stress that the role entails.

I want you to know that any success that I have had throughout my time with the Legion up to and including as the Dominion President is a result of the great support that you have given me. Now it's time for me to spend more of my time with you – thank you for understanding. I love you all from the bottom of my heart.

Comrades, for me – it has been a huge privilege and source of pride to serve alongside so many of Canada's best – the men and women of the Legion. I encourage all of you to continue to live our mission. I am and will remain the Legion's biggest fan and together we can achieve any of our dreams.

Lest We Forget!

Good afternoon Veterans, armed-service personnel, Royal Canadian Legion members and other esteemed guests. Welcome to the 46th Dominion Convention in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador.

We are very pleased you could be here tonight and look forward to discussing the future of our organization over the next several days.

For over 90 years, the dedication of the Royal Canadian Legion in supporting Veterans and community service organizations has earned us a privileged place among the hearts of Canadians.

Our network of over 300,000 members and volunteers operates in 1,400 branches in communities across the country. Although we serve individual communities across this vast country, we are all bound by a common goal: serving the needs of our Veterans and their families, as well as our members. Without this shared sense of duty, the success and longevity of the Legion would not be possible. As we come together for this important meeting, I urge all of us to focus on our shared mission, and the values that we bring to our work.

Although the day to day business of what we do changes with the times, and as Comrades come and go, our Mission remains the same: to serve Veterans, which includes serving military and RCMP members and their families, to promote Remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.

ABOUT OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The work we do for service men and women takes on many forms, and continues to change as the needs of the people we serve evolve.

We have achieved a lot together.

It is worth taking a moment to celebrate the hard work of members and volunteers, and ensure that the work continues with a new leadership team that will continue to lead this great organization forward.

On that note, I'd like to take a few moments to discuss our Poppy Campaign.

We can never forget what we achieve through our Poppy Campaign. In addition to honouring those who have served our country, we touch the lives of millions of Canadians every year. Every poppy represents a unique and personal act of remembrance that starts with a donation and its proud display. Our campaign assists in keeping alive the memory of the 117,000 Canadian men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of Canada during war and on subsequent operations since Korea.

The horrors seem all too distant for many, yet they are so fresh to many of the members we serve. The donations raised by the poppy fund since its inception have been a way for us to meet the needs of the people we serve. We're proud to say that thanks to our most recent Poppy campaign, the Royal Canadian Legion distributed \$17 million dollars to assist veterans and their families in communities across Canada. Those funds helped veterans with things like medical expenses, including hearing aids and prescription medication, essential home repairs, and emergency shelter assistance.

Here are some examples:

- \$1 million dollars to the Royal Ottawa Hospital to help fund the purchase of a PET-MRI machine, which will be used to research for research into brain and operational stress injuries.

- \$500,000 to fund the national “Leave the Street Behind” program to get homeless and near homeless Veterans off the street
- \$500,000 to support the “Veterans Transition Program” to help those transitioning to life after the military
- The daily financial assistance and support to veterans across the country throughout all levels of the organization and advocating on their behalf.

Another key issues facing our veteran’s today is mental health, specifically in relation to post traumatic stress disorders, and coping with physical impairment. As an organization, we are aware of the multitude of issues facing veterans and members of the armed-forces. It is important to be proactive and assertive in addressing the issues.

This is why the OSI Special Section I have spoken about previously will be so important to those we serve in the future.

THE FUTURE: WHERE THE LEGION IS GOING THE INVICTUS GAMES:

In that vein, we’re also excited about our partnership with the Invictus Games.

This is a collaboration we have been particularly excited about because of the benefit it is bringing to injured service men and women. For those not familiar the event, the Invictus Games are an international Paralympic-style multi-sport event, created by Britain’s Prince Harry, in which wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and their associated veterans take part in sports including wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, and indoor rowing.

The Royal Canadian Legion’s partnership will help us continue to make a difference in the lives of injured veterans, particularly the next generation of Canadian service veterans.

The Invictus Games are an important initiative that is helping to reduce stigma and increase awareness of the journey many wounded, injured or sick service men and women undergo. The games are also an important confidence and team builder that foster broader inclusivity and recognition in society.

They were created with the intention of drawing attention to the very real experiences that these men and women have faced, and offers a glimpse into the sacrifices they have made for our country. And we’ll be proud to be part of the next games, which will be hosted in Toronto in 2017.

This partnership is a natural pursuit for the Legion as it helps highlight the transition process for these veterans’ new normal.

We look forward to continuing to examine new partnerships and collaborative opportunities that showcase the skills and capabilities of our servicemen and women on a national and international stage.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We all know the old adage, “You can’t teach an old dog, new tricks.”

At 90 plus years of age, the Legion is a bit of an older dog.

Looking in the mirror, I can identify with that label myself. And I have a feeling that many of you can too.

But “old dogs” or not, none of us can afford to live up to the second half of the saying. We all need to be open to new things.

In management today, the key concepts are resilience in the face of disruption...and continuous improvement.

And our Legion needs to be open to continuously improving the way we do business.

I believe that the Legion is an excellent organization that delivers great value for money in its operations. Nevertheless, like any organization, there’s always room for improvement.

Over the past year, some have questioned the adequacy of our internal spending control procedures. Others have called in to question our staffing levels. As you will see in this year’s report from the Treasurer, we are on top of these issues, and we have made progress in controlling costs. And staffing levels and salary levels have remained consistent in recent years – so we have done a good job holding the line on that score.

Because of this, I am confident that our procedures and staffing policies continue to serve us well. Nevertheless, as a not-for-profit organisation, it is important that we maintain the trust of our members and Canadians, and that we be seen to be giving answers when questions are raised.

In the past, members have counted on the Dominion Executive Council to apply their judgment in keeping these matters on track. But given the persistence of some of the concerns, I am recommending that the new executive consider a third-party review of our organization to determine that we have the right structure, team and competitive salary levels to deliver on our mandate ahead. Today, it is not enough to be “as good as last year.” We need to be continuously improving – and be seen to be doing so.

Like many Canadians, I watched the scuffle in Parliament a few weeks ago. I was amazed by how tempers could flare, and how just a moment of controversy could trigger a week of media, when it occurred in a hotbed of politics. And then I smiled as it occurred to me that no matter how big or small the organization, there is always the back and forth of politics, but what is really important is the overall mission, and the degree to which the organization delivers on that mission.

CONCLUSION/CALL TO ACTION

So let me assure you that our national Legion is committed to our mission. We are committed to serving veterans and their families and our members, and to advocacy on their behalf. We are committed to adhering to all of the obligations and policies that frame our work, and to our practices and procedures that ensure it is done well.

Let us all recommit to putting our Legion first, so that we may continue in the work that is relied on by so many.

My time serving the Royal Canadian Legion has been the most rewarding experience of my life. We have an outstanding organization, dedicated volunteers, and many Canadians that depend on us. While we’ll be electing a new executive, one thing that binds us all is our dedication to fulfill the vision and mission of the Legion.

I want to thank you once again for your continued commitment to the Royal Canadian Legion, our veterans and Canadian armed service personnel.

We must continue to show leadership on issues of interest to our members including advocating for increased research into mental health issues that affect our veterans and armed-service personnel, addressing issues of homelessness and ensuring proper attention is paid to our aging veteran population. We have had 90 years of exceptional service and community connectivity and we look forward to continuing to support our veterans and armed-service personnel in contemporary capacities over the next 90 years.

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

T. Eagles, *Chair*
D. Flannigan, *Vice-Chair*
R. Trowsdale, *Member*
M. Tremblay, *Member*
B. Julian, *Member*
C. Strong, *Member*
G. O'Dair, *Ex-Officio Seniors*
L. Murray, *Ex-Officio Member*
R. McInnis, *Secretary*
C. Gasser, *A/Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

Since Dominion Convention in Edmonton in 2014, 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

Due to ministerial changes in Veterans Affairs Canada and the federal election in 2015, the response to the resolutions from the 45th Dominion Convention 2014 will be incorporated with the “Comments on Resolutions 46th Dominion Convention 2016” and will be published in September 2017 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 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. In addition, outreach to Reservists must continue to be a priority and ensuring that all Veterans who require assistance with their disability

applications to VAC be informed and encouraged to contact a Legion Command Service Officer to assist them with their application. Command Service Officers provide free representation.

The following is a snapshot of the details of Legion advocacy efforts on behalf of all Veterans, their families and seniors since 2014:

- a. 16 June 2014 – The Minister of Veterans Affairs announced that VAC would extend the Outreach and Visitation Initiative Contract with The Legion and doubled the funding for 2014 – 2015, which will allow our OVI volunteers to increase their visits from 4,000 to 8,000 of those Veterans who are receiving financial assistance from VAC for LTC;
- b. 20 June 2014 – The Dominion President issued a News Release advising that The Legion amended its definition of Veteran to include RCMP regular members and other Peace Officers who served in Special Duty areas;
- c. 07 July 2014 – Introductory meeting with the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Tom Lawson;
- d. 08 July 2014 – Introductory meeting with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Julian Fantino;
- e. 09 July 2014 – The Dominion President issued a News Release acknowledging the recent announcement from the Department of Veterans Affairs to cut red tape and directed the Service Bureau to review the proposed changes;
- f. Comrades George O'Dair and Carolyn Gasser attended the Pan Canadian Seniors Strategy meeting with the Canadian Medical Association on 7 October 2014;

- g.* On 20 October 2014, the President attended the annual bilateral discussion with the VAC executive in the morning; in the afternoon he met with the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Canada and the Bureau of Pensions Advocates;
- h.* Dominion Command Service Bureau hosted the bi-annual Command Service Officer Professional Development training in Charlottetown, PEI from 21-23 October 2014;
- i.* On 19 November 2014, the President attended the VAC stakeholder meeting in Quebec City with other Veterans organizations;
- j.* On 3 December 2014, Comrade Carolyn Gasser participated in the RCMP Raising Awareness for Disabilities event at the RCMP HQ in Ottawa;
- k.* On 30 January 2015, the new Minister of Veterans Affairs, Erin O'Toole tabled his response to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA) Report entitled: "The New Veterans Charter: Moving Forward" which was distributed in June 2014. The RCL remains committed to the 14 ACVA recommendations and we will not cease in our efforts to push the government to come up with some tangible progress;
- l.* On 17 February 2015, the President met with Minister O'Toole, and his Deputy Minister General (Retd) Walt Natynczyk;
- m.* On 18 February 2015, Comrade Carolyn Gasser attended a working group to develop a National Seniors Strategy;
- n.* On 19 February 2015, the President in an open letter to all Canadian released the RCL Position Paper: Veterans Matter. The position paper is a culmination of our passed resolutions and the recommendations presently before the government;
- o.* On 11 March 2015, Comrades Steven Clark and Carolyn Gasser briefed members of the Senate Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs on the Legion's position on the Veterans Hiring Bill C-27.
- p.* The VSS Housing Inventory was amended in electronic format only and uploaded to our website;
- q.* On 25 March 2015, Comrades Steven Clark and Carolyn Gasser briefed members of the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on the study on the continuum of transition services.
- r.* The Veterans Consultation Assembly meeting was held on 25 April 2015. The outcome being that each organization would send a letter to the Minister outlining the remaining ACVA recommendations that have not been taken for action and to ensure speedy assent for Bills C-27 and Bill C-58;
- s.* In March 2015, the Minister of VAC announced new benefits in response to the ACVA recommendations, namely Reserve Force members will receive enhanced Earning Loss Benefits equivalent to their Regular Force counterparts. He then announced the Critical Injury Benefit, a Family Caregiver Relief Benefit, the Retirement Income Security Benefit and increased access to the Permanent Impairment Allowance;
- t.* The President briefed at the Stakeholder Summit on 14 April 2015, hosted by VAC. His presentation focused on the Legion's position that the government must honour its moral and solemn obligation to Veterans and their families and ensure that the New Veterans Charter is truly the living document it was promised to be;
- u.* On 14 April 2015, the Minister VAC announced they will hire 100 new disability benefits staff and 100 full-time permanent new case managers;
- v.* In May 2015, VSS Committee developed a new template for VSS Provincial Committees to use, the new template provides more detail and is informative;
- w.* On 5 May 2015, the President signed a Letter of Understanding with VETS Canada and released a news release announcing the partnership;
- x.* On 22 May 2015, Comrades Brad White and Ray McInnis appeared before the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs on Bill C-59, An Act to Implement Certain Provisions of the Budget Tabled in Parliament on 21 April 2015 and Other Measures;
- y.* On 23 May 2015, Comrade Ray McInnis appeared before the Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs of the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence

on Bill C-59 and presented the legion's position on Bill C-59;

- z.* On 23 June 2015, the President presented a one Million dollar cheque to The Royal Ottawa Hospital, donations from Dominion Command, Ontario Command, Manitoba/NWO Command and BC/Yukon Command contributed to the one Million dollar donation. The donation will be specifically used to support the purchase of a state of the art positron emission tomography – magnetic resonance imaging (PET-MRI) machine;
- aa.* On 1 September 2015, the President sent a letter to Dr. Cindy Forbes, the new President of the Canadian Medical Association congratulating her on her new appointment;
- bb.* On 10 September 2015, the VSS Committee through the Outreach Committee approved the Legion sponsorship to the CIMVHR Forum for the years 2016-2018;
- cc.* On 10 September 2015, the VSS Committee recommended to DEC that Legion endorsement to Wounded Warriors Weekend be withdrawn. This was presented to DEC in November 2015 and subsequently approved;
- dd.* On 21 September 2015, the inaugural RCL Veterans Homelessness Advisory Committee was held at Legion House;
- ee.* On 23 September 2015, PWGSC extended the Outreach and Visitation initiative contract to 31 March 2016;
- ff.* VAC announced that they would fund the development of a new National Standard of Canada for service dogs. The first meeting with the Canadian General Standards Board was held 14-15 October 2015;
- gg.* On 21 October 2015, the Dominion President met with the new Chief Military Personnel, LGen Christine Whitecross and her staff as part of ongoing quarterly round-table discussions;
- hh.* On 13 November 2015, the Prime Minister (PM) took the unprecedented step of publicly releasing all ministerial mandate letters, as part of his plan for open and transparent government for Canadians; the PM's mandate letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Associate Minister of National Defence, the Honourable Kent Hehr, contains 15 priority tasks for implementation during their four year mandate;

- ii.* On 2 December 2015, Comrades Brad White and Ray McInnis attended the Veterans Summit at the National War Museum;
- jj.* On 12 January 2016, the President and First-Vice President hosted the annual RCL – VAC Bilateral meeting at Legion House with the VAC executive including the new Deputy Minister General (Retd) Walt Natynczyk and an appearance by the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Kent Hehr;
- kk.* On 29 January 2016, Comrades Brad White and Ray McInnis attended the Canadian Military and Veteran Families Initiative held at the National War Museum;
- ll.* On 1 February 2016, the Canadian Armed Forces ceased processing of the Record of Service Card, the NDI 75. The recognition card of choice for the CAF is now the CFOne Card;
- mm.* From 17-18 February 2016, the second meeting of the Canadian General Standards Board to develop a new National Standard of Canada for service dogs was held. It is anticipated that the CGSB will develop the standards within the two-year mandate;
- nn.* In March 2016, the Royal Ottawa Hospital announced that they have reached their 25 Million dollar fundraising goal and have purchased the PET-MRI machine, in thanks to the 1 Million dollar donation from the Royal Canadian Legion, specifically Dominion Command, Ontario Command, Manitoba and NWO Command and BC/Yukon Command.

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. The Home Away Initiative is a concept 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. A new Program Development Guide for Legion Branches was introduced at the last Convention and the Guide was distributed to all Legion Branches. The workbook provides guidance to Branches who wish to start their own Seniors program or enhance existing programs.

The Legion continues to 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.

OUTREACH TO RESERVISTS

The VSS Committee launched the Outreach to Reserve Campaign in 2013, we advised all 263 Reserve Units across the country of the Service Bureau resources, contact information and if they would like a briefing on the services available. While a small number of briefings have been conducted, we have been providing briefings to the Army Council (the Commander of the Army and his leadership team) as well as the Reserve Brigade Commanders at the annual Army Reserve Strategic Council.

HOMELESS VETERANS NATIONAL PROGRAM

In April 2014, the first Homeless Veterans Forum was hosted by The Royal Canadian Legion in Ottawa, Ontario. This was attended by a wide representation from government departments and non-profit organizations. It was determined during this Forum, that further efforts to address Veterans homelessness could benefit from establishing a smaller working group to define the way ahead to combat the problem of Veteran homelessness. A research working group under the guidance of Dr. Jimmy Bourque, from the University of Moncton was stood up after the initial Forum.

The RCL Veterans Homelessness Advisory Committee, chaired by the Dominion President, is made up of a group of individuals who are stakeholders in the policy, programs and/or services in place for Veterans homelessness. Members understand the impact of Veterans homelessness on the community. The committee will provide guidance and strategic recommendations to VAC and other government stakeholders for the purpose of conducting purposeful policy and program development for homeless Veterans. This shall be accomplished through committee members sharing their expertise, knowledge and experience.

The Committee is also established to determine appropriate policy and program development in the area of Veterans homelessness. To coordinate and align efforts of the various organizations who are working towards addressing homelessness among Veterans.

The inaugural meeting of the Committee was held at Legion House on 21 September 2015. It was a

full day of great discussion and the end result being that it will be necessary to develop a coordinated advocacy approach to the government to combat the Veterans homelessness issue.

On 8-9 March, members of the Committee attended the Workshop on Developing Services for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness, co-hosted by VAC and the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat of Employment and Social Development Canada. The objective being to exchange ideas, strategies, tools among participants and build a network of practitioners who can assist and support each other in developing housing stability services for Veterans experiencing homelessness.

One homeless veteran in this country is one too many.

LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

The Dominion President presented the first Legion Scholarship to Ms. Brigitte Phinney at the CIMVHR Forum in Toronto in 2014 and the second Legion Scholarship was awarded to Ms. Ashleigh Forsyth in Quebec City in 2015. The Legion Scholarship for 2016 will be presented at the CIMVHR Forum in Vancouver, November 2016.

SERVICE DOGS

At the last convention, a resolution was passed to authorize the use of Poppy Trust Funds for Veterans suffering from PTSD for Service Dogs.

Specifically, the resolution stated 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.

Subsequent to the passage of that resolution the **Dominion Executive Council** on the advice of the VSS Committee approved additional criteria to be considered when reviewing applications. As no national standards currently exist, the Legion has implemented the following additional criteria to ensure that due diligence is exercised:

Service Dog Providers must be:

- Canadian
- Able to show proof of liability insurance

- Conducting an intake process that determines that the Veteran is in the right phase of his or her recovery or treatment to receive a service dog i.e. has a doctor's prescription or recommendation and is financially able to care for the dog.

This will help to ensure the safety of our Veterans and our communities. Once a Canadian national standard has been set, this resolution will be revisited for amendment to ensure that only service dog providers meeting the national standard will be permitted to receive Poppy Trust Funds.

In addition to the development of the national standards, VAC advised that they have funded a new pilot study to evaluate the use of psychiatric service dogs as a safe and effective treatment for PTSD.

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 7,000 Veterans in approximately 1,500 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 make 7,000 visits on an annual basis the Veterans who are receiving financial assistance from VAC for long term care.

This 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. For the fiscal year of 2015/16, the OVI volunteers have made 7,158 visits to Veterans as of 15 February 2016. The present contract ends on 31 March 2016. Presently, we have 110 trained Outreach and Visitation Initiative volunteers who have provided outstanding service to this initiative.

SERVICE BUREAU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / REGIONAL COMMAND SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING

The Dominion Command Service Bureau sponsored by the respective Provincial Commands (Saskatchewan and Newfoundland and Labrador), participated in the Western Region Professional Development session in Regina from 13-14 May 2015 and the Eastern Region

Professional Development session in St. John's from 15-16 September 2015. 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.

The Dominion Command Service Bureau provided assistance to PEI Command, Saskatchewan Command and NS/Nunavut Command during the changeover of Command Service Officers. In addition to their heavy Appeal schedule and Committee work, the Service Bureau continues to provide mentorship and guidance to all Command Service Officers.

Command Service Officers will be attending a training / professional development session in Charlottetown from 25-27 October 2016. 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 2016-2018 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 6 Resolutions; 4 have been concurred, while 2 have been non-concurred. Of the 4 that have been concurred, 3 have been merged.

CONCLUSION

During 2016 - 2018 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.

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

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

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

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	5,438	2,712	7,500	7,650	7,803
PER DIEM	5,974	2,319	6,000	6,120	6,242
SENIORS SUPPORT GUIDE	5,130	-	-	-	-
CIMVHR FORUM	3,072	7,186	10,000	10,200	10,404
PRINTING, STATIONERY	1,567	547	500	510	520
TELEPHONE & FAX	219	215	600	612	624
POSTAGE	37	59	400	408	416
BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES	3,082	-	1,500	1,530	1,561
HOMELESS VETERANS SUMMIT	7,899	3,811	5,000	5,100	5,202
MISCELLANEOUS	238	1,623	1,000	1,020	1,040
PUBLICATIONS					
• WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
• DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	32,657	18,472	32,500	33,150	33,813

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

E. Pigeau, *Chairman*
A. Stanfield, *Vice-Chairman*
W. Donner, *Member*
R. Petten, *Member*
B. Weaver, *Member*
M. Willis, *Member*
J. Yeo, *Member*
W. Maxwell, *Secretary*
K. Therien, *Assistant Secretary*

GOAL OF THE COMMITTEE

Over the past two years, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee has continued its lead role at Dominion Command in fostering the tradition of Remembrance by providing Canadians with opportunities to Remember and honour our Fallen. We will Remember them.

The following priorities were established for our term on this Committee:

- A total review of the Poppy Manual
- Donations
- Poppy Trademark
- Commemoration
- The establishment of a Poppy Communication Network (PCN)
- The establishment of the Legion National Foundation
- Youth Education
- Communication

During this period (2014/2016), the Poppy and Remembrance Committee met face to face on two occasions, in February 2015 and April 2016. In addition, Committee members reviewed issues and queries on numerous occasions through regular electronic meetings to ensure that Remembrance matters were dealt with in a timely manner.

PROGRAMS MAINTAINED

Poppy Campaign: The annual Poppy Campaign continues to be the most important project of the

Legion each year. The Corporate Partnerships for the Poppy campaign continues to expand with corporations pledged or renewed their support.

Dominion Command was honoured to assist with the arrangements for the First Poppy Presentation to the Governor General for the past two years for the ceremonial launch of the campaign with subsequent launches in each of the Provincial Commands prior to the official start of the campaign nationally on the last Friday in October.

National Ceremonies: The Legion is honoured to organize and direct this national ceremony on behalf of the People of Canada. In both 2014 and 2015, an estimated 40,000 spectators attended the Ceremony.

The Silver Cross Mother: The Silver Cross Mother for 2014/2015 was Mrs. Gisèle Michaud of Edmundston, NB. Mrs. Michaud is the mother of Master Cpl. Charles-Philippe Michaud, 28, who was wounded after stepping on an improvised explosive device while on patrol southwest of Kandahar City in 2009. He was transported to a hospital in Quebec City and died less than two weeks later.

The Silver Cross Mother for 2015/2016 is Mrs. Sheila Anderson of Yellowknife, NWT. Mrs. Anderson is the mother of Corporal Jordan Anderson who was killed in the Panjwahi district southwest of Kandahar City, Afghanistan on July 4, 2007. The period of service for all National Silver Cross Mothers will extend from 1 November to 31 October of the following year.

POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE MATERIAL

Sales Report:

i. Dominion Command sales of Poppy and Remembrance material from 2012 through 2015 were:

	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL	3,342,440.71	3,271,871.72	3,362,258.61	3,618,945.11
	(-5%)	(-2%)	(+3%)	(+8%)

ii. Individual Poppy and Wreath distribution quantities for 2012 through 2015 were:

ITEM	2012	2013	2014	2015
LAPEL POPPY, BOX OF 1000	17,433	16,439	16,846	18,961
CAR / WINDOW POPPY	24,871	20,377	20,940	22,155
TABLE POPPY	3,824	3,349	3,216	3,832
#8 WREATH	3,300	3,569	3,009	3,285
#14 WREATH	19,422	18,802	18,480	19,656
#20 WREATH	8,758	8,309	8,635	8,363
#24 WREATH	954	877	800	800
POPPY SPRAY	347	268	219	225
GRASS CROSS	8,071	8,233	7,713	8,356
WHITE CROSS	2,300	2,132	2,057	2,174

iii. 2015 was the second year of a 5 year contract with Trico Evolution to manufacture and distribute Poppies and Poppy Wreaths. Few complaints over product quality and delivery were received. Oddly there were several product quality complaints where the ultimate product returned to us was in Trico packaging, yet had been manufactured years before by Dominion Regalia.

Poppy Trademarks: Since the last Convention, the Committee has handled 50 requests for the use of the trademark Poppy symbol to ensure our

trademark is protected and the requested use of the Poppy is appropriate.

Three 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 combined 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	2011	2012	2013	2014
REVENUE	20,486,919	21,453,813	24,562,760	25,457,060
EXPENSES	6,359,741	6,483,399	6,366,794	8,344,749
DISBURSEMENTS	13,428,057	14,455,813	16,167,867	17,399,487

Cadet Leagues and Outstanding Cadets: Our relationship with the Cadet Leagues continues to be very positive. Every year, Dominion Command has a meeting with the Executive Directors of the Leagues and the Commander of the National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group. Items of mutual interest are discussed and a good working relationship is maintained.

Youth Education-Poster and Literary Contests: Once again in 2015 and 2016, the Poster and Literary Contests were well supported by branches and Commands with over 100,000 students submitting entries from across Canada. The Poster and Literary Contests Entry Form has been revised to provide clearer direction in completing this form, which is also available on line on our website.

Legion Bursaries: In 2015, Dominion Command provided \$1,000 in funding to support Legion bursaries to assist one Command.

Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance: From 11-25 July, 2015, Comrade Ed Pigeau led the 28 Pilgrims participating in the 2015 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 once again. The delegation included representatives from all Provincial Commands, with the unfortunate exception of Alberta/NWT, along with paying pilgrims. For the second 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 other Legion ceremonies at various sites such as Beaumont Hamel and Vimy. Through the visits and experiences while at these significant WWI and WWII sites, the Pilgrims gained a unique perspective and an 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. Comrades Edmund Raspberry from Ontario Command and

Comrade Charles Piercey from Newfoundland/Labrador Command have been selected to present their experiences to this convention.

The 2017 Pilgrimage will be held from 8 to 22 July 2017. Planning for this Pilgrimage is well underway with transportation and accommodation already reserved in view of the significant commemorative events being planned for Europe in 2017.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA

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 continues to serve as The Royal Canadian Legion's representative on the Assessment Review Committee. The Government's program for construction of new cenotaphs and monuments expired at the end of March 2016 and we are awaiting any indication of a program or direction from the Government for new construction.

CHANGES TO PROGRAMS

Youth Education- Teaching Guide: The development of the Teaching Guide continues to assist educators across Canada in promoting our Youth Education program. In order to ensure it remains relevant and current for use in schools across Canada, the Legion was able to obtain a grant under the Celebration and Commemoration Program of Heritage Canada to create an imaginative on-line tool which allows users to scroll through the material. Canadian teachers are the core stakeholder constituency for this piece. It is anticipated that this will be an ongoing project until early 2017. As part of the Teaching Guide, we will be expanding the Two-Minutes of Silence Video to offer an interactive component.

NEW PROGRAMS

Poppy Communication Network: The first teleconference of the Poppy Communication Network (PCN), which consists of the members of the Dominion Poppy and Remembrance Committee and the Provincial Poppy Chairs was held in January 2015 with quarterly meeting held thereafter. All members of the Poppy and

Remembrance Committee believe that the establishment of this network is an excellent communication tool for the Poppy & Remembrance program and provides a forum for exchange of ideas and discussion of issues from the Command level for all participants. The PCN provided the Dominion Committee with valuable input in the revisions made to the Poppy Manual.

For the first time we have an open channel between the provincial commands and Dominion Command in matters concerning Poppy and Remembrance. It would be of further benefit to us if the Provincial Commands established similar links through their various District and Zones to the branches. This would provide an opportunity for the Dominion Poppy and Remembrance Committee to receive direct input from the membership on a more frequent basis. My Thanks to Comrade Maxwell for this wonderful idea.

The Legion National Foundation: The Legion National Foundation is currently being prepared to enable The Royal Canadian Legion to support the aims and purposes of the Legion and to promote Remembrance and Canadian History. The Foundation will be guided by a Board of Directors. The purpose will include the ability to receive or maintain a fund or funds (not Poppy Funds) and to donate to qualified recipients from time to time as defined in the Income Tax Act. It is expected that the Foundation will be fully operational as quickly as possible in 2016.

THE POPPY MANUAL:

The Poppy & Remembrance Committee, with the assistance of the Poppy Communication Network, made a significant effort to streamline the Poppy Manual to assist our branches and members to better serve our Veterans. One of the major recommendations was to streamline the eligibility formula for the calculation of Special Use Expenditures by removing the calculation of the Poppy trust balance based on the 30 September of the previous year and referring to only the current balance of Poppy Trust Funds. The object of the review was to bring consistency to the various by-laws and manuals, specifically with reference to the use of Poppy trust funds.

Also Chapters 4 and 5 were grouped in sections to allow the reader the opportunity to find the Do's and Don'ts more conveniently. Changes were also made in the Special Uses Section to give

the provincial commands greater control over administering decisions regarding Special Use requests, with Dominion Command as a policy advisor.

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee also recommended amending the Branch Status Report to include the requirement to report **Balance in Poppy Trust Investments** along with the balance of Poppy Trust Bank Accounts. This will provide a more accurate accounting of the status of a branch's total Poppy trust funds. The revised form will be produced and illustrated in Annex A of the revised Poppy Manual.

2016 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS:

The Committee reviewed nine Resolutions submitted for consideration at this Convention. These Resolutions will be dealt with immediately after this report.

BUDGET:

A copy of the Committee budget 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.

WITH THANKS

Comrades, as you can see our Poppy and Remembrance program is very large and covers a wide variety of duties and responsibilities. Thankfully I had an extraordinary team to guide and assist me. To Comrades, Angus Stanfield, Wayne Donner, Ross Petten, Brian Weaver, Mel Willis and John Yeo, my personal thanks for your support and direction.

No Dominion Committee could exist and meet its' mandate without staff support. Comrade Kelly Therien can always be found in the background quietly completing her duties. Comrade Kelly, my Thanks.

Comrade Bill and I did not always agree on the direction the Committee should go, but I can tell you he was invaluable to the overall success of the term. Much thanks to Comrade Bill for his dedication and support to the Poppy and Remembrance Committee.

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.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	5,145	1,921	7,000	7,140	7,283
PER DIEM	4,298	1,982	2,000	2,040	2,081
POSTAGE & OFFICE	1,782	2,098	1,000	1,020	1,040
TELEPHONE AND FAX	72	328	1,000	1,020	1,040
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	1,397	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	891	123	500	510	520
TOTAL	13,583	6,451	11,500	11,730	11,964
EUROPE ZONE					
GRANT	-	-	1,500	1,530	1,561
EUROPE - WREATHS	1,365	-	-	-	-
	1,365	-	1,500	1,530	1,561
NATIONAL CEREMONIES					
TRAVEL	5,771	5,835	4,500	4,590	4,682
PER DIEM	8,101	3,280	4,500	4,590	4,682
PRINTING, STATIONERY	14	677	500	510	520
TELEPHONE, POSTAGE	454	637	500	510	520
COLOUR PARTY ACTIVITIES					
SUMMER & FALL	419	38	250	255	260
MEETING, PLANNING	117	74	200	204	208
REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION	4,728	-	-	-	-
ST. JOHN AMBULANCE	300	300	300	306	312
SILVER CROSS MOTHER	3,571	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	4,197	4,707	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL	27,672	15,548	12,250	12,495	12,745

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
PILGRIMAGE					
POPPY GRANT	(25,000)	(17,023)	(33,750)	(34,425)	(35,114)
EXPENSES	35,355	17,023	33,750	34,425	35,114
TOTAL	10,355	-	-	-	-
TOTAL - POPPY FUND	52,976	21,999	25,250	25,755	26,270
NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY ASSOCIATED EXPENSES (POPPY FUND)					
EUROPE - WREATHS	-	642	1,000	1,020	1,040
REMEMBRANCE RECEPTION	-	5,586	4,500	4,590	4,682
SILVER CROSS MOTHER	-	7,599	5,000	5,100	5,202
CADET OF THE YEAR	11,080	5,721	10,000	10,200	10,404
NATIONAL LITERARY/POSTER CONTESTS					
TRAVEL	3,699	6,125	5,000	5,100	5,202
PER DIEM	4,710	4,939	5,000	5,100	5,202
BURSARIES/GIFTS	12,722	12,527	10,875	11,093	11,314
TOTAL - POPPY FUND	32,211	43,139	41,375	42,203	43,047
TOTAL - GENERAL FUND	27,672	15,548	12,250	12,495	12,745
TOTAL - NATIONAL					
REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY	59,883	58,687	53,625	54,698	55,792

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND

MEMBERSHIP *and* OUTREACH COMMITTEE

T. Irvine, *Co Chairman*
D. Flannigan, *Co Chairman*
N. Shelton, *Member*
F. Sullivan, *Member*
H. Harper, *Member*
G. Painchaud, *Member*
G. Moore, *Member*
R. Hayley, *Secretary*
B. Poulin, *Assistant Secretary*

MEMBER SERVICES OVERVIEW

The Member Services Section in Dominion Command (DC) has been working hard to overcome the operational deficiencies of the past few years and to a certain extent the past decade.

Through a restructure that removed the marketing function from the administrative processing of membership, effective training of new staff and the implementation of the new Dynamics CRM (Customer Relationship Management) and membership processing website the section is now better positioned for a greater focus on all membership recruiting, renewing and retention efforts in the coming years.

Over the past 9 months the section has developed various operational metrics providing key performance indicators which will allow it to better prepare and predict processing workflow requirements for future membership drives and is now confident in its ability to stay proactive and current with membership processing moving forward.

The section continues to encourage all branches to submit membership transactions monthly to ensure a smooth, consistent turnaround on all submissions. It was evident during the 2015 Early Bird Campaign that some branches continue to hold on to all submissions for extended periods of time.

Branch and member communication continues to be a challenge for the Member Services Section as only 1,100 of the 1400 branches have an email address on their account and approximately only 15% of all members possess a phone number and/or email addresses on their current account. As Dominion Command continues to place greater emphasis on email communication this is

creating an extremely challenging situation for the Member Services Section in the face of launching new membership applications along with some new retention/renewal programs to be rolled out in the future.

We are pleased with recent responses as we have added approximately 300 branch emails over the past 4 months. We still need to collectively remain focused on obtaining greater contact information from both branches and members (phone numbers and email addresses) to ensure better communication throughout our extensive organization. Strong communication is critical to implementing change successfully.

During the 2016 Convention the section is presenting the new membership processing website through an informative membership workshop for all attendees. The section is also on-site to answer any processing questions while displaying new membership tools and portraying an image of greater accountability, focus and direction for future membership growth.

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Final 2015 Membership was 285,321 down 4.5% or 13,293 members over 2014. During 2015 we processed 24,206 new/reinstated members and processed an additional 4,450 deceased members. On-line membership totals were up 9.4% year over year or 127 members.

Almost 250 branches were recognized for their 2015 Early Bird Campaign results which saw 47.5% of members renew between September 01 and November 15, 2015. There were an additional 66 branches (almost 5%) with zero membership renewals during the campaign.

The Bert Garrett award, named after comrade Bert Garrett who in 1963 personally recruited 182 Legion members, was awarded to British Columbia / Yukon command for obtaining/re-instating 10.66% of their membership base during 2015. British Columbia / Yukon command also won the award for 2014 by achieving an 11.06% increase in new and reinstated members. Congratulations to BC-YK Command!

The final 2015 results are listed below:

NEW/REINSTATED MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY - 2015

COMMAND	PREV YR MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL NEW/ REINSTATED	%
01 – BC/YUKON	54,416	5,799	10.7%
02 – ALTA-NWT	42,821	3,701	8.6%
03 – SASK	11,329	738	6.5%
04 – MAN&NWO	24,644	1,843	7.5%
05 – ONT	111,731	7,143	6.4%
06 – QC	13,563	1,341	9.9%
07 – NB	8,947	530	5.9%
08 – NS/NU	22,117	1,642	7.4%
09 – PEI	2,135	152	7.1%
10 – NFLD/LAB	4,298	376	8.7%
17 –EASTERN US ZONE	457	43	9.4%
18 –WESTERN US ZONE	192	8	4.2%
19 - EUROPE	303	29	9.6%

A direct mail piece soliciting the renewal of members has been used effectively the last few years and last year saw 59,099 letters mailed yielding a response rate of 15,893 members or 26.9%. For this year's renewal campaign almost 60,000 letters were mailed in late March. One of the main objectives of obtaining more member email addresses is to e-mail renewal reminders in the future which are more cost effective than direct mail pieces to execute.

Declining membership continues to be the biggest challenge facing the Legion today. This graph illustrates the recent history of total Legion Membership over the past decade.



NEW MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING APPLICATION

Dominion Command is pleased to announce it has successfully launched the new membership processing system.

This new system provides our organization an opportunity to process memberships more efficiently by reducing the volume of paperwork while improving communications between branches and members by providing access to real time data and membership reporting.

For the first time, Legion members will be able to pay for memberships on-line via credit card and have the option to sign up for annual auto credit card renewals.

The new system was launched in two phases. Phase I was the implementation of Microsoft Dynamics CRM for DC membership internal use. Phase II, the membership processing website, is now available for commands, branches and members. The following are some highlights of the new membership processing website:

- The website is available for all commands, branches and members free of charge
- Only internet connectivity is required to access the system
- Branches are able to view, sign up and renew their own branch members on-line
- Members can now renew / manage their own membership accounts on-line (but only if the branch provides its branch rates to DC)

- Commands / branches now have access to a variety of reports on demand (Branch Registry, Transmittal reports, Status reports etc.)
- Auto renewal payments are now available for members
- Credit card payments are now available for branches and members

The Member Services Section has made available for all branches training sessions/videos post-convention and are always available via email (dminfo@legion.ca) or phone (1-855-330-3344) for general inquiries to assist branches in the transition to using the new membership processing website.

PLEASE NOTE: Even if a local branch does not plan on initially using the website application it is important / imperative for that branch to share their branch rate with DC in order to allow their local members the opportunity to renew their memberships on-line. On-line renewals is a new significant benefit of the website application and a key factor in improving membership retention rates moving forward.

Our goal is to have 15-20% of total branches registered and using the membership website by the end of 2016. Further to this we would like to have all branches phased in over the next 3 years. The technology has now been provided to allow for more efficient processing and payment of legion memberships moving forward which will greatly improve member renewal and retention!

KEY ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE – SEPTEMBER 2014 - APRIL 2016

- Discussions with Ladies Auxiliary regarding joint membership and DEC representation
- One by One campaign
- Fraternal Associate Members and recognizing their years of service
- Provincial Membership Chairpersons teleconference
- 2014, 2015 Non-Renewal Mailing campaign
- Graduating Cadets and complementary memberships
- Completion and awarding of Early Bird Campaign recognition certificates

- Processing pre-paid memberships before November 01
- Amalgamation of current membership categories

Ladies Auxiliary: Discussions took place with LA Provincial Presidents focusing on joint membership and DEC representation. Following a teleconference with Provincial Presidents on February 10, 2016 and under the direction of the Dominion President further discussions with the Ladies Auxiliary were placed on hold until following the 2016 Dominion Convention.

Fraternal Associate Members: A motion was passed at DEC to recognize Fraternal years of service if supported by a signed letter by the Branch President attesting to years of service.

Discontinuing Early Bird certificates: The committee passed a motion to discontinue the awarding of early bird and achievement branch certificates and will recognize and post the achievement levels on-line moving forward. To be effective for the 2016 Early Bird campaign.

Processing memberships before November 01: The committee amended section 1621 of the Membership Manual to remove the restriction of the November 1st submission date.

Amalgamation of current membership categories: The Committee revisited the proposal of reducing the current four membership categories to two which would include Veterans and Associate Members (all other members). The reasoning is to first and foremost recognize Veterans as their own category while simplifying the membership process for current and new members and promoting an organization of inclusiveness for all members.

THE LEGION'S LEAKY BUCKET

The biggest challenge facing the Royal Canadian Legion today continues to be declining membership. Membership has been on the decline for 25 years and if the Legion is to continue to survive and thrive as the largest veteran support and community services organization in Canada then membership needs to become a priority for every member of our vast organization.

The graphic below illustrates the following:

- A visual way of illustrating the fluid nature of Legion membership
- Highlights some of the many factors influencing paid membership
- The requirement to initiate many recruitment/renewal/retention programs simultaneously to positively impact total membership
- How many different entities play a role in growing membership (DC, local branches, existing members)

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2016-2018 budgets for the Membership and Outreach 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 Membership and Outreach Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION:

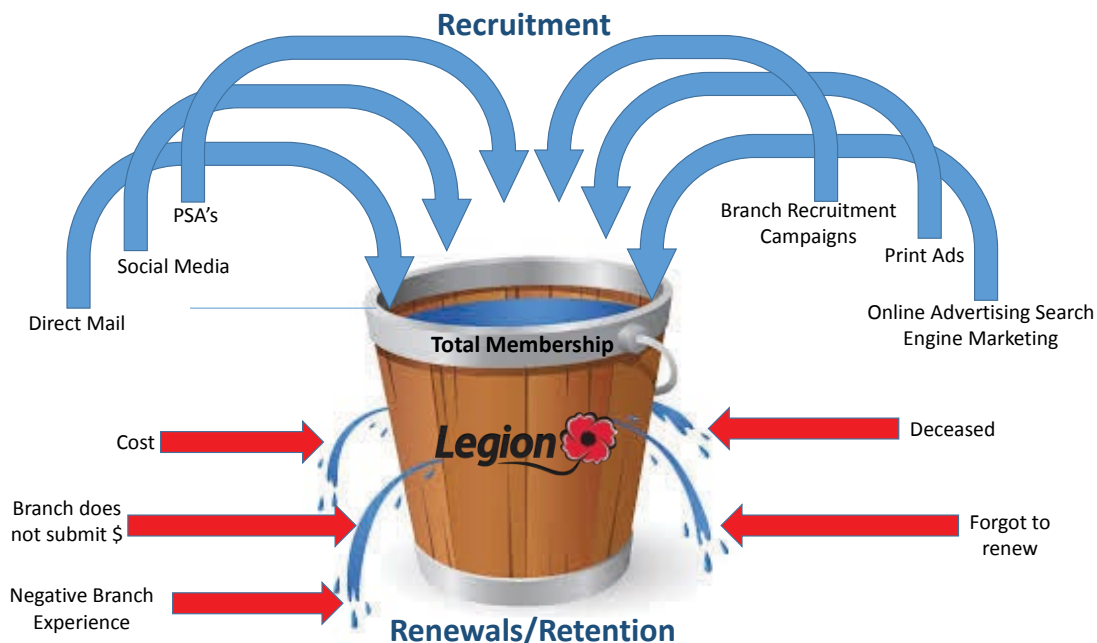
With a re-organized, newly focused Member Services Section and the new membership processing applications we are now extremely

optimistic about turning around Legion membership in the coming years.

As we all play a critical role in membership here's how the local branch can positively impact Legion membership:

- 1) Put out the welcome mat for all newcomers, veterans and civilians alike who wish to support veterans, promote remembrance and want to help grow our communities.
- 2) Use the new membership website for your processing and reporting needs.
- 3) At the very least, ensure Dominion Command is aware of your Branch rates to help with on-line member renewals.
- 4) Continue to obtain member phone numbers and email addresses and ensure they are updated in the membership system or forwarded directly to Dominion Command.
- 5) Ensure your branch maintains an open-mind as the Member Services Section will continue to introduce new ideas and programs over the coming years.

By following these 5 simple steps we collectively will ensure a better future for our Legion membership.



OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Since our last report to Dominion Convention, the Outreach and Communications section of the Outreach and Membership Committee has the following items to report:

There were some 150 media products released during this two-year period. This averages out to one media product for every week for the past two years. More than 325 media interviews were also completed by SEOs and Staff at Dominion Command.

The monthly PRO Teleconferences continue as a means of ensuring that outreach events and related media products are shared amongst all commands. Part of these teleconferences includes a monthly outreach calendar of events designed to maximize PR efforts across all commands.

In 2015, a survey was conducted to determine how many Dominion Command sponsored events unfold, on average, in any given calendar year. It was determined that the Legion is involved with some 166 scheduled events – or one event every two days. Finally, according to the Legion's media monitoring company, there were approximately 23,000 articles written about the Legion that were discussed in various media outlets during this two-year cycle.

We thank all committee members for their unwavering support and all their efforts over the past 2 years and also wish to recognize the recent accomplishments of the Member Services staff in revitalizing membership processing.

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

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THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	2,272	917	2,500	2,550	2,601
PER DIEM	2,784	1,360	3,500	3,570	3,641
PRINTING AND OFFICE	1,478	1,857	750	765	780
POSTAGE	-	254	-	-	-
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	54	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE & FAX	89	-	500	510	520
MISCELLANEOUS	267	138	500	510	520
	6,944	4,526	7,750	7,905	8,063
PRINTING & STATIONERY					
MEMBERSHIP FORMS	3,140	8,116	5,000	5,100	5,202
EARLY BIRD CERTIFICATE	-	-	-	-	-
EARLY BIRD STICKERS	-	-	-	-	-
	3,140	8,116	5,000	5,100	5,202
TOTAL	10,084	12,642	12,750	13,005	13,265

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION—DOMINION COMMAND
OUTREACH COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	4,579	999	-	-	-
PER DIEM	4,235	1,360	-	-	-
PRINTING, STATIONERY	244	475	-	-	-
TELEPHONE & FAX	601	1,247	500	510	520
POSTAGE	102	39	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	129	112	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	9,890	4,232	500	510	520
PR SECTION					
EXTERNAL					
MEDIA MONITORING	1,087	-	-	-	-
MEDIA DISTRIBUTION	11,651	19,711	23,000	23,460	23,929
TRAINING/LIAISON					
PER DIEM	5,044	1,843	-	-	-
TRAVEL	2,996	1,799	500	510	520
SUB-TOTAL	20,778	23,353	23,500	23,970	24,450
GRAND TOTAL	30,668	27,585	24,000	24,480	24,970

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

A. Paquette, *Chairman*
S. Wessel, *Vice-Chairman*
D. Wells, *Member*
D. Kidd, *Member*
J. Ladouceur, *Member*
C. Paul, *Member*
L. Washburn, *Member*
D. Martin, *Secretary*
A. Keeling Colkitt, *Assistant Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Sports Committee has met four times since the 2014 Dominion Convention – twice in Ottawa and twice by teleconference. The committee's focus continues to be one of containing costs and improving both the member sports program and the National Youth Track and Field Championships.

MEMBER SPORTS GENERAL

Since the last convention cost reduction has been a high priority issue at Dominion Command resulting in a conscientious examination of all current programs. As is the case in most approaches to cost reduction there are three options - to reduce expenditures, raise additional funds or a combination of both. The other important factor when this review was conducted was to determine the value of the program to the Legion. As value, in this case a subjective measurement tool, input from all members was provided to determine the programs worth. National surveys conducted in both 2006 and 2012 were also referenced to make informed decisions.

It was determined that the worth of member sports to many Legion branches is significant as it adds to the social aspect of the branch and brings in new members which in turn brings in needed revenue. Sports being a competitive pastime by nature thrives on activities that lend itself to competition and the staged competition from branch to national level is unique in an organization such as the Legion. For those that participate this is an incentive for membership. A by-product of these programs is the camaraderie and member unity it enhances at all levels of play.

As a result of the review the following points were set as a means to evaluate each sport currently played at the national level which includes curling, cribbage, darts and eight ball:

- Is there a significant following within the Legion?
- Does the sport contribute to the branch?
- Is the sport supported at the national level?
- Is there a way to control costs?
- Is there another way to organize these sports?
- Is there another source of funding?

The findings of the committee identified both cribbage and darts to have a strong following in the Legion at all levels of play. These sports were also universally supported by all commands. Eight ball was found to have a strong participation rate however it was not supported by two provincial commands. Curling had very limited participation and was not supported by four provincial commands. Curling as well did not significantly support the branch as the play was carried out, for the most part, away from the branch.

The major cost for hosting national tournaments was identified as travel, in particular air travel. As the cost for ticket purchase was dependant on the provincial selection process, the member's geographic location and when the member booked, these costs could not be controlled. Therefore the committee used the average cost of travel from 2014 and established a maximum travel subsidy of \$700 (with some exceptions) per individual.

Over the past several years the Member Sports program was able to acquire sponsors, the latest being Corby's distilleries for Dominion Darts in 2015. However sponsors expect a return on

their investment which is something the Legion cannot coordinate. In Corby's case they expected an increase in the sales of their products through an increased distribution to Legion branches. However Legion branches determine their own product purchase and are generally not interested in getting behind a national effort in regard to sponsoring companies. As a result Corby's did not renew their sponsorship and there is little prospect of further funding from this area.

The final determination by the committee was to reconfigure all member sports by staging only two a year and therefore cutting costs in half (rejected by DEC). There was also a recommendation to allow open teams to compete in curling (approved by DEC) and removing the geographical rotation for branches (approved by DEC). Despite these recommendations and in concert with other committee findings it was decided to suspend both curling and eight ball for 2016 and allow the convention to determine the future of these sports at the national level.

2015 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

An update is provided on the outcome of member sports events for 2015:

a. Curling Hosted by: <u>Champions</u>	14 - 19 March 2015 Branch #122 Birch Hills, SK Branch #4 Chilliwack, BC
b. Cribbage Hosted by: <u>Champions</u> Singles: Doubles: Team:	24 - 27 April 2015 Branch #281 Spruce Grove, AB Single: Branch #142 Halifax, NS Branch #133 Stoughton, SK Branch #142 Halifax, NS
c. Darts Hosted by: <u>Champions</u> Singles: Doubles: Team:	1 - 4 May 2015 Branch # 6 Surrey, BC Branch # 1 Charlottetown, PE Branch #420 Blyth, ON Branch # 10 Portugal Cove, NF

d. Eight Ball Hosted by: <u>Champions</u> Singles: Doubles: Team:	29 May - 1 June 2015 Branch #1 Calgary, AB Branch # 17 Medicine Hat, AB Branch #47 Labrador City, NFLD/LBDR Team ALTA, Branch #238, Calgary, AB and Branch #17 Medicine Hat, AB
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2016 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results for the 2016 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	Suspended for 2016
b. Cribbage Hosted by:	22 - 25 April 2016 Branch #1, Charlottetown
c. Darts Hosted by:	6 - 9 May 2016 Branch #69, Saint John, NB
d. Eight Ball	Suspended for 2016

MEMBER SPORTS – POINTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following was approved by motion or by the Sports Committee:

Member Sports Dress Code. There have been situations at the national championships where participants during play were dressed in a manner that was considered below that of an acceptable standard. Based on expectations from the committee and related dress codes in similar national events conducted outside the Legion's control it was felt that a national code of dress for Legion national tournaments be established. Therefore a mandatory dress code was established for national member sports to include as a minimum collared shirts, slacks and closed shoes. (approved by DEC Feb 15)

LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS - GENERAL

The Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships remains the premiere Legion

program for Canadian youth under the age of 18 years. Supported by several agencies such as, Athletics Canada, FQA and Trackie this event is the de facto national championships for both the youth and midjet age groups. In 2014 The Royal Canadian Legion was chosen as the recipient of the 2014 “Hommage Athlétas” Award from the Fédération québécoise d’athlétisme.

The Legion was selected to receive the “Hommage Athlétas” Award for its support of training, competition, and promotional activities of the Legion National Youth Track & Field program. The Sports Chairman was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the Legion at Gala Athlétas that took place in Montréal on the 22 November 2014.

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, PIB and BMO. In addition to the sponsorship initiatives revenue is also generated by the collection of registration fees which when combined with sponsorship funds exceed \$135,000 in 2015.

2014 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2014 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 13 - 19 August at the McLeod Athletic Park located in Langley Township, BC. The total attendance was 327 Legion sponsored athletes, 35 chaperones and 25 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 374 open category athletes.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, a clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2014 a remembrance theme of the 70th anniversary of the D Day landings with a focus on Juno Beach and the 3rd Division was prominent throughout.

The Dominion President, comrade Tom Eagles 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 (TWU) in the main dining hall with former national athlete and coach and current TWU Head Athletics Coach Laurier Primeau as the guest of honour.

The meet was held on 15 - 17 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at McLeod Athletic Park 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 Brent Dolfo and Athletics Canada. The top Legion female athlete receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy was Xahria Santiago from ON and the top male athlete receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy was Callum MacNab from AB. Both trophies were presented on behalf of MBNA Canada.

2015 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2015 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 5 - 11 August at the Stade d’athlétisme Richard-Garneau located in Sainte-Thérèse, QC. The total attendance was 328 Legion sponsored athletes, 36 chaperones and 28 coaches representing all 10 provincial commands. In addition there were 602 open category athletes and 130 coaches. There was approximately 5000-6000 spectators/officials/ volunteers from all parts of Canada in attendance over the three days of competition which included hundreds of veteran’s both retired and serving covering all branches of service and all conflict areas from WWII to Afghanistan.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, a clinic, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2015 a remembrance theme of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Holland and the end of WWII was prominent throughout.

The LGov of QC, The Honourable Pierre Duchesne attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. In attendance as well was a representative of the Netherlands Lieutenant-Colonel Christa Oppers-Beumer, Attaché for the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the mayors of Ste Therese and Blainville their Worships Surprenant and the Cantin respectively, the MP for Marc-Aurèle-Fortin, Alain Giguère and the MNA for Groulx, Claude Surprenant. Immediately following the ceremony Dominion Command hosted a

reception on-site at the Stade d'athlétisme Richard-Garneau. Further receptions were held at Branch #208 Sainte-Thérèse/Blainville for the chaperones and coaches on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at Sainte-Thérèse/Blainville Community Centre in the main hall.

The meet was held on 7 - 9 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at Stade d'athlétisme Richard-Garneau 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 Carole Crevier and Serge Thibault of Athletics Quebec. The top Legion female athlete receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy was Trinity Tutti from ON and the top male athlete receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy was Aaron Marcynuk from AB.

TRACK & FIELD – POINTS OF INTEREST

The Sports Committee has continued to work toward improving the T&F program and reducing costs. The following points outline this effort:

- a. **National Chaperone Pool.** As some provincial commands have had problems securing the right amount of chaperones for their teams the committee approved the creation of a national pool of chaperones at Dominion Command level. As such any provincial commands that are faced with a chaperone shortage can request assistance. Qualifications required remain a current Police Record Check, Legion Membership and a branch recommendation.
- b. **Disciplinary Removal of Athletes – Cost.** In very rare cases athletes that are removed from the program as a result of disciplinary action are sent home early. There are currently no financial repercussions but there are costs involved.

Although the chance of recovering funds from the parties involved would be slim it was felt that by making guardians and athletes aware of this financial requirement when signing the athlete form would be a proactive measure in prevention of future disciplinary problems. Therefore any athlete removed from the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships due to disciplinary problems would be held financially responsible (as would their guardian) and assessed the full cost of

the expenses incurred due to their removal including the cost of the escort.

- c. **Airport Baggage Fees** - In 2015 the major airlines introduced baggage fees for all passengers booking flights at the economy rate. The basic charge for one checked bag per flight is \$26.50 (in most cases) totalling \$53.00 for a two way trip. The Committee considered whether the baggage fees should be reimbursed or left to the individuals to pay. The current direction in the Sports Guide under article 808 states that Dominion Command will cover 70% of the costs for Provincial Teams when traveling by air transportation from the designated departure airport (as authorized by Dominion Command) to the event location and return. As baggage fees formed part of the flight costs for air travel it was agreed that teams will be reimbursed to a maximum of one bag per person per flight.

- d. **Competition Status:** The Legion program has been recognized by both national and provincial organizations receiving two national and three provincial awards over the past three years. These acknowledgements have enhanced the meet profile resulting in an increased interest from potential host communities. The current hosting roster has been confirmed through to 2020 with Brandon, MB and Sydney, NS confirmed as hosts. Additional communities have displayed interest and are awaiting the Legion to open up the bidding process.

In addition to Canadian recognition the quality of the competition has reached out beyond Canadian borders with teams/clubs from both the US and Jamaica making enquiries to compete in 2016. When combined with over 30 Canadian T&F Clubs who currently enter the Legion Nationals the Legion program (by reputation) is reaching out to all corners of Canada as well as internationally.

Overall this enhanced profile and popularity as being the only Canadian national championships for the under 18 age group has allowed the committee to maintain costs at a relatively constant level for the past 10 years. These gains were achieved through a more competitive host bidding process and the development of alternate revenue sources such as sponsorship, grants and registration fees.

e. Information Technology: The Legion Nationals has remained at the forefront of the information technology onslaught through the use of several media tools which include Facebook, Twitter, Flickr and YouTube. As the information technology continues it remains an important element not only as a communication tool but it also allows this event to remain relevant to its target audience, the youth of Canada. For 2016 the Legion will introduce live streaming of the competition as another step to both enhance the event and communicate to Canadians.

2016 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The committee has reviewed two submitted resolutions. These resolutions will be dealt with later in the convention proceedings.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2016-2018 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.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
COMMITTEE					
TRAVEL	4,900	4,325	3,750	3,825	3,902
PER DIEM	6,088	3,464	3,750	3,825	3,902
T & F LAC					
LANGLEY- 2013/2014	6,934	-			
STE. THERESE - 2015	6,110	4,025			
STE. THERESE - 2016	-	-	6,000	-	-
BRANDON 2017/18	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
LTBA 2019/20	1,153	630	-	-	6,000
PRINTING, STATIONERY	11	53	1,000	1,020	1,040
TELEPHONE & FAX	372	137	200	204	208
POSTAGE			300	306	312
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	739	271	1,000	1,020	1,040
TOTAL COMMITTEE	26,306	12,906	21,000	15,300	21,606

	DAUPHIN MB	BIRCH HILLS SK			
CURLING					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	12,434	10,269	-	-	-
COMMITTEE	2,525	2,309	-	-	-
AWARDS & PRIZES	1,396	961	-	-	-
ENTERTAINMENT	300	-	-	-	-
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
TOTAL REGULAR CURLING	20,154	17,039	-	-	-

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
DARTS					
CHARLOTTETOWN PE					
SPONSORSHIP (RECOVERY)	(25,000)	(25,000)	-	-	-
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	23,885	16,915	28,000	28,560	29,131
COMMITTEE	2,166	1,361	1,500	1,530	1,561
AWARDS & PRIZES-PARTICIPANTS	1,488	1,950	1,300	1,326	1,353
AWARDS & PRIZES-BRANCHES	5,000	-	-	-	-
AWARDS & PRIZES-BRANCHES	10,000	-	-	-	-
ENTERTAINMENT	43	-	-	-	-
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	800	800	800	816	832
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL DARTS	19,883	(2,474)	33,100	33,762	34,437
CRIBBAGE					
NORTH BAY ON SPRUCE GROVE AB SAINT JOHN NB					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	33,963	28,178	28,000	28,560	29,131
COMMITTEE	1,227	969	1,500	1,530	1,561
AWARDS & PRIZES	1,463	1,404	1,300	1,326	1,353
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	800	800	800	816	832
ENTERTAINMENT	200	-	-	-	-
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL CRIBBAGE	39,153	32,851	33,100	33,762	34,437
EIGHT BALL					
TECUMSEH ON CALGARY AB					
TRAVEL					
PARTICIPANTS	25,823	18,393	-	-	-
COMMITTEE	1,118	1,362	-	-	-
AWARDS & PRIZES	2,130	1,240	-	-	-
ADVANCE TO HOST BRANCH	800	800	-	-	-
ENTERTAINMENT	200	-	-	-	-
GROUND TRANSPORTATION	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
TOTAL EIGHT BALL	31,570	23,295	-	-	-
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	110,760	70,711	66,200	67,524	68,874
TOTAL T & F	277,938	104,295	225,000	232,640	240,433
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE	415,004	187,913	312,200	315,464	330,913

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS	LANGLEY BC	STE. THERESE QC	STE. THERESE QC	BRANDON MB	BRANDON MB
TRANSPORTATION	238,246	158,897	180,000	183,600	187,272
ACCOMMODATIONS, MEALS	170,683	133,307	153,600	156,672	159,805
COMMITTEE - TRAVEL	11,386	4,905	7,650	7,803	7,959
COMMITTEE - PER DIEM	9,360	6,345	13,350	13,617	13,889
LOCAL COMMITTEE	-	-	1,000	1,020	1,040
KITS / SUPPLIES / MEDALS	3,040	22,584	5,000	5,100	5,202
BUSES	-	4,185	10,200	10,404	10,612
HONORARIA	3,000	2,950	3,000	3,060	3,121
RECEPTION	2,500	122	1,500	1,530	1,561
MEDICAL	-	-	200	204	208
ATHLETIC FACILITIES	-	-	500	510	520
EQUIPMENT / MTG ROOMS	-	4,343	500	510	520
CLINICIANS	-	-	500	510	520
OFFICIALS	-	490	2,000	2,040	2,081
FREIGHT & EXPRESS	-	-	2,000	2,040	2,081
MISCELLANEOUS	378	1,523	1,000	1,020	1,040
TOTAL EXPENSE	438,593	339,652	382,000	389,640	397,433
LESS PROV PORTION	(96,223)	(125,742)	(100,000)	(100,000)	(100,000)
SUB TOTAL	342,370	213,910	282,000	289,640	297,433
RECOVERIES					
REGISTRATION - NON LEGION ATHLETES	(18,432)	(46,615)	(12,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)
SPONSORSHIPS	(46,000)	(51,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)	(45,000)
OTHER	-	(12,000)			
TOTAL RECOVERIES	(64,432)	(109,615)	(57,000)	(57,000)	(57,000)
NET EXPENSE TRACK & FIELD	277,938	104,295	225,000	232,640	240,433

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE *and* SECURITY COMMITTEE

R. Blanchette, *Chairman*
D. Brown, *Member*
R. Price, *Member*
W. Martin, *Member*
C. Gendron, *Secretary*

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Defence & Security Committee has met 2 times since the last convention. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period.

GENERAL

The committee continues to be proactive in its areas of responsibility monitoring the effectiveness of policies governing the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in the areas of 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 offices, 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.

CAF RCMP LIAISON

Through a conscientious effort the committee has established and fostered direct links with the CDS, VCDS, CMP, Service Commanders and RCMP 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 RCMP alike, enhancing the morale of those serving while helping the Veterans of those organizations.

LEGION CONNECT

The initial impetus of this Committee with this project was to facilitate the approval of use of military badges graphics in the design phase. Now that this IT project it is up and running, the involvement of the Defence and Security Committee has been concluded and the discussion with the appropriate Dominion Department for steady state management is on-going.

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. Following on the previous report that a more formal dialogue with the RCMP veterans was needed in order to establish their concerns and priorities, the Committee Chairman will participate in a face to face visit with the RCMP Commissioner, Mr. Polson in early 2016.

CF SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Committee continues in their responsibilities of CAF support as previously reported at the 2014 Convention. Specific responsibilities are:

- 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 Joint Task Force March representation, and
- Comradeship Awards.

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. The Committee reviewed nine nominations from five Provincial Commands selecting Comrade Sheridan Ellinson, Branch #50 Tisdale, Saskatchewan as the 2016 RCL Nijmegen representative. Comrade Kim Peters, Branch #530 Waterloo, Ontario Command has been earmarked as alternate.

POLAR MEDAL - AUTHORITY TO WEAR

The Polar Medal celebrates Canada's northern heritage and recognizes persons who render extraordinary services in the Polar Regions and in Canada's North.

As an official honour created by the Crown, the Polar Medal is part of the Canadian Honours System. The program incorporated and replaced the Governor General's Northern Medal, created in 2005, by then-Governor General the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson. The Polar Medal recognizes those who have contributed to or endeavoured to promote a greater understanding of Canada's northern communities and its people.

It also honours those individuals who have withstood the rigours of the polar climate to make significant contributions to polar exploration and knowledge, scientific research, and the securing of Canada's northern sovereignty. The Chancellery of Honours, part of the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, administers the Polar Medal program

CITIZENSHIP – WAR BRIDES

All previous correspondence on the subject was reviewed and the Committee is in accordance with the current Government response. The Committee will continue to monitor the issue with the new Minister's office.

2016 CONVENTION RESOLUTION

subject of a Canadian Military Volunteer Service Medal (CMVSM). The resolution was non-concurred by the Defence & Security Committee.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2016-2018 budget for Defence & Security Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budget at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budget 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

The Chairman, Richard Blanchette also would like to make mention of the hard work made by all Committee members over the last two years toward addressing and resolving the numerous advocacy issues raised on behalf of Veterans and his sincere appreciation for their constant efforts. The Defence and Security Committee will continue those efforts focused on ensuring a strong presence within the defence community to serve all Veterans and their families.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	3,976	829	4,600	4,692	4,786
PER DIEM	4,307	1,046	4,600	4,692	4,786
PRINTING, POSTAGE,	272	497	-	-	-
TELEPHONE & FAX	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	163	67	200	204	208
ANNUAL VIMY AWARD & AGM	3,700	4,100	5,650	5,763	5,878
CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATION FEE & CIC FEE	2,075	2,113	2,150	2,193	2,237
LEGION CONNECT	1,074	31,584	15,000	15,300	-
COMRADESHIP AWARDS	333	3,590	3,000	3,060	3,121
CF SPONSORSHIPS					
OPERATION SANTA CLAUS	15,001	15,746	25,000	25,500	26,010
OPERATION CANADA DAY	8,519	15,189	25,000	25,500	26,010
NIJMEGEN	12,000	8,000	8,000	8,160	8,323
TOTAL EXPENSE	51,419	82,760	93,200	95,064	81,359

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

T. Eagles, *Chairman*
G. Moore, *Vice-Chairman*
D. Flannigan, *Member*
B. White, *Secretary*
G. Foster, *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 provisional status granted to Bermuda, the Legion is now responsible for 16 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 2016 we are caring for 91 veterans and 107 widows while in 2015 we cared for 103 veterans and 108 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 2014 you donated \$269,013.02 to this fund and in 2015 you donated \$205,662.00. 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, shipping costs 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 \$442,478.47 has been committed or spent on support activities in the Caribbean since this Committee reported to you in 2014. This number includes the funds expended in 2014 and 2015. A further \$330,000 has been committed for 2016 out of a total budget of \$973,814.30 which leaves a significant reserve this year due in large part to a Libor fund grant of \$304,050.00 distributed by the RCEL. 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 2014 we were able to help 117 veterans and 112 widows with the standard rates of assistance set for them. In 2015 we helped 103 veterans and 108 widows and in 2016 we are scheduled to help 91 veterans and 107 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 \$21,271.39, plus \$16,132.00 S & H was donated in 2014 and \$18,157.40 worth of material was provided in 2015, with a S & H cost \$15,799.60. Requests for 2016 are approximately \$44,000.00 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 2014 through 2016 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 (192)

In 2015 scheduled visits were made to Dominica, Bahamas and Antigua 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. All three of these countries are well organized, have a solid structure in place and are

doing an excellent job in ensuring the funds are reaching the veterans and widows. In 2016, the 32nd RCEL Conference is planned for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. It is hoped that representatives from all 16 countries will be in attendance and be active in the regional discussions. Multiple resolutions and discussion topics will be addressed with continued assistance towards widows being one of these topics.

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 Caribbean nationals who served 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 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 would like to thank the members of the RCEL Committee for their support and their passion towards assisting our Allied and Caribbean Veterans and their families

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
MEETINGS					
COMMITTEE					
PER DIEM	869	675	675	689	702
RCEL - HONG KONG					
TRAVEL	-	12,534	-	-	-
PER DIEM	-	5,583	-	-	-
	869	18,793	675	689	702
CARIBBEAN LEGION LIAISON					
TRAVEL	16,413	-	-	-	-
PER DIEM	16,361	-	-	-	-
POSTAGE, PRINTING	171	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	254	-	-	-	-
	33,199	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	34,068	18,793	675	689	702

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL *and* AWARDS COMMITTEE

R. Goebel, *Chairman*
K. Sorrenti, *Vice-Chairman*
B. Kiley, *Member*
M. Latimer, *Member*
B. Poulin, *Secretary*
R. Mandy, *Assistant 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 2015.

Similarly, the Chaplain's manual is also reviewed on a regular basis by the Committee. Both manuals are available on our Legion's website.

COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL PIN

At the DEC meeting held in February 2015, approval was given authorizing the wearing of

AWARD	2014 APPROVED	2014 RETURNED	2014 TOTAL	2015 APPROVED	2015 RETURNED	2015 TOTAL
PALM LEAF MSM	20	6	26	24	19	43
PALM LEAF MSA	2	2	4	6	0	6
MSM	45	36	81	37	19	56
MSA	3	4	7	11	2	13
MEDIA AWARD	7	0	7	7	0	7
FRIENDSHIP AWARD	25	0	25	14	0	14
TOTAL REVIEWED	102	48	150	99	40	139

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Changes to the membership of the committee took place during the past two years. Bruce Poulin took over as the committee secretary and Roseanna Mandy as the assistant secretary.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Committee continues to convene on a monthly basis either in person, electronically or by teleconference and processes applications for the MSM, MSA and the Palm Leaf in a timely manner. There is no backlog of applications.

COMMITTEE MANUALS

Since Legion manuals are no longer available in a hard copy format, the Committee continues to review our manual on a regular basis to make grammatical and cosmetic changes as deemed necessary. Any changes that may affect the intent of a particular section or subsection within the manual are made through recommendations approved by DEC.

the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier lapel pin on Legion Dress between the period of November 1, 2015 and November 30, 2016. This lapel pin to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of WW1 is permitted for wear on Legion dress along with our We Support Our Troops lapel pin for this one year period. This WW1 Commemorative lapel pin is permitted to be worn on the right lapel of the Legion blazer directly below the current We Support Our Troops lapel pin for this one year period. It is to be worn in a horizontal position similar to the manner in which it is displayed on the point of sale promotional display card when purchased through our Supply Department.

90TH ANNIVERSARY MEDAL

At the DEC meeting In September of 2014, approval was given for the introduction of a 90th Anniversary Medal to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Legion in 2016 as a Veterans and Community Service Organization. This Commemorative Medal

depicts the Legion Colours as well as the Royal Newfoundland Regiment Colours, to tie in with the 100th Anniversary of the battle at Beaumont-Hamel. The medal has since been made available for sale to all members of The Legion and our Ladies Auxiliaries through our Supply Department for wear on Legion Dress beginning in June of 2015.

150TH ANNIVERSARY

As we are all aware, the year 2017 will mark the 150th anniversary of this great country of ours. No doubt there will be many commemorative events being held across Canada to celebrate this very meaningful milestone. This no doubt will also include the creation of a Government of Canada 150th Anniversary Commemorative medal similar to the Canada 125 medal. However, as is the case with all Government medals a criterion will be struck and only a limited number of Legion members would no doubt be recipients of this medal which would be worn on the left breast of Legion dress. The 150th anniversary of our great country will no doubt also include various celebrations taking place within Legion Branches. With this in mind, approval was given at our September, 2015 D.E.C. meeting that a Legion 150th Anniversary Commemorative medal be struck for wear on Legion Dress and the uniforms of members of our Ladies Auxiliary. The distribution of such a Commemorative Medal will be limited to Legion members and L.A. members only, and the medal will be made available through our Legion Supply Department for wear on Legion dress commencing January 1, 2017.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSIONS

In keeping with our ever changing world of electronics, and on the request of a Provincial Command, the Committee agreed to accept major award applications electronically from Provincial Commands. A memorandum to this effect was sent to all Provincial Commands in April of last year. As a result of this change, the majority of our major award applications are now being received electronically. We encourage all Commands to send their applications to our Committee electronically.

FORGET-ME-NOT

In November of this past year, the Committee received a request from Newfoundland/Labrador Command regarding the wearing of the Forget-

Me-Not commemorative flower on Legion Dress during a one year period in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the battle of Beaumont Hamel.

On July 1, 1916, the opening day of the Battle of Somme, the Newfoundland Regiment fought its first engagement in France during WW1. Their attack of Beaumont-Hamel was to be taken by surprise but unfortunately the Germans knew the attack was coming and the result was the costliest of the entire war for this regiment. Of the 801 Newfoundlanders who went into battle that day, only 69 were able to answer roll call the next day as there were 255 dead, 386 wounded and 91 missing. Since that time, Newfoundland has adopted the Forget-Me-Not as their commemorative flower to those who paid the supreme sacrifice at Beaumont-Hamel.

At a Committee meeting in December of last year, our Committee unanimously approved the authorization for members of Newfoundland/Labrador Command to wear the Forget-me-not commemorative flower lapel pin on the left lapel of Legion Dress for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 with one exception. The exception being the two week period of October 28, 2016 through to November 11, 2016. During this time frame it is the Poppy that is to be worn on the left lapel of Legion Dress during our annual Poppy Campaign.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Ritual and Awards Committee budget for the period 2016-2018 is attached to this report. This report was included in the budget that was previously formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer in his report.

COMMITTEE WEBSITE LINK

The Committee continues to review the information posted on the Ritual and Awards Legion website section including FAQ's. The Committee also continues to work on a plan for the development of a standard PowerPoint style seminar presentation for Ritual, Awards Protocol and Ceremonial Events. This seminar will serve to assist Commands, Zones, Districts and Branches in promoting awareness at all levels regarding the proper use of the Legion Ritual, Awards and Protocol system.

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMENDATION

In 2001, with the approval of Her Majesty the Queen, the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation was created to recognize individuals across the country who, on a voluntary basis, have contributed in an exemplary manner to the care and well-being of Veterans or to the Remembrance of the contributions, sacrifices and achievements of Veterans. Individuals may be nominated for this commendation by using the nomination form available at all Veterans Affairs Canada district and regional offices and on-line at www.veterans.gc.ca. We encourage Legion members to promote this Commendation within their Branches and communities.

SOVEREIGN'S MEDAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

As an official honour created by the Crown, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers as introduced in the spring of 2016 and now is included as a part of the Canadian Honours System. The new medal replaces the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award (CCA) that had been created in 1995. The inaugural presentation ceremony of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers will be held in Halifax in July of this year. Existing CCA recipients will subsequently receive this new medal to complement their CCA. More information concerning the process for these presentations will be forthcoming. Information regarding the medal and the manner in which

a member may nominate another member may be found at www.gg.ca/nominate. We encourage Legion members to promote this new Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers within their Branches and communities. An all-branch memorandum has previously been sent to introduce this new award.

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 maintain the highest standards for Legion awards, and for the protocol, rituals 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.

Motion:

That the forget-me-not be worn by all members of the Legion for the year 2016 excluding the Remembrance two-week period.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	1,911	1,700	700	714	728
PER DIEM	3,053	1,440	1,000	1,020	1,040
PRINTING, STATIONERY	548	57	100	102	104
TELEPHONE & FAX	-	152	100	102	104
POSTAGE	117	29	100	102	104
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OLD STOCK	-	-	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	50	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	5,679	3,378	2,000	2,040	2,081

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION *and* LAWS COMMITTEE

J. Rycroft, *Chairman*
D. Eaton, *Vice-Chairman*
J. Frost, *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 made available on-line by 1 October 2014. Subsequent amendments have been circulated and the on-line manual kept current.

AMENDMENTS TO PROVINCIAL COMMAND BY-LAWS

In 2014-2016, the Committee reviewed and approved proposed amendments to the Provincial Command By-Laws for six commands, Eastern Zone of USA International Zone and TVS.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

Since the last Convention held in Edmonton, AB in June 2014, the Dominion Executive Council approved three By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 91, 92 and 93 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. 91

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 13th day of September 2014 that The General By-Laws of The

Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

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 complainant will have the \$100 returned in all but one circumstance. That circumstance is where there is a final disposition at a hearing (after all appeals, if any, are heard) and at that hearing the entire complaint is completely dismissed. Then and only then will the \$100 filing fee be forfeited; and

SECTION 506.

Delete the current wording of Section 506 and replace with:

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

BY - LAW NO. 92

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 22nd day of February 2015 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SECTION 110.

Re-number text in Section 110 to read 110.a. Insert as Subsection 110.b.:

- 110.b.** The use of a member's private contact information is restricted to conducting the administrative affairs of the branch or Command.

SUBSECTION 111.D.

Insert as Subsection 111.d.:

- 111.d.** Unless otherwise provided at the time of appointment or in branch or command by-laws, the duration of an appointment is for a term as specified by the appointing authority for that position.

Termination before the end of the term may be done only for cause and only by the appointing authority. Appointees may appeal their removal for cause in the same manner as if the removal was a disposition of removal from office or position held as a result of a complaint hearing. The appeal committee may either confirm the removal or direct reinstatement.

SECTION 202.

Delete the current wording of Section 202 and replace with:

- 202.** No person who advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be, or any person proven to advocate, encourage or participate in subversive action or subversive propaganda shall be permitted to become a member.

BY - LAW NO. 93

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 28th day of November 2015 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

(Note: the inclusion of a new section 205 resulted in numerous amendments up to and including subsection 227.d that are administrative only as many referenced sections and subsections required updating.)

SECTION 101.J.

Insert as Subsection 101.j.:

- 101.j.** INTERNATIONAL ZONE: means a body outside Canada authorized by Dominion Command to conduct operations as specified in accordance with Article VII of these By-Laws.

Re-number current Subsections 101.j to 101.p to read 101.k to 101.q.

SUBSECTION 201.D.

Amend Subsection 201.d. to read:

- 201.d.** Subject to the provisions respecting Tuberculous Veterans' Section, no person may be a member of more than one branch of the Legion at the same time (see Sections 224 - 226).

SECTION 205.

Insert as Section 205:

- 205.** No member of the Legion may sign in or bring in to any Legion premises any person who was expelled from the Legion or who has had their membership revoked by the Dominion President. Further, no member of the public who has been expelled from the Legion or had their membership revoked by the Dominion President may enter any Legion premises.

Re-number Sections 205-226 to read 206-227.

SUBSECTION 208.B.

Amend new Subsection 208.b. to read:

- 208.b.** is the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate who qualified under Subsection 208.a. or Subsection 208.c. to h. In the case of divorce or legal (documented) separation, a spouse who is an associate member through marriage to an associate member, retains the right to membership unless such membership lapses; or

SECTION 211.

Amend new Section 211 to read:

- 211.** Membership in USA Branches/Posts is only open to Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects who meet the eligibility criteria stated in Sections 206-209, as well as United States citizens who meet the criteria stated in Sections 212-214.

SUBSECTION 212.B.

Amend new Subsection 212.b. to read:

- 212.b.** A member admitted under Subsection 212.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category, to Affiliate non-voting, would be required.

SUB-SUBSECTION 213.A.I.

Amend new Sub-subsection 213.a.i.. to read:

- 213.a.i.** is the child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, niece, nephew, spouse, widow/er, sibling or parent of a person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member in a United States branch/post, pursuant to Section 212; or

SUB-SUBSECTION 213.A.II.

Amend new Sub-subsection 213.a.ii.. to read:

- 213.a.ii.** is the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate member who qualified under Subsection 213.a.i or Subsection 213.a.iii. In the case of divorce or legal (documented) separation, a spouse who is an associate member through marriage to an associate member, retains the right to membership unless such membership lapses; or

SUBSECTION 213.B.

Amend new Subsection 213.b. to read:

- 213.b.** A member admitted under Subsection 213.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category, to Affiliate non-voting, would be required.

SUBSECTION 214.B.

Amend new Subsection 214.b. to read:

- 214.b.** A member admitted under Subsection 214.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category, to Affiliate non-voting, would be required.

SECTION 215.

Amend new Section 215 to read:

- 215.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 206 to 214, any person who was qualified and became an ordinary, associate or affiliate member of a branch in Canada shall retain such qualification notwithstanding that the member has become a citizen of the United States of America.

SECTION 216.

Amend new Section 216 to read:

- 216.** Membership in Europe Branches is open to Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects who meet the eligibility criteria stated in Sections 206 to 209, as well as any NATO country citizen who meets the criteria stated in Sections 217 to 219.

SUBSECTION 217.B.

Amend new Subsection 217.b. to read:

- 217.b.** A member admitted under Subsection 217.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category to Affiliate Non-Voting would be required.

SUB-SUBSECTION 218.A.I.

Amend new Sub-subsection 218.a.i, to read:

- 218.a.i.** is the child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, niece, nephew, spouse, widow/er, sibling or parent of a person who is or was eligible to be an ordinary member in a branch in Europe, pursuant to Section 217; or

SUB-SUBSECTION 218.A.II.

Amend new Sub-subsection 218.a.ii, to read:

- 218.a.ii.** is the spouse, parent or sibling of an associate member who

qualified under Subsection 218.a.i or Subsection 218.a.iii. In the case of divorce or legal (documented) separation, a spouse who is an associate member through marriage to an associate member, retains the right to membership unless such membership lapses; or

SUBSECTION 218.B.

Amend new Subsection 218.b. to read:

218.b. A member admitted under Subsection 218.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category to Affiliate Non-Voting would be required.

SUBSECTION 219.B.

Amend new Subsection 219.b. to read:

219.b. A member admitted under Subsection 219.a. is permitted to transfer membership to a branch of the Legion in Canada. However, a mandatory change of membership category to Affiliate Non-Voting would be required.

SECTION 220.

Amend new Section 220 to read:

220. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 206 to 209 and 216 to 219 any person who was qualified and became an ordinary, associate or affiliate member of a branch in Canada shall retain such qualification notwithstanding that the member has become a citizen of another NATO country.

SECTION 224.

Amend new Section 224 to read:

224. Applicants for Legion membership who also meet the more restrictive criteria at Section 225 may choose to be assigned to the Tuberculous Veterans Section. Subject to the consent of such applicants individually, their membership shall be included in the nearest Tuberculous Veterans Section branch. Application forms of such applicants shall be clearly endorsed "Tuberculous Veterans Section".

SUB-SUBSECTION 225.A.III.

Amend new Sub-subsection 225.a.iii. to read:

225.a.iii. the spouse of an associate member who qualified under Sub-subsection 225.a.ii.

SUBSECTION 227.D.

Amend new Subsection 227.d. to read:

227.d. Notwithstanding Subsection 227.a., a branch has the right to refuse permission for a member to transfer to that branch.

SUBSECTION 418.B.

Amend Subsection 418.b. to read:

418.b. An appeal to Dominion Command may be made by any command, branch, auxiliary, officer or member affected by such action. The following applies to an appeal from a decision made on the authority of subsection 418.a, section 505 or subsection 708.c of The General By-Laws:

SECTION 701.

Amend Section 701. to read:

OBLIGATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

701. Members of branches or posts of The Royal Canadian Legion outside Canada shall maintain and uphold the purposes, objects and principles of the Legion, insofar as the same are consistent with the allegiance which they owe to their country.

SECTION 702.

Amend Section 702. to read:

BRANCHES / POSTS

702. All branches/posts of the Legion outside Canada shall be authorized by Dominion Command in conformity with these By-Laws.

SECTION 703.

Amend Section 703. to read:

703.

- a. All branches/posts shall be administered by and be under the jurisdiction of a recognized International Zone.
- b. Recognized International Zones are as set out in Section 704 and all branches/posts within the designated area of a zone shall be under the jurisdiction of that International Zone.
- c. Branches/posts shall be governed by these By-Laws in the same manner as branches in Canada.

SECTION 704.

Amend Section 704. to read:
INTERNATIONAL ZONES

704.

International Zones are established as follows:

- a. the Western Zone of USA;
- b. the Eastern Zone of USA;
- c. the Europe Zone;
- d. such other International Zones as may be decided upon by Dominion Command; and
- e. the jurisdiction of International Zones shall be as authorized by Dominion Command and any new branches/posts formed under this article shall be under the jurisdiction of the designated International Zone.

SECTION 705.

Amend Section 705. to read:

705.

All International Zones constituted outside Canada shall be governed by these By-Laws.

SECTION 706.

Insert as Section 706.:

706.

An International Zone, within its territory as authorized by Dominion Command, has all of the obligations and duties of a Provincial Command, in accordance with the Act and these By-Laws. Wherever the term branch

is used in the Act or these bylaws it shall include the term post as applicable.

SECTION 707.

Insert as Section 707.:

707.

An International Zone shall make By-Laws consistent with these General By-Laws for the conduct of operations within its territory and submit them to Dominion Command for approval.

SECTION 708.

Insert as Section 708.:

708.

An International Zone has specific rights as follows:

- a. To deal with complaints under Article III of these By-Laws in the same manner as a Provincial Command except for appeals, which shall be referred by the International Zone Commander directly to Dominion Command.
- b. An International Zone Commander may, within his territory, after enquiry and for cause clearly stated, suspend the charter or powers of any branch/post or auxiliary, or suspend any officer or take any other action necessary or advisable for the good of the Legion, and shall report to Dominion Command upon the action taken.
- c. An appeal to Dominion Command may be made by any branch/post, auxiliary, officer or member affected by such action.

SECTION 709.

Insert as Section 709.:

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

709.

In dealing with the disposition of property of any branch or post outside Canada which has ceased to function as an entity of The Royal Canadian Legion, the following considerations apply:

- a. Remaining assets should vest in the International Zone to deal with in a manner which best

benefits The Royal Canadian Legion and its aims and objects.

- b. With respect to property, the International Zone should have regard to any clearly expressed wish of the branch/post members for use of the community where it is located, in a like manner that would apply to branch assets in similar circumstances in Canada.
- c. The property should not be distributed to or for the benefit of the members.

BY - LAW NO. 94

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 17th day of April 2016 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

SUBSECTION 1101.A.

Amend subsection 1101.a. to read:

- 1101.a.** Where a Command, Branch or group of branches conducts a Poppy Campaign as a group or jointly with any other organization, that Command, Branch or group of branches shall be responsible for all aspects of the campaign.

SECTION 1103.

Amend section 1103. to read:

- 1103.** A Command, Branch or group of branches may hold Poppy Trust Funds for a short term in government or corporate bonds or other readily transferable securities authorized by the appropriate legislative body for the investment of trust funds.

SECTION 1104.

Delete the current section 1104. in its entirety and replace with:

- 1104.a.** The basic purpose and obligations of Poppy Trust Funds are to assist a Veteran, as defined in Subsection 101.d of The General By-Laws and

their family who are in need of assistance.

- b.** The Command, Branch or group of branches may withdraw or expend monies from the Poppy Trust Fund account only for the purposes in accordance with the requirements and procedures outlined in the Poppy Manual.

SECTIONS 1105-1117.

Delete sections 1105-1117 inclusive in their entirety.

Re-number section 1118 to read 1105.

NEW SUBSECTION 1105.A.

Amend new section 1105.a. to read:

- 1105.a.** Each Provincial Command shall establish a Central Provincial Poppy Trust Fund from which sums may be made available to branches whose Poppy Trust Funds are depleted, and to which contributions may be made by Branches or groups of branches whose Poppy Trust Funds are in excess of their requirements.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

Electronic on-line vote procedures were formalized:

- i. the Rules of Procedures manual contains the basics for electronic voting;
- ii. the vote is conducted under the care and control of the Chairman;
- iii. vote date and timings in reference to deadlines and discussion are set before the vote and adhered to;
- iv. the quorum requirement is stated beforehand;
- v. time for discussion needs to be set aside prior to the vote and no vote is cast until the set time for discussion has ended; and
- vi. the results of each member's vote is to be published with the results of the vote.

2014 CONVENTION RESOLUTION ON ELECTIONS - ALTA-NWT 16

A Dominion Convention Resolution on elections (ALTA-NWT 16) was passed at Dominion

Convention. While the intent of the resolution was to achieve consistency in voting across Commands and branches, differing opinions existed on how to achieve this.

- To achieve the objective, GBL section 515 would be deleted, thereby taking away the power of Provincial Commands to govern proxy voting. To not do so, any change would not apply to all members but rather be subject to whatever decision on proxy voting each Provincial Command made;
- Advance polls and proxy voting are inconsistent concepts. Consequently, for a standard provision for all branches in Canada such that election voting procedures are the same for every member (not just those attending the meeting), an enabling provision in the GBL is required;
- The resolution is viewed as being impossible to achieve in practice. For example, every member cannot be given a vote, whether they are at the meeting or not, for drop down positions without proxy voting. This would mean eliminating advance polls which now exist in many branches and imposing a proxy system which would be complex, convoluted

and time-consuming to the extent that it would thwart any workable election process for many branches.

Based on the preceding, the Dominion President exercised his powers under section 417 of The General By-Laws and suspended the implementation of resolution ALTA-NWT 16.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Constitution and Laws Committee budget for the period 2016-2018 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.

As this committee ends its current term, I would like to thank the members of the committee and the Dominion Command staff for their dedicated efforts, commitment, sound advice and support.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	197	-	150	153	156
PER DIEM	277	-	350	357	364
PRINTING, STATIONERY	251	343	100	102	104
TELEPHONE & FAX	26	77	100	102	104
POSTAGE	211	202	100	102	104
MISCELLANEOUS	114	-	-	-	-
PUBLICATIONS					
WRITE OFF OF OLD STOCK	-	423	-	-	-
DISTRIBUTION OF NEW STOCK	1,338	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2,414	1,046	800	816	832

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

C. Paul, *President*
K. Merola, *First Vice-President*
P. Varga, *Second Vice-President*
S. Fraser, *Secretary Treasurer*
B. Wignes, *Past President*

GREETINGS

On behalf of the members of the 3 TVS branches; I bring greetings to all convention delegates and the members of the Dominion Executive Council for a successful convention here in St. John's, NL.

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 2014 in Edmonton AB.

At our last convention delegates re-elected me to a third 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 dependents. 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 to 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 do not have a lot of people to recruit from. We rely on those comrades in the Legion that would like to support us by purchasing a dual membership into one of our Branches. I would also like to thank those on the Dominion Executive Council that have supported the National TVS and their branches.

HISTORY

A brief historical overview is offered to remind Legionnaires of the special relationship the Tuberculosis Veterans Section has to The Royal Canadian Legion.

The Tuberculosis Veterans Association of Canada (TVA) was organized in 1917.

In 1925 Field Marshal Earl Haig came to Canada to urge the formation of the Canadian Legion. By

this time 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 of money. 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 and on the 1st of September 1926 in Victoria, B.C.; the most solemn Articles of Faith were signed by Sir Percy Lake; creating the Tuberculosis Veterans Section (TVS) of The Royal 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 2014 in Edmonton. 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 3 branches since the last convention. These branches exist in Vancouver, Calgary, and Saskatoon. Total membership stands at just under 450 as of year end 2015. 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 2014 we have had several teleconference calls. The executive is presenting a resolution to accept the revised by-laws, to our 2016 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.

National TVS has also established a National Project; this project consists of support to a research student at the University of Saskatchewan, who will spend three years researching respiratory ailments including Tuberculosis. The total cost is \$25,000.00 over the course of the three years. We hope to have the name of the student by end of April.

Branches held scholarship meetings, worked hard through the Poppy Campaign, held and took part in Remembrance Day Ceremonies. Many Branch members also visited public schools 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 late 2012.

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 Nov 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 final 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 few years. I must also thank the members of our TVS Executive council, our TVS Branch members across Canada and their Provincial Representatives, in making my term successful.

To the in-coming Dominion Executive Council I wish you a successful term of office.

Motion:

That Dominion Command re-affirms its commitment to TVA/TVS made at the unity convention of 1925 and the solemn article of faith signed on 1st of September 1926 and not remove the TVA/TVS's Dominion Executive Council seat – with all its privileges and further ensure that TVA/TVS seat will remain at the Dominion Executive Council table until such time as the membership of TVA/TVS decide to leave the table.

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

L. Murray, *Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Member*
D. Flannigan, *Member*
R. Blanchette, *Members*
B. White, *Secretary*
R. McInnis, *Assistant Secretary*

GENERAL

The objective of the Veterans Consultation Committee and the Assembly of organizations is to bring together the various Veterans' groups to discuss issues and to find common ground on which to advocate to the government for the betterment of all Veterans and serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families. Meetings have proven useful in identifying urgent issues that can be promoted to Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces for consideration and potential resolution.

Meeting frequency is normally one meeting per year but it has sometimes increased to two in recent years depending on the status of ongoing issues. The Assembly did meet in April 2015 at Legion House and, most recently, in March 2016.

ISSUES

In April 2015 the issues centred on the government's budget of that spring and specifically with how to implement the various announcements within the budget as well as the development of regulations and guidelines. Gaps in service provision were identified as well as some issues that were not addressed in the budget announcement. With the announcement of the election call, most announcements made in the budget were left in a state of limbo.

In March 2016 the Assembly focused on aspects of the Mandate Letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs from the Prime Minister. The Mandate Letter raises Veterans' expectations and it will be interesting to follow the current government throughout its mandate in meeting those expectations. The meeting agreed that the government should provide some indication or roadmap of how it will manage Veterans' issues.

RESOLUTIONS

There were not resolutions submitted to this Committee for consideration as all resolutions under consideration for Veterans and members of the Canadian Armed Forces are considered by the VSS and Defence and Security Committees.

BUDGET

The Committee's budget is attached to 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 for approval by the Dominion Treasurer.

CONCLUSION

Participation by the Consultation Committee in the Assembly strengthens the Legion position as well as builds a strong relationship with the various Veterans' organizations. In order to foster maximum open discussion among the representatives of the various Veterans' organizations in attendance, government representatives, including VAC staff, are rarely invited to these meetings and then only to provide information updates in areas such as commemoration. As a follow on to the meetings, normally a letter is forwarded to the Minister of Veterans Affairs to advise him of the deliberations.

At this time, I would like to express my personal thanks to the elected officers of DEC who participate in this Committee as well as to the Dominion Secretary and his staff and the Director Service Bureau and his staff for their excellent support to and of the Committee.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	2,968	2,205	2,600	2,652	2,705
PER DIEM	2,790	1,693	2,600	2,652	2,705
PRINTING & OFFICE	-	-	50	51	52
TELEPHONE	-	-	50	51	52
POSTAGE	-	-	-	-	-
MISCELLANEOUS	-	46	50	51	52
TOTAL	5,758	3,944	5,350	5,457	5,566

FOCUS on the FUTURE COMMITTEE

T. Eagles, *Chairman*
 All Members DEC, *Members*
 B. White, *Secretary*

GENERAL

Comrades, during my term, I took another view on the Focus on the Future Committee. As an Ad Hoc Committee, I called all of DEC together in February 2015 to review Legion finances as was mandated by our last Dominion Convention. By doing so, I wanted to ensure that all of the senior elected officials of the Legion received the same information as well as the same opportunity to provide their input into the future financial stability of the organization. As you can see from the Treasurer's report we have been successful in that outcome.

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, I do not see many future opportunities to call a meeting of the Focus on the Future Committee but will leave the decision to the call of my successor. I want to thank all members of DEC for their input and their counsel during my term. I also want to thank the staff who so ably supported the work of this Committee.

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

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

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	-	2,983	3,500	3,570	3,641
PER DIEM	-	4,068	3,500	3,570	3,641
PRINTING	-	-	50	51	52
POSTAGE	-	-	50	51	52
TELEPHONE & FAX	-	-	50	51	52
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	7,051	7,150	7,293	7,439

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

E. Pigeau, *Chairman*
J. Frost, *Vice-Chairman*
M.A. Misfeldt, *Member*
G. Moore, *Member*
P. Varga, *Member*
S. Clark, *Secretary*
K. Therien, *Assistant Secretary*

GENERAL

The purpose of this committee is to establish and maintain programs designed to educate, promote and help develop potential leaders at all levels of the Legion. This was achieved through the creation of 10 modules which identified important areas of Legion operations and provided information essential to those seeking leadership positions; a series of reference material was developed.

Since the 2014 Dominion Convention, the members have met four times; all meetings were conducted by teleconference.

MODULES

The 10 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.

Each module contains a number of chapters, or individual topics, that are presented from a new member's perspective. A chronology of topics in a two-pronged program, one for new members and one for continuing members, will also be developed.

Each module starts with a content outline which is a summary of the individual topics, intended audience, module description, and projected duration to review the module. This will serve as a ready reference and enables a member to focus on their needs, thereby encouraging member engagement.

All modules are intended as "living documents" with regular review and updates to be undertaken on an on-going basis.

The modules have been placed on the Dominion Command website under the Committee Resources link and will eventually be moved to the member's only section of the website. Each module can be downloaded and saved locally or printed directly from the website. As another option, Commands, Districts and Zones wanting to modify modules for a presentation, training session or to include local references, can request an amendable electronic version.

INPUT FROM PROVINCIAL COMMANDS

The committee extends its appreciation to the Provincial Commands for their excellent collaboration. Many Commands already had established leadership training programs and the ideas and material they shared proved to be valuable resources.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, for the first time we have a comprehensive training strategy. This would not have been accomplished without the enormous dedication of many past and present officers, the provincial commands, members and staff alike. To work with these incredible Legionnaires was a privilege and an honour.

The continuing task of the Committee will be to review new materials, ensure that the site is updated as needed and to promote the program. To do so, I propose that the various segments of the program be adopted and implemented on a trial basis by Branches all across Canada. Their collective feedback will help to refine the program.

Comrade President Tom, on behalf of the Dominion Leadership Development Team, thank you for appointing us to the LD Program. Your ongoing support of this program demonstrates your commitment to the survival of Legion at all levels.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Leadership Development Committee budget for the period 2016-2018 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.

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

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THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
TRAVEL	-	-	-	-	-
PER DIEM	-	-	-	-	-
PRINTING & OFFICE	-	-	-	-	-
POSTAGE	-	-	-	-	-
TELEPHONE & FAX	24	102	200	204	208
MISCELLANEOUS	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	24	102	200	204	208

REPORT OF THE DOMINION SECRETARY

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

INTRODUCTION

Comrades, it has been an interesting time at Legion House since I last reported to you at Convention in 2014. The message in 2014 was clear and well understood. The push over the last two years has been to trim expenditures while at the same time modernizing our processes. Legion House and the staff's role continues to be the support of the Senior Elected officers and the works completed through Committee deliberations as well as day to day management of committee processes and overall Legion policies.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

To that end, there has been a realignment of reporting within Legion House as well as a number of cost cutting exercises. The thorough review of the budget in the summer of 2014 from an operating perspective was conducted not only by each individual department but as well by each Committee through their members and the secretaries. As reported by the Dominion Treasurer substantial savings were realized.

The provision of the membership processing functions has been a topical issue for many years. To correct the problem areas membership processing is now under the direction of the Administration Department. Member Services is very different from what it was in the past. A wholesale change of personnel in Member Services did create a backlog in late 2014 and early 2015 but that was fully addressed for the processing period of fall 2015 and spring 2016 where no delays were encountered and no overtime was needed. This at the same time as the development of a new membership processing system as directed by Convention in 2014. The roll out of that system is taking place now and we hope that during this Convention all your questions will be answered by the Member Services staff. I commend Comrades Danny, Randy and all the membership services staff for their outstanding efforts in resolving the issues.

The Administration Department continues to provide the day to day services for all the programs of the Committees as well as the administrative and human resources support. Well done to Comrade Steven and all for their dedication and professional services delivered to the Committees and members of the Legion as well as the general public.

Another change instituted at Legion House is that the marketing and communications cells report directly to the Dominion Secretary. It is very important that these functions are centrally directed but even more important that both cells actively liaise with all the Committees of the Legion. Our presence on social media has grown exponentially as well as the communication products being delivered. In particular Marketing's main focus is the generation of awareness about the Legion with non-members with the ultimate aim of encouraging Canadians to join the organization. Between communications and marketing the message has to remain consistent with Legion awareness at the forefront and its primary goal.

The Supply Department fully embraces its credo of service first. These past two years have seen a continual growth in production from Supply while at the same time ensuring that our poppy material and support continues unabated. For the first time in 12 years we have had to increase the prices of poppies and wreaths due to increased material and shipping costs and in today's economy that is a great record. Supply sales for 2015 were exceptional with Commands and members directly benefiting. Comrade Peter and his supply staff are to be congratulated on their outstanding efforts and service first focus.

With the changes in Membership Services as well as Marketing and Communications and the exceptional growth in Supply, the Finance Department is bearing up under the increased load. With increased direct processing of

membership cheques, an additional contract employee has been brought on board for one year. Finance continues to provide excellent support to all operations of the Legion. Well done Tim and the staff in Finance.

Last but not least I want to acknowledge the service provided by our Service Bureau. As in all other commands, the Service Bureau at Legion House has realized an increased demand for services. With changes in Veterans' policies and to the service provided by VAC Comrade Ray has kept all service officers up to date and knowledgeable. While the primary focus at Legion House is to prepare cases for Appeal and Review at the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, the Service Bureau has been actively supporting all commands during times of change and turnover of personnel with directly handling cases and providing on the job training to new employees at the command level. It is felt that the service bureau work will continue to increase across the nation as Operational Stress Injuries remain a prime focus and these cases present complex challenges to the system. I commend

Comrade Ray for his personal dedication and professionalism as well as the same for all the service officers and staff for providing caring and compassion to our Veterans. As mentioned at Convention in 2014, we have never lost focus of our roots as an organization, as support to our Veterans is our primary mission and the raison d'être of the Legion.

CONCLUSION

Comrades these are busy and exciting times and the move forward to economy and efficiency are well under way. The Legion is Canada's foremost Veteran and Community support organization and will continue to be with your commitment and continued support.

I commend to you the dedicated and professional staff at Legion House and on your behalf I thank them for all that they do on a daily basis for our members and to enhance the Legion as a vital institution in Canada.

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

M. Barham, *Chairman*
T. Eagles, *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 Fund dipped to just over \$1.5 million at the end of 2008. Withdrawals from the fund were suspended to give the Fund a chance to get built up again.

Investment revenue is the sole source of funds flowing in. During the high interest rate period from 1980 to 2000 the fund did very well. Even in the early 2000's, there were still some bonds that were paying 10% to 11%. By 2008, these had all matured and the highest earning investment was 6.25%. Current market rates for long term government bonds are in the 1.5% - 2.1% range. To provide better returns to the Fund the investment strategy was diversified to include corporate bonds and shares.

The total balance in the Fund as at December 31, 2015 was \$1,918,078. These funds are invested

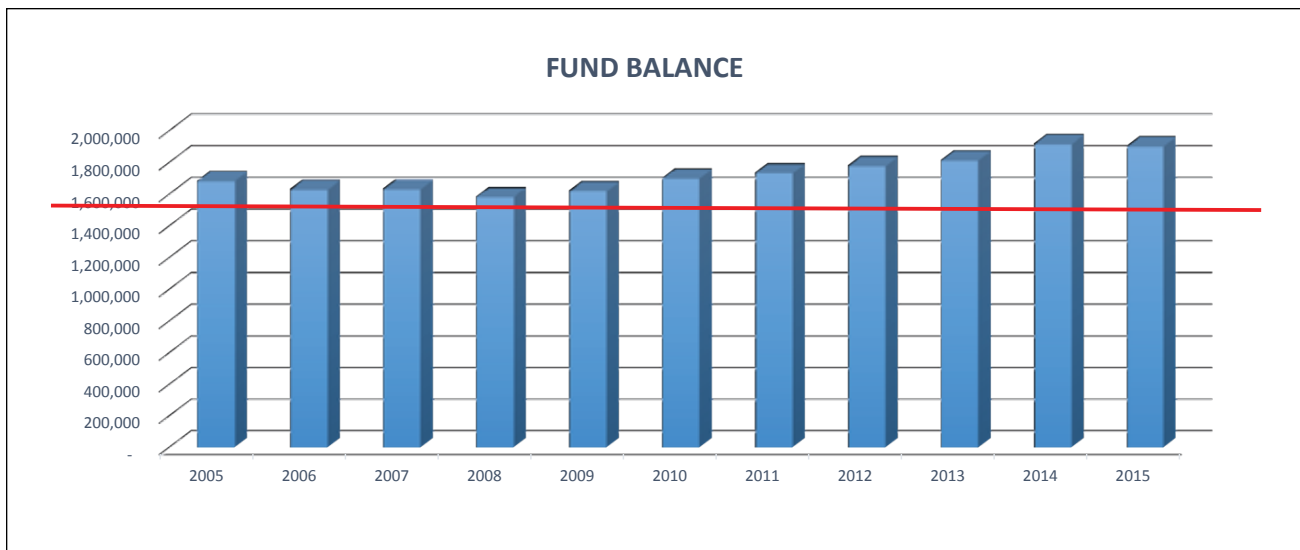
in the following areas. \$269,000 was invested in Government bonds, \$530,000 was invested in a Pooled Bond Fund that contains a mixed portfolio of consisting of various corporate bonds, \$227,000 in corporate bonds, \$338,000 corporate stocks, \$450,000 in a Pooled Equities Fund, with the balance in short term deposits and cash.

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 was 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 2015, a total of 50 years of activity, can be found in schedule A (attached).

A graphical representation of the Fund history from 2005 to 2015 is presented below. The red line represents the minimum balance that is to be kept in the Fund.

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



SCHEDULE A—CENTENNIAL FUND

STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENSE AND FUND BALANCE FROM JANUARY 1, 1966 TO DECEMBER 31, 2015

REVENUE			6,486,222
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		411,644
			5,597,200
NET REVENUE			889,022
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS			1,029,056
FUND BALANCE (INCLUDING UNREALIZED GAINS) AT DECEMBER 31, 2015			1,918,078

Action Program—Promotion, publicity, travel and administration.

Dominion Command Track and Field—39 meets involving approximately 14,600 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.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND FINANCE / BUDGET COMMITTEE

M. Barham, *Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Vice-Chairman*
D. Flannigan, *Member*
T. Irvine, *Member*
E. Pigeau, *Member*
A. Paquette, *Member*
J. Frost, *Member*
G. Moore, *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 was distributed at registration.





**When we came to
you in 2014, here
was our trend**

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
DOMINION COMMAND – GENERAL FUND**

2007 ACTUAL 127,790	2008 ACTUAL 389,086	2009 ACTUAL 395,050	2010 ACTUAL 370,105
2011 ACTUAL 10,334	2012 ACTUAL -413,147	2013 ACTUAL -542,752	2014 ACTUAL -244,610

**At convention, the
membership directed
Dominion to get its
house in order**

**In the six months
following convention,
almost **\$1 Million dollars**
in expenses were **cut****

In **2015 Dominion ran
almost an
\$800,000 surplus**

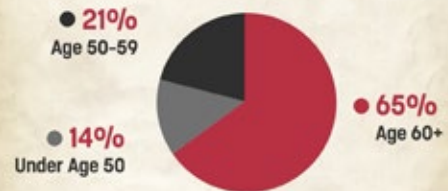
**In 2016, revenues
and expenses are
balanced**

**We've done more
with less**

Purchasing Power of \$1.00



Age Demographics



Revenue has to equal expenses



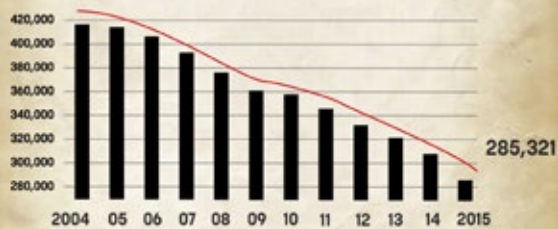
Revenue has to equal expenses



What happens with diminishing membership



DECLINE FROM BASE YEAR



**This directly affects
our ability to balance
the scales**

We have a choice

Fix revenue **or** cut programs

Cutting programs has two risks

1. It renders the organization ineffective
2. It is a short term fix



Projections Financial Model

2017-2022

2017 Budget	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget
-\$276,203	-\$427,270	-\$728,872	-\$934,148	-\$1,230,838	-\$1,469,421

Cumulative operating loss 2017-2022

-\$5,066,752

You can't cut
enough to balance
the Legion scales

How are we going
to fix it?

We only have one option

Who had a  today?

For less than a
small coffee per year

**WE CAN
BALANCE
THE LEGION
SCALES**



We need a
per capita
increase of
\$1.00 per year
to balance the
Legion scales



Fully
reviewable
every two
years by
Convention



This means that for:

2017 = \$1.00 increase
2018 = \$1.00 increase } Pending approval at
this Convention

2019 = **No increase**
2020 = **No increase** } Unless approved at
2018 Convention



Any organization
must be financially
viable to be relevant

"It's no use saying
'We are doing our best'
You have got to succeed in
doing what is necessary"

-Sir Winston Churchill



The message sent at the 2014 Convention was clear. Dominion Command was to get their financial house in order before requesting an increase in Per Capita Tax. I am pleased to report that we have done that.

The budget projection for the 2014 year presented at that Convention was a loss of \$1.2 million. After Convention with your slate of new Senior Elected Officers in place, and after a full review of all operations, cuts were applied for the balance of 2014. As a result the deficit for 2014 came in at \$244,610, a reduction of \$1 million. This was after posting deficits of \$413,147 in 2012 and \$543,752 in 2013. Some detail of the reduction included no cost of living increase to staff in 2015, staff pension benefits were cut by 20% and staff contributions to the pension fund are increasing by 50%. On further analysis of the Pension plan and changes in Legislation associated with Pension plans, funding was allocated to meet the unfunded liability of the Pension Plan. In addition, an analysis of the operating costs of Dominion Command Programs revealed portions of operating costs were not properly funded and as a result, some funding was approved for recoveries related for Poppy Fund related operations. Comrades, in essence, we took what you have been doing at the Branch and Command levels, and we applied those same principles to the Dominion Level, of course with complete approval from the Poppy Committee. And comrades, we thank you for that lesson!

In addition, funding of spouse related costs were eliminated. Additional cuts were made to all travel budgets. These changes allowed us to pass a DEC approved balanced budget for 2015. As an aside, we changed the entire budget approval process and made the approvals completely in advance of the year that they applied to.

Comrades, now the question that is probably on your minds is “How could you achieve a surplus for 2015 of \$782,000?” In 2015, the Supply Department had a very successful year and achieved an additional \$500,000 in surplus. Sales of the new Aboriginal and 90th anniversary

pins produced big numbers for the Department and for the Legion. The resolution passed at the 2014 Convention that allowed members to buyback unlimited number of years flowed close to \$100,000 of additional funds into Per Capita Tax revenue. And to round the savings out, my fellow DEC members demonstrated restraint in their Committee budgets. In fact, in 2015 the Dominion Executive Council passed a Motion that there will be balanced budgets going forward!

But, Comrades, we cannot rely on the Supply Department to hit home runs like in 2015 to sustain operations. The early rush of active members to buy previous years is passing. The challenge of balancing the budget remains.

Moving forward sustainable funding from Per Capita Tax coupled with tight control of budgets to prevent “budget creep” is needed. We have been losing on average, 10,000 to 12,000 member a year. In 2015 it was 14,000 members, and the age demographics of our membership are working against us. On this basis, without an increase in Per Capital Tax, actual programs will have to be cut to balance the budget. And to date, that has not been done. As you can see, after the 2016 budget year where we anticipate a small surplus of \$17,645, the continued loss of members will produce deficit budgets in 2017 and 2018 of \$276,203 and \$427,270. Remember that the DEC passed a motion to balance the budget yearly, and I am committed to balanced budgets going every year forward.

Now, I have been asked the question “Why not just use the reserve funds to supplement the operational deficits”. Comrades, let me plainly state reserves are for contingent liabilities and for unforeseen emergencies not budgeted for from normal operations. But, for the information of the membership, we do use the investments in reserve to supplement the annual budget to the amount of approximately \$500,000. These dividends and interest payments are an important component of our budget. If we deficit finance, investments will have to be cashed in, reducing the amounts that

flow into the budget. This would be a downward spiral that would have negative consequences for all budgets going forward.

Attached are the financial statements with the actual results for 2014 and 2015 and the forecasts for 2016 through 2018.

Comrades, we have provided you with a full accounting of the actual expenses for the years 2014 and 2015 and estimates for the next three years. I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have concerning these.

I propose that our auditors, Price Waterhouse Coopers be retained.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that Price Waterhouse Coopers be re-appointed as our auditors for the ensuring years 2016 and 2017.

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

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DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
REVENUE					
PER CAPITA TAX	6,006,792	5,944,705	5,560,000	5,350,000	5,140,000
CANVET					
AGENCY FEE & SUPPORT	400,000	377,854	400,000	400,000	400,000
INVESTMENT INCOME	521,751	438,031	490,000	490,000	483,000
SERVICE BUREAU REVENUE	699,000	679,000	742,000	713,561	772,778
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT	1,841,813	2,475,575	2,000,000	1,975,000	1,950,000
LEGION HOUSE					
TENANTS	72,438	82,920	82,920	84,578	86,270
INTERNAL	316,000	316,000	316,000	322,320	328,766
MISCELLANEOUS					
MASTER CARD	64,137	61,713	60,000	59,000	58,000
OTHER	76,247	68,838	90,000	65,000	65,000
ESTATE BEQUEST	80	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	9,998,257	10,444,636	9,740,920	9,459,460	9,283,814
EXPENSE					
LEGION MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS	2,988,364	2,925,054	2,740,000	2,635,700	2,531,400
ADMINISTRATION	912,348	815,045	802,500	818,550	834,921
IT SECTION	268,787	270,414	294,750	300,645	306,658
MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP	835,160	856,460	770,900	786,318	802,044
MARKETING, ADVERTISING, PROMOTION	347,620	379,459	455,500	464,609	473,902
FINANCE	396,501	365,363	378,800	388,576	398,548
SERVICE BUREAU	756,759	749,116	825,300	792,846	858,642
SUPPLY	1,599,630	1,632,540	1,600,700	1,601,677	1,602,911
COMMITTEES	1,078,558	719,468	912,925	971,104	938,018
OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES	120,185	174,135	144,800	162,596	134,738
DEPRECIATION	119,483	108,018	115,000	117,300	119,646
EMPLOYER PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS	468,902	333,127	323,000	329,460	336,049
LEGION HOUSE	350,570	333,644	359,100	366,282	373,608
TOTAL EXPENSE	10,242,867	9,661,844	9,723,275	9,735,663	9,711,085
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	(244,610)	782,792	17,645	(276,203)	(427,270)
PER CAPITA TAX RESERVE UTILIZED	244,610	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME (LOSS)	0	782,792	17,645	(276,203)	(427,270)

**DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
ADMINISTRATION**

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	678,748	712,919	711,000	725,220	739,724
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	7,743	15,133	12,900	13,158	13,421
OTHER BENEFITS	63,075	60,890	65,000	66,300	67,626
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	13,992	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	763,558	788,942	788,900	804,678	820,772
OFFICE SUPPLIES	53,364	48,221	42,000	42,840	43,697
TELEPHONE	14,536	15,885	13,000	13,260	13,525
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	8,585	10,562	10,000	10,200	10,404
PRINTING, STATIONERY	9,340	8,155	8,000	8,160	8,323
STAFF TRAVEL	692	766	1,000	1,020	1,040
INSURANCE	19,912	18,877	20,400	20,808	21,224
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,160	112,363
STAFF RECRUITMENT	7,622	3,780	2,000	2,040	2,081
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
MISCELLANEOUS	6,403	4,513	5,000	5,100	5,202
TRAINING	2,336	7,293	7,000	7,140	7,283
TOTAL EXPENSE	997,348	1,017,994	1,008,300	1,028,466	1,049,035
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	142,949	145,800	148,716	151,690
	85,000	202,949	205,800	209,916	214,114
NET EXPENSE	912,348	815,045	802,500	818,550	834,921

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION (ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	172,481	162,849	165,000	168,300	171,666
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	1,971	3,435	3,000	3,060	3,121
OTHER BENEFITS	15,675	16,265	18,000	18,360	18,727
TOTAL PERSONNEL	190,127	182,549	186,000	189,720	193,514
OFFICE SUPPLIES	-	-	50	51	52
TELEPHONE	3,804	5,291	4,500	4,590	4,682
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	20	31	50	51	52
PRINTING, STATIONERY	14	38	50	51	52
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,404
MISCELLANEOUS	35	180	100	102	104
NETWORK & PC					
MAINT. CONTRACTS/LEASES	58,318	67,299	73,000	74,460	75,949
PROGRAMMING & SUPPORT	6,224	16,253	25,000	25,500	26,010
SUPPLIES & OTHER	8,658	8,833	12,000	12,240	12,485
WEBSITE & INTERNET CONNECTIVITY & SUPPORT	15,588	3,940	8,000	8,160	8,323
TOTAL EXPENSE	292,787	294,414	318,750	325,125	331,628
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 & MARKETING	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
MARKETING (OUTREACH)	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
SERVICE BUREAU	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
SUPPLY	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
CANVET	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,060	3,121
	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,480	24,970
NET EXPENSE	268,787	270,414	294,750	300,645	306,658

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING AND MEMBERSHIP

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
REVENUE					
AGENCY FEE	400,000	377,854	400,000	400,000	400,000
TOTAL REVENUE	400,000	377,854	400,000	400,000	400,000
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	556,874	423,200	454,000	463,080	472,342
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	6,236	9,410	7,900	8,058	8,219
OTHER BENEFITS	58,849	56,366	56,000	57,120	58,262
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	23,741	147,021	55,000	56,100	57,222
TOTAL PERSONNEL	645,700	635,997	572,900	584,358	596,045
OFFICE SUPPLIES	829	1,519	2,000	2,040	2,081
TELEPHONE	9,024	8,882	9,000	9,180	9,364
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	35,588	47,900	34,000	34,680	35,374
PRINTING, STATIONERY	2,415	6,261	4,000	4,080	4,162
STAFF TRAVEL	263	485	500	510	520
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	64,000	64,000	64,000	65,280	66,586
MISCELLANEOUS	2,591	4,210	3,500	3,570	3,641
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
MEMBERSHIP CARDS, FORMS AND PAPER	20,312	30,248	20,000	20,400	20,808
MEMBERSHIP PACK OUT	14,060	18,922	20,000	20,400	20,808
LEGION WEBSITE & INTERNET	4,305	2,035	5,000	5,100	5,202
WEBSITE UPGRADE	73	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	835,160	856,460	770,900	786,318	802,044
NET EXPENSE	435,160	478,606	370,900	386,318	402,044

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
MARKETING, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
MEDIA - PRINT					
CANVET ADS	30,442	15,322	15,000	15,300	15,606
ESPRIT DE CORPS	-	565	-		
RCMP QUARTERLY	6,328	7,289	3,500	3,570	3,641
CANADIAN GEOGRAPHIC	9,605	-	-	-	-
UBIQUITOUS	2,401	3,265	-	-	-
CANADIAN MILITARY FAMILY	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
LEGION POLICY POSITIONS	16,886	-	-	-	-
ADVERTISING OTHER	3,425	67,510	55,000	56,100	57,222
MEDIA - AUDIO					
MEMORIAL CUP	5,650	6,780	7,000	7,140	7,283
BLUE JAYS	-	-	-		
PSA'S	5,650	7,565	5,000	5,100	5,202
AUDIO - OTHER	202	-	-	-	-
MEDIA - VIDEO & PHOTOGRAPHY					
PSA'S	6,780	23,594	10,000	10,200	10,404
PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
VIDEO - OTHER	5,644	3,497	-	-	-
MEDIA - INTERNET					
MEDIA INTERNET - OTHER	65,978	90,088	60,000	61,200	62,424
MEDIA - PUBLIC RELATIONS & EVENTS					
MEDIA COVERAGE & P.R. (T &F)	12,053	4,582	10,000	10,200	10,404
MEDIA COVERAGE & P.R. - OTHER	30,201	18,906	20,000	20,400	20,808

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

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS					
FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR CF RETIREES	2,971	3,185	5,000	5,100	5,202
NON RENEWAL MAILERS	52,888	54,318	60,000	61,200	62,424
INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR RENEWALS / RECRUITMENTS (1 X 1)	17,620	-	20,000	20,400	20,808
EARLY BIRD CAMPAIGN	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
BRANCH INCENTIVE PROGRAM	23,787	24,912	10,000	10,200	10,404
PUBLIC DIRECT MAIL CAMPAIGN	-	-	45,000	45,900	46,818
LEGION RIDERS SUPPORT	-	-	2,500	2,550	2,601
MARKETING - PROGRAM	10,835	12,257	50,000	51,000	52,020
DESIGN PROGRAM	19,901	10,777	20,000	20,400	20,808
PROMOTIONS AND DONATIONS	6,763	12,016	10,000	10,200	10,404
OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL					
FLYERS AND POSTCARDS	-	1,540	-	-	-
WE CARE POSTER	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
EARLY BIRD POSTER	-	-	2,500	2,550	2,601
THE RCL & C.F. BROCHURE	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
RCL NEEDS YOU BROCHURE	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,202
POSTERS/BROCHURES	9,596	1,011	10,000	10,200	10,404
RCL WELCOMES YOU BROCHURE	-	8,563	5,000	5,100	5,202
OTHER	2,014	1,918	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE	347,620	379,458	455,500	464,610	473,902
SUMMARY - BY BUDGET LINE ITEM					
MEDIA - PRINT	69,087	93,951	78,500	80,070	81,671
MEDIA - AUDIO	11,502	14,345	12,000	12,240	12,485
MEDIA - VIDEO	12,424	27,091	15,000	15,300	15,606
MEDIA - INTERNET	65,978	90,088	60,000	61,200	62,424
MEDIA - PUBLIC RELATIONS & EVENTS	42,254	23,488	30,000	30,600	31,212
PROGRAMS AND CAMPAIGNS	134,765	117,465	227,500	232,050	236,691
OTHER PRINTED MATERIAL	11,610	13,032	32,500	33,150	33,813
TOTAL	347,620	379,458	455,500	464,610	473,902
SUMMARY - BY CATEGORY					
MEMBERSHIP	234,345	276,934	291,000	296,820	302,756
MARKETING	113,275	102,524	164,500	167,790	171,146
TOTAL	347,620	379,458	455,500	464,610	473,902

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
FINANCE DEPARTMENT

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	374,618	376,634	384,000	391,680	399,514
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	4,358	8,031	7,000	7,140	7,283
OTHER BENEFITS	42,213	42,947	44,000	44,880	45,778
TOTAL PERSONNEL	421,188	427,612	435,000	443,700	452,574
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,219	810	2,000	2,040	2,081
TELEPHONE	3,890	3,384	3,300	3,366	3,433
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	3,679	2,602	5,000	5,100	5,202
PRINTING, STATIONERY	1,255	460	2,200	2,244	2,289
STAFF TRAVEL	140	169	300	306	312
AUDIT FEES	60,372	60,769	60,000	61,200	62,424
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	1,614	1,433	5,000	5,100	5,202
TOTAL EXPENSE	525,357	529,238	544,800	555,696	566,810
LESS: CHARGED TO:					
SUPPLY	53,856	53,875	56,000	57,120	58,262
CANVET	75,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000
	128,856	163,875	166,000	167,120	168,262
NET EXPENSE	396,501	365,363	378,800	388,576	398,548

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
SERVICE BUREAU

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
REVENUE					
POPPY FUND GRANT	699,000	679,000	742,000	713,561	772,778
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	549,621	581,958	599,000	610,980	623,200
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	6,145	12,441	10,900	11,118	11,340
OTHER BENEFITS	58,637	58,525	61,000	62,220	63,464
TOTAL PERSONNEL	614,402	652,924	670,900	684,318	698,004
OFFICE SUPPLIES EXPENSE	2,744	3,778	4,000	4,080	4,162
TELEPHONE	6,065	7,372	7,400	7,548	7,699
POSTAGE	10,254	4,107	5,000	5,100	5,202
STAFF TRAVEL	3,585	2,515	4,500	4,590	4,682
VAC - LIAISON	-	-	3,000	3,060	3,121
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	46,818
SERVICE OFFICERS CONFERENCE	40,678	-	48,000	-	49,939
ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION	-	-	3,000	3,060	3,121
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	1,033	420	1,500	1,530	1,561
TOTAL EXPENSE	756,759	749,116	825,300	792,846	858,642

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
REVENUE					
SALES OF SUPPLIES	1,841,813	2,475,575	2,000,000	1,975,000	1,950,000
LESS COST OF GOODS	795,885	985,328	900,000	888,750	877,500
GROSS MARGIN	1,045,928	1,490,246	1,100,000	1,086,250	1,072,500
PROVINCIAL COMMANDS @ 5.0% OF GROSS MARGIN	21,079	74,605	55,000	54,313	53,625
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	490,430	460,469	462,000	471,240	480,665
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	5,964	9,810	8,400	8,568	8,739
OTHER BENEFITS	64,451	59,468	62,000	63,240	64,505
TEMPORARY & CONTRACT STAFF	23,858	33,570	40,000	40,800	41,616
TOTAL PERSONNEL	584,703	563,317	572,400	583,848	595,525
TELEPHONE	6,988	8,765	10,000	10,200	10,404
POSTAGE, EXPRESS	30,392	40,599	65,000	66,300	67,626
PRINTING, STATIONERY	2,470	4,137	6,000	6,120	6,242
STAFF TRAVEL	3,685	3,607	5,000	5,100	5,202
INSURANCE	1,697	1,475	1,500	1,530	1,561
RENT (CR TO BUILDING)	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	62,424
WEB STORE -CONNECTIVITY	12,600	4,427	12,600	12,852	13,109
ADVERTISING/CATALOGUE DISTRIBUTION	56,240	55,678	80,000	81,600	83,232
WRAPPING MATERIAL	20,768	26,034	30,000	30,600	31,212
FINANCE/ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT	53,856	53,875	56,000	57,120	58,262
OFFICE SUPPLIES	816	622	2,000	2,040	2,081
BAD DEBTS	1,800	1,200	2,000	2,040	2,081
COMPUTER NETWORK SUPPORT	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,120	6,242
MISCELLANEOUS	2,364	1,576	1,000	1,020	1,040
EXPENSE TOTAL	865,458	905,917	964,500	982,003	999,869
LESS: POPPY FUND CHARGEBACK	(80,000)	(258,706)	(263,800)	(269,076)	(274,458)
NET EXPENSE	785,458	647,211	700,700	712,927	725,411
GAIN OR (LOSS)	260,470	843,035	399,300	373,324	347,089
PROVINCIAL COMMAND SHARE@ 25%	(18,287)	-	-	-	-
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER DIRECT COSTS	242,183	843,035	399,300	373,324	347,089

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
OTHER PROGRAM EXPENSES

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
RCEL					
CONFERENCE	15,000	15,000	5,000	15,000	15,300
SCOWP	708	1,466	2,000	2,040	2,081
RCEL TOTAL	15,708	16,466	7,000	17,040	17,381
REQUEST FOR SUPPORT	5,000	20,000	15,000	15,300	15,606
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	-	4,010	-	5,000	-
DOMINION BURSARIES	16,000	-	-	-	-
HISTORICA (EWC)	33	-	200	204	208
LEGAL & OTHER	24,312	70,663	45,000	45,900	46,818
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION START UP	-	13,088	25,000	25,500	-
MBP ADS	32,280	32,330	20,000	20,400	20,808
TRANSLATION (NOTE)	26,854	17,578	32,600	33,252	33,917
TOTAL EXPENSE	120,185	174,135	144,800	162,596	134,738

***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

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
REVENUE					
RENT TENANTS	72,438	82,920	82,920	84,578	86,270
RENT CHARGE TO DEPTS					
ADMINISTRATION	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,160	112,363
MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP	64,000	64,000	64,000	65,280	66,586
SERVICE BUREAU	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	46,818
SUPPLY DEPT	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	62,424
FINANCE	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,580	30,172
IT SECTION	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,200	10,404
TOTAL REVENUE	388,438	398,920	398,920	406,898	415,036
EXPENSE					
SALARIES	25,733	26,023	26,800	27,336	27,883
RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE	297	553	500	510	520
OTHER BENEFITS	4,629	4,556	4,100	4,182	4,266
TOTAL PERSONNEL	30,659	31,132	31,400	32,028	32,669
ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE	5,850	6,542	7,000	7,140	7,283
A/C, ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING	48,073	12,628	32,000	32,640	33,293
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR	68,324	76,877	80,000	81,600	83,232
CLEANING CONTRACT & SUPPLIES	48,035	48,670	52,000	53,040	54,101
FUEL	10,729	10,881	12,400	12,648	12,901
LIGHT & POWER	52,316	59,418	54,000	55,080	56,182
WATER AND SEWAGE	1,425	1,575	2,000	2,040	2,081
TAXES	50,345	51,735	53,200	54,264	55,349
INSURANCE	4,814	4,185	5,100	5,202	5,306
RESERVE FUND	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,600	31,212
TOTAL EXPENSES	350,570	333,644	359,100	366,282	373,608
GAIN OR LOSS	37,868	65,276	39,820	40,616	41,429

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
COMMITTEES & ELECTED OFFICERS EXPENSE

	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
COMMITTEES					
1 VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS	32,657	18,472	32,500	33,150	33,813
2 POPPY & REMEMBRANCE	52,976	21,999	25,250	25,755	26,270
3 MEMBERSHIP	10,084	12,642	12,750	13,005	13,265
4 OUTREACH	30,668	27,585	24,000	24,480	24,970
5 RCEL	34,068	18,793	675	689	702
6 SPORTS	415,004	187,913	312,200	315,464	330,913
7 RITUAL & AWARDS	5,679	3,378	2,000	2,040	2,081
8 CONSTITUTION & LAWS	2,414	1,046	800	816	832
9 DEFENCE & SECURITY	51,419	82,760	93,200	95,064	81,359
10 VETERANS CONSULTATION	5,758	3,944	5,350	5,457	5,566
11 FOCUS ON THE FUTURE	-	7,051	7,150	7,293	7,439
12 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	24	102	200	204	208
COMMITTEE TOTAL	640,750	385,683	516,075	523,417	527,419
13 ELECTED OFFICERS	86,983	60,746	100,050	143,051	104,092
14 DEC/SENIOR ELECTED OFFICERS	81,409	58,346	75,600	77,112	78,654
15 DOMINION CONVENTION	269,415	214,693	221,200	227,524	227,852
SUB-TOTAL	437,808	333,785	396,850	447,687	410,599
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,078,558	719,468	912,925	971,104	938,018

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS
DOMINION CONVENTION

	2012 ACTUAL	2014 ACTUAL	2015 ACTUAL	2016 BUDGET	2017 BUDGET	2018 BUDGET
DEC						
TRAVEL	23,182	28,072	-	25,000	-	26,010
PER DIEM	57,042	67,194	-	52,000	-	54,101
STAFF						
TRAVEL	18,709	22,127	-	20,000	-	20,808
PER DIEM	55,046	50,827	-	52,000	-	54,101
PAST PRESIDENT						
TRAVEL	6,091	8,319	-	5,000	-	5,202
PER DIEM	12,948	13,115	-	9,500	-	9,884
DC ZONE COMMANDERS						
TRAVEL	2,206	6,645	-	6,000	-	6,242
PER DIEM	3,624	6,825	-	6,000	-	6,242
OTHER						
TRAVEL	1,729	3,926	-	3,000	-	3,121
PER DIEM	5,623	9,468	-	5,000	-	5,202
ENTERTAINMENT	2,318	5,223	-	-	-	-
CREDENTIALS	5,296	6,008	-	6,000	-	6,242
PRINTING & DESIGN						
CONVENTION REPORTS	19,726	15,764	-	16,000	-	16,646
OTHER	3,629	9,344	-	9,000	-	9,364
TRANSLATION & INTERPRETATION	7,663	5,150	-	6,000	-	6,242
POSTAGE	27,538	13,807	-	15,000	-	15,606
FREIGHT	4,689	14,408	-	15,000	-	15,606
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES						
PRESIDENT RECEPTION	18,329	13,660	-	10,000	-	10,404
OTHER	2,939	1,009	-	-	-	-
CONVENTION CENTRE	85,113	16,210	-	80,000	-	83,232
CONVENTION OPERATION	125,834	239,921	-	150,000	-	156,060
TRANSPORTATION		-	-	1,000	-	1,040
CEREMONIES	1,139	559	-	3,000	-	3,121
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE	11,546	1,767	-	500	-	520
SUPPLY	1,079	2	-	-	-	-
	503,037	559,351	-	495,000	-	514,998
REVENUE	60,928	62,015	-	90,000	-	93,000
SUB-TOTAL	442,109	497,336	-	405,000	-	421,998
PROVISION	(250,000)	(250,000)	200,000	(200,000)	211,000	(211,000)
TOTAL	192,109	247,336	200,000	205,000	211,000	210,998
COMMITTEE	21,244	22,079	14,393	16,200	16,524	16,334
TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE	213,353	269,415	214,393	221,200	227,524	227,332

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

2014

NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			(793,893)
ADD: YEAR END AUDIT ADJUSTMENTS	ACCOUNTING STANDARDS CHANGE (2014) BENEFITS REVALUATION		26,400
			<u>(767,493)</u>
ADD (LESS): RESERVES REALIZED (TAKEN)	PILGRIMAGE	(8,500)	
	DOMINION CONVENTION	250,000	
	BUILDING	(30,000)	
	RCEL CONFERENCE	(15,000)	
	PER CAPITA TAX	244,610	441,110
ADD (LESS): FUND TRANSFERS FROM (TO)	POPPY FUND	699,000	
	PENSION TRANSFERS	(468,901)	
	INVESTMENT FUND - BUILDING AMORTIZATION	96,284	326,383
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>-</u>

2015

NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			318,828
ADD: YEAR END AUDIT ADJUSTMENTS	ACCOUNTING STANDARDS CHANGE (2014) BENEFITS REVALUATION		3,300
			<u>322,128</u>
ADD (LESS): RESERVES REALIZED (TAKEN)	PILGRIMAGE	8,500	
	DOMINION CONVENTION	(200,000)	
	BUILDING	(30,000)	
	RCEL CONFERENCE	(15,000)	
	PER CAPITA TAX	-	(236,500)
ADD (LESS): NEW MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM (TAKEN FROM RESERVE)			212,983
ADD (LESS): FUND TRANSFERS FROM (TO)	POPPY FUND	721,023	
	PENSION TRANSFERS	(333,127)	
	INVESTMENT FUND - BUILDING AMORTIZATION	96,284	484,181
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>782,792</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Financial Statements
December 31, 2015



March 31, 2016

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, 2015 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, 2015 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, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,083,959	7,687,615
Accounts receivable (note 3)	2,287,889	1,940,876
Inventories		
General	1,433,353	1,351,244
Poppy promotional material	145,127	133,152
Prepaid expense	186,479	157,275
Prepaid subscriptions	1,334,637	768,259
	10,471,444	12,038,421
Marketable investments (note 4)	25,187,186	21,383,560
Capital assets (note 5)	5,535,326	5,708,504
Pension asset (note 6)	2,069,700	2,131,200
	43,263,656	41,261,685
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (note 7)	1,270,347	835,381
Per capita tax received in advance	2,733,173	1,560,399
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd. (note 8)	15,098	104,719
	4,018,618	2,500,499
Retirement obligation (note 6)	493,100	445,900
	4,511,718	2,946,399
Fund Balances		
General Fund		
Unrestricted	5,310,452	4,569,351
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	5,535,326	5,706,619
Other internally restricted (note 9)	4,871,391	4,634,891
Pension Plan Fund (note 6)	2,069,700	2,131,200
Investment Fund	9,295,169	9,791,317
Externally Restricted Funds	11,669,900	11,481,908
	38,751,938	38,315,286
	43,263,656	41,261,685
Commitments and contingencies (note 10)		

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, 2015

	Balance - Beginning of year \$	Net revenue (expense) for the year \$	Remeasurements and other items \$	Transfers from (to) \$	Balance - End of year \$
General Fund					
Unrestricted	4,569,351	523,130	3,300	214,671	5,310,452
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	5,706,619	(204,302)	-	33,009	5,535,326
Other internally restricted (note 9)	4,634,891	-	-	236,500	4,871,391
	14,910,861	318,828	3,300	484,180	15,717,169
Pension Plan Fund (note 6)	2,131,200	(223,927)	(170,700)	333,127	2,069,700
Investment Fund (note 4)	9,791,317	(399,864)	-	(96,284)	9,295,169
	26,833,378	(304,963)	(167,400)	721,023	27,082,038
Externally Restricted Funds					
Poppy Trust Fund	9,008,970	601,975	-	(721,023)	8,889,922
Centennial Fund	1,921,481	(3,403)	-	-	1,918,078
RCEL Fund	461,731	310,116	-	-	771,847
Benevolent Fund	89,726	327	-	-	90,053
Total externally restricted funds	11,481,908	909,015	-	(721,023)	11,669,900
	38,315,286	604,052	(167,400)	-	38,751,938

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, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue		
Administrative fees (note 8)	110,000	75,000
Building rental (note 8)	82,920	72,439
Dividends	171,768	116,200
Estate bequests	-	80
Interest	266,264	405,552
MasterCard royalties	61,713	64,137
Miscellaneous (note 8)	68,838	76,247
Per capita tax	5,944,705	6,006,792
Subscription agency fee (note 8)	377,854	400,000
Supply sales	2,475,575	1,841,813
	<u>9,559,637</u>	<u>9,058,260</u>
Expense		
Administration	710,346	830,748
Building	303,644	320,570
Committees	569,991	1,320,058
Marketing, advertising and promotion	379,458	347,620
Finance	446,364	442,502
Information technology	260,414	258,787
Legion Magazine - Subscriptions (note 8)	2,925,054	2,988,364
Marketing, membership and communications	1,005,446	771,160
Other program expenses	159,135	105,187
Service bureau	704,116	711,759
Supply -		
Operation	587,211	743,746
Cost of sales	985,328	795,885
Amortization -		
Furniture and equipment and computers	58,266	69,731
Building	146,036	146,036
	<u>9,240,809</u>	<u>9,852,153</u>
Net revenue (expense) for the year	<u>318,828</u>	<u>(793,893)</u>

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, 2015

	2015				2014	
	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Total \$	Total \$
Revenue						
Donations	319,547	-	509,712	-	829,259	407,807
Interest	118,935	27,787	1,851	327	148,900	211,646
Dividends	118,577	46,169	-	-	164,746	19,013
Poppies and wreaths	3,137,012	-	-	-	3,137,012	2,910,378
Promotional aids	485,464	-	-	-	485,464	451,802
Other	1,432	-	-	-	1,432	19,998
	4,180,967	73,956	511,563	327	4,766,813	4,020,644
Expense						
Advertising and promotional materials	55,814	-	-	-	55,814	63,134
Poppy contests	23,593	-	-	-	23,593	21,132
Poppies and wreaths	1,499,837	-	-	-	1,499,837	1,393,514
Promotional aids	248,593	-	-	-	248,593	241,952
Trademark defence	65,390	-	-	-	65,390	31,478
Freight	237,137	-	-	-	237,137	245,411
General	468,103	13,691	-	-	481,794	157,968
Amortization - Warehouse shelving	1,885	-	-	-	1,885	1,887
Caribbean Liaison	19,842	-	-	-	19,842	-
Remembrance ceremony and videos	5,368	-	-	-	5,368	36,917
Veterans Transition Network	18,905	-	-	-	18,905	-
Bursaries	2,000	-	-	-	2,000	-
Grant - MRI/PET Scanner	575,000	-	-	-	575,000	-
Grants - Other	5,000	-	-	-	5,000	40,000
Benevolent support and assistance	105,166	-	201,447	-	306,613	355,878
	3,331,633	13,691	201,447	-	3,546,771	2,589,271
Revenue before the undernoted	849,334	60,265	310,116	327	1,220,042	1,431,373

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, 2015

	2015				2014	
	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Total \$	Total \$
Net changes in fair value of marketable investments						
Realized	(51,424)	(15,762)	-	-	(67,186)	208,844
Unrealized	(195,935)	(47,906)	-	-	(243,841)	(92,530)
	(247,359)	(63,668)	-	-	(311,027)	116,314
Net revenue (expense) for the year	601,975	(3,403)	310,116	327	909,015	1,547,687

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, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net revenue (expense) for the year -		
General Fund	318,828	(793,893)
Pension Plan Fund	(223,927)	(433,565)
Investment Fund	(399,864)	470,381
Externally Restricted Funds	909,015	1,547,687
Items not affecting cash -		
Provision for pension plan	223,927	433,565
Provision for retirement obligation	62,100	59,100
Amortization	206,187	217,654
Realized gains on sales of marketable investments	(25,401)	(663,896)
Unrealized losses on marketable investments	736,292	76,871
Loss on foreign exchange	-	330
Contributions to pension plan	(333,127)	(730,865)
Cash paid for retirement obligation	(11,600)	(87,800)
Net change in non-cash working capital items	481,440	(103,392)
	<u>1,943,870</u>	<u>(7,823)</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on sale of marketable investments	3,361,950	24,742,709
Purchase of marketable investments	(7,876,467)	(23,270,923)
Purchase of capital assets	(33,009)	(45,445)
	<u>(4,547,526)</u>	<u>1,426,341</u>
Net change in cash for the year	(2,603,656)	1,418,518
Cash and cash equivalents - Beginning of year	<u>7,687,615</u>	<u>6,269,097</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - End of year	<u>5,083,959</u>	<u>7,687,615</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items -		
Accounts receivable	(347,013)	146,515
Due from Canvet Publications Ltd.	-	7,217
Inventory -		
General	(82,109)	136,319
Poppy promotional material	(11,975)	(6,518)
Prepaid expense	(29,204)	42,855
Prepaid subscriptions	(566,378)	529,779
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	434,966	13,107
Per capita tax received in advance	1,172,774	(1,077,385)
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	(89,621)	104,719
	<u>481,440</u>	<u>(103,392)</u>

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

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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, 2015

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, the total cost, excluding remeasurement and other items, is included in net revenue or expense of the appropriate fund. Actuarial gains and losses, past service costs and other remeasurements and other items are recognized directly in fund balances.

The defined 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, 2015

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Commands, branches and members		
General	450,675	428,145
Poppy Trust Fund	1,419,354	1,037,341
Other		
General	106,712	95,637
Poppy Trust Fund	280,043	327,476
Accrued interest	31,105	52,277
	<u>2,287,889</u>	<u>1,940,876</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

4 Marketable investments

	2015		2014	
	Fair value \$	Cost \$	Fair value \$	Cost \$
General Fund	17,718,210	17,854,477	16,641,647	16,285,463
Poppy Trust Fund	5,656,596	5,836,607	3,019,505	3,003,581
Centennial Fund	1,812,380	1,848,835	1,722,408	1,710,957
	25,187,186	25,539,919	21,383,560	21,000,001

Net gains on sales of marketable investments of \$92,587 (2014 - \$454,722) and net decreases in unrealized gains and losses of \$492,451 (2014 - net increases in unrealized gains and losses of \$15,659) relate to the general investment portfolio and are accounted for in the Investment Fund.

	2015		2014	
	Fair value \$	Cost \$	Fair value \$	Cost \$
Government and government guaranteed bonds	3,386,992	3,332,153	3,319,131	3,290,975
Corporate bonds and pooled bond funds	11,045,004	11,183,240	7,998,572	8,007,291
Corporate stocks and pooled equity funds	10,755,190	11,024,526	10,065,857	9,701,735
	25,187,186	25,539,919	21,383,560	21,000,001

Government and government guaranteed bonds bear interest at fixed rates ranging from 1.3% to 2.1% and mature between 2017 and 2019 (2014 - 1.5% to 2.1% and mature between 2017 and 2019).

Corporate bonds bear interest at fixed rates ranging from 2.0% to 3.5% and mature between 2016 and 2022. 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 energy, materials, industrials, consumer discretionary, consumer staples, financial institutions, telecommunication services and utilities.

19% (2014 - 17%) of marketable investments are denominated in U.S. dollars.

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

5 Capital assets

	2015		2014	
	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net \$	Net \$
Land	950,220	-	950,220	950,220
Building	5,841,416	1,350,833	4,490,583	4,636,619
Furniture and equipment	323,334	292,708	30,626	55,672
Computers	220,264	156,367	63,897	65,993
	7,335,234	1,799,908	5,535,326	5,708,504
	2015		2014	
	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net \$	Net \$
General Fund	7,316,368	1,781,042	5,535,326	5,706,619
Poppy Trust Fund	18,866	18,866	-	1,885
	7,335,234	1,799,908	5,535,326	5,708,504

6 Employee future benefits

Extrapolations of actuarial valuation reports prepared as at January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2014 (2014 - January 1, 2014), for the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit plan, respectively, indicated the following information.

	2015		2014	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$
Fair value of plan assets	-	16,701,500	-	17,333,200
Defined benefit obligation	(493,100)	(14,631,800)	(445,900)	(15,202,000)
Pension asset (retirement obligation)	(493,100)	2,069,700	(445,900)	2,131,200

7 Government remittances

Government remittances of \$27,831 (2014 - \$nil) are included within accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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, 2015 and 2014 is as follows.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Financial position		
Total assets	4,033,944	2,844,337
Total liabilities	2,026,337	1,344,938
Shareholders' equity	2,007,607	1,499,399
	4,033,944	2,844,337
	2015 \$	2014 \$
Results of operations		
Total revenue	4,439,885	4,320,018
Total expense	3,930,977	3,856,645
Net earnings for the year	508,908	463,373
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities	1,279,098	(217,517)
Investing activities	(1,019,369)	(5,313)
	259,729	(222,830)

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 Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Legion Magazine - Subscriptions	2,668,945	2,732,834
Advertising	82,140	93,243
Design services	11,906	19,748
Special issue publications	2,107	-

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Administrative fees	110,000	75,000
Building rental	68,640	59,664
Network support charge (included in miscellaneous revenue)	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee	377,854	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.

Balances with Canvet are non-interest bearing with no specified terms of repayment. Included in accounts receivable is \$48,402 (2014 - \$59,748) owing from Canvet.

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.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Legion Magazine	1,445,000	1,445,000
Building	240,053	210,053
RCEL conference	45,000	30,000
Convention	200,000	-
Pilgrimage	-	8,500
Special purpose	26,979	26,979
Per capita tax	2,914,359	2,914,359
	<u>4,871,391</u>	<u>4,634,891</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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, 2016	36,829
2017	36,829
2018	16,052
2019	9,126
2020	9,126
2021	2,281

11 Allocation of expenses

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

	2015 \$	2014 \$
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.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
General Fund - Marketing, membership and communications	30,000	30,000
General Fund - Service bureau	30,000	30,000
Poppy Trust Fund - General	142,949	25,000

Supply - Operation expenses of \$258,706 (2014 - \$80,000) have been allocated to General expense of the Poppy Trust Fund.

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

D. Flannigan, *Board Chairman*
T. Eagles, *Board Vice-Chairman*
B. White, *Secretary*
M. Barham, *Director*
J. Frost, *Director*
T. Irvine, *Director*
G. Moore, *Director*
A. Paquette, *Director*
E. Pigeau, *Director*
J. Morse, *General Manager*

INTRODUCTION

Legion Magazine has had one of its best years in decades. Finances are on track, the number of subscribers is stable and we continue to deliver the stories of Canada's military history.

BUDGETS

Canvet is meeting its commitment to continue publishing without an increase in the cost of an annual subscription before 2020.

This year marks the highest amount of funding on record from the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) and circulation has stabilized for the first time since 1989. The magazine also saw gains in newsstand from its Special Interest Publications (SIP) and advertising. Expenses have also increased as the magazine produces more work and the cost to publish a national magazine inches up annually. Magazine sales in Canada continue to be challenged. According to recently released figures from MagNet, sales of single copies in Canada were down 16% in the first half of 2015. This is a perilous time in the publishing industry. In spite of that *Legion Magazine* has continued to survive and thrive.

It is important to note that all Canvet budgets are predicated on the continuation of the CPF.

CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

Last fall, Canvet received \$729,607 in funding from the government of Canada, \$43,379 more than the previous year. Canvet has been a recipient of one form of subsidy or another for over fifty years and this revenue stream is vital to our operations. We apply annually and the government is clear, in order to remain eligible for CPF funding they must remain confident that

Legion Magazine is an independent publication. They have listed as ineligible any periodicals "that primarily report on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization." Over the last fifteen years this funding has saved *Legion Magazine* almost seven million dollars. It is essential for our survival. We remain optimistic and have budgeted accordingly. Canvet was also awarded \$64,444 in funding on a one-time basis to enhance Canadians' awareness of Beaumont-Hamel and the Battle of the Somme. The magazine created a large bilingual poster-map and a multimedia bilingual web module focused on the role of the Newfoundland Regiment. This is available free to all Canadians.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

The Royal Canadian Legion's (RCL) Member Benefits Package (MBP) is currently at 10 partners. They include Best Western, Starkey Labs-Canada Co., Shaw Direct, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Philips Lifeline Canada, Premier Care in Bathing, Arbor Memorial, Medipac Travel Insurance and MBNA Canada Bank. Home Hardware, Corby Spirit and Wine Limited and We Care Home Health Services are no longer with the program.

Every partner is a little different. Some provide funding to Dominion Command programs while others continue to offer their discounts to both the member and their immediate family. These partnerships have been beneficial to the Legion, Dominion Command and Canvet. For example Carlson Wagonlit Travel has helped with the Youth Pilgrimage, Shaw offers two free high definition satellite receivers along with free installation up to \$300 while partners like Lifeline and Starkey offer educational sessions on health

for interested Commands. We invite delegates and all legionnaires to visit your MBP booths in the exhibition area.

ENGLISH CONTENTS & FRENCH INSERT

In 2015, we produced six issues of *Legion Magazine* which included a two-part series on veterans who have fallen through the cracks at Veterans Affairs Canada and produced three SIPs on the Italian Campaign, the Battle of the Atlantic and Canada's Aviators.

This year, the magazine has a new look and began the year with a feature on the Newfoundland Regiment's role in the Gallipoli Campaign during the First World War. We have a new column on military artifacts and the first of a six-part series reviewing the history of *Legion Magazine*. The magazine will produce five SIPs, beginning with Beaumont-Hamel and The Battle of the Somme followed by War Photos, Tales from the Front, The Battle of the Pacific and Canada's 150th Birthday.

We will continue to publish 144 pages annually in a full-colour French section which is available to any subscriber at no extra charge upon request.

2016 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Canvet Board of Directors reviewed one resolution which was non-concurred. It can be found in the Convention Book.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The full audited Canvet financial statements are provided separately.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all the Directors of Canvet for their support during my term and I especially want to thank our magazine staff for their professionalism and dedication.

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Financial Statements
December 31, 2015



March 31, 2016

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, 2015 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, 2015 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, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,812,818	2,553,089
Accounts receivable	63,953	82,308
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command (note 5)	15,098	104,719
Prepaid expense	136,495	50,214
	3,028,364	2,790,330
Marketable investments (note 3)	950,115	-
Capital assets (note 4)	55,465	54,007
	4,033,944	2,844,337
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (notes 5 and 6)	281,400	159,216
GST/HST payable (note 6)	90,037	32,762
Income taxes payable	26,700	24,700
Deferred revenue	235,965	231,732
Subscriptions received in advance	1,222,935	698,328
	1,857,037	1,146,738
Retirement obligation (note 7)	169,300	198,200
	2,026,337	1,344,938
Shareholders' equity		
Capital stock		
Authorized - 50,000 common shares		
Issued - 9 common shares	9	9
Retained earnings	2,007,598	1,499,390
	2,007,607	1,499,399
	4,033,944	2,844,337
Commitments (note 8)		

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, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue		
Subscriptions (note 5)	2,785,702	2,813,280
Newsstand sales	7,614	10,689
Advertising (note 5)	596,267	633,913
	<u>3,389,583</u>	<u>3,457,882</u>
Expense (schedule)		
Magazine	1,740,680	1,636,378
Employees	1,111,675	1,190,448
Administrative (note 5)	571,265	528,052
Subscription agency fee (note 5)	377,854	400,000
	<u>3,801,474</u>	<u>3,754,878</u>
Loss before the undernoted	<u>(411,891)</u>	<u>(296,996)</u>
Other income (expense)		
Canadian Periodical Fund	727,518	688,361
World War I Commemoration	65,019	-
Interest	31,082	20,319
Dividends	16,266	-
Special editions	225,144	100,119
Realized losses on sale of marketable investments	(11,996)	-
Unrealized losses on marketable investments	(40,559)	-
Other (note 5)	37,828	53,337
	<u>1,050,302</u>	<u>862,136</u>
Earnings before income taxes	638,411	565,140
Provision for income taxes	<u>129,503</u>	<u>101,767</u>
Net earnings for the year	508,908	463,373
Retained earnings - Beginning of year	1,499,390	1,038,717
Remeasurements and other items	<u>(700)</u>	<u>(2,700)</u>
Retained earnings - End of year	<u>2,007,598</u>	<u>1,499,390</u>

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash provided by (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net earnings for the year	508,908	463,373
Items not affecting cash -		
Amortization	15,241	15,097
Provision for retirement obligation	18,880	19,503
Realized losses on sale of marketable investments	11,996	-
Unrealized losses on marketable investments	40,559	-
Payment for retirement obligation	(48,480)	-
Net change in non-cash working capital items	731,994	(715,490)
	<u>1,279,098</u>	<u>(217,517)</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on disposal of marketable investments	127,750	-
Purchase of marketable investments	(1,130,420)	-
Purchase of capital assets	(16,699)	(5,313)
	<u>(1,019,369)</u>	<u>(5,313)</u>
Net change in cash for the year	259,729	(222,830)
Cash and cash equivalents - Beginning of year	<u>2,553,089</u>	<u>2,775,919</u>
Cash and cash equivalents - End of year	<u>2,812,818</u>	<u>2,553,089</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items -		
Accounts receivable	18,355	(22,111)
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command	89,621	(104,719)
Prepaid expense	(86,281)	88,441
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	122,184	(61,487)
GST/HST payable	57,275	(13,160)
Income taxes payable	2,000	(92,792)
Due to The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command	-	(7,217)
Deferred revenue	4,233	(11,048)
Subscriptions received in advance	524,607	(491,397)
	<u>731,994</u>	<u>(715,490)</u>

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

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

Marketable investments

Marketable investments are recorded at fair value in the balance sheet and changes in fair value are included in net earnings for the year in the statement of earnings and retained earnings.

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 annual 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.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

The retirement obligation is measured based on an actuarial valuation prepared specifically for accounting purposes. Under the immediate recognition approach, the total cost, excluding remeasurement and other items, is included in employees' expense for the year. Actuarial gains and losses, past service costs and other remeasurements and other items are recognized directly in retained earnings.

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.

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 year 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 Marketable investments

	2015		2014	
	Fair value \$	Cost \$	Fair value \$	Cost \$
Corporate bonds and pooled bond funds	668,176	640,180	-	-
Corporate equities and pooled equity funds	281,939	350,494	-	-
	950,115	990,674	-	-

Corporate bonds bear interest at fixed rates ranging from 2.0% to 3.5% and mature between 2016 and 2022. The pooled bond funds invest in high quality, short and long-term corporate bonds, bearing interest at fixed rates.

The Company invests directly, and through pooled equity funds, in companies in various industries, including energy, materials, industrials, consumer discretionary, consumer staples, financial institutions, telecommunication services, utilities and health care.

18% of marketable investments are denominated in US dollars.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

4 Capital assets

	2015		2014
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Office equipment	152,786	122,296	30,490
Computer equipment	287,044	262,069	24,975
	439,830	384,365	55,465
			54,007

5 Related party transactions

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command ("the Dominion Command") controls the Company as the shareholders of the Company are officers of the Dominion Command.

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

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Subscriptions	2,668,945	2,732,834
Advertising	82,140	93,243
Design services (included in other income)	11,906	19,748
Special issue publications (included in other income)	2,107	-

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

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Accounting and computer services	110,000	75,000
Building rental	68,640	59,644
Network support charge	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee	377,854	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.

Balances with the Dominion Command are non-interest bearing with no specified terms of repayment. Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$48,402 (2014 - \$59,478) owing to the Dominion Command.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2015

6 Government remittances

In addition to GST/HST payable presented separately on the balance sheet, payroll withholding taxes of \$21,709 (2014 - \$nil), employer health tax premiums of \$nil (2014 - \$1,449) and workers' safety insurance premiums of \$nil (2014 - \$221) are included within accounts payable and accrued liabilities.

7 Employee future benefits

Extrapolations of actuarial valuation reports prepared as at January 1, 2015 and January 1, 2014, for the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit plan, respectively (2014 - January 1, 2014), indicated the following.

	2015		2014	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension plan \$
Fair value of plan assets	-	16,701,500	-	17,333,200
Defined benefit obligation	(169,300)	(14,631,800)	(198,200)	(15,202,000)
Plan surplus (deficit)	(169,300)	2,069,700	(198,200)	2,131,200

The Company's contributions to the overall defined benefit pension plan of \$104,753 (2014 - \$209,932) are included in employees' expense in the statement of earnings and retained earnings. A pension asset has not been recorded in the balance sheet.

8 Commitments

The Company is committed under a rental agreement with the Dominion Command to make annual payments of \$68,640 for office space.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Schedule of Expense

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Magazine		
Editorial contributions	99,564	111,340
Freight and express	2,110	3,501
Illustrations	43,598	41,818
Postage	816,524	759,308
Printing	768,388	710,418
Desktop publishing	10,496	9,993
	<u>1,740,680</u>	<u>1,636,378</u>
Employees		
Salaries	900,855	876,191
Other benefits	210,820	314,257
	<u>1,111,675</u>	<u>1,190,448</u>
Administrative		
Accounting and computer services (note 5)	110,000	75,000
Advertising commission - CCM	104,025	111,000
Building rental (note 5)	68,640	59,664
Correspondents' meeting	-	11,511
Design and production expenses	5,318	-
Directors' meetings	6,000	6,000
Editorial travel	40,278	43,427
Insurance	13,090	14,407
Miscellaneous	9,587	8,246
Network support charge (note 5)	3,000	3,000
Newsstand expense	37,804	34,578
Office supplies	18,902	15,286
Postage	12,208	15,395
Printing and stationery	4,058	4,885
Professional fees	22,882	15,395
Repairs and maintenance	-	7,663
Sales promotion	60,919	70,940
Special edition - War of 1812	25,000	-
Staff recruitment and training	4,812	5,963
Subscriptions	2,179	1,974
Telephone and fax	7,322	8,621
Amortization	15,241	15,097
	<u>571,265</u>	<u>528,052</u>
Subscription agency fee (note 5)	<u>377,854</u>	<u>400,000</u>
Total expense	<u>3,801,474</u>	<u>3,754,878</u>

CREDENTIALS REPORT

P. Hillier, *Chairman*
 I. Kruse, *Member*
 T. Wheeler, *Member*
 C. Wagner, *Member*
 D. Golding, *Member*
 D. Gordon, *Member*
 P. Cook, *Member*
 C. Saunders, *Member*
 V. Mitchell-Veinotte, *Member*
 B. MacLachlan, *Member*

COMMAND		13 JUNE		14 JUNE		OBSERVERS
		ACCREDITED	PROXY	ACCREDITED	PROXY	
BC/YUKON	590	126	413	126	413	12
ALBERTA-NWT	497	104	313	104	313	6
SASKATCHEWAN	215	67	72	67	72	3
MANITOBA & NWO	311	49	196	49	196	1
ONTARIO	1264	368	779	368	779	31
QUEBEC	184	24	85	24	85	1
NEW BRUNSWICK	119	29	46	29	46	1
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT	259	105	150	105	150	12
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	30	19	2	19	2	1
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	67	61	2	61	2	42
DEC/PDP	24	8	0	8	0	0
US ZONES	17	5	3	5	3	0
EUROPE ZONE	6	1	4	1	4	0
TOTALS	3583	966	2065	966	2065	110

The figures denote the Command entitlement to delegates and proxies based upon the final 2015 figures for Life, Ordinary, Associate and Affiliate Voting members (General By-Laws Section 903).

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

T. Eagles, *Chairman*
G. Moore, *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	1		6
ALBERTA-NWT	1	3		4
SASKATCHEWAN	5	0		5
MANITOBA & NWO	2	1		3
ONTARIO	4	0		4
QUEBEC	5	0		5
NEW BRUNSWICK	0	0	1	1
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT	4	3		7
PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND	0	1		1
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR	0	0		0
DOMINION COMMAND COMMITTEES	0	0		1
TOTALS	26	9	1	37

The total number of resolutions to be considered is 37. For comparison purposes, in 2014 a total of 120 resolutions were presented to the delegates at Convention.

INDEX TO RESOLUTIONS

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POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE	130
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DEFENCE AND SECURITY	131
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS	132

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
M&O	Membership and Outreach
D&S	Defence and Security
R&A	Ritual and Awards
C&L	Constitution and Laws
LD	Leadership Development

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RESOLUTIONS

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY
THIS 46TH DOMINION CONVENTION

LOYALTY RESOLUTION

11 JUNE 2016

*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 46th
Dominion Convention at St. John's, Newfoundland
and Labrador, during the period 11-14 June 2016.*

*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 your message
of loyal greetings, sent on behalf of the Members
of the Royal Canadian Legion, on the occasion
of their Forty-Sixth Dominion Convention
which is being held at St. John's, Newfoundland
and Labrador.*

*Her Majesty was interested to learn that this
year's Convention will commemorate the
Ninetieth Anniversary of the Royal Canadian
Legion, together with the Centenary of the
Battle of Beaumont-Hamel.*

*The Queen appreciates your thoughtfulness in
writing as you did and, in return, sends her warm
wishes to all those who are present for a most
successful and enjoyable programme.*

Private Secretary

VETERANS, SERVICE *and* SENIORS

GENERAL

1. CANADA'S OBLIGATION TO VETERANS

ONT 3/C

WHEREAS successive generations of Canadians have served their country honourably as proud members of the Canadian Armed Forces;

WHEREAS Service in the Canadian Armed Forces requires members to make a personal commitment to put their lives on the line on behalf of their fellow Canadians and to risk their lives anywhere in the world that Canada's Government deems it appropriate to do so;

WHEREAS the burden associated with military service is not only borne by those in the Canadian Military, but also by their families, who make untold sacrifices to help ensure the success of those missions of the Canadian Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS The Canadian Government approach to Veterans policy demonstrates an utter disregard for our country's social covenant with those who serve in Canada's Military, particularly through its aggressive funding cuts to the supports and services that Veterans need:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion, recommend and most strongly urge Canada's Government to uphold the principals of this long-standing covenant in its defence and Veterans' policies and ensure the Government lives up to our country's sacred obligation to care for Veterans and their families throughout their lives by allowing them to maintain a quality of life that is worthy of the sacrifices they have made for Canada.

LONG TERM CARE

2. VETERAN'S CONTRACT BEDS

SASK 4/C

WHEREAS the current criteria to access a Veteran's contract bed only applies to veterans of WWII and Korea;

WHEREAS Veterans who joined the Canadian Forces post-Korea (August 1953 onward) are now approaching their 80's; and

WHEREAS there is a possibility that contract beds will be reduced if not filled:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the criteria for a contract bed in a Veterans facility be expanded to include any veteran of the Canadian Forces, and allied forces, of any era, based on health needs.

3. HOSPITAL AND LONG TERM CARE FOR ALL VETERANS

ONT 1/C

WHEREAS long term care beds for Veterans in facilities such as Parkwood Institute in London and Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto are reserved for Second World War and Korean Veterans; and

WHEREAS there is presently no provision specific to future Veterans in long term care facilities:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command advocate to the Federal Government that they provide hospital and long term care for all Veterans by amending the Veterans Health Care Act to change the admission policy of the Long Term Care and Veterans Hospitals.

4. ACCESS TO VETERAN'S UNITS AND WINGS

NS/NU 6

WHEREAS there are many Veteran's units and wings across this great country of ours which are presently occupied by WWII and Korea War Veterans who are nearing their final days and it has been said that after the WWII Veterans and the Korea War Veterans have

passed on these local and small Veteran's units and wings will be turned over to the various provincial governments;

WHEREAS now there are the new Veterans from peacekeeping duties in Egypt, Bosnia, Kosovo, the Congo and many other places in the world including the long war in Afghanistan. These new Veterans will certainly need the same type of care that the WWII and Korea War Veterans were given;

WHEREAS The WWII and Korea War Veterans resided comfortably together and in companionship in the Veteran's units and wings where they were able to have meaningful conversations with others who had been through the same ordeals as they; and

WHEREAS the new Veterans should be given the same comforts of living their last days in comfort and companionship with other Veterans and not mixed in with the civilian patients who have no idea of the ordeals that the Veterans had endured:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion should stand by our new Veterans and ensure that they are looked after comfortably in the various Veteran's units and wings across this country; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion should petition the new Government through Veterans Affairs to keep all Veteran's units and wings open for our New Veterans.

402. VAC FUNDED HOSPITAL BEDS

NB 1

WHEREAS Traditional War Veterans who served overseas are entitled to reside in VAC funded hospital beds;

WHEREAS Traditional War Veterans with Canada only service are not entitled to reside in VAC funded hospital beds unless they are in receipt of a disability benefit related to that period of service;

WHEREAS VAC funded hospital beds are vacant; and

WHEREAS Canada only service Traditional War Veterans are being placed in Nursing

Homes rather than in VAC funded hospital beds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada amend their criteria for Traditional War Veterans who served in Canada only to be allowed to reside in VAC funded hospital beds.

POPPY *and* REMEMBRANCE

5. USE OF POPPY ON VETERAN'S OBITUARY ON 2/C

WHEREAS there is no identification on an obituary that is a Veteran; and

WHEREAS the use of the poppy on Veterans license plates identifies it's a Veteran:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the use of the poppy on a Veterans obituary will identify it as a Veteran's death notice.

SPORTS

7. DOMINION SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS QUE 5/C

WHEREAS only six Commands participate in the National Curling;

WHEREAS Cribbage is doing very well for all Commands; it makes a profit and many seniors participate; and

WHEREAS Darts is extremely popular and profitable for all Commands and many young members participate:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Curling be cancelled at the National level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Darts and Cribbage remain as they are at the National level so as not to adversely affect the Commands that rely on these events.

DEFENCE *and* SECURITY

305. CANADIAN MILITARY VOLUNTEER SERVICE MEDAL (CMVSM)

BC/YUKON 6

WHEREAS Remembrance and support of our Canadian Military and their families are central to the goals and objectives of The Royal Canadian Legion;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada considers a Veteran to be “any former member of the Canadian Armed Forces who is released with an honourable discharge and who successfully underwent basic training.”;

WHEREAS thousands (estimates vary between 30,000-50,000) of Canadians have volunteered for service in the Canadian Armed Forces and because they served less than 12 years and were not posted to a war zone or a peace keeping zone have not and are not recognized for their service to Canada;

WHEREAS there is an annual significant decline in the membership of The Royal Canadian Legion and there is increasing need to support our Veterans, an increase in membership would be an asset;

WHEREAS many of these military volunteers do not see The Royal Canadian Legion to be relevant to them, recognition of their service would encourage interest and involvement in the Legion; and

WHEREAS several other military organizations (ex. Royal Canadian Airforce Association among others) have, and continue to, petition the Federal Government for recognition of the voluntary military veterans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion petition the Federal Government for a medal to recognize all Canadian military veterans who have volunteered to serve in the Canadian Armed Forces.

RITUAL *and* AWARDS

307. CHAPTER 3 ARTICLE 306 OF THE RITUAL AND AWARDS MANUAL

ALTA-NWT 3

WHEREAS the explanation of Legion Emblems explains the National Flag of Canada represents our country throughout the world. The red and white are the colours of Canada. The Maple Leaf has been regarded as a Canadian Emblem since 1700, if not before;

WHEREAS the explanation of the Canadian Red Ensign reads “the Canadian Red Ensign holds a special place in the hearts and minds of Veterans and all Canadians, The 1922 to 1957 version flew over Canada during World War II, the Korean War and the reigns of George V and George VI and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II;

WHEREAS There is no reference to the conflicts in which Canada has been involved in since the Korean Conflict such as the Gulf War, the Afghan War on Terrorism, the many United Nations and NATO Missions; and

WHEREAS Many of Canada’s military personnel sacrificed their lives, many of them suffered honourable wounds and disabilities in these conflicts; these Veterans, are not recognized as referred to with the Canadian Red Ensign:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the explanation of the National Flag of Canada, Chapter four (4) page 65 be amended to read; The National Flag of Canada represents our country throughout the world. The red and white are the colours of Canada. The Maple Leaf has been regarded as a Canadian Emblem since 1700. Since it’s inauguration in 1965, it has flown over Canada during the Gulf War, the Afghan War on Terrorism and many United Nations and NATO Missions.

CONSTITUTION *and* LAWS

308. MANDATORY EXPULSION UPON CONVICTION FOR THEFT OR MISAPPROPRIATION

NS/NU 7

WHEREAS theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or property is a deliberate and heinous crime against The Royal Canadian Legion, Veterans and the communities served by the Legion;

WHEREAS any member who steals from The Royal Canadian Legion is in serious breach of the purposes and objects of the Legion;

WHEREAS theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or property is a criminal offence that should be dealt with by the criminal justice system;

WHEREAS when such offence is dealt with by the criminal justice system and the offence is proven and results in a conviction, the offender is deemed to have had the benefit of due process;

WHEREAS when guilt is proven in a court of law there should be no need to further establish guilt nor penalty under Article III of The Royal Canadian Legion ; and

WHEREAS there is precedence in Article 203 of The General By-Laws to cease the membership of anyone who is proven by trial or admission that he or she has contravened the objects of the Legion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that any person convicted under the Criminal Code of Canada of theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or property shall be automatically expelled from The Royal Canadian Legion upon the superior command having received notification and documentation of such conviction from the respective branch or Command;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article III be amended to remove the obligation to further pursue a determination of guilt or

disciplinary action when a conviction for theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or property has been determined by the criminal justice system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Article II – Membership General, be amended to include expulsion when a conviction for theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or property has been determined by the criminal justice system.

ADDRESS TO THE 46TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
GRAND PRESIDENT

Larry Murray, *C.M.M., C.D.*

Merci, Monsieur Le President.

Bon apres midi, camarades. Il me fait grand plaisir d'etre ici a St. John's et d'avoir l'honneur de vous adresser tous.

Since our last Dominion Convention in Edmonton, I have had the privilege of participating with and occasionally representing the Dominion President at a number of memorable events, a few of which I would like to mention this afternoon.

One of the most memorable has been the presentation of the First Poppy to the Governor General and Her Excellency in late October each year.

I continue to be impressed by their warmth, humility and genuine concern for the welfare of members of the Canadian Forces, for all veterans and for their families.

Thanks to them, the First Poppy presentation ceremony each year is really special and quite moving for the many veterans from Perley Rideau and elsewhere who are included and who personally receive poppies from their Excellencies during the event.

Participating in the annual National Remembrance Ceremony and related events with comrade Tom and others has also been a very moving experience.

The attendance by the general public has continued to be outstanding and I think that everyone in the Legion involved in the planning and execution of this extremely important National Ceremony should take great pride in their efforts.

That is true of all of you and your comrades who do so much to ensure that Remembrance Ceremonies from coast to coast are also of a very high standard and appropriate to commemorate those who sacrificed so much for Canada.

I also want to highlight the incredibly important role played by our Silver Cross Mothers, Gisele

Michaud and Sheila Anderson, in the National Remembrance activities of the past two years.

Both are remarkable women, who did a great job of responding to countless requests from the media and in representing all Canadian Memorial Cross families in a warm, thoughtful and compassionate manner. It was a real honour to meet them and I am delighted that Sheila and her husband, James, are participating in this convention.

I mention these two events to highlight the incredibly important role that the Legion plays with respect to remembrance in Canada, since I think that we sometimes take that essential contribution for granted.

I know that the next few days will be busy and challenging as you wrestle with a number of tough issues and try to reach the right decisions for this great national institution.

However, I hope that each of you do find a little time to pause and reflect on the tremendous contributions of the Legion in the past two years, and also to take considerable pride in your own individual role in that outstanding team effort.

In the language of the Navy, bravo Zulu and many thanks to each of you and to all your comrades across the country who can't be with us here in St. John's.

In addition to remembrance, those contributions certainly include your superb work continuing to advocate for and to support veterans of all ages and their families in countless ways, a few of which will be reported on during the convention, most of which will not, but all of which make a huge difference for these very special Canadians.

Your selfless and always generous support of seniors, youth and communities from coast to coast are also most deserving of recognition and praise.

Whether responding to high profile events like the Fort McMurray fire disaster or simply making a

donation to a local cadet corps or senior's group, your generous spirit and personal engagement are incredibly important, indeed essential to the social fabric of many communities across Canada.

the world is changing and the Legion does face many challenges including the unforgiving reality of demographics; in other words most of us don't live forever, and I will return to that thought in a few minutes.

In my view the Legion has been responding to most of the challenges facing it with vigour and imagination.

For example, the continuing progress that the Legion has made in outreach and marketing since the convention in Edmonton is impressive.

Although much remains to be done, the results in this area are starting to have a real impact particularly as the organization takes advantage of technology and becomes more effective using social media.

The visionary work done by the leadership development committee, led by comrade Ed Pigeau and including a number of Past Dominion Presidents has also taken advantage of technology to produce a training strategy which is now available electronically in modules to all legionnaires.

This is significant.

For the first time in its history, the Legion is able to face the future armed with a convenient, effective and inexpensive ability to ensure that essential, consistent leadership skills are encouraged, developed and maintained across the country.

I also think that the outgoing Dominion President, Comrade Tom Eagles, the Dominion Treasurer, Comrade Mark Barham, the Dominion Secretary, Comrade Brad White and many other key leaders and staff should be commended for the outstanding progress achieved in responding to the will of the 2014 convention in Edmonton by successfully implementing a tough deficit reduction plan.

This is another significant achievement of the past two years.

Now the challenge will be to hold the line on expenditures which will not be easy.

Most importantly though, revenues must be maintained and increased, and, ultimately, that means retaining and increasing membership, which is the lifeblood of this great organization.

Simply stated, the bleeding must stop and be reversed or The Royal Canadian Legion as we know it and as Canadians know and admire it, cannot continue as is.

Getting back 'into the black' in 2016 is great. However, remaining 'in the black', if our numbers continue to decline will require that at some point, relatively soon, critical services to Veterans and their families as well as to communities, Seniors, Youth and so on, will need to be cut, and the Legion could evolve into just one more largely social, veterans support organization.

That would be tragic, particularly because it is not necessary.

However, given the approaching demographic cliff, membership renewal to successfully attract and retain more Canadian armed forces veterans and more, younger Canadian civilians is essential to the future of the Legion.

In my view, the fundamentals of this incredibly important subject require frank, constructive debate in the next few days and a shared commitment by everyone to take positive collective ownership and to start to deal with this pressing problem as a top priority for all of us coming out of this convention.

In terms of improving the effectiveness of our outreach to former and serving Canadian armed forces and RCMP members, it is great to see the creation of a special operational stress injury section within the legion, hopefully becoming a reality here in St. John's.

That decision will make this convention historic.

More importantly, it will provide many, many veterans in need across the country with peer support and credible, able assistance to find the help they need without stigma and with confidence and trust.

I believe that your deliberations for the next few days and your individual and collective leadership following this convention are critical to ensuring that The Royal Canadian Legion does move forward into the future with vigour and confidence

and continues to make an essential difference for veterans and their families as well as for communities across Canada.

I would like to conclude my comments this afternoon by expressing my deep personal thanks and a big bravo zulu to Comrade Tom and to all the members of the DEC “team” throughout the past two years.

Comrade Tom has done a remarkable job “at the helm” and it has been an honour and a pleasure to work for and with him and with all of my other DEC Comrades as well as with Comrade Brad and the highly dedicated Dominion Command Staff.

It is also a privilege to be here in St. John’s with all of you and I wish you every possible success in your important deliberations.

Have a great convention, Comrades.

Thanks very much

Merci du fond du coeur.

ADDRESS TO THE 46TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
**MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF
NATIONAL DEFENCE**

The Honourable Kent Hehr

Good afternoon,

Your Honour (Frank Fagan, Lieutenant Governor
of Newfoundland and Labrador),

Honourary Grand President, Larry Murray,

Dominion President, Tom Eagles,

Members of the Dominion Executive,

Members of our host Newfoundland Command,

(other VIPs as appropriate),

Honoured Veterans,

Ladies and gentlemen, *Mesdames et messieurs*.

It's great to be in Newfoundland and to see so many
familiar faces. I'm thoroughly enjoying that famous
Newfoundland hospitality.

I'm pleased to be welcomed so warmly into the
Legion family. It's an organization I respect greatly.
Your history of actively and assertively advocating
for the rights of Veterans and their families is
admirable. And the community work performed by
many local branches is highly commendable.

Some would say the Legion is becoming irrelevant
in today's society, but I would have to disagree.
You just have to look at some of the innovative
programs and supports you've developed as the
face of Canada's Veterans changes.

The homeless-shelter programs are some of the
most innovative in the country. Your work is
important; the branches themselves are important
community hubs and assets; and we must all work
to keep the Legion alive and relevant.

The last six months have been interesting, exciting
and eventful. I have been working hard to do more
for Veterans, to fix what hasn't been working well
and to find new ways forward that will benefit their
lives and the lives of their families.

I can say that finding our way forward hasn't
always been easy. The solutions aren't simple, the
challenges are great. But we are working around
the clock to meet them head on.

In my role as Minister of Veterans Affairs and
Associate Minister of National Defence, I'm always
grateful for those opportunities to praise our troops
and talk about the best way to support them while
in uniform and after. I was born in 1969. For my
entire life, I have lived in peace and security, which
I owe—we all owe—to the men and women who
have served and sacrificed much for this
great country.

Our approach for moving forward is rooted in
the core values of care, compassion and respect.
We care for those who have served and for their
families and survivors. We'll show compassion for
their needs. We'll respect them—both in our day-
to-day interaction and by honouring their sacrifices
through commemoration.

Since my appointment, I have learned a great deal
about what Canada does to support Veterans. I
have also come to understand the deep respect and
compassion Canadians feel for the men and women
who have served. I know that when a Veteran
voices his or her concerns, Canadians are listening.

Tens of thousands of Veterans transition out of the
military and receive benefits from Veterans Affairs
Canada; most are satisfied with the help they
receive, whether it's money in their pocket to make
ends meet, training for a new career or home care
when they're in their later years and need a helping
hand. We have a good track record of successfully
supporting Veterans throughout their lives and
they are quite happy.

But you'll hear on the news that some Veterans
have fallen through the cracks in the system and
have found themselves homeless; you'll hear about
Veterans who are unhappy with their benefits ...
or some having trouble accessing long term care.

These stories may give you the perception that we aren't doing a good job.

Don't get me wrong, these men and women have a right to voice these issues, hold my feet to the fire so that I can continue to work to improve our services and programs, and find ways to address individual needs. But you shouldn't be left with the impression it's all bad.

There are dedicated employees who work hard every day to ensure a Veteran in crisis has a hot meal and a place to stay, that a 93-year-old widower has a wheelchair ramp built so he can stay in his home, or that when a Veteran's partner is having difficulty, they can pick up the phone 24 hours a day, seven days a week and get professional mental health counselling.

These kind of actions take place every day, but we don't often hear about it and I would like to change that.

I want to take a moment to say that I understand the challenges a person faces when tragedy strikes, when injury and illness take their toll on your mind and body. I myself would not be here today without the support of others as well as the help from various government services. The first year with my disability was the toughest year for me.

I grew up playing hockey from the age of 6 and with the goal of playing professional hockey. After I was injured I had to stop playing. I no longer went to the dressing room and put on my jersey. It was game over.

I imagine that it's a similar situation for members of the military. You spend your adult lives in service and then find taking off the uniform for the last time extremely difficult.

That is why the work we do in our department is so important, why the work I do with the Minister of National Defence is so important, so we can close the seam right away to help Canadian Armed Forces members transition to civilian life and find new purpose, find their new normal.

Overall, nearly 200,000 people receive services and support through Veterans Affairs Canada. No Veteran is the same. They all have very unique personal circumstances and needs that we must work hard to address.

It takes a significant financial and human investment and determination to help soldiers, sailors and aviators—as well as their families—make the transition to civilian life; and cope with injuries and trauma sustained in the course of their duty to our country.

Ninety percent of the Department's spending goes directly into the hands of the individuals it is designed for. Over \$3 billion goes to them in some sort of financial support or lost income, hours of treatment and appointments and counselling that will help the person feel whole again.

This assignment to streamline and simplify the complex system of benefits and services and close the seam between Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Armed Forces is one I have taken to heart. As I said, the majority of Veterans adjust well to civilian life following their release from the military. These are the cases you never hear about. Veteran applies for his service or benefit, Veteran receives requested service or benefit, Veteran goes away pretty pleased.

For 25% of Veterans going through transition, it isn't as straightforward. They face complex challenges and we must work harder to ensure that they have the right opportunities to re-build their lives. Veterans Affairs does an incredible amount in this regard and Budget 2016 takes historic steps to deliver and do more for Canada's ill and injured Veterans, the ones who need our help the most.

When I came into this position, I was given an aggressive mandate by the Prime Minister.

And I've been making progress on that mandate ... especially when Budget 2016 was tabled. Budget 2016 goes a long way in closing a number of current gaps in the system, restoring critical access to services and improving the long-term financial security and independence of ill and injured Veterans and their families in a fair and equitable way.

\$1.6 billion over five years will flow to disabled Veterans and their families in the form of higher direct payments.

Let's look at the Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB)—which has been in the news a lot lately. ELB provides financial security to Veterans while they are participating in Veterans Affairs' rehabilitation

programs or—for whatever reasons—are unable to obtain suitable gainful employment.

The ELB is a temporary support for Veterans who face a loss of earnings as a result of illness or injury. Every injured Veteran receiving ELB will receive this monthly payment calculated on a percentage of the Veteran's monthly military salary—or the minimum—at the time of release.

ELB is not meant to be a long term measure or income replacement. It's basically—primarily—designed as an income support program while the Veteran is in rehabilitation and generally.

It's important to remember that the ELB is not provided in isolation. Veterans receive a holistic suite of services and supports to support them as they focus on recovery, wellness and finding a new purpose. And for those Veterans who are deemed permanently unable to work, they become eligible for other supports.

Under the New Veterans Charter, the Earnings Loss Benefit was originally set at a minimum of 75% of a Veteran's gross pre-release salary for the duration of rehabilitation or a vocational assistance program.

We will raise this amount to 90% of that pre-release military salary. The minimum ELB rate will be raised ... not lowered. That means a pre-tax income of at least \$44,496 a year.

That is more money for Veterans and families in need of assistance. That is more security in the face of uncertainty. That is more peace of mind.

Those already receiving an Earnings Loss Benefit will see an automatic adjustment to the new rate. Those not currently receiving it—due to additional or other income sources—will be contacted by Veterans Affairs to determine eligibility under the new provisions.

The benefit will be indexed annually to inflation and once the Budget Implementation Bill is passed (timing TBC), will come into effect October 1, 2016.

As I said, the ELB is only one benefit in a suite of benefits we are improving through Budget 2016. The Permanent Impairment Allowance is another. An important change to this benefit would see each Veteran's injury or impairment assessed individually ... instead of trying to fit their situation into a prescribed or pre-defined category.

By doing this, we will better determine the impact that impairment might have on a Veteran's career advancement opportunities.

Veterans who are receiving the current Permanent Impairment Allowance when this new change comes into effect will be contacted by Veterans Affairs and offered an opportunity to be re-assessed.

Changing the program's name from the Permanent Impairment Allowance to the Career Impact Allowance more accurately reflects the program's original intent to compensate for loss of employment and career advancement opportunities. It also, in my opinion, removes some of the negative perception a Veteran may have about his or her impairment or injury. If approved, changes to the Permanent Impairment Allowance will come into effect April 1, 2017.

The third benefit to get an overhaul in Budget 2016 is the Disability Award.

Now, the Disability Award has nothing to do with replacing lost income. It has nothing to do with rehabilitation. It is a tax-free payment that recognizes the pain and suffering a service-related disability has on one's life. This lump-sum payment offers compensation to Veterans forced to prepare for a new normal.

Currently, the maximum Disability Award payment is \$310,378. As of April 1, 2017, that maximum will be raised to \$360,000.

Those already receiving a Disability Award will receive an additional top-up payment. In some cases this will represent an additional payment of nearly \$50,000.

All disability awards will be increased from existing levels, including amounts paid to survivors.

This increase is not taxable.

The Disability Award improvement will bring it in line with other non-economic compensation available in Canada, such as accidental death and dismemberment insurance seen in the private and public sectors, Workers' Compensation Board payments and damages awarded by Canadian civil courts.

We deliberately packaged these improvements together to help Veterans and their families get

ahead in life and ensure no one falls through the cracks. When military service is prematurely ended, we are determined to do all we can for our courageous men and women in uniform.

So these changes—when passed through the Parliamentary process (timing TBC)—provide Veterans with more personalized care and an individualized response; not a cookie cutter approach.

On top of that, we're restoring access to services by reopening nine offices and hiring back hundreds of staff to give Veterans the attention they need when they are going through difficult times.

We've committed to reopening and staffing offices in Charlottetown, Sydney, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Saskatoon, Brandon, Prince George, Kelowna and of course, Corner Brook, which will re-open soon, so that Veterans can more easily access the services they have earned.

We'll also be opening a new office in Surrey, BC, where we have a large cohort of Veterans and their families living, and expanding outreach in the north so we can better serve the Veterans living there. We're hiring additional case managers and frontline staff to reduce the Veteran to case worker to 25 to 1.

The importance of case management when it comes to helping Veterans living with complex issues cannot be understated. Soon, they will get more attention and help to make a successful transition to civilian life.

I would like to take a moment and talk about mental health, something that is often being overlooked in the military or has been seen as weak. Talking about mental health isn't always easy, but is one of the most important things we can do as we find new ways to help our servicemen and women.

During our lifetime, many of us will struggle with mental health issues, but in the military, combat missions, stressful deployments and significant traumatic events tend to amplify these issues.

Mental injuries often accompany physical injuries, but this has been, like I said, often overlooked. As some have experienced, it can be perceived as a sign of weakness. We have to end this thinking. When soldiers got back from the First World War,

they called it shellshock. When they got back from the Second World War, we called it battle fatigue. We now know it as operational stress injury ... which includes post-traumatic stress disorder

Today, more than 21,000 Veterans receive disability support for a mental health condition that relates to their service. We understand better now how operational stress injuries affect military personnel and Veterans and we are finding new ways to support and treat the wide range of symptoms and conditions associated with them.

Tomorrow, I'll be in Halifax to officially open the permanent location of the Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury clinic. Over 200 Veterans and their family members will eventually access the services offered at this location.

Last month, I was at the Royal Hospital in Ottawa to announce funding for a machine that enables doctors to watch brain activity during an episode triggered by post-traumatic stress disorder and other OSIs. This new technology will fill in gaps of our knowledge of how mental illness works on a biological level so we can have more success in treating it. This could make a huge difference in many, many lives.

I have also been tasked with creating two new centres of excellence, one of which will specialize in mental health. So we are taking steps, but there is so much more that needs to be done.

Talking about one's mental health problems takes courage and determination. The sooner someone seeks help, the more success they will have in treatment. I want to ask everyone in this room if you know of someone, military members, Veterans, friends or family members who are struggling or in need, reach out to them now and encourage them to get the help they need. You may be saving lives.

Now on to a topic that has generated a lot of ink lately and that's life-long pensions for Veterans. Recent reports have suggested the Government of Canada is taking Veterans back to court over this issue. This is simply not true, this is an ongoing lawsuit which began many years ago. I find it deeply regrettable that Veterans feel they had to take the previous government to court to ensure their own well-being.

It's precisely because of this that I was given a strong mandate to restore access to services for

Veterans and to ensure long-term financial security and independence of disabled Veterans and their families. I can assure you I remain committed to this and to fulfilling all the items in my mandate letter.

When I first took this job back in November, I held a stakeholder summit in order to hear directly from Veterans on this and other important issues, to work toward the best way to delivering on this aggressive mandate in a way that would work best for them.

What I heard loud and clear on pensions—what Veterans want us to do—is to take the time to get this right. You told us you want to be consulted and work with us to find a better solution. We are doing just that.

Since the first meeting, I have hosted a second stakeholder summit ... and I see a few familiar faces who were there ... established six ministerial advisory groups to advise on specific issues and created an online “have your say” tool for Veterans and Canadians who want to weigh in on this very important file.

And for the past few weeks I’ve been travelling to towns and cities in Canada to sit down with people and Veterans and to get their input on our top priorities. We’re hearing some great things ... about what works well and what doesn’t.

One topic that generates an overwhelming positive response is remembrance ...or commemorating the service and sacrifices of Canada’s Veterans and those who paid the ultimate price.

And with that comes respect ... and ensuring Veterans of modest means receive a dignified burial.

We heard the Royal Canadian Legion loud and clear when your organization said the estate exemption was way too low for the Funeral and Burial Program. And we responded in Budget 2016 by not only tripling that estate exemption ... meaning more families of lower-income Veterans

can access the services ... but by including an annual cost of living adjustment.

Thank you for your hard work on this particular issue.

[Pause for applause]

On the historical side, in a few weeks the country come together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battles of the Somme and Beaumont-Hamel. Events will take place in France, here in St. John’s, Newfoundland and Labrador and in our nation’s capital, Ottawa.

The story of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment—which was then part of the British Army—is legendary ... the courage and determination of its men admired and emulated for years. But no other loss was as devastating to the region nor as defining to its cultural memory.

Planning is in full swing for the July 1 ceremony here ... and I understand Her Royal Highness Princess Anne may be attending along with scores of diplomatic representatives from several allied countries.

For my part, I’ll be leading a Government of Canada delegation overseas for ceremonies at the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial and Courcelette Canadian Memorial in France.

These events take us farther down the road of one of the most significant periods of remembrance in our generation. And I encourage you all to be active participants in these anniversaries and commemorative events.

In closing, you have my deepest respect and thanks for the work you do on behalf of Canada’s Veterans. In keeping with the motto of the Church Lads’ Brigade*, “Fight the Good Fight.”

*The Church Lads’ Brigade (C.L.B.) was founded in 1891 in London, England. Through the efforts of a young Newfoundlander, Harold Blackler, a CLB Company was started in St. John’s in 1892 - the first CLB overseas unit. Today, the CLB in Newfoundland has over 1000 members in 22 companies spread across the Avalon Peninsula, from St. John’s to Whitbourne, and one company on the Bonavista Peninsula in Trinity East/Port Rexton.

ADDRESS TO THE 46TH BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
NATIONAL SILVER CROSS MOTHER

Mrs. Sheila Anderson

Good morning.... Mr. Tom Eagles, Mr. Larry Murray, Mr. Brad White, Minister Kent Hehr and other dignitaries.

I would like to thank the Legion for choosing me as your Silver Cross Mother for 2015-16. It is a great honour though I insist that this honour is bestowed upon my whole family, to my sons – Ben, Matt and Sam and to my husband James all of whom have supported and encouraged me to participate and be true to my mission... which of is a continuation of our deceased son Jordan's sentiments, which were:

"To remember the dead of course - and importantly to attend to the living veterans, with commitment and conviction"

This segues to the theme of this conference - which is

LOOKING BACK TO SEE AHEAD

Looking back we remember conflicts in which Canadian troops contributed. We engaged in war by several means, through

- declaration of war, or
- as members of treaty organizations such as (NATO) or the (UN).

The power point that you are seeing depicts pictures from some of the conflicts in which Canadian Troops engaged.

In 1914 we entered war WWI with Britain

In 1931 Hong Kong

in 1938-39 Japan, Hungary, Romania and Finland

again in 1939 we declared war on Germany engaging us in WWII

in 1950 Korea as UN contributors,

1990 as peacekeepers, in the US led Gulf war

1992 Somalia as peacekeepers and later as combatants.

1998-99 as peacekeepers in Kosovo under NATO and later as combatants.

Then came the Trade Towers

... and everything was changed. This was the first terrorist attack on North American soil. The American response was swift and firm and included our soldiers in Afghanistan.

Our focus became clear as PM Chrétien declared: "Canada will join in US military action against Afghanistan".

These events lead to the first development by the Liberal Gov't of Anti-terrorism Legislation

As signatories to the Washington Treaty of 1949 Article 5 we were obligated to stand with the US as an ally in NATO.

In 2001 our 24 year old son Jordan embarked on his first deployment, and he was so proud to be part of the 1st contingent of Canadian Troops to land in Afghanistan. Operation Apollo saw 3 PPCLI on the ground in Kandahar in November.

In 2007 Jordan return to a developed base at Kandahar, a different theatre than the one he helped to build in 2001.

In the past, physical and mental health issues, employment problems and reintegration needs were handled by the government of the day.

Today they appear to be met with a slow-moving bureaucracy that seems to be more bent on following narrow rules and strict processes, than giving swift attention as these issues deserve.

While I understand that policies of processing applications represents the swiftest and most efficient manner of managing a high volume of applications, a bureaucracy that cannot efficiently

process applications falls short. I reference a few examples:

The recent article in the press of Canadian Petter Blindheim, the 94 year old ally, who served as a Norwegian seaman from WWII who has been denied a bed in a long-term care facility for veterans because he was unable to produce a certain document, then, later with proof established, was denied again because he joined the war after a certain date.

Stories like this one do not instill confidence or credibility to the 'system'. Decision-making powers of those who process these types of claims may need to be revisited. The bureaucratic route is and should be in place to assist and provide benefits to veterans and recognize that the "benefit of the doubt" should tilt in favour of the veteran. Or at the very least be a finding on the 'balance of probabilities' in favour of the veteran. So.. if the vet is 94 yrs old, can prove that he fought in the war as he claims, and has a recognizable need there should be no question.

Another example is that of Sgt. Kevin Nanson:

Sgt. Nanson explained how he was forced into retirement from 3 PPCLI at the tender age of 43.

Nanson joined the armed forces in 1993 at 20 yrs of age.

- on April 4, 2008 he was gravely injured (blown up by an IED) in Afghanistan
- He repatriated in April 2008.
- For more than a year he underwent various surgeries putting him back together and rebuilding his face.
- He returned to full service until 2012 when, he said that he recognized that his body was beginning to break down.
- By 2012 he realized and accepted that he would not be able to meet the "universality of service" capacity for continued service –So it was more or less against his will he was discharged from the military.

I interviewed Mr. Nanson only last week, he was very positive and seemed happy, but rest assured that he made it clear to me that he would have preferred to continue his employment in the military in some other capacity had the opportunity been offered.

In the civilian world government has a 'duty to accommodate' those employees who require specialized adjustments, in order to continue employment. In the instance of the armed forces all soldiers must meet a measure of physical ability in order to serve.... While this may be required to serve as deployable troops there are plenty of civilian-held positions that do not have such requirements. I challenge the notion of discharging soldiers who fail to meet the rigors of deployment over re-assigning them to civilian-type duties instead of discharging them. Moving on to the time-line endured by soldiers like Sgt. Nanson. It appears that bureaucracy bogs down assistance to these soldiers. Sgt. Nanson described to me how it was recognized by the Director of Casualty Support Management that he needed a wheelchair that would lead to the remodeling of his house to accommodate it. This was recognized in 2013 but not completed until 2016. It took 3 years to deal with a rather urgent issue for him of getting around his own house.

Nanson indicated that the process undertaken to hire a contractor and the resulting issues surrounding it left him in a 3 year holding pattern. I know from personal experience that contracts can be awarded and concluded in a fraction of that time.

This is frightful. Bureaucracy must be empowered to make decisions that deal with unforeseeable delays, and for moving quickly when urgency demands it. The processes in place that would correct this problem, apparently were not engaged. Again ... bureaucrats must be encouraged and empowered to take necessary corrective decisions.

In the case of Captain Trevor Greene, the soldier who in 2006 suffered an axe injury to his head in Afghanistan while serving and survived...the media reported that the military health care team advised his family that he would be a vegetable. They have been proven wrong. He is walking with the aid of a device called a robotic exoskeleton today. As it sounds, the robot allows Capt. Greene mobility. It is reported that

Inga Kruse, Executive Director of the B.C and Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion with the agreement of Cpt. Green mobilized the legions – the very men and women here today to raise the necessary funds through poppy sales to purchase the exoskeleton. Though it is also

reported that Greene did not want the military to pay for his full recovery in reality the military SHOULD be paying for it

....even though this is wonderful example of Legion capability and capacity to raise required resources for fellow veterans. Such an undertaking and development of this technology goes beyond one soldier, it could and should be included in the recovery plans for many injured soldiers.

LOOKING BACK

Between 1941 and 1947 there were 30,000 wartime houses built for returning armed forces personnel. What a huge commitment and undertaking to assist vets. Seeing ahead do we have such an enterprise today?

Granted we would not need such a grand-scale commitment, and the provision of housing could be modified as necessarywe have not learned from this past example.

People such as Sgt. Nanson work to assist those struggling with traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries through an emergency help line (as an example). While we are grateful for his efforts and the support of others like him, it saddens me to understand that there is no place in military employ for men and women like him who have so much to offer fellow soldiers.

Now that you have endured my version of challenges I do have a suggestion.. actually my husband's idea. Since the Legion receives no Fed. funding and they may not want a handout. We suggest that veteran service counters be opened in legions, once current leases expire. Since the legions are located in community neighbourhoods, and offer easy access to vets.

- This is a win, win, win.
- Win for Veterans affairs, finding close proximity to clients.
- Win for veterans easy access to services
- win for the legion- a legitimate arms-length opportunity to receive federal support through office space rental.

Please note that I am appreciative of the current governments approach to positive change in taking steps to 'get it right' for returned veterans.

And finally.....It is not my goal to re-define the role of the Silver Cross Mother as an activist, however it is impossible for me to remain silent when this appointment affords me the opportunity to assist veterans in any way that I can.

Thank you again for this opportunity to address you.

DEPUTY-COMMANDER, 5TH CANADIAN DIVISION

Brigadier-General James Camsell

Grand President Larry Murray, Dominion President Tom Eagles, incoming Dominion President and ‘Lawner’ Dave Flannigan, Veterans Legionnaires and guests, it is my pleasure to be able to speak to you on behalf of the Chief of the Defence Staff (CDS) – General Jon Vance, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

I must echo Comrade Frank Sullivan’s comments on Sun and discuss that dreaded term CFA or ‘Come From Away’. I consider myself a Newfoundlander and believe I have earned this by residing here since 1986. This does not cut it with my wife Janet, a borne Newfoundlander who is quick to put me in my place by stating I will always be a CFA, regardless that I lived in residence in university with ‘baymen’, that I can speak quickly, and do understand some of the local dialect. In fact, when she really wants to put me in place, she will refer to me as that ‘mainlander’ she married – another dreaded word. So for the majority of the audience who are CFAs, I do understand your confusion at the language and traditions of NL. I welcome all my fellow mainlanders to this beautiful city and province.

I have two aims today. First, provide the CDS’ greetings to you and second to speak in detail on Canada’s Reserve Force (Res F). I know that the RCL conducted a large-scale outreach to Reserve units 2 years ago. My observations are that very few reservists are members of the Legion or have continued contact with the Legion. However, I believe there is opportunity for the Legion in making in-roads into the Primary Reserve (PRes) because for the most part, Legion halls are distributed across this country in a similar fashion to Reserve units. **A key question is how does the RCL better communicate and establish relationships with the large PRes community?** I hope that this presentation will provide you with insight of the PRes which though sharing many of the cultural aspects of the CAF, is very different in regards to membership, unit

histories and training due to its citizen-soldier organizational model.

At this time, I ask the Chief’s greeting be played.

To reiterate, the aim of the presentation is to provide you with a deeper understanding of Canada’s Res F as it makes up a significant portion of the CAF.

Where do you find the Res F? (SLIDE 3)

The majority of the Res F is found within the 3 services – the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN), the Canadian Army (CA) and the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF). Reservists are not external to the CAF. Instead, the Res F is integral to each service and is the responsibility of each service’s chain of command.

What is the structure of the Res F?

(SLIDE 4) The CAF is comprised of three components: the Regular Force (Reg F) permanent peacetime services as authorized by established positions by Parliament; the Res F - peacetime establishment controlled by budget allocation (pay and Operations & Maintenance) voted annually by Parliament rather than establishment positions as per the Reg F. This is reflective of the fact that Res F members serve on a part-time basis. The total cost of the Res F was approximately \$1.3 Billion in 2014 with the Army Reserve (ARes) costing \$724M in 2013/14. The Special Force – which isn’t used today was created for significant emergencies such as national mobilization in World War Two.

This is the current Reserve component framework. The PRes and the Supplementary Reserve (Supp Res) are the two sub-components that have the main role of supporting CAF ops. The PRes is based upon units across Canada while the Supp Res is simply a list of personnel with previous Regular or Reserve service who have current military skills and who volunteer to keep themselves ready for employment in an emergency. Every CAF member

who takes release is a member of the Supp Res for 5 years.

What is the role of the Res F? (SLIDE 5)

The Res F has 2 key roles:

1. A resource to provide depth by allowing force augmentation by personnel and breadth in regards to provision of unique capabilities to the CAF; and
2. Enables the CAF to connect with Canadians.

Thus, having a strong and healthy Res F is critical to mission success of the CAF.

What is the size of the Res F? (SLIDES 6-7)

Currently, the CAF has approximately 66,000 Reg F members and 49,500 Res F members. The Res F is approximately 3/4 of the size of the Reg F. In this total, the PRes of 22,000 mbrs makes up 1/3 of the CAF with 1/2 of the 40,000 strong Army being PRes. I believe that the large number of Res F mbrs may be of interest to the RCL as a potential growth opportunity given the changing demographics of the Legion's membership and what defines a veteran today.

As mentioned, PRes units are fully integrated into the CAF chain of command and members of the PRes are a responsibility of the environment they are in – RCN, Army, RCAF, etc.

Essentially, the Supp Res is a list of former members of the CF who have volunteered to make themselves available for duty in emergency and may be called upon to serve. Members of the Supp Res are not required to perform any form of duty or training, except when on active service.

The Cadet Organization Administration and Training Service (COATS) doesn't support CAF operations, but rather is tasked to provide the training and administration of the CAF sponsored youth program to provide citizenship training to cadets.

The Canadian Rangers do provide capability to the CAF with their ongoing patrol and surveillance of Canada's maritime and land borders.

Where do you find the Res F? (SLIDE 8)

Canada's large geographic footprint and relatively small population are key factors that impact defence planning. Reg F units tend to be concentrated in a small number of key military bases, while the Res F has a larger demographic footprint and provides for a greater military presence and capability with close to 200 armouries, 'stone-frigates', etc. located across Canada. This matches well with the distribution of Legion branches across the country.

In most areas of Canada, the only military contact for the average Canadian will be the local Res unit. This presence throughout Canada has strategic impact for both the CAF's ability to respond to large-scale domestic emergencies when a province/territory requests federal assistance, and significantly serves the CAF as its key public footprint to Canadians.

What is a Reservist's terms of service?

(SLIDE 9) The CAF is an all-volunteer professional force. While Reg F members are enrolled for a specified term of service, members of the Res Force are enrolled for an indefinite period of service and as such volunteer to keep themselves ready for duty if and when necessary. Because they serve on an indefinite period of service they may also be released from the CAF at any time. Depending upon the type of military occupation, a Reservist may work as little as 14 days a year for a medical Doctor on a holding list or as many 60/70 days a year for soldiers who complete mandated individual and collective training. In fact, your Reservists train more on a part-time basis than most other western armed forces.

The CAF is an all-volunteer professional force. While Reg F members are enrolled for a specified term of service, members of the Res Force are enrolled for an indefinite period of service and as such volunteer to keep themselves ready for duty if and when necessary. Because they serve on an indefinite period of service they may also be released from the CAF at any time.

Reservists are liable for any lawful duty. They are required to attend all scheduled training or duty periods. They may also volunteer for operational duty or full-time service.

What is the ‘face’ of the Primary Reservist? (SLIDE 10)

1. They are much younger than their peers in the Reg F with approximately 40% of PRes under 25 years old as compared to only 17% in the Reg F;
2. 20% are female as compared to 13% in the Reg F
3. 68% are Pte to MCpl as compared to 56% in the Reg F
4. 70% are in the Army, 15% in the Navy and 9% in the Air Force
5. Majority are in combat arms – 46% as compared to 22% in the Reg F.

So what’s:

The PRes is the future of the CAF, so much so that we (the CAF) want to transfer 800 Reservists a year into the Reg Force to minimize training costs and meet the challenge of an aging Reg F. Reservists transferring to the Reg F is a ‘win’ for the CAF, but does pose challenges to maintain Res unit strength and leadership.

The PRes more accurately reflects Canadian society, and due to the large youth cohort poses both a challenge and opportunity in recruiting and retention for the entire CAF. Like the RCL, we have a challenge in maintaining our membership and attaining younger members.

What do Reservists bring to the CAF?

Reservists provide unique skill sets to the CAF outside of common military skills. Reservists come from a large and dynamic range of occupations and career paths that lend themselves to international operations. Skills are numerous and can for example range from IT specialists, teachers, electricians, plumbers, architects, mechanics, police officers, construction in all trades, business, etc. Significantly, the Res F also serves as a pool of languages that can be accessed by the CAF depending upon the mission. These benefits are of strategic importance to the CAF.

Let’s look at how the services employ their PRes elements:

The main focus of PRes elements is the role of force generating reserve forces and capabilities. The PRes and the Reg F are the two integral elements of the total force which conducts all CAF operations.

Each service - RCN, CA and RCAF, assigns specific roles and tasks to their reserve elements and each has a specific reserve structure and employment model that reflects the unique way in which their reservists are trained and employed.

As with domestic operations, manning for international operations is based on volunteers, although the Minister of National Defence can call out the reserve force in response to natural disaster assistance and the Government of Canada can mobilize the Res F for a war emergency.

The Naval Reserve (SLIDES 11 & 12)

It has a strength of approximately 1500 members, and mans one class of ships full-time for the Navy – the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels (with all crew members are reservists) except for two Reg F technical trades. In addition, it has its own unique operational roles resident only in the Naval Reserve – Port Inspection Diving and Mine-Countermeasures.

The Army Reserve (SLIDES 13 & 14)

It is the largest element of the PRes with approximately 18,500 members across 10 Res Brigades located across Canada. Each brigade is composed of combat arms, combat support and combat service support units. These units are the basis for force generation for operations and mirror for the most part the occupations found in Army Reg F units. ARes units generate a full range of capabilities to support Canada’s domestic and international operations. These capabilities are essential to the Army which requires reserve support to conduct assigned operations.

Key high-readiness elements of the ARes are its Territorial Battalion Groups (TBG) (approximately 400-600 soldiers) of which 10 are established across the country to be used in domestic emergencies and 4 Arctic Response Company Groups (ARCG) (120 soldiers) which deploy annually to Canada’s Arctic region to maintain sovereignty. The ARes also provide the unique Influence Activities (IA) capability to CAF overseas missions – include Reservists trained in Civil Military Cooperation and Psychological Operations.

The Air Reserve (SLIDES 15 & 16)

The Air Res with approximately 1000 members has an employment model is unique in that its Reservists are fully integrated into the Air Force establishments at all levels. As such, reservists work alongside their Reg F counterparts to

undertake daily routine operations and tasks. The Air Res also includes Airfield Engineer Squadrons that are used to construct and maintain airfield during expeditionary operations.

Health Services (SLIDES 17 & 18)

Currently there are 14 Reserve Field Ambulance units across Canada with approximately 800 personnel. Unit level training focuses on the provision of Military Environmental Skills (MES) including medical skills, and they provide coordination and link between injured/ill Reservists and the Health Services Clinics/other health care resources.

Special Operations Force (SOF) (SLIDE 19)

Special Operations Forces have demanding training and high-readiness levels. The existence of a Res element with Canada's special forces provides an effective method to retain SOF personnel by offering an option to those who have completed their Reg F service, by continuing to serve as a Reservist. It also provides a framework to allow Reservists from other services in support of special operations.

How are Reservists employed? (SLIDES

20-23) As mentioned, the current strength of the PRes is approximately 22,000 members. This folks are busy. Between 2008-2013, combined Cl B (short-term service) and Cl C service (long-term service and in essence being a member of the Reg F) represented approximately 1/3 of Reservists on full-time service at any given time. The direct cause of this was Canada's war in Afghanistan.

Since WW2, all CAF operational requirements have been met by voluntary participation and we have always had more than the required number of Reservists volunteer for service. That said, there is provision in Canada's National Defence Act for the Government of Canada to compel Res personnel to serve under specified conditions or circumstances. The requirement for compulsory service must be raised to the Minister of National Defence who in an emergency (domestic) may authorize short-term call out of all or part of the Res F. This happens a lot with domestic emergencies ranging from hurricanes in Atlantic Canada, ice-storms in ON/QC or flooding in AB. Thousands of Reservists have been placed on Class C/Active duty for short periods of time which means being enrolled in the Reg F. Any large scale active service for general

mobilization or war emergency must be authorized by the federal cabinet.

In sum, the PRes provides a significant contribution to all CAF ops. Operations are about the team of teams and therefore close integration of Reg and Reg F members is important in training and in operations. The CAF views itself as one team, one total force that must leverage the skills of all its sailors, soldiers and aviators regardless if they are Reg or Res F.

WAY AHEAD (SLIDE 25)

I return to my key question on how the RCL can better communicate and establish relationships with the large PRes community? This is not an easy question in today's world where youth (and in fact all of us) are focused on themselves and connected by multiple IT means. We, the CAF are also struggling with this challenge in regards to recruiting and retention.

Surprisingly, in 29 years of Reserve Service, I have had only minimal contact with RCL ranging from annual Remembrance Day ceremonies to only one instance where as a Brigade Commander in 2013, I had staff pull together a speakers panel on veteran entitlements and other supports avail to PRes members. This panel consisted of speakers from Veterans Affairs, and one member of the RCL who was a POC for veterans in navigating federal bureaucracy in regards to pensions and other supports. This is the total sum of my experience with the Legion.

I commend your mass outreach to Res units across Canada, but I would recommend that any significant inroads can only occur through direct contact between Branch leadership and Res unit leadership. The creation of 'person to person' relationships is the first step in creating relevance of the RCL among the Res community. Based on my experience, I would recommend the following:

- Meet the Commanding Officers and key leadership in your local area on annual basis
- Ask to be part of Reserve unit briefs at the start of the training year (September) and give updates on RCL programs and supports available to military members
- Discuss if RCL membership is noted as part of out-briefs to Res soldiers when they release from the CAF/PRes

- Ask to bring Legion members to observe training
- At the National level, reach out to the Supp Res if possible

All above are only my thoughts and clearly initial steps. However, I do believe that the PRes and RCL do need to develop a closer relationship as there are benefits for both parties.

In conclusion, I thank you for your service to Canada and the CAF through your efforts in the RCL and unwavering support for the welfare of our veterans. This is an immense task that the RCL has done well for 90 yrs and will continue to do for many more. Lastly, for my fellow CFAs, I wish you all a safe journey home. Thank-you.

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11 – 15 June 2016

NAME _____

BRANCH _____

COMMAND _____