



CONVENTION REPORT
THE PROCEEDINGS
of
THE 43rd DOMINION CONVENTION
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

12 JUNE - 16 JUNE 2010



**OUR MISSION IS
TO SERVE VETERANS
AND THEIR DEPENDANTS,
PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE
AND ACT IN THE
SERVICE OF CANADA
AND ITS COMMUNITIES**



IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE RECORDED THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 43RD DOMINION CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ASSEMBLED AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA. CONTAINING THE CONVENTION REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES, IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL AS WELL AS HISTORICAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE READY REFERENCE.

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DOMINION COMMAND OFFICERS

Honorary Officers

Patron

Her Excellency The Right Honourable
Michaëlle Jean, C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Governor General and
Commander-in-Chief of Canada

Honorary Grand President

C. Belzile, C.M., C.M.M., C.D.

Dominion Honorary Vice-President

General W. J. Natynczyk, C.M.M., M.S.C., C.D.

Dominion Honorary Chaplain

Rabbi R. Bulka
Brigadier General D. C. Kettle, C.D.

Dominion Executive Council

Dominion President

W. Edmond

Dominion First Vice-President

P. Varga

Dominion Vice-Presidents

P. Cook
E. Kish
G. Moore

Dominion Treasurer

M. Cook

Dominion Chairman

T. Irvine

Immediate Past Dominion President

J. Frost

Provincial Command/Special Section Representatives/Presidents

British Columbia/Yukon

D. Sinclair

Alberta-Northwest Territories

D. Jones

Saskatchewan

P. Piper

Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario

G. Walker

Ontario

E. Pigeau

Quebec

R. Groulx

New Brunswick

C. Saunders

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

L. Nash

Prince Edward Island

J. Ross

Newfoundland and Labrador

S. Pottle

President of the Tuberculous Veterans' Section

B. Wignes

Dominion Secretary

B. K. White

DOMINION COMMAND PAST PRESIDENTS

- | | |
|--|--|
|  Lieutenant—General Sir Percy Lake
British Columbia, 1925—1928 |  Robert G. Smellie
Manitoba, 1972—1974 |
|  Lieutenant—General Sir Arthur Currie
Quebec, 1928—1929 |  Robert D. McChesney
Ontario, 1974—1976 |
|  Lieutenant—Colonel Leo R. LaFleche
Ontario, 1929—1931 |  Douglas McDonald
Ontario, 1976—1978 |
|  Major John S. Roper
Nova Scotia, 1931—1934 | Edward C. Coley
Alberta, 1978—1980 |
|  Brigadier—General Alex Ross
Saskatchewan, 1934—1938 |  Al Harvey
Newfoundland, 1980—1982 |
|  Lieutenant—Colonel W. W. Foster
British Columbia, 1938—1940 |  Dave Capperault
Ontario, 1982—1984 |
|  Alex Walker
Alberta, 1940—1946 | Steve Dunsdon
British Columbia, 1984—1986 |
|  Major—General C. B. Price
Quebec, 1946—1948 |  Anthony Stacey
Ontario, 1986—1988 |
|  Lieutenant—Colonel L. D. M. Baxter
Manitoba, 1948—1950 |  Gaston Garceau
Quebec, 1988—1990 |
|  Group Captain Alfred Watts
British Columbia, 1950—1952 |  Fred Williams
Newfoundland, 1990—1991 |
|  Dr. C. B. Lumsden
Nova Scotia, 1952—1954 |  Jack Jolleys
British Columbia, 1991—1994 |
|  Very Reverend John O. Anderson
Manitoba, 1954—1956 | Hugh M. Greene
Alberta, 1994—1996 |
|  David L. Burgess
Ontario, 1956—1960 | Joseph Kobolak
Ontario, 1996—1998 |
|  The Honourable Justice Mervyn Woods
Saskatchewan, 1960—1962 |  Chuck Murphy
British Columbia, 1998—2000 |
|  His Honour Judge C. C. Sparling
Manitoba, 1962—1964 |  William (Bill) Barclay
Saskatchewan 2000—2002 |
|  Fred T. O'Brecht
Ontario, 1964—1966 | Allan Parks
Prince Edward Island 2002—2004 |
|  Ronald E. MacBeath
New Brunswick, 1966—1968 | Mary Ann Burdett
British Columbia 2004—2006 |
|  Robert Kohaly
Saskatchewan, 1968—1970 | Jack Frost
Ontario 2006—2008 |
|  The Honourable Justice Redmond Roche
Quebec, 1970—1972 | Wilfred Edmond
Nova Scotia 2008—present |

 Designates deceased



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

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

RTHAT 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

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

LOYALTY

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

COMRADESHIP— SERVICE

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

—The Second Part—

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



—The Third Part—

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

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43rd DOMINION CONVENTION REPORT

The 43rd Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion was held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre in Winnipeg, Man., from 12 to 16 June 2010. The Convention was preceded by a short Dominion Executive Council meeting in the Marlborough Room of the historic Marlborough Hotel in Winnipeg where the Legion was founded in 1925. This meeting was followed by a plaque unveiling ceremony coordinated by the Historic Site and Monuments Board of Canada which recognized the founding of the Legion as an “event of national historic significance”.

ATTENDANCE

There were 1,071 accredited delegates carrying 2,590 proxy votes for a total voting strength of 3,661. The number of delegates in attendance was lower than the previous Dominion Convention and there were 193 less proxy votes carried. There were 49 observers in attendance and 58 guests from governments and veterans’ organizations from Canada and abroad.

The Legion’s Guest of Honour was His Excellency Wim Geerts, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Canada. He officially opened the convention on Sunday, 13 June at 3:30 p.m. He also took the salute at the combined delegates’ parade and participated in the wreath laying ceremony prior to the Opening Ceremony. It was most appropriate to have him open the convention as Canada and its veterans were marking the 65th Anniversary of the End of World War 2 and the 65th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Netherlands.

WREATH LAYING AND OPENING CEREMONIES

The Sunday morning parade started behind the legislative buildings at 10 a.m. with approximately 900 delegates on parade under beautiful skies. Led by Parade Marshal Comrade Don Collins, the Provincial Command contingents and three bands, one brass and two pipes and drums, ended up surrounding the Cenotaph on Memorial Boulevard where they solemnly watched a wreath laying ceremony which began when the parade halted. Emceed by Comrade John Gillis, the invocation and benediction were given by Brigadier General David Kettle, the Chaplain General of the Canadian Forces and Honorary Chaplain of Dominion Command. The Last Post and Rouse were played by Sergeant Marleau Belanger and the Pipers Lament was played by Pipe Major Master Corporal Greg McTavish. The Act of Remembrance was given in English by Dominion President Comrade Wilfred Edmond and in French by Grand President Comrade Charles Belzile.

Laying the wreaths were the Legion’s Guest of Honour, His Excellency Wim Geerts, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Canada assisted by Dominion 1st Vice-President Comrade Patricia Varga; Mrs. Della Morley, the National Silver Cross Mother assisted by Dominion Chairman Comrade Thomas Irvine; the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs assisted by Dominion Vice-President Comrade Erl Kish; Brigadier General Kelly Woiden, Deputy Commander Land Force Western Area assisted by Dominion Treasurer Comrade Michael Cook; Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski, the Member of the Legislative Assembly for St. James and the government’s Special Envoy on Military Affairs assisted by Dominion Vice-President Comrade Paulette Cook; the Councillor for St. Charles Ward representing the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Grant Nordman assisted by Dominion Vice-President Comrade Gordon Moore; Dominion President Comrade Wilfred Edmond assisted by the Immediate Past President Comrade Jack Frost; and the President of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command Comrade Gordon

Walker assisted by the Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee and 1st Vice-President of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command Comrade Rick Bennett.

The Opening Ceremony was held in the Winnipeg Convention Centre and started at 2:30 p.m. with a musical prelude provided by the Air Command Band. The special guests were then piped onto the stage by Corporal MacKenzie Landry before the proceedings were started by the Dominion Chairman. The special guests were the Legion's Guest of Honour, His Excellency Wim Geerts, the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Canada; Mrs. Della Morley, the National Silver Cross Mother; the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, the Minister of Veterans Affairs; Brigadier General Kelly Woiden, Deputy Commander Land Force Western Area; Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski, the Member of the Legislative Assembly for St. James and the government's Special Envoy on Military Affairs; and His Worship the Mayor of Winnipeg Mr. Sam Katz.

The colours were then marched on at the command of the Dominion Chairman and were placed by the Sergeant-at-Arms Comrade Dennis Harvie. The colours were followed by the branch banners which were marched off following the placement of colours. O' Canada was performed by Corporal David Grenon and Corporal Janine Bremault-Bamford, the Netherlands National Anthem by Corporal Grenon and the Opening Ritual was given by the Dominion Chairman. The Last Post and Rouse were played by Sergeant Marleau Belanger and the Piper's Lament by Corporal Landry. The Act of Remembrance was given by the Dominion President and the Grand President, again bilingually. The invocation was given by Brigadier General David Kettle and the special guests were introduced to the delegates by the Dominion Chairman. The National Silver Cross Mother and the Dominion President's wife, Mrs. Annie Edmond were presented floral tributes by Sea Cadets Chief Petty Officers 2nd Class Aimee Stoodley and Taylor McNulty assisted by Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer 1st Class Candice Hamilton. Greetings to the Convention were given by the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn on behalf of the federal government, Ms. Bonnie Korzeniowski on behalf of the provincial government and the Mayor of Winnipeg. The Convention was then officially opened by His Excellency Wim Geerts. The Resolution of Loyalty was given bilingually by the Dominion President and the Grand President and adopted unanimously by the floor. The special guests then left the stage and the meeting adjourned until the following day.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

During the next three days there were a number of guests who brought greetings from groups or who presented briefings for the information of the delegates. They included: the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn, Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada who spoke about his department and highlighted his recent visits with slides of veterans and their hosts; Mr. Chris Simpkins, Director General of the Royal British Legion; Mr. Clarence Hill, National Commander of the American Legion; Mr. George Ross, General Secretary of the Royal British Legion (Scotland); Mr. Pat Stogran, the Veterans Ombudsman; Mr. Alex Bialosh, former Executive Director of the Last Post Fund; Mr. Gordon Marsh, Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada; Mr. Ron Griffis, National President of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping; Mr. Brian Darling, National President of the Air Force Association of Canada; Mr. Joe Johnson, National President of the Air Cadet League of Canada representing all the cadet leagues; Mr. Brad Hall, Secretary General of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canada Agency; Ms. Andrea Estensen, Marketing and Fundraising Coordinator for the Military Family Resource Center; Mr. Tim Hoban, President of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association; Major

Neil Cameron, Officer Commanding the Joint Personnel Support Unit – Prairie Unit, Winnipeg Integrated Personnel Support Center; Brigadier General Kelly Woiden, Deputy Commander Land Force Western Area; Mr. Barry Burns, President of the Royal Military Institute of Manitoba; Mr. Chris Thain from the Naval Officers Association of Canada; Messrs. Cameron Cathcart, Jim Stanton and Allan DeGenova of the Honour House Society; Mr. Roger Beebe, the Western Vice-President of the NATO Veterans Association; Mr. Vince Lopata of the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association; and Mr. Bob Milne, President of the Prisoners of War-Missing In Action Canada.

On the last day of business the Convention was also visited by Mr. Mark Neuendorff, the Director of the Winnipeg Facility, the Royal Canadian Mint who made presentations of a framed Naval Centennial silver coin, minted in Winnipeg, to outgoing Grand President Charles Belzile, incoming Grand President Larry Murray, incoming Dominion President Patricia Varga and outgoing Dominion President Wilfred Edmond.

During the proceedings collections were called for from the floor for the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) fund, to assist destitute veterans in the Caribbean region, and the Troop Morale Fund (TMF) which buys every service person posted to Kandahar, Afghanistan, a Tim Hortons coffee and a doughnut every two weeks. Collections totalled \$151,109.45 with pledges of \$74,420 for the RCEL and \$45,019.93 with pledges of \$6,050 for the TMF.

On the Tuesday Ms. Brenda Fredrickson gave an impassioned presentation on her findings during a trip to Europe as a pilgrim with the 2009 The Royal Canadian Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance. In a most riveting presentation she detailed her feelings and those of other attendees during the event. Also on Tuesday, following the presentation by Mr. Joe Johnson of the Air Cadet League of Canada, the Dominion President and Comrade Gordon Moore, Chairman of the Poppy and Remembrance Committee, signed an accord between the Army Cadet League of Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion. Signing the accord for the Army Cadet League were Mr. Gene Lake, National President of the League and Mr. Terry Whitty, the Executive Director of the League. Witnessing the signing was Mr. Barry Burns, Director of Communications with the Navy League of Canada, Lieutenant-Colonel Leo Brodeur, Commanding Officer Regional Cadet Support Unit Prairies (RCSU Pra) and Chief Warrant Officer Aime LeFloch (CWO RCSU Pra).

The first day of the business sessions on Monday started with the invocation by Brigadier General David Kettle, the Local Arrangements Committee announcements by its Chairman Comrade Rick Bennett, Her Majesty the Queen's response to the Loyalty Resolution presented at the Opening Ceremony, the procedures report and the remarks by the Dominion Chairman, and the recognition of Past Presidents. There were three in attendance - Comrades Hugh Greene, Allan Parks and Mary Ann Burdett.

Following the introduction of the Minister of Veterans Affairs by the Dominion President, the Honourable Jean-Pierre Blackburn spoke of his departments' successes and his trips with veterans to Europe and the Netherlands. This was followed by the Grand President's report where he formally thanked the Legion for the appointment and announced the name of his replacement. The Dominion President then gave his report followed by the Chairmen of Committees giving the Membership Committee report, The Veterans Service and Seniors report and the Poppy and Remembrance Report. This was followed by the Credentials Report given by the Provincial Secretary of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command Comrade Dawn Golding.

Nominations were then accepted for all positions. For the office of Dominion President Comrade Patricia Varga and Comrade Wilf Edmond were nominated. The latter declined his nomination and Comrade Varga was subsequently acclaimed as the Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion. For the office of Dominion 1st Vice-President Comrades Gord Moore, Erl Kish and Paulette Cook were nominated. On the first ballot Comrade Cook was dropped and automatically became a nominee for one of the three Dominion Vice-President's positions. On the second ballot Comrade Gord Moore was elected Dominion 1st Vice-President of The Royal Canadian Legion. Comrade Kish was automatically nominated for the Dominion Vice-President's positions for which elections were to be held the next day. Nominated for the three positions of Dominion Vice-Presidents were Comrades Erl Kish, Paulette Cook, George O'Dair, Roland Fisette, Dave Flannigan, Gerry Vowles and Tom Eagles. Comrade Erl Kish withdrew from the race the next day leaving the remainder on the ballot for the elections (Tuesday). For the office of Dominion Treasurer Comrades Don Hubs and Michael Cook were nominated and for the office of Dominion Chairman Comrades Tom Irvine and Steve Wessel were nominated.

Once the nominations were closed for Monday, the Chairmen of the Public Relations Committee and the Sports Committee, along with the Tubercular Veterans Section representative, gave their reports. These were followed by reports from the Chairman of the Ritual and Awards Committee, the Dominion Secretary and the Acting-Chairman of the Defence Committee. Announcements from the Local Arrangements Committee Chairman ended the day's business and the delegates retired to their caucus rooms.

The second day of business on Tuesday saw the invocation given by Father Raphael Glofcheski followed by announcements from Local Arrangements Chairman, the Procedures Report as delivered by the Dominion Chairman and the Credentials Report given by the Provincial Secretary of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command. The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League Committee report was delivered by the Chairman of the Committee and donations were called for. The final nominations for the remaining positions were called for and there being none the nominations were closed and the election of the three Dominion Vice-Presidents was held. The Convention elected Comrades Tom Eagles, David Flannigan and George O'Dair as its Vice-Presidents using the "first past the post" principle. These elections were followed by reports from the Chairmen of the Constitution and Laws Committee, the Veterans Unity Committee, the Centennial Committee and reports from the Dominion Treasurer and CANVET Publications.

Elections for the office of Dominion Treasurer were held and the delegates returned Comrade Michael Cook for another term of office. The Resolutions Committee reported and then resolutions were presented by the Committee or organization responsible. The deadline for non-concurred resolutions to be brought back to the floor was 1 p.m.

There were five late resolutions approved by the Dominion Executive Council for presentation to the delegates and the following day there were 13 resolutions that were non-concurred by Dominion Command Committees brought back to the floor by the delegates for debate. In all, 71 resolutions passed and 10 did not pass on the floor.

The second day of business ended with a call for donations to the Troop Morale Fund and the presentation of announcements by the Local Arrangements Committee Chair.

On the third day of business the invocation was done by the Reverend Ted Nimik followed by announcements from the Local Arrangements Committee Chairman, the Procedures Report from the Dominion Chairman and the Credentials Report from the Provincial Secretary of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command. The resolutions that were brought back were then debated and the election of the Dominion Chairman was held. The delegates returned Comrade Thomas Irvine for another term in office. The elections were followed by the introduction of new business where a motion was passed to wish the Royal Canadian Navy congratulations on its centennial. Then the Convention was halted for 45 minutes while the floor was reset for the Installation and Closing ceremonies.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The Installation of those elected was conducted by Comrade Charles Belzile in his last appearance as the Dominion Grand President. He had held the office since 2001. He duly installed all officers elected over the three days and then stepped back as his replacement, Comrade Larry Murray, was installed by the new Dominion President, Comrade Patricia Varga and the new Immediate Past President, Comrade Wilfred Edmond. At this time a tribute was made by Comrade Edmond and gifts presented to Comrade Belzile.

Once the installation was finished the Closing Benediction was given by the Reverend Ted Nimik and the Closing Ritual was performed by the Dominion Chairman.

CONCLUSION

The major highlights of the 43rd Dominion Convention were as follows:

- The address by the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada,
- The election of the second woman Dominion President of The Royal Canadian Legion,
- The Legion Pilgrimage presentation by Ms. Brenda Fredrickson,
- The signing of the accord between the Army Cadet League and the Legion,
- The presentation on the Military Family Resource Centres,
- The presentation on the new Joint Support Units,
- The presentation on the Honour House Society, and
- The private member's statement read into the business minutes of the Manitoba Legislature thanking the Legion and the veterans of Canada for all they have done and continue to do in the presence of the outgoing and incoming Grand Presidents.

There were many changes made at the Dominion Convention but the Legion once again reaffirmed that it would work for veterans by having all veterans' agencies and organizations speak with one voice and maintain its commitment to Remembrance of those military, Merchant Navy and Ferry Command people who laid down their lives for Canada.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

INTRODUCTION

Good morning distinguished guests, comrades and friends of the Legion. Welcome to the 43rd Dominion Convention in this wonderful city of Winnipeg, Manitoba, the birthplace of the Legion. Two years ago you, the members of our organization, honoured me by electing me as your Dominion President. Today, at the beginning of this convention and the end of my mandate, I would like to thank you all for that opportunity to lead this national organization. Now I will review what has happened in the past two years, provide you with some of my personal observations and some of my thoughts on the future of our great organization. A copy of my report will be available to you tomorrow.

RESTRUCTURE OF DEC AND THE SENIOR ELECTED OFFICERS

Two years ago we made an important but decisive decision to examine our leadership structure and to adopt a smaller more cost effective system. Comrades, I can report to you that this new leadership structure is working and working very well. I am strongly convinced that this change has increased the participation of commands in our governance structure. Where in the past we used to have four Sub-Executive meetings a year that reviewed and discussed the gamut of Legion operations; we now have one Senior Elected Officer meeting annually to confirm the budget presentation to the DEC. More importantly, in the past we had only one DEC meeting and now we have two, one in February and one in September. This allows for greater participation in the decision making of the Legion by all members of the DEC. I would also like to add that we are also making decisions more quickly by consulting with each other using the email system. Are we saving money? Yes we are. Are we more effective in communicating with each other? Yes we are. Do we have more involvement in the decision making process? Yes we do. Are we listening to each other? Well, sometimes we are still working on that!

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

We have had a busy two years where we have seen many changes in Canada and in the Legion. Our mission remains clear:

“TO SERVE VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS, PROMOTE REMEMBRANCE AND ACT IN THE SERVICE OF Canada AND ITS COMMUNITIES”

I ask each and every one of you as members of the Royal Canadian Legion to ask yourselves if, in the fulfillment of our Legion duties, we are meeting our stated mission?

Your Dominion Executive Council and Dominion Committees have been doing just that. Later on in our proceedings, you will hear from the committee chairmen on the activities of their committees, but at this time I would like to highlight a few issues to you.

Comrades, for the past two years, our Service Bureau operations have remained strong and we have seen a slight shift in the demographics of those who we serve. We are now processing more applications for disability awards than we are for disability pensions. What does that mean? It means that we are actively providing a service to those who are still in the uniform. We are reaching out to members of the Canadian Forces and they are noticing that we care and can assist them.

This does not mean that all the issues related to our traditional veterans are taken care of. The Legion continues to appear before parliamentary and senate committee hearings on Veterans Affairs to present our positions and advocate for change. I will admit that the major focus of these appearances concern the New Veterans Charter but we still maintain that there are issues from the Pension Act which need resolution, issues such as: full rebates for transportation costs, the recognition of a needs based approach for all benefits, including the Veteran's Independence Program, and national standards for Long Term Care. These remain at the top of our advocacy list to ensure that our veterans are being looked after.

Comrades, five years ago, the federal government brought in the New Veterans Charter and we in the Legion were party to the consultations which formed this new legislation. We agreed with the wellness concept of the charter and firmly believed that the new charter was intended to be a living document. Sadly, five years later, we are growing more concerned that this charter is not a living treaty with Canada's veterans. As part of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, the Legion is strongly advocating that the recommendations made by the advisory group see implementation and bring life back into the New Veterans Charter as was originally intended. Our service personnel deserve more! They willingly serve our nation and put themselves in harm's way; do they not deserve our nation's support when they need it most?

SUPPORT TO OUR MILITARY

We support our troops! In January 2007 we started the Troop Morale Fund program to support our troops in Afghanistan. To date, we have collected over three quarters of a million dollars which is used to buy a coffee and donut every two weeks to those serving in theatre. The success of this program has been tremendous and demonstrates the generosity and caring of you, our members. In addition to all your fundraising efforts and competitions, it amazes me that we can collect that much money from the pennies, nickels and dimes from our pockets. On a special note, I would like to congratulate the members of Ogden, Branch #154 of Alberta – Northwest Territories Command who have donated a total of 35 times for an amount of over \$18,000.00. Comrades, well done to all of you who have taken the time to support this particular program.

I would also like to make special mention of Ontario Command who after all the recent misadventures in Trenton, Ontario, felt that the service personnel on that base needed a picker upper. To that effect Ontario Command donated a \$10.00 Tim Horton's card for every serving person on the base as a sign of our appreciation for their efforts. Well done, members of Ontario Command.

You may have also heard that two years ago we started a one year free membership for any service person who is honourably released or retired from the Canadian Forces through their Departure With Dignity Program. Although the pickup was slow initially, we are seeing more members join up. These new recruits are members at Dominion Command for one year after which they are strongly encouraged to transfer to their local branch.

Dominion Command continues to support Operation Santa Claus which provides a Legion gift to all Canadian Forces members serving outside of Canada at Christmas. In addition, we have reinstated the Canada Day gift which ensures that the typical rotation of troops is covered.

Other support to our soldiers, sailors and airpersons comes in the form of sponsorship for the Canadian Forces sports championships and sponsorship for the Canadian Forces Nijmegen team. As I have mentioned Ontario Command earlier, I would also like to take this opportunity to point out some other programs of note. The first is in British Columbia/Yukon Command which, over the years, has supported the Veterans Transition project and the second is Alberta – Northwest Territories Command who have recently partnered with outward bound to assist veterans with PTSD in dealing with their issues. Additionally, both Ontario Command and BC/Yukon Command are actively involved in the issue of identifying and assisting homeless veterans. These types of innovative projects are meeting with success and demonstrating that we in the Legion care and are willing to do something about it. I would also be remiss if I did not mention the effort by all commands in assisting and providing surveyors for the Long Term Care Surveyors Program. We are making a difference by visiting our veterans in long term facilities and ensuring that they are receiving their just care.

Comrades, as I stand before you today, I am justifiably proud of the Legion's efforts to support the men and women of today's Canadian Forces. The Canadian flag shoulder patch which each one of them wears is recognized worldwide due to their professional and dedicated service. On our part, they deserve nothing less than our full support.

VETERANS UNITY

At the convention in 2002, you authorized Dominion Command to meet with other veterans' organizations to examine the possibility of uniting, just the same that was accomplished in 1926. You will hear our Grand President report further on in the proceeding but I would like to congratulate Comrade Charlie in how he has chaired that process. We are an organization based on veterans and their care. Our traditional veterans from the First and Second World Wars established Canada as a nation and these people used their learned skills to build our communities and our nation. Their stories are ones of proud Canadians. Today, 33% of our membership is ordinary members. Even more astounding is that 49% of our members are those from the military family, our associate members. Comrades, we are a military family. Combine those numbers with the 18% of affiliate members; we represent every aspect of our Canadian society with a common purpose of service to our veterans, service to our nation and service to our communities.

REMEMBRANCE

It is with great sadness that we acknowledged the passing of Comrade John Babcock, earlier this year as Canada's last surviving veteran of the First World War. I had the great honour of meeting with Comrade John two years ago as we prepared for the "Passing of the Torch" ceremony at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony. It was an experience of a lifetime to honour such an individual. It was also a great honour to welcome HRH Prince Charles and Duchess of Cornwall at the National Ceremony last year.

Having seen a number of ceremonies across the country in the past two years, I am convinced that we in the Legion have truly earned the title of the Guardians of Remembrance. As we stand on parade during this solemn time, some of us used to think of our forefathers and their ancestors who fought for our freedoms, some remember their comrades in arms. Take a look at the young faces around the ceremonies today. These are the young faces of serving regular and reserve members of the Canadian Forces. As we are remembering the sacrifices of those that Canada has lost, those young faces are remembering their comrades in arms who once stood beside them, just as our traditional veterans do. This is the new face of remembrance which quickly combines with those from yesteryear. Comrades, we serve those who serve.

SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Each time I read a newspaper, I review the obituaries section and am saddened to see the amount of veterans who are passing on. However, when I read these sections, I am amazed to see the contributions that these individuals made to their communities. From sometimes simple beginnings, these people built their communities and became community leaders. This is the legacy that they leave and instill these same traits in each and every one of us.

Legion branches across the country are important to their communities. We support youth and senior activities, raise funds for worthy community causes and in many cases are the focal point of the community. When there is a local disaster, it is usually the branch and its volunteers who are the first on call to meet the needs. When there is a need to raise Christmas hampers for those in need, we are there. Comrades, this is also our legacy – we care and help to build strong communities.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Supporting our communities leads me to another important topic, that being public relations. Comrades, we need to be able to express ourselves in a positive and public fashion. By letting our communities know what we do for them, we can attract new members. By demonstrating the benefits of belonging, we can attract new members. Public relations help to shape the public's perception of who and what we are. For too long, we have relied on a large local membership to sustain our branches. Today, times are changing and so are our members. We need to become visible and relevant to our communities and if we do, I am certain that the public will join.

2018 CONVENTION

Comrades, two years ago we approved Winnipeg as the site for the 2016 Convention. Since that time Newfoundland and Labrador Command has come forward with the recommendation that in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the battle of Beaumont Hamel in France that the 2016 convention be held in St. John's Newfoundland. The site has been visited and we can hold our convention there. Therefore, I make the following recommendation to you:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the 2016 site location be changed from Winnipeg, Manitoba to St. John's, Newfoundland, 11 – 15 June 2016. It is further recommended that the 2018 convention be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 16 – 20 June 2018.

CARRIED

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

Comrades, like you I am concerned about our future as an organization. We are truly the largest national veterans' organization that has a reach from coast to coast, north to south. We are also international, with branches in the United States and Europe. As I have said, times are changing and we need to evolve as well.

Since the last convention, we have seen the establishment of two new branches. We have also seen the closure of many more. Branches are having difficulty and volunteers are few and we tend to rely on the same people to get things done. We acknowledge that this is happening. Comrades, have we created this situation for ourselves? I ask that question as I hear similar comments coming from some of our younger members. Yes, we need to look at how we are conducting both our Legion business and our business business. By business business, I mean how we run our establishments, how we administer our facilities and how we pay our bills. We need to open our doors and make our facilities available. We need to update, modernize and sometimes downsize our facilities to meet our needs, as well as the needs of the community. We need to go forward carefully, cautiously and with a plan. More and more, these tools are becoming available to you through branch advisory committees. More and more, we also need to start asking, relying upon and trusting our younger members to help out and become involved. We need to know when it is time to ask for the assistance.

And that brings me to the poppy. Comrades, the poppy symbol is a trademark of The Royal Canadian Legion which is controlled by Dominion Command and the Poppy and Remembrance Committee. Over the past two years, we have had to defend our trademark on numerous occasions. If we do not defend the use of the poppy symbol, I would be very concerned about our ability to conduct the annual poppy campaign. If we lose this ability, our sole source of raising funds for our veterans will disappear.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, that has been a long report and I thank you for giving me the best two years of my Legion life. We are a great organization and I for one am optimistic about our future.

Before, I close I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for working so hard for your branches. You are the lifeblood of the organization. Please keep the torch burning strongly in your branch and your communities.

Comrades, I would like to acknowledge and express my sincerest gratitude publically to Comrade Charlie who has been our Grand President for the past nine years. Comrades, Comrade Charlie has announced his intention to retire from the appointment of Grand President. Charlie, your wise counsel over the years has guided us on many occasions. We know that you are sincerely concerned for Canada's veterans and that you have worked continuously for their betterment. Thank you from all of us and thank Janet for all the time that we have taken you away from her. Later on we will acknowledge Comrade Charlie officially and also welcome in Comrade Larry Murray who has agreed to take up the torch from Comrade Charlie.

To all the members of the Dominion Executive Council, the Command Presidents and many other officers and staff which I have had the pleasure of working with during my tenure, thank you for your advice, honesty and professionalism. We may not always have seen eye to eye on every issue, but we worked for the betterment of the organization. To our new Dominion Secretary, Comrade Brad and the staff at Dominion Command, thank you for all the support and may your futures always be bright. We have truly dedicated and professional staff supporting us.

Minister Blackburn and the staff at Veterans Affairs Canada. I have enjoyed working with you and your predecessors and I look forward to you continuing that relationship with my successor. Remember that the voices you hear are out of concern for some of Canada's most vulnerable citizens and servants. They committed to a life of unlimited liability and I firmly believe that we as a nation owe them much gratitude for their sacrifices and service.

To my lovely wife Annie, you have been a driving force with your understanding and love throughout my Legion career and especially the past two years as President of this great organization. I could not have fulfilled my obligations without you. Thank you.

To my family, thank you for your understanding and support. Thank you for supporting me all through my Legion career. Thanks for attending both my election and handover conventions. They are a Legion family and what our organization is all about.

That comrades, concludes my report. Again, thank you for your confidence in me and for serving those who serve. Please hold the torch high and I wish you every success in the conduct of the business brought before you this week in Winnipeg at our 43rd Dominion Convention.

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

W. Edmond	Chairman
J. Frost	Vice-Chairman
P. Varga	Member
J. Margerum	Member
J. Ross	Member
J. Pott	Member
P. Allard	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

Since Dominion Convention in Ottawa in 2008, Veterans, members of the Canadian Forces, RCMP, families, and seniors have continued to benefit from the prioritization and staffing of Convention Resolutions and from the work and advocacy of your members of the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee.

With the benefit of responses provided by various Cabinet Ministers, the “Comments on Resolutions 42nd Dominion Convention 2008” issued by Dominion Command was published in August 2009 and distributed to Legion Branches for the guidance of all Legion members.

MANDATE OF THE VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee has continued its very active advocacy role. It maintained its focus on proving, day in and day out, to Canada’s Veterans and their families, both traditional and modern day Veterans, that The Legion cares.

The Legion appeared at the Senate Sub Committee of Veterans Affairs to discuss issues related to the New Veterans Charter. The Dominion President and VSS Chair, Wilf Edmond, appeared at the *Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs* (ACVA) to discuss issues related to the New Veterans Charter. The Legion expressed its strong views that we supported the NVC on the rationale that it be a “living charter” that would be amended when required to ensure fair treatment of modern Veterans, emphasizing the requirement to make needed urgent improvements to the NVC, especially in the area of Earning Loss Benefits, notwithstanding the current financial challenges.

The Dominion President and VSS Chair sent a letter to all Federal Members of Parliament (MPs) to seek their support of Bill C-201, an *Act to amend the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act* and the *Royal Canadian Mounted Police Superannuation Act* (deletion of deduction from annuity) which addresses the CPP clawback/offset, a long standing advocacy goal of The Legion. The House of Commons referred the Bill to the *Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs* (ACVA) on 13 May, 2009. The Legion appeared at ACVA on 5 November to offer its support. Unfortunately, the proposed Bill was defeated in Committee and was not returned to Parliament for third reading.

The Legion participated in a meeting of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group (NVCAG) in Ottawa on 27-28 October. The recommendations of the NVCAG were released in early December and have been posted on the Legion web site. On 16 November, the Dominion President and VSS Chair, Wilf Edmond, attended consultations with VAC officials on the New Veterans Charter (NVC) in Ottawa. Of note, Legion advocacy updates are available on The Legion web site.

CLOSURE OF ST. ANNE'S

We have been advised by VAC that demographic projections indicate that approximately 50% of the beds at St. Anne's would be empty by 2015. Accordingly, VAC has initiated consultation with the Province of Quebec to transfer this facility to provincial authorities. The Dominion President and VSS Chair, Wilf Edmond, has written twice to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, indicating our concerns in the following areas:

- a. Any transfer agreement should specify that all beds at St. Anne's be designated Priority Access Beds (PABs), allowing normal attrition to eventually reduce demand;
- b. Quality care should be maintained for current and future Veterans;
- c. The Day program should be preserved; and
- d. The National Centre for Post Traumatic Stress (PTSD) should be preserved as a functional centralized core of mental health.

We have also indicated formally that we are concerned that VAC staff be treated with dignity and that Veterans continue to receive quality services in both official languages (French and English) during and after the transition. This topic was addressed by The Legion at the Parliamentary and Senate Committees.

SERVICE BUREAU OPERATIONS / VETERANS & SERVICE MEMBERS (CF & RCMP)

Service to Veterans and serving members (CF & RCMP) and their families has remained the priority of the Service Bureau Network which has continued to assist and represent Veterans at all levels of the disability pension process and to help with benevolent needs. The Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) held formal hearings at Legion House.

The Service Bureau Network consists of volunteer Branch Service Officers, 17 full-time or part-time Provincial Command Service Officers and five full-time Service Officers at Dominion Command. Branch Service Officers provide points of contact in their communities and continue to act as a referral source. Their contribution is an essential element in The Legion objective of promoting a "We Care" philosophy. Pension applications, reviews and appeals are handled by Command Service Officers equipped with the requisite level of training and knowledge of business processes, and the necessary tools such as the Client Service Delivery Network (CSDN) data base.

Command Service Officers will be attending a training / professional development session in Charlottetown in October 2010. 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. A new Service Officer Handbook for the benefit of Branch Service Officers will be published in the current year. We have also produced a brochure for Benevolent Assistance which is downloadable from the Legion web site.

OUTREACH

Throughout the year, we have continued to investigate opportunities to reach out to Canadian Forces (CF) Regular and Reserve members in cooperation with the Military Family Resource

Centres (MFRC) and other agencies, including the newly formed Joint Personnel Support Unit (JPSU) and the Integrated Personnel Support Centres (IPSC). This outreach initiative has been pursued by other Provincial Commands who are reaching out to these agencies.

LONG TERM CARE

The Long Term Care Surveyor (LTCS) Program, which sees the Legion providing trained “surveyors” to visit and interview Veterans in Long Term Care facilities at the request of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), continues to be successful since it became operational in 2003. Across the country, 3937 Veterans residing in 763 different facilities were visited and questionnaires offering individual comments on the quality of care were returned to the Department. Analysis shows that there is a very high level of overall satisfaction with the care and accommodation provided though obviously the program allows the early identification of dissatisfiers and the investigation of systemic issues. Individual issues requiring the intervention of expert staff were handled confidentially in a timely fashion.

For Legion members, the LTCS Program continues to be a popular service activity which complements branch social visiting and command fact finding in care homes. Training courses for Legion surveyors were held in Montreal in March and October 2009, in March 2010, and in London in June 2009 to train or re-qualify volunteers so that more than 150 surveyors are currently available for tasking. Additional training will be held in 2010 to ensure Veterans in care continue to receive at least one meaningful visit per year. The LTCS Program brochure was updated and is downloadable from the Legion web site.

LEGION HOUSING

The Legion Housing Centre for Excellence has now been in operation for 9 years. The Partnership Agreement with Veterans Affairs Canada had previously been extended until March 2010. We were advised that VAC would be exercising its option to terminate the Partnership Agreement in March 2010. After some consultation and a discussion on various options, VAC agreed to an extension for a further period until March 2011 at which time the Partnership Agreement with VAC will be terminated. VAC’s decision to terminate the Partnership Agreement was based on policy and fiscal imperatives. The Legion does not have the resources to maintain this service, nor is it likely that VAC would provide The Legion a grant to establish such services, as proposed during recent discussions. This program has proven to be very valuable to all Provincial Commands and has assisted many Veterans and their families to find safe and affordable housing. It is also recognized that Provincial Commands have sound and well established processes to deal with Housing issues.

The national Housing Registry will initially be maintained by the Service Bureau who will attempt to answer client queries; however, the best long term solution would be for Provincial Commands to provide an electronic registry on their web site which would be linked to the Dominion Command web site.

BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

The following are Benevolent Fund statistics for the period 1 January, 2008 to 31 December, 2009:

FUND	2008		2009	
	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT
POPPY	154	\$ 60,124.84	165	\$ 82,654.86
IABTF	8	\$ 5,606.16	9	\$ 5,503.43
RAFBF	83	\$ 122,219.93	125	\$ 163,924.23
RNBTF	37	\$ 39,060.96	31	\$ 29,407.50
UK Regimental	58	\$ 52,918.22	70	\$ 60,272.44
TOTAL	340	\$ 279,930.11	400	\$ 341,762.46

DCBTF – Dominion Command Benevolent Trust Fund

IABTF – Imperial Army Benevolent Trust Fund

POPPY – Poppy Trust Fund

RAFBF – Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

RNBTF – Royal Naval Benevolent Trust Fund

RCEL – Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

BUDGET REPORT

For your information, a copy of the VSS Committee budget for the period 2010-2012 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 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 64 Resolutions; 54 have been concurred, while 10 have been non-concurred. Of the 54 that have been concurred, 3 have been merged.

I move acceptance of this report.

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

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

COMMITTEE	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Travel	9,899	7,389	10,500	10,800	11,100
Per Diem	6,996	4,461	8,000	8,200	8,400
Cdn. Assoc. on Gerontology	1,634	1,259	2,300	2,300	2,400
Printing, Stationery	127	696	800	800	900
Telephone & Fax	456	167	600	600	700
Postage	109	125	200	200	200
Miscellaneous	475	2,100	1,000	1,200	1,300
Publications					
- Write off old stock	1,009	-	3,000	-	3,000
- Distribution of new stock	1,687	-	4,000	-	4,000
TOTAL	22,393	16,197	30,400	24,100	32,000

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

G. Moore	Chairman
A. Arsenault	Vice-Chairman
A. Curtis	Member
D. Flannigan	Member
P. Piper	Member
M. Tremblay	Member
W. Maxwell	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Canadian Legion, through the Dominion Command Poppy and Remembrance Committee, has continued its lead role in fostering the tradition of Remembrance by providing Canadians with opportunities to Remember and Honour our Fallen. Through new initiatives, the enhancement of existing programs and liaison with the Government (particularly Veterans Affairs Canada) on Remembrance issues, this Committee continues to ensure that those who sacrificed their future for our freedom are never forgotten

During the past two years, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee met on four occasions: September 2008, February and September 2009, and February 2010. In addition, members reviewed and discussed issues and queries on numerous occasions through regular electronic meetings to ensure that Remembrance matters were dealt with in a timely manner.

THE POPPY CAMPAIGN

The annual Poppy Campaign continues to be the most important Legion project of the year. Dominion Command is honoured to assist with the arrangements for the First Poppy Presentation to the Governor General which is the ceremonial launch of the campaign. Similar ceremonial launches follow in each of the Provincial Commands prior to the official start on the last Friday in October.

National corporations pledged or renewed their support for the annual Poppy Campaign including Tim Hortons, Home Hardware, Loblaws, Telus and Macs Convenience Stores in Western Canada.

POPPY PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL –ORDERS AND PRICING

The summary of Poppy and Remembrance Material Sales for the 2009 Campaign with comparative figures for 2006 to 2008 follows at the end of this report. Late orders continue to be a problem, especially those received after 15 October for the current year's Poppy Campaign. Provincial Commands need to be aware that the impact from increased delivery costs is significant as the cost to ship multiple piece bulky Wreath and Poppy cartons is very high with the majority of these requiring air shipments. The Director of Supply reported ongoing analysis of costs is continuing and the Committee will continue an ongoing review.

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The Legion is honoured to organize and direct this national ceremony on behalf of the Government of Canada. In 2008, an estimated 30,000 spectators attended the Ceremony while in 2009, attendance

increased to 55,000, in part with the participation of Their Royal Highnesses in the Ceremony. The Silver Cross Mother for 2008 was Mrs. Avril Dianna Stachnik of Waskatenau, Alberta. She is the mother of the late Sergeant Shane Hank Stachnik who was killed in Afghanistan on 3 September 2006 while serving with the Canadian Forces as a military engineer. The Silver Cross Mother for 2009 is Mrs. Della Marie Morley of East St. Paul, Manitoba. She is the mother of the late Corporal Keith Ian Morley who was killed in the Panjawi District of Afghanistan on 18 September, 2006 while serving with A Company, 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry from Shilo, Manitoba. Mrs. Morley will remain as Silver Cross Mother until 31 October 2010.

POSTER AND LITERARY CONTEST

The Poster and literary Contest is well supported by Branches and Commands, which has resulted in a steady increase in student participation. Approximately 100,000 students submitted entries for both the 2008 and 2009 contests.

The deadline date for each Provincial Command to submit their winning entries to Dominion Command is 25 February. This has enabled the national results to be released before the end of March each year since 2006.

2009 YOUTH LEADERS' PILGRIMAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

A total of 32 pilgrims participated in the 2009 Pilgrimage. It was very successful thanks mainly to the advanced planning and preparations. Unlike previous years, all domestic and international flight arrangements, in-country coach travel, hotel reservations and meals were booked by Dominion Command instead of a travel agent resulting in over \$10,000 in savings. Again in 2009, Paris was used as the arrival point in Europe, with the Pilgrimage departing from Amsterdam for the return trip to Canada. All Dominion Command paraphernalia were shipped in advance and site visit requests were also all coordinated prior to departure.

In accordance with the planned timetable, there were fifteen official ceremonies conducted over the pilgrimage. All Legion personnel, both paying and command pilgrims took turns participating in the colour party and all pilgrims took part in the ceremonies- with the exception of Menin Gate, where only Legion personnel with uniform took part. At Vimy Ridge, prior to the ceremony, the pilgrims had an opportunity to interact with the Canadian Forces Nijmegen Team of approximately 250 personnel. Other highlights included visits to Dieppe; Beaumont-Hamel; Abbaye d'Ardenne; Carbare Rouge Cemetery, the original resting place of Canada's Unknown Soldier; and the John McCrae Memorial.

As in previous years, small gifts were presented to various individuals who either represented organizations or individually volunteered their time to enhance the pilgrimage. On all occasions, the Head of Delegation made the presentations in front of and on behalf of the entire pilgrimage and The Royal Canadian Legion.

Comrade John Goheen's expertise as a Tour Guide was outstanding. All Commands were represented but one. One pilgrim cancelled her participation as her mother passed away on the day of departure. No major problems were encountered throughout.

The 2009 Youth Leaders Pilgrimage of Remembrance was an unqualified success. All pilgrims were left with a feeling of solemn respect and a greater appreciation of the Canadians who sacrificed their lives in the European theatre in both World Wars. As a group, there was a commitment to take this experience back to Canada and to assist in the continuation of Remembrance of the sacrifices made.

THE POPPY MANUAL

The Committee had conducted a review of the Poppy Manual for required and recommended amendments and updates. In view of the relatively minor amendments approved to the Manual, the reprinting of the Manual after Convention 2008 was postponed until after Convention 2010.

POPPY TRADEMARK

Since the last Convention, 151 requests for the use of the trademarked image of the Poppy have been considered. All requests are recorded in the trademark log, which forms the historical account of these requests.

Four situations prompted legal action as these companies or individuals resisted Dominion Command's request to voluntarily cease their Poppy trademark infringement. Three of these cases remain outstanding.

POPPY TRUST FUNDS

Since the last Convention, 26 requests for Special Use Expenditures have been considered. All requests are recorded in the Poppy Trust fund log. A summary of the revenue, expenses and disbursements of the Poppy Trust Funds, provided by Provincial Commands, follows at the end of this report.

LAPEL POPPIES TO CANADIAN EMBASSIES AND CF DEPLOYMENTS

The Legion is pleased to continue to work through the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to distribute Poppies to numerous Canadian Embassies, High Commissions, Consulate Generals and military deployments throughout the world in advance of Remembrance Day. This meaningful program continues to expand each year as new requests are received from other Canadian diplomatic missions, Canadian Forces deployments and other Canadian citizens located outside of the country, in particular in the United States.

OUTSTANDING CADET OF THE YEAR

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

LEGION BURSARIES

In each of 2007 and 2008, Dominion Command provided \$16,000 in funding to support Legion bursaries within Provincial Commands.

CENOTAPH/MONUMENT RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Legion continues to be involved with and support Veterans Affairs Canada's Cenotaph/Monument Restoration Program. This program enables communities and organizations to apply

for funding to conserve and restore existing cenotaphs and monuments. Comrade Jack Frost serves as The Royal Canadian Legion's representative on the Assessment Review Committee.

ENCOUNTERS WITH CANADA

Encounters With Canada conducts its Canada Remembers theme week, sponsored by Veterans Affairs Canada during Remembrance Week with some 150 youth and supervisors from each province participating. The Committee has accepted the invitation in both 2008 and 2009 to speak to the group about Remembrance and the significance of the Poppy and was please to present each student with a Poppy Puppy. The response from these students was overwhelming. Branches are encouraged to continue their support of candidates for this program.

2010 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed seventeen Resolutions submitted for consideration at this 2010 Convention. These Resolutions will be dealt with later in the Convention business program.

BUDGET

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

CONCLUSION

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

I move acceptance of this report.

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

SALES REPORT—POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE MATERIAL

Dominion Command sales of Poppy and Remembrance material from 2006 through 2009

	2006	2007	2008	2009
January	0	-450.55	2,647.25	2,949.65
February	1,118.00	-772.00	325.80	13,214.65
March	2,138.00	216.20	46,120.62	15,104.55
April	30.00	70,826.40	61,544.01	13,829.57
May	960.00	589.82	-23,014.13	14,135.69
June	40,684.00	160,057.38	146,106.38	123,969.66
July	67,209.00	37,730.25	62,412.88	103,611.02
August	606,979.00	779,983.92	567,673.24	269,959.67

	2006	2007	2008	2009
September	258,731.00	1,583,107.25	1,386,856.43	1,318,216.72
October	965,685.00	397,452.36	531,536.10	772,073.04
November	379,233.00	359,799.49	441,615.53	365,754.99
December	1,006,402.00	3,091.10	49.46	21,331.80
TOTAL	\$3,329,173.00	\$3,391,631.62	\$3,223,873.57	\$3,034,151.01
		(+1.9%)	(-4.9%)	(-5.9%)

Individual Poppy and Wreath distribution quantities for 2006 through 2009

ITEM	2006	2007	2008	2009
Lapel Poppy (1000)	18,215	18,483	17,767	15,279
Car / Window Poppy	29,042	21,356	24,438	24,561
Table Poppy	9,882	4,746	4,146	3,173
#8 Wreath	4,782	4,866	4,291	4,044
#14 Wreath	21,559	21,518	20,223	20,624
#20 Wreath	8,614	8,952	8,873	8,785
#24 Wreath	697	931	821	780
#26 Wreath	50	101	146	119
Poppy Spray	569	685	555	364
Grass Cross	11,204	10,808	9,903	9,889
Styrofoam Cross	3,955	3,696	3,533	3,096

As of February 1, 2010

SUMMARY – COMBINED BRANCH POPPY CAMPAIGN

PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPT.	2006	2007	2008	2009
Revenue ¹	15,348,228	16,520,081	17,202,361	18,035,808
Expenses ² /Poppy Material Purchased from Provincial Commands	5,503,056	5,436,071	6,021,126	5,876,275
Disbursements ³	8,839,824	10,041,893	10,378,560	11,083,892

NOTE:

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

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	6,158	5,985	13,000	13,400	13,700
Per Diem	6,723	3,683	8,000	8,200	8,400
Postage & Office	5,099	6,448	4,500	5,000	5,200
Telephone and Fax	232	66	300	300	300
Write Off Old Publications	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase and distribution of new stock	-	-	2,000	-	2,000
Miscellaneous	1,927	1,229	1,000	-	1,000
TOTAL	20,139	17,411	28,800	26,900	30,600
<u>EUROPE ZONE</u>	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<u>NATIONAL CEREMONY</u>					
Travel	11,951	2,653	6,000	6,100	6,300
Per Diem	5,985	4,210	6,000	6,200	6,400
Printing, Stationery	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Telephone, Postage	443	488	1,000	-	-
Colour Party Activities Summer & Fall	793	889	1,000	1,100	1,200
Meeting, Planning	19	-	200	200	200
Remembrance Reception	3,127	3,166	3,500	3,600	3,700
St. John's Ambulance	300	300	300	300	300
Silver Cross Mother	7,676	5,776	4,000	4,100	4,200
Cadet of the Year	9,163	9,420	10,000	10,200	10,500
Wreaths - Europe	793	1,168	1,000	1,200	1,300
Miscellaneous	354	537	2,500	2,500	2,500
TOTAL	40,602	28,608	36,500	36,500	37,600
<u>PILGRIMAGE</u>					
Poppy Grant	-	(50,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
Expenses	42,500	6,871	37,500	37,500	38,500
TOTAL	42,500	(43,129)	12,500	12,500	13,500
TOTAL	113,241	12,889	87,800	85,900	91,700
<u>ASSOCIATED EXPENSES (Poppy Fund)</u>					
<u>National Literary/Poster Contests</u>					
Travel	4,403	4,679	5,000	5,200	5,300
Per Diem	4,659	5,259	5,000	5,200	5,300
Bursaries/Gifts	6,375	7,518	7,000	7,200	7,500
TOTAL	15,437	17,456	17,000	17,600	18,100

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

P. Cook	Chairman
C. Dawe	Vice-Chairman
D. Sinclair	Committee Member
D. Jones	Committee Member
M. Atkinson	Committee Member
B. Wignes	Committee Member
M. Thompson	Secretary
C. O'Grady	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

Since the last convention the Membership Committee has continued its work to control and defeat the problem of declining membership. But despite our best efforts to stabilize the losses our membership continues to drop. Each member on the Committee has worked hard to try and influence a change in our membership positions. Over the past two years we have introduced some new tools and methods for the branches to use to entice both the general public and military members to join our organization. The programs and tools provided by both Dominion and Provincial Commands are only of benefit if the branches are using the items available in their renewal and recruitment campaigns.

It is said that membership starts at the branch level but it should not end there. We are aware of the challenges that branches face each day. Not only with declining membership in their branches but also with the lack of volunteers needed to promote and process membership. The branches are not alone. Everyone is responsible for the task of membership and should do all they can to address these issues. Remember our strength is in our numbers so let's not sit back and continue to watch them fall.

It is hoped that the resolutions presented to enhance Membership will be considered carefully. The decisions that you make throughout this convention are the ones that will guide us in the future.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

The final figures for 2009 show a total membership of 348,228 which represents 96.68% of last year's membership and the loss represents 11,974 members. Statistical tables of Legion membership are part of this report and include, Membership Profile 1998-2009, Membership Picture, Gains and Losses and Early Bird; with comparison figures to the previous year. The tables provide a pretty clear picture of our current situation, and although the losses are significantly less than previous years we have still not been able to curtail them. As a result, we must refuse to accept these losses as inevitable.

Nationally we have fallen short on our renewal goals and we are still unable to recruit enough new members to make up for the losses. The final membership figures for 2009 and the various breakdowns are indicated in the attached graphs and tables.

2009 Membership Awards – The Membership Committee presents awards annually for membership performance. For the second year in a row, NFLD/Labrador Command is the winner of the 2009 Membership Achievement Award and is also the winner this year of the 2009 Renewal Award. Congratulations to NFLD/Labrador Command and to everyone who participated, for their efforts and accomplishments.

2010 Early Bird Campaign – The Early Bird renewal period is a busy time for branches as well as the Membership Section. Over 860 branches were successful in winning awards for renewing 50% or more members during the campaign period. Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command was the winner of the 2010 Early Bird award with an increase of 0.01% over last year's campaign. Congratulations to all branches who participated in this year's campaign.

BRANCH CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Total as of Dec. 31 st
2008	14	0	1	1527
2009	16	0	1	1512

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONAL AND PROCESSING MATERIAL

The following membership materials have been revised and redesigned:

- a. **“See You at the Legion” Business Card**—In order to help promote membership recruitment the Membership Committee developed a business card suitable for members/branches/commands to use as a hand-out. These cards are an easily portable and convenient way to introduce the Legion to others. The back of the card can be personalized so the recipient has a name and/or telephone number of who to contact if further information regarding membership is required. Samples of the business card were sent to branches and commands in October 2009.
- b. **Membership Recruitment Awards**—The Membership Committee introduced a line of exclusively designed items that are available for branches to order from the Supply Department. These awards are to be used as incentives to reward members who work so diligently at recruiting friends and colleagues to join our great organization. These awards cannot be resold by the branch nor can they be purchased by individuals. The criteria for awarding these items are determined by the branch. Branches were reminded in October that these items were available for order from the October 2009 Supply Catalogue.
- c. **“The Royal Canadian Legion and the Canadian Forces” Brochure**—The “RCL and the Canadian Forces” brochure was redesigned in both French and English and samples were sent to the branches and commands in May 2009.

Earlier in the year the Committee Secretary met with the representatives from DND that are administering our free one year membership program that began in 2008, for an update. Attendees at the meeting indicated interest in the brochure and thought it would be a great way to educate the military on what the Legion can provide for them. As a result of this meeting permission was obtained to send copies of this brochure to all the release centers, MFRC's and JPSU units across the country. More than 5,200 English and French

brochures were sent along with a letter explaining the Retired Military Member at Large Program for newly retired members as well as an invitation to military members whose retirement was not in the immediate future, to join our Military Member at Large Branch.

- d. **Membership Gift Package**—This gift package was designed as a pilot project with the intention of attracting new members to the Legion and is available for order by the branches from the Supply Department free of charge. Membership has received many compliments regarding the gift package and it is proving to be a very popular item. Samples of the gift package were sent to branches and commands in July 2008.
- e. **Membership Poster**—“Join the Legion, Make a Difference” – In the past, Membership has received many requests to develop a recruitment poster suitable for display at membership booths, on poster boards etc. Sample copies of the poster were sent to the branches and commands in July 2008 with the renewal campaign material.
- f. **Welcome Booklet**—The English Welcome Booklet reached its re-order point and as a result both the English and French booklets were modified to reflect the changes approved at the last Dominion Convention.
- g. **Member Benefits Program Pamphlets and Poster**—The Member Benefits Program pamphlets and posters for were originally designed by Canvet Publications for their own use. Canvet offered Membership the right to use their artwork at no charge to the department or the Committee. These items were printed on a one time only basis in limited quantities. These are a suitable item that can be used as a hand out to entice new members who may be interested in the products or services being offered by our partner companies, to join the RCL in order to take advantage of special offers reserved for Legion members only. Samples were sent to the branches and commands in February 2009.
- h. **“We Care – Join the Legion” Poster**—This poster was developed using the image from the new advertising campaign used by Membership to promote the Legion. The poster was designed in both English and French and copies were sent to the branches and commands in April 2009.

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

A new advertising campaign was developed in 2009 with the focus on the Canadian military and a new slogan that indicates “We Care”. This ad replaced the previous advertising formats used to promote membership in military magazines, papers, etc.

In addition to reaching out to the military, the Committee continues to promote the Legion to the general public.

- a. **Legion Magazine Advertising:** Ads were placed in the Jan/Feb and Nov/Dec issues of the magazine. Due to the recent changes in distribution that began with the May/June 2009 issue of Legion Magazine, Membership placed an ad in this issue instead of the Sept/Oct 2009 issue as originally planned.
- b. **External Magazine Advertising:** This includes the placement of membership related ads in the following publications:

Publication	Frequency	Ad Size
Espirt de Corps	6 times per year	¼ page
Zoomer	1 time per year	½ page
Vanguard	6 times per year	¼ page
Frontline	3 times per year	½ page
AirForce	4 times per year	½ page
Canadian Trucking Magazine	8 times per year	Full page
Military Base Newspapers	1 time per year	¼ page
RCMP Quarterly	3 times per year	¼ page
RMC Yearbook	1 time per year	Full page
Vantage – Police Yearbook	1 time per year	½ page

Earlier in the year, Membership received an offer from Comrade Dave MacKenzie, Director of Client Services at Canadian Trucking Magazine who offered to place a full page advertisement for the Legion in his magazine at no charge. Circulation for this magazine is approximately 5,000 and it is placed in truck stops, rest areas and restaurants from Manitoba to British Columbia. Ads have appeared in each issue of the magazine since April 2009.

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In the fall of 2008, DEC voted unanimously to honour John Babcock, the last Canadian survivor of WW1. Comrade Babcock was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in The Royal Canadian Legion, by Dominion President, Wilf Edmond. The presentation took place at Comrade Babcock's home in Spokane, Washington in mid-October 2008 with his wife and son in attendance.

NON-RENEWALS

In November 2009 Dominion Command sent out 10,000 renewal notices to a random selection of members who had not renewed their membership and were in arrears for two or more years. Results showed that of the 1,000 notices sent to members last paid for 2005 only five members renewed their membership. Of the 1,000 notices sent to members last paid for 2006 only 1.2% renewed. Of the 4,000 notices sent to members last paid for 2007, 3.45% of them had renewed their membership. The most significant results were recorded in members who were showing in our system as last paid for 2008. Of the 4,000 notices sent, 9.5% of these members renewed their membership for 2009 and 2010; 5.4% paid dues for 2009 and 1.2% for 2010. The response rate for those last paid for 2008 was over 16.15%.

Membership received a variety of responses to the letter that indicated the reason that the membership had not been renewed. These reasons included, not being advised by the branch that membership payment was due, branches not forwarding per capita tax to our office and next of kin informing us that the member was deceased, but Dominion Command checked their records and found that they had not been notified to update their records.

Overall, based on a total of 10,000 renewal notices sent, the renewal rate was over 8%. DEC previously approved the addition of funds to the Membership budget in order to reinstate the mailing of renewal notices to members in arrears for the current and/or previous year which commenced in the Spring 2010.

FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO NEWLY RETIRED VETERANS

In an effort to boost our Ordinary numbers and attract newly retired military members to join The Royal Canadian Legion a program was created in June 2008 that offered these members a free one year membership. As a result a holding branch was set up at Dominion Command for newly retiring military members who are not currently members to process their membership. Membership in this branch is valid for one year and once the free membership period has expired members are notified and asked to transfer their membership to a local branch of their choice. Those who have not transferred to local branch are moved into Branch 13-013 and are eligible to renew their membership for the next year there. Interest in the program has increased and as of the end of December 2009 we now have over 130 new members that have joined our organization through this program.

PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP

- i. The Membership Section Head attended the Track and Field meet held in Sherbrooke, Quebec in August 2009. Attendance at the meet was to provide Membership information to those visiting the event and to answer any eligibility questions that may arise. The booth which was set up in an Army tent was a little intimidating to those that were under the impression that our purpose in being there was to recruit members for the military; however, there were many visitors to the booth. Approximately 150 of “The Royal Canadian Legion Needs You” brochures and Membership Application Forms were handed out. After speaking to a great many people at this event, it is evident to note that the general public is still under the impression that to become a member of The Royal Canadian Legion you must be in the military. Even the parents and relatives of those with children participating in the event did not know that they could join. When it was suggested that they may wish to support the Legion by becoming a member many were pleasantly surprised that they could do so and expressed the desire to support the organization that provided so much support to their children. Attendance by the Membership Section Head at the Track and Field meet provided a great opportunity for a face to face approach with the general public and an excellent opportunity to let them know that they too could become a member.
- ii. In addition the Membership Section Head was invited to set up a membership booth at the Zoomer Media Show held in Toronto during the last weekend in October 2009. Zoomer magazine is the one non-military publication in which Membership advertises in an attempt to appeal to the general public and more specifically those over 45+. Attendance at the show was in excess of 22,000 and once again provided the opportunity to share information about the Legion and provide attendees with brochures and application forms. Over 700 brochures and application forms were distributed as well as a number of items provided as a handout to the attendees. Many thanks to: the Supply Department for providing poppy seeds and Support the Troop pins, the PR Department for providing “Legion” pins and Legion Magazine for providing magazines, bookmarks and D-Day posters. In addition to the membership material that was on display, subscription cards for Legion Magazine were also available.

MEMBERSHIP SECTION/PROCESSING CHANGES

Branches were advised that a processing fee will be charged in some instances for services provided by Membership and this change affects the following: additional requests for Membership Branch Registers and Member Status Lists as well as a request for a Non-Renewal List.

BUDGET

A copy of the Membership Committee budget for the period 2010-2012 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 will be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

RESOLUTIONS

The Membership resolutions will be presented later on in the Convention Agenda.

CONCLUSION

This convention completes my two year term and I would like to thank all the members of this Committee who motivated and challenged me and willingly shared their ideas and opinions with me. These are the people who have worked so hard and concentrated their efforts in promoting membership. And in additions, I would also like to thank all the staff in the Membership Department.

Comrades, membership is a work in progress, so let's begin the next two years with the commitment to reverse the current trend of declining membership. Let's ensure that we have something to offer new members to entice them to join our organization. Our mission statement is to "serve veterans and their dependents" so we must ensure that we welcome our serving and non-serving military family with open arms and provide them with the camaraderie and support that they so well deserve. Our membership surveys have clearly indicated that word of mouth is our most effective means of communicating "who we are and what we do", so let our voices be heard!

I move acceptance of the Membership Report as detailed.

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

LEGION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE 1998-2009

Year	Life	Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate Voting	Merit Life	Hon	Affiliate Non-Vtg	Grand Total
1998	15,547	189,653	217,527	23	294	4,235	67,963	495,242
1999	15,576	178,527	216,239	12,283	199	2,537	54,199	479,560
2000	15,501	169,147	212,977	11,336	176		59,208	468,345
2001	15,317	160,778	209,991	14,419	162		55,857	456,524
2002	14,975	151,959	206,094	16,648	147		53,631	443,454
2003	14,633	143,265	201,277	18,541	133		51,307	429,156
2004	14,303	135,300	196,667	19,679	127		49,995	416,071
2005	13,928	129,219	193,272	22,283	119		46,647	405,468
2006	13,429	120,978	186,699	22,625	111		44,742	388,584
2007	13,097	113,743	180,096	44,744	101		21,586	373,367
2008	12,424	106,807	174,898	60,765	93		5,215	360,202
2009	11,927	100,398	170,139	62,849	85		2,830	348,228

2009 PAID MEMBERSHIP—GAINS AND LOSSES All Categories

COMMAND	2009 to date	2008 Total	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	63,877	66,788	-2,911	-4.36
ALBERTA/NWT	49,156	50,776	-1,620	-3.19
SASKATCHEWAN	13,070	13,651	-581	-4.26
MANITOBA/NWO	27,809	28,523	-714	-2.50
ONTARIO	133,587	137,915	-4,328	-3.14
QUEBEC	15,773	16,295	-522	-3.20
NEW BRUNSWICK	10,982	11,723	-741	-6.32
NS/NUNAVUT	25,648	26,318	-670	-2.55
PEI	2,407	2,426	-19	-0.78
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,498	4,408	90	2.04
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	403	305	98	32.13
US BRANCHES	673	695	-22	-3.17
EUROPE ZONE	345	379	-34	-8.97
TOTAL	348,228	360,202	-11,974	-0.64

2009 RENEWALS—GAINS AND LOSSES All Categories

COMMAND	2009	2008	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	58,218	61,014	-2,796	-4.58
ALBERTA/NWT	45,325	47,025	-1,700	-3.62
SASKATCHEWAN	12,407	12,924	-517	-4.00
MANITOBA/NWO	25,976	26,935	-959	-3.56
ONTARIO	124,814	128,827	-4,013	-3.12
QUEBEC	14,340	14,661	-321	-2.19
NEW BRUNSWICK	10,489	11,149	-660	-5.92
NS/NUNAVUT	23,844	24,369	-525	-2.15
PEI	2,262	2,283	-21	-0.92
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,029	3,972	57	1.44
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	279	228	51	22.37
US BRANCHES	616	645	-29	-4.50
EUROPE ZONE	326	334	-8	-2.40
TOTAL	322,925	334,366	-11,441	-1.01

2009 NEW MEMBERS—GAINS AND LOSSES

All Categories

COMMAND	2009	2008	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	5,659	5,774	-115	-1.99
ALBERTA/NWT	3,831	3,751	80	2.13
SASKATCHEWAN	663	727	-64	-8.80
MANITOBA/NWO	1,833	1,588	245	15.43
ONTARIO	8,773	9,088	-315	-3.47
QUEBEC	1,433	1,634	-201	-12.30
NEW BRUNSWICK	493	574	-81	-14.11
NS/NUNAVUT	1,804	1,949	-145	-7.44
PEI	145	143	2	1.40
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	469	436	33	7.57
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	124	77	47	61.04
US BRANCHES	57	50	7	14.00
EUROPE ZONE	19	45	-26	-57.78
TOTAL	25,303	25,836	-533	-0.33

2009 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—PERCENTAGE STATISTICS

Goal 90%+ All Categories

COMMAND	2009	%	2008	%
BC/YUKON	58,218	87.17	61,014	88.70
ALBERTA/NWT	45,325	89.26	47,025	88.79
SASKATCHEWAN	12,407	90.89	12,924	91.03
MANITOBA/NWO	25,976	91.07	26,935	90.92
ONTARIO	124,814	90.50	128,827	90.02
QUEBEC	14,340	88.00	14,661	87.73
NEW BRUNSWICK	10,489	89.47	11,149	88.60
NS/NUNAVUT	23,844	90.60	24,369	90.14
PEI	2,262	93.24	2,283	88.87
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,029	91.40	3,972	90.38
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	279	91.48	228	86.69
US BRANCHES	616	88.63	645	91.62
EUROPE ZONE	326	86.02	334	79.52
TOTAL	322,925	89.65	334,366	89.55

2009 NEW MEMBERS—PERCENTAGE STATISTICS

Goal 10%+ All Categories

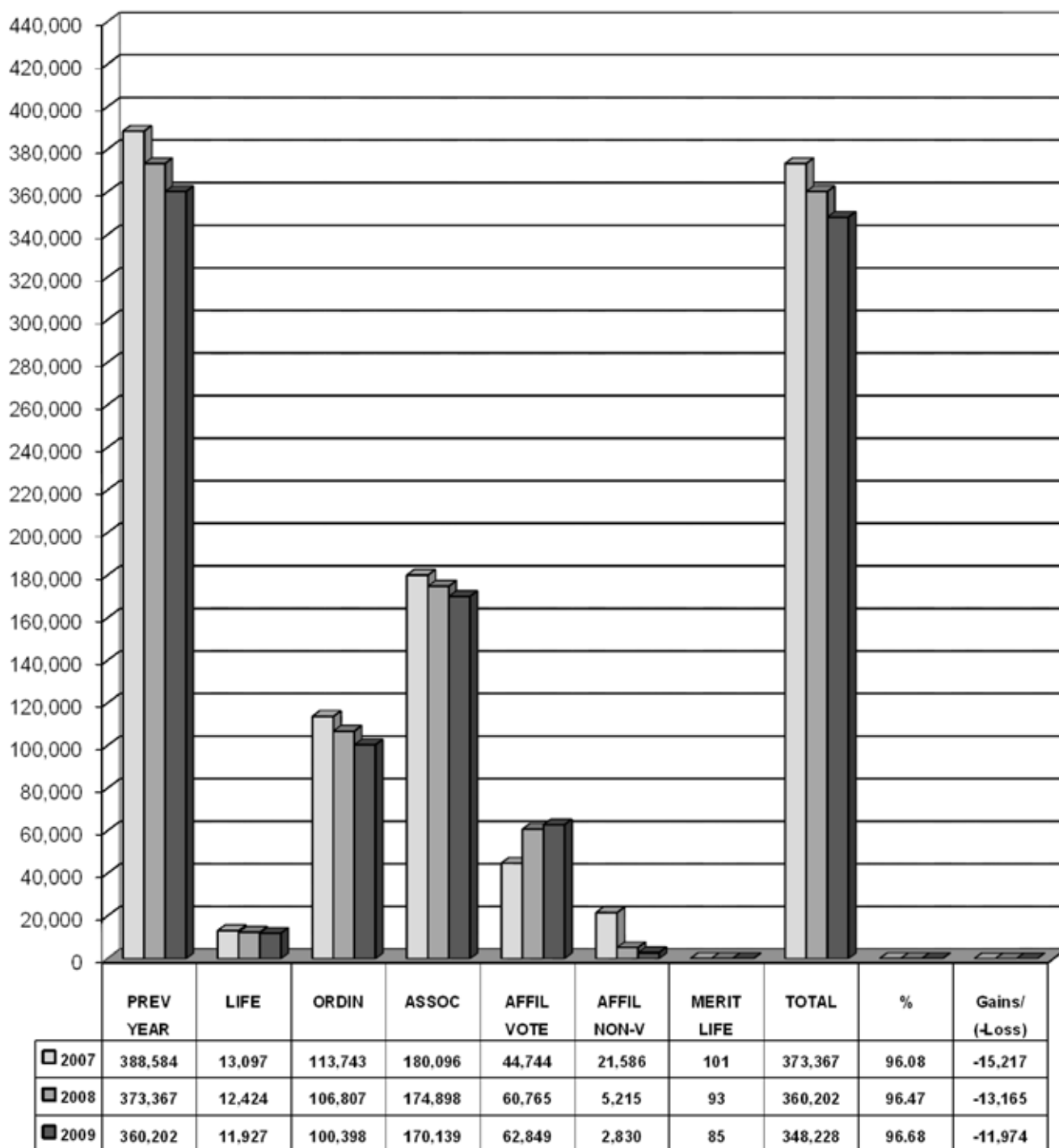
COMMAND	2009	%	2008	%
BC/YUKON	5,659	8.47	5,774	8.39
ALBERTA/NWT	3,831	7.54	3,751	7.08
SASKATCHEWAN	663	4.86	727	5.12
MANITOBA/NWO	1,833	6.43	1,588	5.36
ONTARIO	8,773	6.36	9,088	6.35
QUEBEC	1,433	8.79	1,634	9.78
NEW BRUNSWICK	493	4.21	574	4.56
NS/NUNAVUT	1,804	6.85	1,949	7.21
PEI	145	5.98	143	5.57
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	469	10.64	436	9.92
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	124	40.66	77	29.28
US BRANCHES	57	8.20	50	7.10
EUROPE ZONE	19	5.01	45	10.71
TOTAL	25,303	7.02	25,836	6.92

2010 EARLY BIRD AWARD— GAINS AND LOSSES

All Categories

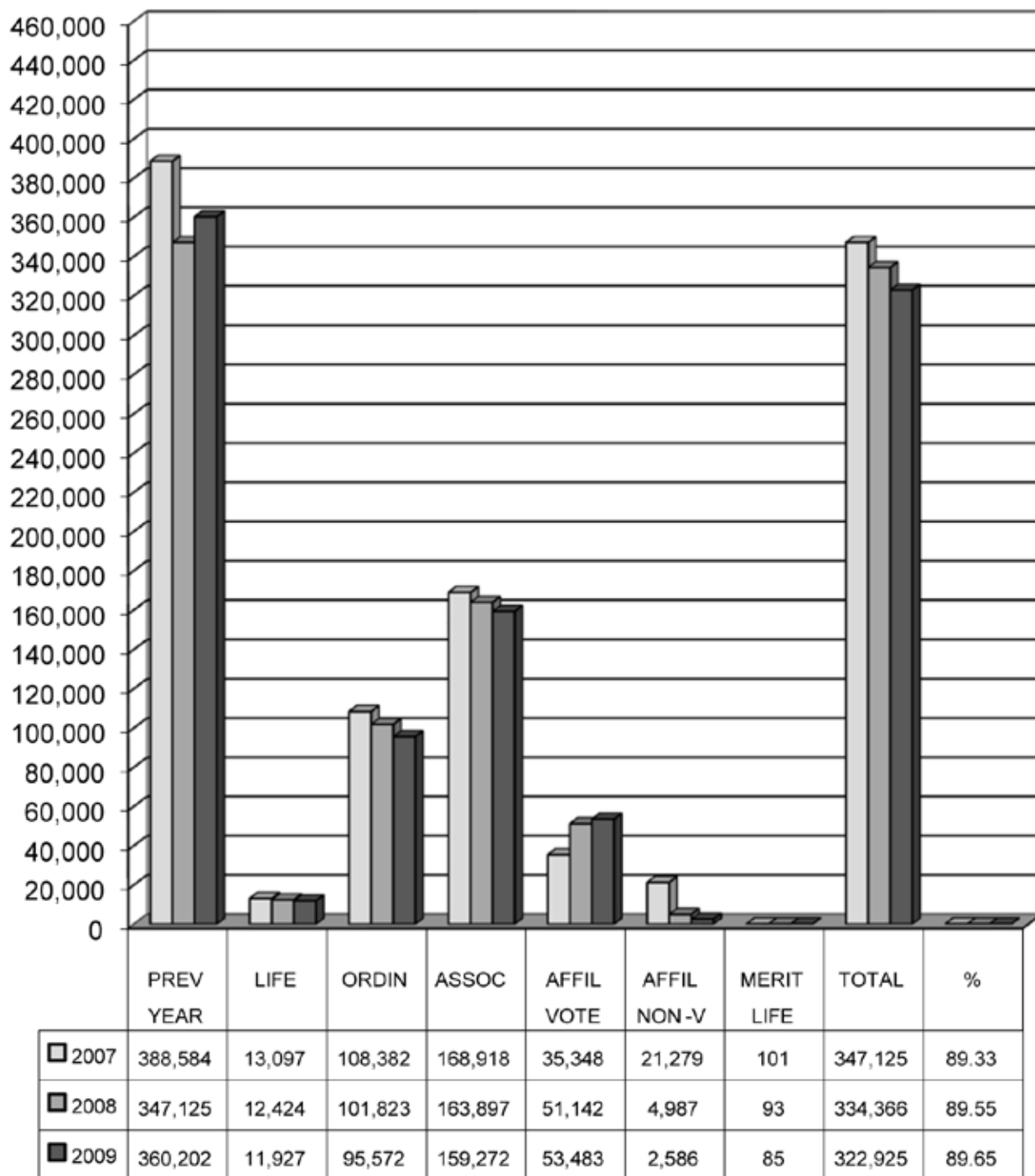
COMMAND	2010	2009	Gain/(Loss)	%
BC/YUKON	32,256	33,596	-1,340.00	-3.99
ALBERTA/NWT	25,289	26,229	-940.00	-3.58
SASKATCHEWAN	5,590	6,145	-555.00	-9.03
MANITOBA/NWO	13,296	13,880	-584.00	-4.21
ONTARIO	72,309	75,066	-2,757.00	-3.67
QUEBEC	7,448	8,052	-604.00	-7.50
NEW BRUNSWICK	5,212	5,640	-428.00	-7.59
NS/NUNAVUT	10,273	10,272	1.00	0.01
PEI	1,021	1,071	-50.00	-4.67
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	2,025	2,192	-167.00	-7.62
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	246	229	17.00	7.42
US BRANCHES	285	272	13.00	4.78
EUROPE ZONE	65	97	-32.00	-32.99
TOTAL	175,315	182,741	-7,426.00	-4.06

PAID MEMBERSHIP 2007 – 2009



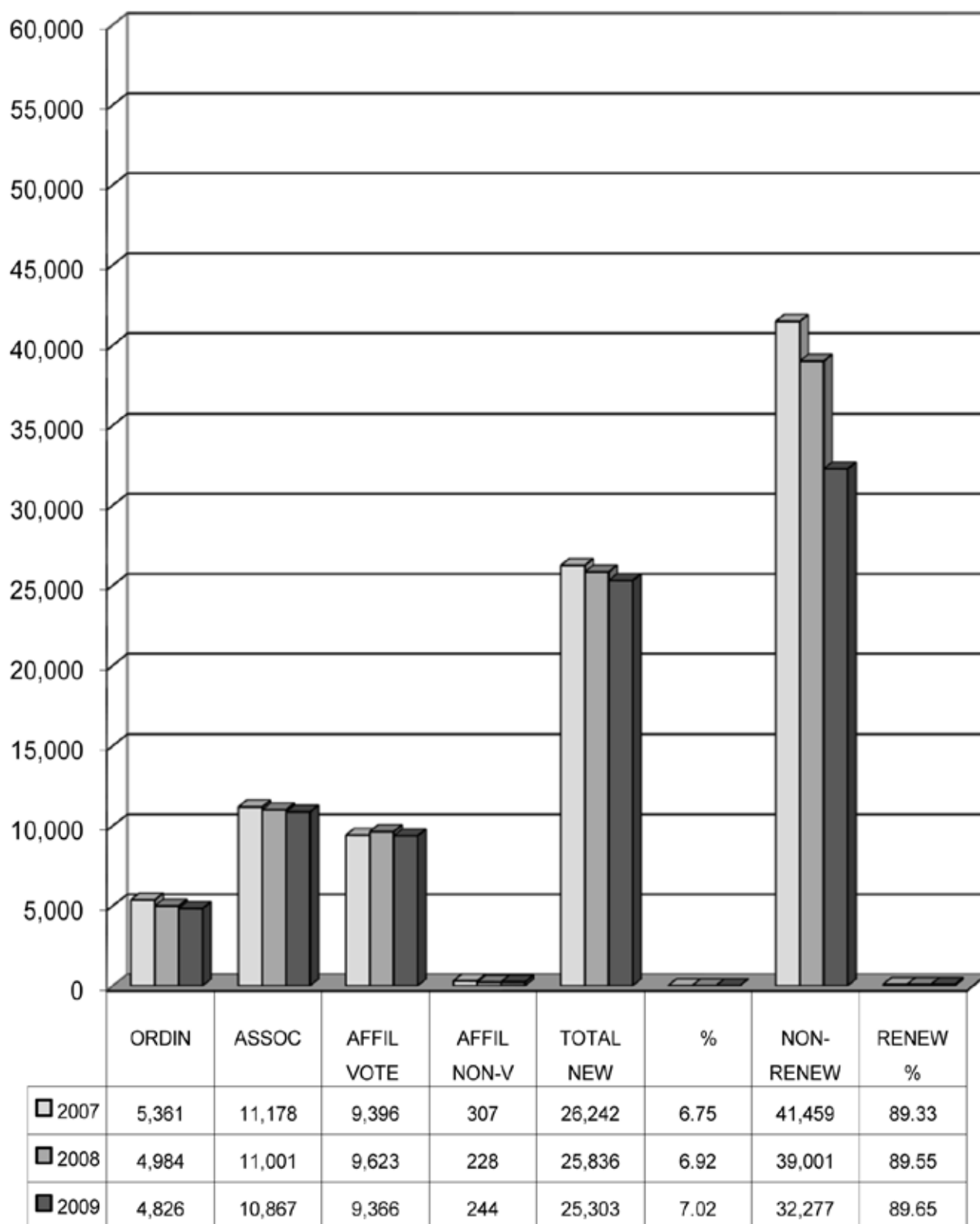
MEMBERSHIP TARGET = 100%+

RENEWALS 2007 – 2009



RENEWAL TARGET = 95%+

NEW MEMBERS VERSUS NON-RENEWALS 2007 – 2009



RECRUITMENT TARGET = 10%+

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	4,460	7,506	8,000	8,200	8,400
Per Diem	5,420	6,602	10,000	10,300	10,500
Printing and Office	369	703	1,000	1,000	1,100
Postage	217	310	300	300	400
Publications					
Write off	-	-	15,000	-	4,000
Purchase and Distribution of New	-	-	5,000	-	4,000
Telephone & Fax	1	82	100	100	100
Miscellaneous	217	1,575	2,500	2,500	2,600
	10,684	16,778	41,900	22,400	31,100
<u>PRINTING & STATIONERY</u>					
Chairman's Guide	-	263	-	-	-
Processing Guide	-	-	-	-	-
Membership Forms	5,299	5,840	7,500	7,700	7,900
Early Bird Certificate	-	-	100	100	100
Early Bird Stickers	2,302	2,610	5,000	5,100	5,200
Eligibility Guide	-	-	-	-	-
News Letter	-	1,876	4,000	4,100	4,200
RCL Welcomes You (booklet)	10,955	-	10,000	10,300	10,600
Flyers and Postcards	13,415	4,413	8,000	8,200	8,400
Bookmarks	-	2,729	3,500	3,600	3,700
We Care Poster	-	4,304	-	-	-
Renewal Poster	2,251	-	-	-	3,000
Early Bird Poster	-	-	-	-	-
The RCL & C.F. Brochure	7,343	(34)	5,000	5,100	5,300
RCL Needs You Brochure	-	-	-	-	-
Membership Gift Pack	4,939	-	5,000	5,100	5,300
Free Membership for CF retirees	745	1,450	10,000	10,000	10,000
Reminder Notice	4,920	-	5,500	5,600	5,800
Non Renewal Mailers	-	-	45,000	45,000	45,000
	52,169	23,450	108,600	109,900	114,500

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>NATIONAL ADVERTISING</u>					
Canvet Ads	12,117	12,798	26,000	26,700	27,400
Esprit de Corps	1,681	1,575	2,800	2,900	3,000
RCMP Quarterly	-	5,880	6,000	6,100	6,300
Airforce Magazine	525	5,366	8,500	8,700	7,900
Base Newspapers	11,661	8,210	10,000	10,200	10,500
Frontline Magazine	2,678	3,203	3,500	3,600	3,700
Zoomer	8,732	9,476	10,200	10,500	10,700
Vanguard	4,772	4,772	6,000	6,100	6,300
Internet	-	-	22,000	22,500	23,000
New Recruitment Campaign	-	658	-	-	-
Survey	1,555	-	-	-	-
Misc. Advertising	4,272	-	5,000	5,100	5,200
	<u>47,993</u>	<u>51,939</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>102,400</u>	<u>104,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>110,846</u>	<u>92,167</u>	<u>250,500</u>	<u>234,700</u>	<u>249,600</u>

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

E. Kish	Chairman
S. Wessel	Vice-Chairman
R. Fisette	Member
R. Groulx	Member
M. Emery	Member
M. Cooper	Member
R. Butt	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Public Relations Committee has met in Ottawa twice since the 2008 Dominion Convention, and e-mails have been exchanged on matters of importance. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period and introduces the plan and budget for 2010 to 2012. It has been a very active time for the Committee with plans and materials developed and implemented in support of numerous committees, Provincial Commands and the branches.

GENERAL

The Public Relations program for the Legion is run on a two-year cycle with budgeted plans accepted by Dominion Convention being the basis for work between Conventions. I am most pleased to advise you that the PR Committee achieved the goals set by you in 2008. Our plan for the next two years is to continue with the approach we have taken in the past, continue with what has worked and add programs where necessary being very mindful that the budget is a major factor in planning.

PROJECT REPORT

The following projects were completed during the past two years:

- a. **Maintenance of an Effective Web Site:** Over the past two years we have added material to the web site as needed and have completed a major revision which has proven to be very effective in the provision of materials to users. In fact, by the end of 2009 our web user statistics were up by about 18 per cent and form usage had gone from 649 users in 2008 to 176,109 in 2009. Our catalogue and manual usage had also increased tenfold over the same period. The Bulletin Board on the site is being used to spread information and there has been another marked increase in site usage for research. A music section has also been added for use by the members.
- b. **Branch Survey:** In 2009 we conducted the bi-annual branch survey to update the information we provide to the public. More than 400 of the Legion's branches contacted responded and gave us enough data to produce reliable statistics from which we could produce new material for public and internal consumption including speaking materials, backgrounders, posters, brochures, media releases and our public service announcements. It was noted that we continue to do more with less, another tribute to our members.
- c. **Training:** PR and media awareness training sessions continue to be offered as requested but part of the cost is to be borne by the requesting agency.

- d. **Canadian Forces Sponsorship:** During the past two years we have continued to support our deployed members of the Canadian Forces, as well as those serving at home. We continued to sponsor the military's national sports awards program and increased our support for their sports championships. Funding to support the Nijmegen March Team's visit to Vimy Ridge continued as well as the inclusion of a Legion member as part of the marching contingent and the inclusion of a member of the Senior Elected Officers on the Show Tour visit to Afghanistan. In 2008 we donated pocket knives as part of Operation Santa Claus. In 2009 we gave them each a writing kit as suggested by a person who had served there. The gifts were extremely popular and well appreciated.
- e. **Corporate Identity:** The Legion "look" graphics have been revised so as not to use as much copier ink and new symbols are also being produced in-house as required. We continue to provide by e-mail, or other means, a quality product as needed for reproduction of badges, logos and symbols. A new Legion Briefing with a voice-over is also being produced in Power Point for dispatch to the Provincial Commands.
- f. **Support to Other Committees and Programs:** The following major support functions were completed during the reporting period;
 - i. **Legion Dominion Command National Track and Field Championships:** We are committed to making this event better known. For the past two years at the University of Sherbrooke, in Quebec, we were able to send more results and pictures by computer than ever before. The meet has also changed to incorporate those who wish to compete by themselves and not as part of a Legion team but we continue to provide media with services for those people as well.
 - ii. **Membership:** PR Assistance to this Committee included the development of pull-up banners to be used at Membership events and the development of posters and brochures as needed. PR played a role in the development of other Membership initiatives as well.
 - iii. **Surveys:** Surveys of the members, branches and the public were done to provide our Committee Chairmen with the information they needed to implement new and dynamic programs to capture the internal spirit of the Legion and place it before future members.
 - iv. **Radio and Television Public Service Announcements:** Radio public service announcements were again used to support Remembrance and membership programs.
 - v. **Supply:** A photographic service for catalogues was provided to the Supply Department.

THE PLAN – 2010 TO 2012

As mentioned earlier, the Committee intends to carry on with what has been successful for the Legion. So our plan for the next two years almost mirrors the past and includes the following:

- a. **Committee Support:** The Committee will continue to support the initiatives of the other Dominion Command Committees and Departments as required. This includes the development of plans and the production of materials such as new radio and television PSAs; print materials; Remembrance and Poppy material; Internet design; advertising and audio visual design assistance; manual production; catalogue production; and the implementation of newer technologies to save money.

- b. **Provincial Command and Branch Support:** The Committee will continue to review and update its current products to ensure effectiveness. The provision of speech material for special events will continue as will the provision of speaking notes when required. Where possible they and other materials will be delivered electronically or by compact disk to avoid printing costs. We will continue to provide training resources on a cost sharing basis, and we will continue to assist the provincial commands with their initiatives when possible.
- c. **Research:** To maintain an accurate profile of the Legion for public presentation we will continue our media analysis to see what the Canadian public is reading and hearing about us. This will provide us with a strong base from which to devise plans and tackle issues for this and other Committees.
- d. **Internal Communication:** The Committee plans to continually review, update and add to its revised Internet site on a regular basis. It plans to react to the requests of members, branches, Provincial Commands and the general public, where possible, and to make the site more effective and useful. We now have an on-line Bulletin Board by which we can spread ideas and communicate with the branches and we are adding a branch locator to the site.
- e. **External Communication:** The Committee will continue to take every opportunity possible to educate the general public and targeted audiences on our purposes, objects, programs and projects through speakers' programs, the use of media and the continued provision of timely and accurate information on the Legion.
- f. **Sponsorship:** Our support to members of the Canadian Forces will continue. I can assure you from messages and letters received that this support is extremely well appreciated and that our troops at home or deployed in isolated regions, on ships and on dangerous overseas missions know that we care about their service through these small but significant gestures.
- g. **Budget:** For your information a copy of the PR Committee budget for the period 2010 to 2012 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 Public Relations Committee continues to attain cost-effective goals as set by Dominion Convention. New and quality products are being delivered regularly at the best price possible and the public is learning more about us. We cannot afford to give up what has taken 16 years to establish and that is a growing public awareness of who we are and what we mean to Canadian society.

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

I move acceptance of this report.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION—DOMINION COMMAND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>DIRECT EXPENSES</u>					
Travel	2,563	3,962	7,000	7,000	7,000
Per Diem	1,924	3,015	4,600	4,600	4,600
Printing, Stationery	388	693	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone & Fax	439	299	800	800	800
Postage	818	20	400	400	400
Miscellaneous	53	20	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	6,186	8,010	14,300	14,300	14,300
<u>PR SECTION INTERNAL</u>					
Backgrounders	-	-	-	-	-
Speakers	-	-	-	-	-
Posters/Brochures	2,441	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Research	-	840	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	2,441	840	5,000	5,000	5,000
<u>PR SECTION EXTERNAL</u>					
Media Monitoring	19,509	20,134	20,000	20,000	20,000
Media Distribution	4,253	2,094	5,000	5,000	5,000
Listings	-	1,080	3,000	3,000	3,000
Training/Liaison					
Per Diem	-	2,071	4,000	4,000	4,000
Travel	1,956	1,454	4,000	4,000	4,000
PSA's	4,339	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Advertising	10,334	4,658	7,500	7,500	7,500
CF Sponsorship					
Sports Championships and Awards Ceremony	28,000	33,005	33,000	33,000	33,000
Operation Santa Claus	7,322	13,974	13,000	13,000	13,000
Operation Canada Day	6,377	-	13,000	13,000	13,000
Nijmegen	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
Navy Centennial	20,000	20,000	20,000	-	-
Chairs for the Troops	32,978	-	-	-	-
Research	11,970	-	12,500	-	12,500
SUB-TOTAL	154,039	105,470	152,000	119,500	132,000
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	162,666	114,320	171,300	138,800	151,300

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

P. Varga	Chairman
E. Pigeau	Vice-Chairman
J. Alger	Member
L. Washburn	Member
T. Irvine	Member
C. Saunders	Member
D. Martin	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Sports Committee has met four times since the 2008 Dominion Convention – twice in Ottawa and twice by teleconference. The committee continued to focus on financial constraint on a variety of fronts that included both improved efficiency in the conduct of all events, raising the profile of the Track and Field to official Canadian Championship level as well as soliciting and receiving funds and services from outside sources. This has resulted in a continued decline in the cost of hosting both track and field and member sports.

MEMBER SPORTS GENERAL

Member sports continues to have significant interest and participation from Legion members. Cribbage and Darts remain strong throughout the country and have full participation from all commands. Curling has experienced a slight decline in popularity and is no longer part of the sports curriculum in either Ontario or Alberta/Northwest Territory Commands. The committee continues to look at alternative sports that would be favourable to membership and help generate revenue for the branches.

The call to host member sports has at times not produced the number of applications desired – especially for curling. The committee has made efforts to enhance the solicitation process through a more simplistic application, providing grants to assist with branch costs as well as a introducing a more dynamic approach through advertising to get the word out to the prospective host branches

2009 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

An update is provided on the outcome of member sports events for 2009:

a. Curling

Hosted by: Br #88 Maple Ridge BC, 14-20 March 09
2009 Champions: Br #362 Nutana SK
Darren Clancy, Les Kun, Rick Middleton, Andrew Hay

b. Cribbage

Hosted by: Br #265 Aldergrove, BC, 24-27 March 09
2009 Champions:
Singles: James Kay, Br #133 Port Coquitlam, BC
Doubles: Richard & Joan Thibideau Br#18, Miscouche PEI
Team: Richard & Joan Thibideau, Eldon Doucette, Sherry Wright
Br#18, Miscouche PEI

c. Darts

Hosted By: Br #15 Cochrane, AB
2009 Champions:
Singles: John Verwey, Blythe Br. # 420 – ON
Doubles: Tim Schryer, Tom Van Hoof, Sault St. Marie Br. # 25 - ON
Team: Sebastien Gagnon, Gerald Hull, Jason Hurley, Kevin
MacArthur LaSalle, Br. # 212 - QC

2010 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results for the 2010 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 13–19 March 2010

Branch #35, The Royal Canadian Legion
Stephenville NL

b. Cribbage 23–26 April 2010

Branch #20, The Royal Canadian Legion
Sussex, NB

c. Darts 7–10 May 2010

Branch #44, The Royal Canadian Legion
Chester, NS

TRACK & FIELD - GENERAL

Track and Field continues to be the Legion's centrepiece for youth fitness. Since June 2008 the Legion has introduced the open concept for both the youth (2008) and the midget (2010) categories resulting in a substantial increase in participants. This move has allowed the event profile to be raised to the official Canadian championships in both age categories.

In addition to the title of official national championship the committee has also been proactive in making the event more visible through the use of internet social media by creating accounts in both Facebook and Twitter. The Legion website has also been enhanced with more information on the event and a new promo video. As well posters advertising the event have been distributed to every secondary school in Canada through a reciprocating partnership with the Encounters with Canada program. Additional event promotion will also be done at regional and provincial track and field events in Ontario with the aim of increased participation. For 2010 a renewed focus will be put on the local area (Ottawa) for advertising the event to increase attendance.

The collective effort to raise the profile and increase both participation and the public interest (i.e. attendance) will be measured through the industry standard assessment vehicle STEAM (Sports Tourism Economic Assessment Model). It is expected that the STEAM survey will legitimize the economic potential of the games which in turn will enhance sponsorship as well as solidify this event as a fund generator for potential host communities.

With the increase in profile the committee has enhanced its efforts in cost reduction through raising funds and open athlete registration (\$15,000 annually) as well as soliciting sponsorship. The

registration revenue is expected to double in 2010 with the introduction of the open midjet category. A sponsorship package was produced and distributed in the winter and spring of 2010 to over 70 corporations and organizations. The final results of this effort will not be known until the fall of 2010.

At times, as with member sports, the call to host the track and field event has not produced the number of applications desired. The committee has made efforts to enhance this process through a more simplistic application, raising the event profile and economic value as well as introducing a more dynamic approach through advertising to get the word out to the prospective host branches and communities.

2008 LEGION CANADIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2008 Legion Canadian Track and Field Championships took place 6-12 August at the University of Sherbrooke in Sherbrooke QC. The total attendance was 304 Legion sponsored athletes, 32 chaperones and 24 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 244 open category athletes competing, constituting 372 extra event entries.

For Legion athletes, the program continued to consist of an athlete clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. Part of the pre-event activities, as reintroduced in 2007, was the Coaching Clinic sponsored by Athletics Canada however the lack of entries for this year caused its cancellation. Athletics Canada will be revisiting the content and qualification standards to be awarded for attendance prior to any proposal for 2009.

The Lt. Governor of QC, The Honourable Pierre Duchesne attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception at Branch #10 in Sherbrooke. Further receptions were held for the officials/coaches and the chaperones on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the university mess hall with Dominion President Comrade Wilf Edmond as the guest speaker. During the banquet Comrade LeRoy Washburn was presented the Legion MSM for his long and dedicated service to track and field on behalf of the Legion. Additionally the Head Chaperones, Carol and Henderson Paris, who had indicated that they will not be seeking these positions in the future, were recognized for over 20 years of volunteer service to this event.

The meet was held on 9-10 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at the University of Sherbrooke was “state of the art” and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a two day period under the superb organization of the local meet director Daniel Quirion. During the competition four Canadian Youth and ten Legion records were broken as well as one Legion record tied – all but one achieved by Legion selected athletes. The top Legion male and female athletes for the meet were Christabel Netley from BC/YUKON and Gregory MacNeill from ONT.

The Canadian youth open category introduced this year as a trial was an unqualified success. Registration was carried out electronically by Athletics Canada for both the open and Legion categories. The city of Sherbrooke and its surrounding communities were sold out of accommodations and the event was recognized as a major boost to the local economy. Overall the open model has enhanced the competition without affecting the standard program.

2009 LEGION CANADIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2009 Legion Canadian Track and Field Championships took place 5 - 11 August at the University of Sherbrooke in Sherbrooke QC. The total attendance was 300 Legion sponsored athletes (for

633 entries), 32 chaperones and 23 coaches representing all 10 Provincial Commands. In addition there were 250 open category athletes competing constituting 385 extra event entries.

The program continued to consist of (for Legion athletes), an athlete clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. This year the coaching clinic reverted back to its previous format from 2006 which saw Athletics Canada conduct the session on the Monday following the competition. All Legion coaches were in attendance.

On Thursday during the opening assembly a film on D-Day was played with seven D-Day veterans in attendance. These veterans were well received by the athletes. Many of these same Veterans assisted with the medal presentations during the competition. Mr. Luc Blanchard, the president of the Club Athletics Sherbrooke, attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the Ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception for approximately 80 guests. Further receptions were held for the officials/coaches and the chaperones on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the Sherbrooke Armouries with Master Corporal Jody Mitic (a double amputee Afghanistan veteran) as the guest speaker. During the banquet both Comrade Gilles Lussier the LAC Chairman and Mr Bruce Pirnie of Athletics Canada were recognized for past and current service to this event.

The meet was held on 8-9 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at the University of Sherbrooke is "state of the art" and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a two day period again under the superb organization of the local meet director Daniel Quirion. During the competition one Canadian Youth and six Legion records were broken – five achieved by Legion selected athletes. The top Legion male and female athletes for the meet were Sarah Moss and Steven Ajayi, both from ONT. They received trophies supplied by Encounters with Canada (EWC) as well as tuition and transport to a EWC week long youth forum in Ottawa. This represents the first in a series of complimentary exchanges between the Legion T&F and EWC.

2010/11 LEGION CANADIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ottawa, Ontario has been selected as the host site for both the 2010 and 2011 championships. The Local Arrangements Committee Chairman is Comrade Barry Young. Both the Committee Secretary and Sgt at Arms attended the 2009 version in Sherbrooke QC. Two site visits have been conducted (1 Nov 09 and 7-9 May 10). Accommodations have been confirmed at the University of Ottawa and the competition will take place at the Terry Fox complex located at Mooney's Bay.

2012 – 2015 LEGION CANADIAN TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Keeping with the existing format and timeframe the following dates were confirmed for the Legion nationals:

- a) 2012: 8 – 14 Aug
- b) 2013: 7 – 13 Aug
- c) 2014: 6 – 12 Aug
- d) 2015: 5 – 11 Aug

An all branch and a letter to host to all eligible communities was sent out in Jan 10. Returns are expected by 31 Aug 2010.

DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS GUIDE

Based on several revisions the Sports Guide will be re-published in the fall of 2010.

2010 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has received and concurred with one resolution for consideration at this convention. This resolution will be dealt with later in the convention proceedings.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2009-2010 budgets for Member Sports, the Legion Canadian 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

Comrades, the member sports program is your program. It exists to further comradeship, friendship and enjoyment of the sport for you the members. I encourage each of you to participate at your local level right on through to the Dominion level.

It is the Legion's endeavour, through the Track & Field program to encourage fitness, national unity as well as learn their sport in an environment of fair play and friendship. It is a program that fills a need in the Canadian Track and Field program and is one that the participants remember long after their actual time at camp.

I would like to thank and pay tribute to all those members who assisted in hosting any of the events. I know you worked very hard to make each event a success and enjoyable time for all the participants.

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

I move acceptance of this report as presented.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	6,071	2,966	8,000	8,200	8,400
Per Diem	3,802	2,171	7,500	7,500	7,700
T & F LAC					
Sherbrooke 2008	4,278	-	-	-	-
Sherbrooke - 2009	-	5,099	-	-	-
Ottawa -2010	-	-	6,000	-	-
Ottawa -2011	-	-	-	6,000	-
TBA - 2012	-	-	-	-	6,000
Printing, Stationery	1,369	429	700	700	700
Telephone & Fax	752	580	800	800	900
Postage	1,211	112	300	300	300
Write Off Old Publications	1,847	2,575	-	-	3,000
Purchase and distribution of new stock	1,908	2,639	-	-	3,000
Miscellaneous	7	16	300	300	300
TOTAL COMMITTEE	21,245	16,587	23,600	23,800	30,300

	Dauphin MB	MapleRidge BC	Stephenville NFLD	Hudson QC	WEST
<u>CURLING</u>					
Travel					
Participants	22,480	21,749	33,000	33,000	34,000
Committee	2,213	1,889	5,400	5,500	5,600
Awards & Prizes	2,387	1,943	2,000	2,100	2,200
Entertainment	300	177	300	300	300
Ground Transportation	1,000	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advance to Host Branch	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL CURLING	30,380	28,258	43,700	43,900	45,100

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>DARTS</u>	Winnipeg MB	Cochrane AB	Chester NS	Aurora ON	WEST
Travel					
Participants	26,195	28,773	33,000	33,000	34,000
Committee	2,423	1,826	2,100	2,200	2,300
Awards & Prizes	2,320	2,036	2,300	2,300	2,400
Entertainment	200	140	200	200	200
Advance to Host Branch	-	-	400	200	200
Ground Transportation	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL DARTS	31,138	32,775	39,000	38,900	40,100

	Grand Bend ON	Aldergrove BC	Sussex NB	Chamonix QC	WEST
<u>CRIBBAGE</u>					
Travel					
Participants	26,894	26,744	33,000	33,000	34,000
Committee	1,390	1,788	3,000	3,100	3,200
Awards & Prizes	1,990	2,704	2,700	2,800	2,900
Advance to Host Branch	400	-	400	400	400
Entertainment	200	120	200	200	200
Ground Transportation	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL CRIBBAGE	31,874	31,356	40,300	40,500	41,700

TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	93,392	92,388	123,000	123,300	126,900
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	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS</u>	Sherbrooke QC	Sherbrooke QC	Ottawa ON	Ottawa ON	TBA
Transportation	166,632	159,602	170,000	174,000	179,000
Accommodations, Meals	108,694	110,130	126,000	129,000	132,000
Committee - Travel	6,797	5,316	4,500	4,600	4,700
Committee - Per Diem	10,863	14,673	17,600	18,000	18,400
Local Committee	3,270	3,000	3,000	3,100	3,200
Kits / Supplies / Medals	3,685	5,449	5,000	5,100	5,300
Buses	5,537	-	8,000	8,200	8,400
Honoraria	2,800	5,150	4,600	4,700	4,800
Reception	2,381	10,672	2,100	2,200	2,300
Medical	-	168	1,000	1,000	1,000
Athletic Facilities	200	-	4,000	4,000	4,200
Equipment / Mtg Rooms	2,009	4,000	4,000	4,100	4,200
Clinicians	-	6,261	4,400	4,500	4,600
Officials	2,678	8,055	4,000	4,100	4,200
Media Coverage & PR	1,888	1,151	20,000	20,000	20,000
Freight & Express	1,471	790	1,500	1,500	1,600
Miscellaneous	(73)	1,212	1,000	1,000	110
GROSS EXPENSE	318,833	335,628	380,700	389,100	398,010
Less Prov Portion	(87,247)	(86,274)	(90,000)	(90,000)	(92,000)
SUB TOTAL	231,586	249,353	290,700	299,100	306,010
Registration - Non Legion Athletes		(15,505)	-	(10,000)	(10,000)
Grant - VAC	-	(20,000)	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE TRACK & FIELD	231,586	213,849	290,700	289,100	296,010
TOTAL COMMITTEE	21,245	16,587	23,600	23,800	30,300
TOTAL TRACK & FIELD	231,586	213,849	290,700	289,100	296,010
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	93,392	92,388	123,000	123,300	126,900
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE	346,223	322,824	437,300	436,200	453,210

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE COMMITTEE

R. Price	Interim Chairman
D. H. Brown	Member
J. Marr	Member
C. Belzile	Member (Ex-Officio)
D. Martin	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

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

GENERAL

The Committee has maintained a proactive approach towards its mandate to monitor the Canadian Forces (CF) well being and scrutinize national defence policy through an active agenda of liaison and association. This is achieved through direct Committee contact with the Forces Command principals and as a member within both the Conference of Defence Associates and the Canadian International Council. A particular concern over the past two years has been the post deployment care of CF personnel. Combined with the VSS Committee the Defence Committee has tried to bring attention to the problem both within the Legion and the CF as well as on the national stage.

The Committee has also dealt with several issues dealing with service recognition, both within the current CF and in theatre, both present day and in previous conflicts. As a result several resolutions have been submitted, by the Committee, to the 2010 Convention.

An underlying theme for the Committee has been the recruitment of CF personnel into the Legion as members. As such the Committee has either briefed or initiated a briefing on the Legion to the Army Council, Land Forces Atlantic Area and the CF Chaplains at their general meeting. Additionally the Committee has introduced and is a proponent of the Legion "Virtual Branch" concept that would see membership access to and through the electronic spectrum.

CHAIRMAN'S RESIGNATION

Lou Cuppens, the Defence Committee Chairman was unable to attend the last meeting of the committee in Nov 09 and officially submitted his resignation on 12 January 2010.

POST DEPLOYMENT CARE OF THE CF

The Committee expressed concern over the post deployment treatment of all members of the CF, in particular the wounded. Two reports, The Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence, titled "Bringing Home Our Wounded Home Safely", and the CF Ombudsman report of April 2008 "Reserved Care, An Investigation into the Treatment of Injured Reservists" were reviewed. Both reports were supported. The committee was informed that the Legion had voiced their support of the former report through a letter to the MND and was in the process of outlining the concerns over the reservist situation through similar means.

SACRIFICE MEDAL

The Committee has supported the creation and implementation of the Sacrifice Medal (formerly known as the Wound Medal) from the first proposal through to the first awarding which began on 10 Nov 09 at Government House. The basic criterion for the medal is:

“The Sacrifice Medal was created to provide a tangible and lasting form of recognition for the sacrifices made by members of the Canadian Forces and those who work with them who have been wounded or killed under honourable circumstances as a direct result of a hostile action or action intended for a hostile force. The medal is also awarded posthumously to any member of the Canadian Forces who served on or after 7 October 2001, and dies under honourable circumstances as a result of an injury or disease related to military service.”

It was also noted that there remained some dissension amongst veterans in regard to the retroactive date of 7 October 2001.

VIRTUAL LEGION

The Committee has both introduced and been a strong proponent of the Virtual Legion concept that would allow modern day veterans a forum to socialize and provide a voice under the umbrella of the Legion. As such there is a perceived need to create a program which allows veteran's to interrelate within their own experiences, associate, voice concerns, contribute and find help all within their comfort zones and skill level. Within the current technological sphere there are tools that can accomplish the required association.

What this symbolizes is a new way of allowing veterans, both serving and retired to accomplish the benefits of mutual association regardless of location. It can provide the modern day veteran through a Legion generated and controlled system all the traditional benefits of a Legion membership while providing an intimate forum to allow veterans to associate within their own experiences and at their own time.

The Virtual Legion branch proposal will encompass an electronic social network that meets the requirement of the current Legion independent branch in that it would fall under Dominion Command, it can have a charter, restrict its membership to persons who have seen service in a particular area as well as possess all the benefits of a current Legion member. Over the next two years it is proposed that Dominion Command will establish a prototype to enable the setup and maintenance of an electronic social network that will test and facilitate this concept.

OTHER COMMITTEE ITEMS OF NOTE

Reinstate the Titles RCN & RCAF. A request to support the reinstatement of the titles The Royal Canadian Navy and The Royal Canadian Air Force was not supported.

Commemoration of Five RCN Sailors. The Commonwealth Monument to “Those With No Known Graves” bears the names of sailors lost at sea with the Australian, New Zealand and British navies, but not of the Royal Canadian Navy. There are five RCN sailors with no known graves:

OS Leon Gauthier	HMCS Nootka	lost 11 January 1951
AB Frank Laker	HMCS Sioux	lost 21 July 1951 (air crash at sea)
AB Vince Liska	HMCS Cayuga	lost 4 December 1950
AB Robert Moore	HMCS Sioux	lost 21 July 1951 (air crash at sea)
AB Robert Skavberg	HMCS Athabaskan	lost 27 November 1951

The Committee is advocating on behalf of these individuals to have their names added to the Commonwealth Monument to “Those With No Known Graves” at the United Nations Memorial Cemetery Korea in Busan.

Short Term Service Pin. The Committee looked into the issue of service recognition for those with less than 12 years of service. It is recommending the Legion request that the Department of National Defence create within their “Depart With Dignity” program a pin to be awarded to members who have served but did not meet the current minimum 12 year requirement.

Canadian Volunteer Service Medal. The Committee has investigated the issue of veterans who voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces after November 1943 and who were involuntarily discharged in mid 1945 and whom Canada fails to recognize as volunteers by denying them the Canadian Voluntary Service Medal. As a result the Committee is recommending the Legion support the granting of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal to all of those who volunteered - without limiting time criteria.

2010 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee submitted three resolutions and concurred with one resolution all for consideration at this convention. These resolutions will be dealt with later in the convention proceedings.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2009-2010 budgets for Defence Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time.

However, any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Defence Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

Through close liaison with defence personnel and an active voice within the CDA the Legion continues to project its concerns on the national stage.

I move acceptance of this report as presented.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Travel	3,733	2,996	5,300	5,400	5,600
Per Diem	5,245	4,297	6,100	6,200	6,400
Printing, Postage,	229	15	150	150	150
Telephone & Fax	43	29	100	100	100
Miscellaneous	-	116	300	300	300
Annual Vimy Award & AGM	4,160	2,300	4,340	4,400	4,500
Conference of Defence Association Fee	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,110</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>2,300</u>
TOTAL	<u>15,410</u>	<u>11,752</u>	<u>18,400</u>	<u>18,750</u>	<u>19,350</u>

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

W. Edmond	Chairman
P. Varga	Vice-Chairman
J. Frost	Member
B. White	Secretary
R. Butt	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. Legion programs are centred on the provision of individual assistance as veterans in need are identified. During the past two years up to 339 veterans and veterans' widows have been assisted.

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 2008 you donated \$400,848 to this fund and in 2009 you donated \$243,435. These donations have enabled the Committee to meet the needs of the destitute, but we continue to need funds to continue our work even though there are a declining number of those who need our help. Inflation and our further commitment to help the member organizations in the Caribbean with their medical and administrative grants, thus taking a load off London, is our biggest concern, but we were able to raise the rates awarded to people because of your benevolence. So once again we have let these veterans know that we, the members of The Royal Canadian Legion, care about their service and sacrifice.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

A total of \$890,000 has been committed or spent on support activities in the Caribbean since this Committee reported to you in 2008. This number includes the funds expended in 2008, 2009 and the approximate amounts spent for 2010 to date. The need for our benevolence had peaked in 2002 but even though the veterans and widows population has been dropping reasonably steadily since then we have had to deal with inflation in the area. 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 2008 we were able to help 208 veterans and 131 widows with the standard rates of assistance set for them. In 2009 we helped 184 veterans and 130 widows and so far in 2010 we have helped 182 veterans and 130 widows. Since the last report to Convention individual assistance grants have been allocated totalling \$295,311 in 2008, \$269,650 in 2009 and for 2010 we have dispensed \$266,687 to date. The members and the RCEL HQ in London were also advised that our ability to give medical and administrative grants to each of the 14 nations being supported was now in our purview and we have restarted them.
- 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 \$24,870 was donated in 2008 and \$12,410 worth of material was provided in 2009. Requests for 2010 have been pegged at \$20,000. This amount cannot be finalized until we receive all the requests and the shipping bills. This program continues to be supported as it has

been proven that it provides the affiliated organizations with the opportunity to raise funds thereby lessening the demand on The Royal Canadian Legion.

- 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 deaths in the region for that purpose.
- d. **SCOWP and Projects:** Our contribution to the RCEL Standing Committee on Welfare Projects funding for 2008 and 2009 remained constant at \$5,500 per year to assist with the maintenance of the Curphey Veterans Home in Jamaica. For 2010 we also, again, took on the responsibility for medical and administrative grants thus lightening the load on SCOWP.
- e. **Other Assistance and Projects:** Eyeglass collection and distribution was maintained during the period of the report. The provision of regalia items such as crests, badges, banners, ties, berets and clothing was maintained and the costs charged to the ordering organization.

LIAISON VISITS

In 2009 scheduled visits were made to Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia by the Dominion President and Dominion Secretary. This gave them the opportunity to see what had been accomplished there and a chance to visit with local authorities and advocate more care for the veterans. They also visited Dominica, Trinidad and Guyana in 2010 where they did the same. I am also sad to report that the Secretary of the Legion in St. Lucia, Mrs. Dorothy Pilgrim, passed on to her just rewards after our visit with them.

THE LEGION AND THE RCEL

There has been improved consultation and coordination between RCEL HQ in London and the Legion since the Dominion Convention last convened and this has been welcomed by all concerned.

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.

SUMMARY

The Royal Canadian Legion cares about the sacred trust it has taken on in regards to the care of veterans in the Caribbean region. We have managed to maintain that trust by meeting the demands placed on us by what continues to be a decreasing population of destitute veterans. While the demand is decreasing due to death we expect that there will continue to be a need for major assistance for at least another five years and decreasing assistance after that time for at least another eight to ten years.

I move acceptance of this report.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>Meetings</u>					
Per Diem	235	715	800	800	900
<u>Caribbean Legion Liaison</u>					
Travel	-	24,056	24,500	25,200	25,800
Per Diem	-	11,397	12,800	13,200	13,600
Postage, Printing	593	300	300	400	400
Telephone & Fax	15	162	200	200	300
Miscellaneous	-	1,041	400	500	500
TOTAL	843	37,672	39,000	40,300	41,500

RCEL ASSISTANCE FUND

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
<u>Reserve</u>	472,943	430,740	400,605	289,105	197,605
<u>Income</u>					
Donations	400,848	243,435	200,000	200,000	200,000
Poppy Levy	75,000	25,000	0	0	0
Interest	7,596	3,461	3,000	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	668,784	745,716	631,605	520,105	428,605
<u>Expenditures</u>					
Poppy	24,870	12,410	20,000	20,000	20,000
Assistance	295,311	269,650	280,000	276,000	274,000
Education	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	5,500	5,000	5,500	5,500	5,500
Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	10	500	500	500
TOTAL	325,681	287,570	306,000	302,000	300,000
Surplus +/- (Deficit)	+558,368	+542,694	+289,105	+197,605	+126,105

NOTE: RCEL Administrative and Committee expenses are accounted for in RCL Administration General Funds

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

G. O'Dair	Chairman
R. Goebel	Vice-Chairman
B. Décarie	Member
C. Morris	Member
R. S. Heiter	Secretary

STATISTICS

Your Committee continues to report activity by calendar year to provide information that is meaningful. Statistics shown below represent figures for the two year period ending 31 December 2009.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

AWARD	2008 APPROVED	2008 RETURNED	2008 TOTAL	2009 APPROVED	2009 RETURNED	2009 TOTAL
Palm Leaf - MSM	29	9	38	31	3	34
Palm Leaf - MSA	6	5	11	7	0	7
MSM	76	18	94	99	19	118
MSA	9	6	15	20	4	24
Media Award	7		7	10		10
Friendship Award	16		16	41		41
Total Reviewed	143	38	181	208	26	234

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

HONOURS AND AWARDS MANUAL

The Committee completed revising the Honours and Awards Manual. Extensive changes were required to make the manual more user friendly by including illustrations of the medals and bars. The new edition of the manual was printed in December 2008 and was circulated to all branches and commands.

RITUAL AND INSIGNIA MANUAL

The Ritual and Insignia Manual was revised and reprinted in May 2009 and was circulated to all branches and commands.

L.A. LIFE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE

The committee authorized the introduction of a Ladies' Auxiliary Life Membership Plaque comparable to the Legion Life Membership Plaque. It is now available through the Supply Department.

RE-DESIGN OF BRANCH BANNERS

The committee authorized the introduction of an improved design of the Legion Branch and Command Banners. The previous heavy and cumbersome one has been replaced with a lighter and easier to manage version.

PARADE COMMANDER & COLOUR SERGEANT BARS

The committee authorized two new position bars for Past Office Medals at branch and all command levels.

MEDIA AND FRIENDSHIP AWARDS REVIEW

The Committee revised and edited the National Media Award and Friendship Award. The updated versions of these awards are now available through the Supply Department.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD

In response to a growing number of requests, the Committee authorized the Supply Department to produce and sell a plaque for "Legionnaire of the Year" award. Criteria for the award are the responsibility of the branch or command presenting the award. Approval at other levels of command is not required.

FLAG DIPPING

The committee continues to support DEC in its decision regarding the policy changes brought about by Resolutions to Convention. The protocol of dipping only the Legion Banner and no other flags is consistent with the practices and policies of Heritage Canada and the Canadian Forces.

MOUNTAIN NAMING

In response to a Resolution to Convention 2008, the committee supported an application by Dominion Command to the Geographic Names Board of Canada and the Alberta Historic Places Designation Program for the naming of a mountain in honour of Robert Gray, V.C. The application was rejected. The Liaison Officer was not entirely satisfied with the response. The committee authorized further pursuit of the matter.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Ritual and Awards Committee budget for the period 2008-2012 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 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

In preparation for Dominion Convention the committee reviewed a total of 21 resolutions, of which 2 were concurred and 19 were non-concurred. In addition, one resolution was prepared at the request of Dominion Executive Council. It will be reviewed later in the Convention agenda.

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.

Legion Ritual and the Legion system of Honours and Awards are a contributing factor to Legion Traditions, and it is the Committee's commitment to maintain the high standards of these Traditions. I believe that the Committee has again achieved this goal.

I move acceptance of this report.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Travel	2,091	2,687	3,000	3,000	3,200
Per Diem	2,775	3,602	4,000	4,100	4,200
Printing, Stationery	1,268	753	500	500	600
Telephone & Fax	37	39	200	200	200
Postage	345	404	500	500	600
Publications					
Write off old stock	103	5,817	-	6,000	-
Distribution of new stock	7,279	7,085	500	7,000	-
TOTAL	13,899	20,385	8,700	21,300	8,800

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE

J. Rycroft	Chairman
D. Eaton	Vice-Chairman
T. Eagles	Member
D. Blanchard	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. In order to ensure that consistent interpretations are given the Committee followed a set procedure. All requests for rulings are directed to the Secretary of the Committee at Dominion Command. In minor matters, the Secretary, usually after consultation with the Chairman, will provide an answer. For some interpretations, the material is circulated to members of the Committee and their opinion is sought by either electronic or regular mail. Important issues are reserved for consideration at meetings of the Committee which occur by teleconference.

AMENDMENTS TO PROVINCIAL COMMAND BY-LAWS

In 2009-2010, the Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the Provincial Command By-Laws for seven commands. Following consultation, six were approved with the members continuing to finalize the remaining one. Amended By-Laws were also approved for the Tuberculous Veterans Section.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

Since the last Convention held in Ottawa, ON in June 2008, the Dominion Executive Council has approved three By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 73, 74 and 75 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. 73

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, 2009, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 309.b.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 309.b. with:

- 309.b. Evidence should normally be given under oath/affirmation when practical to do so. Examples of an oath and an affirmation follow.

Oath: Do you swear that the evidence you shall give to this Committee will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Affirmation: Do you solemnly affirm that the evidence you shall give to this Committee will be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

Sub Subsection 314.j.i.

Delete the current wording of Sub subsection 314.j.i and replace with:

314.j.i. where the appeal is against the decision or the decision and penalty:

The remainder of the Sub subsections stay the same.

BY-LAW NO. 74

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

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council via consensus by E-mail this 9th day of April, 2009, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 1104.a.i.

Delete the current wording of this subsection and replace with:

Canadian ex-service personnel of the Regular Force or Primary Reserve Force and their dependants who are in need of assistance;

Subsection 1106.e.

Delete this Subsection in its entirety.

New Section 1113.

Insert new Section 1113 before the subtitle CENTRAL FUND:

1113. A Command, or, subject to the prior approval of the Provincial Command, a district, zone, branch or group of branches may make an allotment not exceeding 50 percent of the balance in a Poppy Trust Fund on September 30 in the Poppy Year preceding the expenditure, to cover the cost of installation, maintenance and repair to personal lifting devices installed in branches for the purpose of assisting ex-service personnel, their dependants and other persons with disabilities. Furthermore, subject to prior approval by Provincial Command, branches are authorized to use Poppy Trust Funds to provide accessibility to the branch itself by ex-service personnel, their dependants and other persons with disabilities through the installation of an access ramp to the branch entrance and by installing or retrofitting the branch's main entrance with a handicap door operator. If necessary, funding for a replacement door in this instance only is also authorized.

Renumber old Section 1113 to Section 1114.

BY-LAW NO. 75
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 February 2010 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 128.

Replace the current wording of Section 128 with:

128. All membership badges and Legion insignia remain the property of the Legion and may be worn only by members in good standing or as authorized by Dominion Command.

Subsection 133.c.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 133.c. with:

- 133.c. Provincial Commands may by by-law require a branch to conduct an external audit or an External Review Engagement of its financial records or Poppy Trust Fund.

Section 221.

Replace the current wording of Section 221 with:

221. Application for membership, shall be in writing on a form approved and supplied by Dominion Command, and shall be signed by the applicant, the proposer and seconder. In the case of a currently serving military member a proposer and/or seconder is not required if the person can provide proof of service by showing their military ID card at the time of application (copy of documentation to be attached to the application form and kept on member's file). Such application, together with any enrolment fee, shall be submitted to the branch (See Section 1202). The proposer and seconder shall be voting members in good standing of the branch.

Section 223.

Replace the current wording of Section 223 with:

223. It shall be the duty of the membership committee of the branch to which an application for membership or reinstatement is submitted, to satisfy itself as to the correctness of the facts contained in the application, and to thoroughly investigate the applicant's character, evidence of eligibility and suitability for membership in the Legion, and to report its findings to the general meeting of the branch to which the application is presented for approval. In the case of a currently serving military member the onus is on the membership chairman to interview the candidate and upon presentation of the application at the general meeting advise that the applicant is a currently serving member and approval for membership should be considered.

Subsection 229.c.

Replace the current wording of Subsection 229.c. with:

- 229.c. Applications for transfer shall be presented to a general or special meeting of the branch for approval or otherwise, prior to submission to Dominion Command. The Branch Executive Committee has the authority to approve applications for transfer when regular monthly General Meetings of the branch are not held.

Subsection 304.b.iv.

Replace the current wording of Sub subsection 304.b.iv. with:

- 304.b.iv. address it to and lodge it with the Secretary of the appropriate branch or command within 15 days of the alleged offence or in good faith, knowledge thereof.

Section 402.

Replace the current wording of Section 402 with:

402. In the event of a command or special section representative being unable to attend a meeting of the Executive Council, the respective Provincial Command shall, upon notification to the Dominion Secretary, name a substitute for that particular meeting.

Section 617.

Delete title and replace with FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Replace the current section in its entirety and replace with:

617.

- a. A branch shall ensure a Financial Review Committee examines the accounts of the branch.
- b. The Financial Review Committee of a branch need not be chartered accountants and may or may not be members, but shall not be members of the executive committee of the branch or employees of the Legion or organization thereof.
- c. The report of the Financial Review Committee shall be submitted within three months following the end of the fiscal year, or such other period as may be approved by Provincial Command.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee members considered five resolutions presented for consideration by the delegates at the 2010 Dominion Convention. These are reported in the relevant sections of the convention booklet.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Constitution and Laws Committee budget for the period 2010-2012 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.

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

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Per Diem	-	117	-	200	200
Printing, Stationery	382	257	400	400	400
Telephone & Fax	46	57	200	200	200
Postage	45	290	350	400	500
Miscellaneous	5	23	150	100	100
Publications					
Write off of old stock	9,109	-	8,000	-	9,000
Distribution of new stock	7,044	-	5,500	-	6,000
TOTAL	16,631	745	14,600	1,300	16,400

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

B. Wignes	President
C. Paul	First Vice President
K. Merola	Second Vice-President
M. Wolfe	Secretary Treasurer
Vacant	Past President

HISTORY

A brief historical overview is offered to remind Legionnaires of the special relationship of the Tuberculous Veterans Section to The Royal Canadian Legion. The Tuberculosis Veterans Association of Canada (TVA) was organized in 1917. In 1925 when Field Marshal Earl Haig came to Canada to urge the formation of the Canadian Legion, TVA had over 7,000 members and had been very successful in obtaining war disability pensions for respiratory disabled veterans. The Association was in sound financial condition and maintained Service Bureaus in Ottawa, Toronto and London, with highly efficient service centres in most of the Canadian Sanatoriums. The TVA responded to the unity appeal made by Field Marshal Haig by taking a prominent part in the Unity Convention held in Winnipeg in November 1925. On the 1st of September 1926 in Victoria, B.C., the most solemn Articles of Faith were signed by Sir Percy Lake, thus creating the Tuberculous Veterans Section (TVS) of the Canadian Legion.

The TVS gave the Legion its financial start by providing \$10,000.00, which in the early 1920's was considered a substantial sum. The TVS also made available to the Legion a number of very experienced service officers who had proven their value in dealing with thousands of claims, and who were familiar with veteran's legislation. For many years, the Chief Pension Officer of the TVS was the Director of the Dominion Service Bureau. The pride in this legacy, current activities and the fight against tuberculosis keeps us strong despite the challenges of membership.

TUBERCULOSIS

Most Canadians have little concern for tuberculosis because of the relatively low incidence in Canada. This was not always the case, however. In the 1930s and 1940s sanatoriums existed throughout the country to accommodate afflicted citizens and a very large number of WWI and WWII veterans for the two to five years it took to effect a cure. With new drugs developed in the 1950s, efficacious treatment could be administered on an outpatient basis and everyone thought the disease was finished.

A reality check would show that in other parts of the world, where overcrowding and poor sanitation exists, millions of new cases of tuberculosis develop every year. In fact about one third of the world population is infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis, which explains why physical examination and chest x-rays are required for all immigrants to Canada. Members of the present Canadian Forces serving abroad are especially susceptible to respiratory diseases and tuberculosis, including new strains which are resistant to drugs in the current formulary and greatly prolong treatment.

As a note: At the present, with a most recent update from a Winnipeg Free Press article of November 2009, finds two Manitoba MPs pushing for new tuberculosis strategies to eliminate what they call Canada's "national embarrassment." The revelations are that Manitoba's northern communities and First Nation reserves have recorded some of the highest rates of TB in the world since the mid 1970's – more than 100 times what their rate should be. Here it is 2010 and a curable disease is still taking a toll in Canada's communities!

ACTIVITIES

The four existing branches in Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon and Saint John are very much in tune with the purposes and objects of the Legion, but history, tradition and the evident threat posed by tuberculosis and related respiratory diseases dictate an expanded purpose for the care and welfare of respiratory disabled veterans. In addition to the Poppy Campaign, Remembrance, service work, community and social events, TVS branches focus on supplemental activities related to the special needs of the respiratory disabled

Service Officers are available at any time to assist with veterans needs and to offer advice in any situation that arises. Sick and visiting committees keep a special eye on veterans and community members who suffer respiratory problems, and also those members and veterans who need special attention or simply a visit to indicate that the Legion still cares.

Concerned for treatment, relief of suffering and for arresting the spread of tuberculosis, much effort goes into fund raising. All four branches maintain contact with the Canadian Lung Association and direct available funds for hospital respiratory apparatus and other specialized equipment for community care. The Vancouver branch works with the TB Veterans Charitable Foundation to fund programs for respiratory technician training and for research into new drugs to fight mutant strains of tuberculosis. Furthermore, our youngest citizens, children with respiratory ailments are not forgotten. TVS branches place Spinoza bear kits, which feature personalized voice recordings that bring comfort to children facing critical illness.

Education continues to be a TVS priority. Strict criteria are applied to ensure support only goes to deserving students. Bursaries and scholarships totaling more than \$50,000.00 per year are awarded at both the national and branch levels for the children and grandchildren of TVS members.

MEMBERSHIP

Recognizing that membership is drawn from tuberculous veterans, their families or those closely associated with treatment or research, one can understand that there is both good and bad news with regard to numbers. The ravages of tuberculosis on the body are such that our afflicted members age quicker and are weaker healthwise than the general population. With the inevitable passing of members, it is encouraging to have seen our numbers remain at about 540 for the past three years. Fortunately the new, younger members, many children and now grandchildren of tuberculous veterans, or past beneficiaries of our scholarship and bursary programs, continue to express interest in the TVS and have become active in the branches. Equally as encouraging is the fact some of today's present day veterans and service personnel are showing interest and a small number have joined.

CONCLUSION

The Tuberculous Veterans Section is grateful for the Legion framework which has protected the traditions and special interests of tuberculous and respiratory disabled veterans through the Dominion Executive Council and Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee. The Dominion Service Bureau has changed immensely and the number of TB cases has dwindled since the Tuberculous Veterans Association had provided the first Director. However, the pension needs of TVS veterans continue to be well served. The TVS Section is looking forward to continuing the special relationship with The Legion which has existed since 1926.

I move acceptance of my report.

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

REPORT OF THE VETERANS UNITY COMMITTEE

C. Belzile	Chairman
J. Marr	Member
B. Brown	Member
L. MacKenzie	Member
L.W. Cuppens	Ex-Officio
B. White	Secretary

GENERAL

A full and detailed background on the workings of the Committee was provided to the delegates at the last Dominion Convention. The veterans' unity initiative has been active and discussed since first being briefed at the Dominion Convention in 2002. This initiative was designed to bring the various veterans organizations under the Legion umbrella and thereby eradicate the fragmentation of organizations when dealing with veterans' issues.

Since 2002 the main point of contention expressed by the various organizations has and will probably remain as the inherent desire to maintain both their organizational identity and their right of self-representation.

During the past two years, the Veterans Unity Committee has held two meetings in October 2008 and October 2009 with representatives from up to 14 veterans' organizations to discuss this initiative and to formulate a way ahead.

OCTOBER 2009 MEETING

While the October 2008 meeting reinforced the various organizations positions concerning the unity initiative, the October 2009 can be viewed as a progressive and productive meeting. Representatives at the meeting were urged to lay aside the "buttons and bows" issues of unity and encouraged to work together to better advocate on behalf of Canada's veterans.

It was agreed that the main goal of the veterans' advocacy initiative should be to work together to help veterans and that there should be a focused communication network between all the veterans' organizations. As such, a proposal was placed on the table to have a "Dedicated Communication Network" which will allow the veterans organizations to go forward with a unified voice and unified position when dealing with VAC and others.

Following the discussion, it was agreed by all participants that:

- A communications link via email would be established to distribute issues of advocacy on a regular, as required basis. One member per organization will receive this information for further dissemination within their organization.
- That the individual right of representation of any one organization would not be affected or limited by this advocacy means.

- That the Legion would circulate its advocacy position when called upon to be represented at Parliamentary or Senate Committees. Each organization was free to have the Legion represent them if they agreed to the position.
- That the Legion would host an annual advocacy meeting near the end of October. Individual organizations would be responsible for their own travel and accommodations.
- All organizations would share information on advocacy issues so that all are better informed.

These decisions were a major step forward in ensuring that all organizations communicate and share a common advocacy position when going forward to the government to look after Canada's veterans.

BUDGET

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

CONCLUSION

I am proud to admit that this last meeting of the Veteran's Unity Committee was a success and major advances have been made since we commenced this journey in 2002. We have been able to achieve a consensus that by working together on important veteran's issues, we will be able to advocate with a unified veterans voice. This is important as we move forward as organizations, either individually or collectively. Although various points of view will always be present and other organizations will continue to be self-representative, I believe that we, the Legion, as an organization will be able to demonstrate our professionalism and relevance to all of the other organizations. This will yield benefits in the future, not only to us, but also, and most importantly, to our veterans.

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

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

THE VETERANS UNITY COMMITTEE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
Travel	1,737	3,053	2,500	2,700	2,800
Per Diem	2,243	3,776	2,500	2,600	2,700
Printing & Office	31	-	50	50	50
Telephone	36	22	50	50	50
Postage	23	-	50	50	50
Miscellaneous	-	34	50	50	50
TOTAL	4,070	6,885	5,200	5,500	5,700

REPORT OF THE DOMINION SECRETARY

B. White	Dominion Secretary
S. Clark	Director Administration
P. Allard	Director Service Bureau
T. Murphy	Director Finance
R. Butt	Director Communications
P. Underhill	Director Supply

INTRODUCTION

Good day Comrades. It is my distinct pleasure and honour to provide you with my first report to convention as your Dominion Secretary. As you know, I am no stranger to the Legion as I have been at Dominion Command for the past 12 years. I would also like to acknowledge publically my predecessor, Comrade Duane Daly and his 14 years of service to our organization. I can say that Comrade Duane is enjoying his retirement. That said, I would like to highlight our activities at Dominion Command.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

As you can see from the above the staff at Dominion Command, organized in five departments, supports the day to day operations of the Legion, while providing support to the Senior Elected Officers, the Dominion Committees, provincial commands and the myriad of queries from our members.

The computer system at Dominion Command has now been modernized and is fully operational after experiencing some noticeable growing pains. This modernization process was necessary to ensure that we could take advantage of our databases and integrate the membership, supply and finance information. I am very confident that the system is now stable and as such I am pleased to report that we are in the stages of implementing a web store to serve our members. Our goal is to have this fully tested out and operational by January 2011. This service will open our Supply Department to our members and the potential of 350,000 new accounts. As a safe guard, those items whose distribution is controlled by the branches, such as ritual and insignia items, will continue to only be available to branches; members will not be able to order these types of items on their own.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution that the staff at Dominion Command makes to the overall operation of the Legion. This small group of 40 permanent staff, two long term contract personnel and seven part time temporary help are fully dedicated to providing you, our members, with the best support that they can in a friendly and helpful manner. I would also be remiss in not mentioning the nine staff members of Canvet Publications. We care about the service that we provide and we take our contributions seriously. These are your front line people who contribute to the day to day operations of the Legion. They are dedicated to supporting you.

In regards to our structure, the Service Bureau continues to assist our veterans daily and is finding that we are reaching out to a newer breed of veterans while continuing our stalwart service to our traditional veterans. Comrades, these new veterans need our assistance and we have to demonstrate to them that we honestly care for them and their welfare.

The Administrative Department is where the majority of our programs are administered on behalf of the Dominion Committees as well as looking after the numerous Constitution and Laws and Remembrance questions. As reported to you at the last convention, the Membership Section is working well under the direction of the Director Administration.

Our Supply Department continues to provide excellent service and a variety of items to our members. Sales in 2009 peaked at \$1,949,976, down 11% from 2008, but with the implementation of the web store, we look forward to improving our service and to sharing more with our provincial commands. This year \$86,177.80 was shared with the provincial commands.

The Finance Department is your typical group of unsung heroes who work quietly behind closed doors and ensures that we keep our financial accounting accurate and up to date. We could not operate without them.

Last but not least our Communications Department who keeps us up to date on how the Legion is being portrayed in the media. As well, Communications provides support through speeches and media information to the entire Legion.

Comrades, at this time there are no planned changes to the overall structure of Dominion Command but we will continue to fine tune our operations to provide the maximum amount of support in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

DOMINION COMMAND SUPPORT

Comrades, the Legion is a large national organization, over 350,000 strong, with influence in all aspects of our communities. We make a difference! Dominion Command is there to help and assist. Information sharing and communications are essential to further the Aims and Objects of the Legion as well as enabling the average Canadian to understand how we help our veterans, our country and our communities. By working together at all levels of the Legion, we can promote our relevancy as a national institution and continue to deliver programs which matter. While we do have a channel of communications as defined in our General By-Laws, I want to assure you that Dominion Command and my staff will be there to help you achieve what you want to do, when you want to do it.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, the Legion is only as strong as the sum of all of its parts. We have been and are a force to be reckoned with in our communities and in our support of Canada's veterans. We need to continue this tradition more now than ever before and take care of this new breed of Canadian veteran. We need to actively demonstrate that we care about them and their welfare and we welcome them in our organization.

Finally, on behalf of the staff at Dominion Command, I want to state that it is our honour to serve you and the Legion. You can count on our support in continuing on with our mission.

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

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

M. Cook	Chairman
W. Edmond	Vice Chairman
B. White	Member
T. Murphy	Secretary

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

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

The total realized balance in the Fund as at December 31, 2009 was \$1,595,041. These funds are invested in the following areas. As at December 31, 2009, \$767,000 was invested in Government bonds, \$389,000 was invested in a Pooled Bond Fund that contains a mixed portfolio of consisting of government and corporate bonds, \$328,000 in a Pooled Equities Fund with the balance in money market funds.

I made the distinction above regarding realized fund balance because of a recent change to the accounting regulations. Investments must now be stated at the trading value (referred to as fair market value) on the last day of the fiscal year. In effect this includes speculative gains in the Fund Equity for year end. Our total fund equity at December 31, 2009 was \$1,625,049 which included \$30,008 of unrealized gains on our investment portfolio. Although the trading value of our investments is important information a quick run up or down near the end of the fiscal year in the bond and equity markets can cause a substantial swing in the values. The decision of Convention to set a minimum level of \$1.5 million for the fund was done under the old accounting rules which did not include speculative gains. This Committee will not let the fund balance drop below the \$1.5 million level.

The earnings yield on investments for 2008 was 4.4% and 3.9% for 2009.

We are still working our way out of the credit crisis that struck international lending and investment markets in 2008. The central banks in all countries reduced their lending rates to new historic lows in order to encourage borrowing and stimulate economic growth. The downside of this is that rates on investments were reduced proportionally. The encouraging side is that investment market is starting to grow again. Our current bond holdings have interest rates that the range from 3.25% to 5.85% and the dividend yields on our equity investments are improving. Our forecast for returns on investments for 2010 and 2011 are 4.2% and 4.6% respectively.

The Fund provides 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. For 2010 the grant has been temporarily suspended to give the Fund a chance to rebuild itself. The balance in the Fund will be reviewed annually to see when a grant can be reinstated.

A summary of the Operations of the Fund from its inception in 1966 to 2009, a total of 43 years of activity, can be found in schedule A (attached). An analysis of the changes in the Fund balance is presented below.

Fund Balance as at 31 December:

	2007 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 PROJECTED	2011 PROJECTED
	\$1,632,991	\$1,619,195	\$1,595,041	\$1,660,000	\$1,735,000
<u>Decrease -</u> <u>Increase +</u>	-0.17%	-0.84%	-1.52%	+4.1%	+4.4%

I move acceptance of this report.

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, 2009

REVENUE			6,095,603
EXPENSE			
Action Program			133,817
Dominion Command			
Track and Field	1974 - 1992	2,174,724	
Track and Field	1996 - 2009	<u>1,725,000</u>	3,899,724
Geriatric Fellowship	1981 - 1992		1,152,015
Fund Management Fees	1966 - 2009		<u>344,062</u>
			<u>5,529,618</u>
NET REVENUE			565,985
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS			<u>1,029,056</u>
REALIZED FUND BALANCE AT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2009			<u>1,595,041</u>
Add: Unrealized gains on marketable investments			<u>30,008</u>
FUND BALANCE (including unrealized gains) AT DECEMBER 31, 2009			<u>1,625,049</u>

DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES

Action Program—Promotion, publicity, travel and administration.

Dominion Command Track and Field—Twenty eight meets involving approximately 10,800 participants in total.

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

Fund Management Fees—Administration fees for investment fund management by RBC investments.

DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

M. COOK

As you know, at the 2006 Convention a Per Capita Tax increase of \$4.50 was approved effective 2007. At that time it was acknowledged that in the early years this increase would contribute to an operating surplus but with steadily declining membership numbers we would eventually move into a deficit. To plan for this eventuality surpluses generated by this increase have been put into the Per Capita Tax Reserve. At the end of 2009 we had \$3,337,000 in this reserve. Our budget projections for 2010 and 2011 anticipate an additional \$304,000 to add to this reserve for a cumulative total of \$3,641,000. Our first draw down from the Reserve will not occur before the 2012 year. The 2012 projection anticipates a small draw down of \$169,585 or 4.7% of our total Reserve. There will be no request for a Per Capita Tax increase at this Convention as we still have the Reserve to draw on.

Over the past two years we have done fairly well in spite of the turmoil in the investment markets and the resulting economic slowdown. In the middle of 2008 the global credit crisis struck pushing investment markets into a downward spiral and causing an economic slowdown. Interest rates were reduced to new historic lows, stock values shrank and dividend pay outs were cut. The one positive that came out of this was there was a lack of inflationary pressure on our expenses.

Regarding our investment portfolio, it has recovered nicely and now sits at a market value of \$14,551,126 which is an historic high.

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

Firstly, in the revenue section:

In 2008, with the reinvested Per Capita Reserves, we were on our way to reaching a new high for investment revenue. The revenue earned in the first seven months of that year helped us earn a total of \$571,000. In 2009, this declined to \$520,000. This was actually a little better than we had anticipated. The investment markets, although volatile, started to stabilize toward the end of 2009 and our earnings started to pick up.

Royalties earned through our MBNA MasterCard sagged for the first three quarters but a strong four quarter in 2009 got us close to the 2008 level. We also had the benefit of some unanticipated but very welcome funds. For both 2008 and 2009 we were the recipient's of estate bequests of approximately \$20,000. In the Miscellaneous Other revenue in 2009 we received a refund of \$57,000 from the CFPSA (Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency). This money had been given for the Canadian Forces Show Tour over the past several years. When the Federal Government implemented full funding of the tour our contributions were returned.

The Supply Department continues to be a strong contributor to our bottom line earning \$351,000 in 2008 and \$259,000 in 2009.

On the expense side, in addition to the lack of inflation issues, I would like to point out the following.

The Reserve set aside for Legion magazine ended in 2008 when the subscription price was raised to the full \$7.00. The purpose of this Reserve is to provide operating funds so that the magazine can continue to be produced without an increase in the magazine's portion of the per capita tax. I am pleased to report that this reserve is sufficient to fund the magazine until 2012 providing we continue to receive the postal subsidy.

The traditional volatility in air fares worked well in our favour as the cost for flights declined steadily. By last quarter of 2008 airfares had begun to decline. This accelerated through 2009 before firming up near the end of that year. At the 2008 Convention there was criticism on how travel costs were budgeted. As a result, the budgeting formula was revised to bring it more in line with historical actual travel costs rather than provide for a cushion for protection in case of a sudden large future increase in air fares. However, no provision was ever considered for a sudden decrease in air fares. So once again we had substantial savings in our travel budget.

The Administration Department went through personnel changes in its two most senior positions, Dominion Secretary and Director of Administration. There was a period of overlap between the two incumbents and their two replacements for orientation and training. As a result the salary costs were higher because of the overlapping staff. The transition is now complete and as you will note that in 2010 the budget for this department declines.

In the Membership section, computer processing and maintenance costs have declined as we have taken more tasks in house.

The budgets for the next three years are nil or breakeven budgets. Contributions to the Per Capita Reserve fund of \$250, 869 and \$53,575 are expected to be made into the Reserve. A small draw down of \$169,585 may be needed in 2012.

Attached are the financial statements with the actual results for 2008 and 2009 and the forecasts for 2010 through 2012.

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

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that Price Waterhouse Coopers be re-appointed as our auditors for the ensuing years 2010 and 2011.

CARRIED

Comrades, we have provided you with a full accounting of the actual expenses for the years 2008 and 2009 and estimates for the next three years. I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have concerning these.

I move acceptance of my report.

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

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Per Capita Tax-current	6,384,658	6,136,820	5,830,000	5,684,000	5,542,000
Per Capita Tax-from Reserve	-	-	-	-	169,585
Canvet					
Agency Fee & Support	545,116	545,488	492,744	400,000	400,000
Investment Income	570,871	520,243	510,000	530,000	542,000
Service Bureau Revenue	520,000	570,000	520,000	530,000	545,000
Supply Department	2,202,491	1,949,976	1,900,000	1,950,000	2,000,000
Legion House					
Tenants	70,344	71,394	70,000	71,000	71,000
Internal	316,000	316,000	316,000	316,000	316,000
Miscellaneous					
Master Card	138,380	137,541	125,000	135,000	137,000
Other	83,334	120,166	55,000	56,000	57,000
Estate Bequest	20,683	18,804	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	10,851,877	10,386,431	9,818,744	9,672,000	9,779,585
EXPENSE					
LEGION Magazine					
Subscriptions	2,561,935	2,536,576	2,446,000	2,385,000	2,325,000
Reserve	91,000	-	-	-	-
Administration	783,270	857,324	787,500	804,900	825,700
Finance	346,177	326,437	353,100	363,600	373,500
Communications	406,423	418,090	446,800	449,800	460,700
Membership	644,871	604,224	644,800	662,100	670,400
Service Bureau	663,872	685,678	744,600	725,900	779,100
Supply	1,851,526	1,691,443	1,725,625	1,770,375	1,819,775
Committees	1,267,391	1,023,964	1,500,150	1,524,050	1,557,210
Miscellaneous	120,366	150,713	158,000	150,500	165,500
Depreciation	114,579	113,456	125,000	128,000	131,000
Employer Pension Contributions	310,000	346,679	330,000	338,000	346,000
Legion House	307,381	317,796	306,300	316,200	325,700
Per Capita Tax Reserve	994,000	919,000	250,869	53,575	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	10,462,791	9,991,381	9,818,744	9,672,000	9,779,585
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE)	389,086	395,050	-	-	-

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	571,900	650,963	551,000	565,000	579,000
Retirement Allowance	23,896	29,921	27,500	28,000	29,000
Other Benefits	47,310	49,701	53,000	54,000	56,000
Temporary & Contract Staff	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	643,107	730,585	631,500	647,000	664,000
Office Supplies	45,348	42,623	54,000	55,000	56,000
Telephone	3,496	6,221	7,000	7,200	7,300
Postage, Express	14,024	8,102	15,000	15,400	15,800
Printing, Stationery	6,725	3,339	7,000	7,200	7,300
Staff Travel	324	417	1,000	1,000	1,200
Insurance	26,226	18,264	21,000	21,500	22,000
Rent (CR to Building)	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Staff Recruitment	4,431	6,597	9,000	9,200	9,400
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	7,298	7,310	7,000	7,200	7,300
Training	6,291	7,867	9,000	8,200	9,400
TOTAL EXPENSE	868,270	942,324	872,500	889,900	910,700
Less: charged to:					
Membership Department	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Service Bureau	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Poppy Fund	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
NET EXPENSE	783,270	857,324	787,500	804,900	825,700

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS FINANCE DEPARTMENT

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	297,714	281,585	322,000	331,000	339,000
Retirement Allowance	13,509	15,075	16,100	16,500	16,800
Other Benefits	32,000	29,949	37,000	37,900	38,900
Temporary & Contract Staff	28,966	25,877	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	372,188	352,486	375,100	385,400	394,700
Office Supplies	1,244	787	2,000	2,000	2,100
Telephone	1,375	1,557	2,000	2,000	2,100
Postage, Express	7,293	7,599	8,000	8,200	8,400
Printing, Stationery	3,885	1,382	3,000	3,000	3,100
Staff Travel	515	620	1,000	1,000	1,100
Audit Fees	43,988	48,856	47,000	48,000	49,000
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	1,649	2,076	3,000	3,100	3,200
TOTAL EXPENSE	464,137	447,364	473,100	484,700	495,700
Less: charged to:					
Supply	42,960	45,927	45,000	46,100	47,200
Canvet	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
	117,960	120,927	120,000	121,100	122,200
NET EXPENSE	346,177	326,437	353,100	363,600	373,500

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	303,949	308,454	316,000	324,000	332,000
Retirement Allowance	14,478	15,052	15,800	16,200	16,500
Other Benefits	25,270	28,688	34,000	34,900	35,800
Temporary & Contract Staff	5,899	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	349,595	352,193	365,800	375,100	384,300
Office Supplies	3,761	5,193	4,000	4,200	4,300
Network Support/Lease	29,852	28,728	28,000	28,700	29,400
Telephone	1,739	2,494	3,000	3,100	3,200
Postage, Express	1,178	300	2,000	2,000	2,000
Printing, Stationery	5,179	5,208	7,000	7,100	7,200
Staff Travel	3,327	902	1,000	1,100	1,200
Legion Internet/Website	7,452	10,840	13,000	13,400	13,800
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
Computer Training	-	2,432	4,000	4,100	4,200
Web Store development	-	-	8,000	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,340	1,799	3,000	3,000	3,100
TOTAL EXPENSE	432,423	439,090	467,800	470,800	481,700
Less: charged to:					
Administration	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Finance	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Membership	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Service Bureau	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Supply	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Canvet	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Convention	5,000	-	-	-	-
	26,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
NET EXPENSE	406,423	418,090	446,800	449,800	460,700

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS MEMBERSHIP SECTION

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Agency Fee	475,000	475,000	470,820	400,000	400,000
TOTAL REVENUE	475,000	475,000	470,820	400,000	400,000
EXPENSE					
Salaries	294,291	310,581	316,000	324,000	332,000
Retirement Allowance	12,472	15,053	15,800	16,200	16,600
Other Benefits	39,993	40,924	42,000	43,000	44,000
Temporary Staff	27,080	24,469	33,000	33,000	33,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	373,836	391,027	406,800	416,200	425,600
Computer:					
Computer processing/ maintenance	88,068	40,579	58,000	58,000	59,000
Membership cards, forms and paper	30,655	32,707	34,000	35,000	36,000
Stationery, Supplies	13,673	7,142	10,000	10,300	10,600
Rent (CR to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Membership Packout	15,878	10,010	12,000	12,300	12,600
Postage & Express	39,405	35,411	39,000	40,000	41,000
Provincial Conventions	-	3,027	-	5,000	-
Miscellaneous	3,474	4,146	5,000	5,100	5,200
Telephone	1,884	2,176	2,000	2,200	2,400
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Administrative Support	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	644,871	604,224	644,800	662,100	670,400
NET EXPENSE	(169,871)	(129,224)	(173,980)	(262,100)	(270,400)

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS SERVICE BUREAU

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Poppy Fund Grant	<u>520,000</u>	<u>570,000</u>	<u>520,000</u>	<u>530,000</u>	<u>545,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	472,334	471,652	473,000	503,000	524,000
Retirement Allowance	19,773	22,903	23,600	24,000	24,500
Other Benefits	43,553	40,497	42,000	43,100	44,100
Temporary & Contract Staff	<u>-</u>	<u>9,461</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>535,661</u>	<u>544,513</u>	<u>553,600</u>	<u>570,100</u>	<u>592,600</u>
Office Supplies Expense	3,883	7,448	6,000	6,200	6,300
Telephone	2,587	2,863	4,000	4,100	4,200
Postage	9,284	9,232	11,000	11,300	11,600
Staff Travel	5,423	2,699	5,000	5,100	5,200
VAC - Liaison	2,320	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Rent (Cr to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Service Officers Conference	25,013	-	30,000	-	32,000
Legion Cares Program	-	38,453	40,000	41,000	42,000
Housing Consultant Travel	-	-	10,000	3,000	-
Administrative Support	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	<u>1,700</u>	<u>2,470</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>3,200</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>663,872</u>	<u>685,678</u>	<u>744,600</u>	<u>725,900</u>	<u>779,100</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Sales of Supplies	2,202,491	1,949,976	1,900,000	1,950,000	2,000,000
Less Cost of Goods	<u>926,786</u>	<u>823,100</u>	<u>836,000</u>	<u>857,000</u>	<u>879,000</u>
GROSS MARGIN	<u>1,275,706</u>	<u>1,126,876</u>	<u>1,064,000</u>	<u>1,093,000</u>	<u>1,121,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	378,839	400,031	411,000	422,000	433,000
Retirement Allowance	15,674	18,101	20,500	21,000	21,500
Other Benefits	45,843	46,783	49,000	50,000	52,000
Temporary Staff	<u>39,153</u>	<u>32,789</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>29,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>479,507</u>	<u>497,706</u>	<u>505,500</u>	<u>520,000</u>	<u>535,500</u>
Telephone	4,511	5,136	8,000	8,000	8,000
Postage, Express	58,336	20,257	25,000	25,500	26,000
Printing, Stationery	5,394	5,774	6,000	6,100	6,300
Staff Travel	4,158	2,899	7,000	7,000	7,000
Insurance	1,828	764	1,000	1,000	1,100
Catalogue Production	37,293	34,657	48,000	49,300	54,600
Rent (CR to Building)	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Storage	3,309	3,172	3,000	3,100	3,200
Advertising/Catalogue Distribution	107,544	110,047	120,000	123,000	126,000
Wrapping Material	27,831	21,815	30,000	31,000	32,000
Finance/Admin. Support	42,960	45,927	45,000	46,100	47,200
Office Supplies	959	1,895	3,000	3,000	3,000
Bad Debts	6,000	3,900	2,000	2,100	2,200
Computer Network Support	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Miscellaneous	<u>3,121</u>	<u>3,214</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,300</u>	<u>3,600</u>
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>848,752</u>	<u>823,165</u>	<u>872,500</u>	<u>894,500</u>	<u>921,700</u>
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback	<u>(41,000)</u>	<u>(41,000)</u>	<u>(41,000)</u>	<u>(41,000)</u>	<u>(41,000)</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>807,752</u>	<u>782,165</u>	<u>831,500</u>	<u>853,500</u>	<u>880,700</u>
GAIN OR (LOSS)	<u>467,954</u>	<u>344,711</u>	<u>232,500</u>	<u>239,500</u>	<u>240,300</u>
PROFIT SHARING @ 25%	<u>(116,989)</u>	<u>(86,178)</u>	<u>(58,125)</u>	<u>(59,875)</u>	<u>(60,075)</u>
NET GAIN OR (LOSS)	<u>350,966</u>	<u>258,533</u>	<u>174,375</u>	<u>179,625</u>	<u>180,225</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
RCEL					
Conference	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
SCOWP	2,463	2,358	3,000	3,000	3,100
RCEL TOTAL	17,463	17,358	18,000	18,000	18,100
Request for Support	6,595	17,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Dominion Bursaries	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Historica (EWC)	-	700	1,000	1,000	1,000
Legal & Other	16,902	28,621	30,000	31,000	32,000
MBP Ads	15,717	15,952	17,000	17,400	17,900
Comradeship Awards	4,774	5,727	5,000	5,900	6,100
Legion Policy Positions	2,332	4,664	7,000	7,200	7,400
Translation (note)	40,582	26,882	44,000	34,000	47,000
Dom. Secretary Recruitment	-	17,809	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	120,366	150,713	158,000	150,500	165,500

***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

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Rent Tenants	70,344	71,394	70,000	71,000	71,000
Rent Charge to Depts					
Administration	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000
Membership	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Service Bureau	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
Supply	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Finance	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
Communications	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000
TOTAL REVENUE	386,344	387,394	386,000	387,000	387,000
EXPENSE					
Salaries	21,443	21,892	22,500	23,300	23,800
Retirement Allowance	1,008	1,240	1,200	1,200	1,300
Other Benefits	3,645	3,697	3,600	3,700	3,800
Temporary Staff	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	26,095	26,829	27,300	28,200	28,900
Elevator Maintenance	5,345	4,233	7,000	7,200	7,400
A/C, Electrical, Plumbing	35,358	31,993	35,000	37,000	39,000
Interior & Exterior	59,428	76,927	45,000	47,000	49,000
Cleaning Contract	46,641	44,490	51,000	52,000	53,000
Fuel	13,953	11,425	16,000	16,400	16,800
Light & Power	38,715	41,912	42,000	43,000	45,000
Water and Sewage	747	2,165	2,000	2,200	2,300
Taxes	42,145	44,083	46,000	48,000	49,000
Insurance	8,954	3,739	5,000	5,200	5,300
Reserve Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	307,381	317,796	306,300	316,200	325,700
GAIN OR LOSS	78,963	69,598	79,700	70,800	61,300

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS COMMITTEES & ELECTED OFFICERS EXPENSE

	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
COMMITTEES					
1 Veterans, Service and Seniors	22,393	16,197	30,400	24,100	32,000
2 Poppy & Remembrance	113,241	12,889	87,800	85,900	91,700
3 Membership	110,846	92,167	250,500	234,700	249,600
4 Public Relations	162,666	114,320	171,300	138,800	151,300
5 RCEL	843	37,672	39,000	40,300	41,500
6 Sports	346,223	322,824	437,300	436,200	453,210
Centennial	(75,000)	(75,000)	-	-	-
7 Budget	6,067	6,819	8,000	8,400	8,600
8 Ritual & Awards	13,899	20,385	8,700	21,300	8,800
9 Constitution & Laws	16,631	745	14,600	1,300	16,400
10 Defence	15,410	11,752	18,400	18,750	19,350
11 Veterans Unity	4,070	6,885	5,200	5,500	5,700
12 Governance	10,920	-	-	-	-
COMMITTEE TOTAL	748,209	567,656	1,071,200	1,015,250	1,078,160
13 Elected Officers	99,172	126,823	114,000	155,100	119,400
14 DEC/Senior Elected Officers	127,339	68,497	88,800	90,700	92,800
15 Dominion Convention	292,671	260,989	226,150	263,000	266,850
SUB-TOTAL	519,182	456,308	428,950	508,800	479,050
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,267,391	1,023,964	1,500,150	1,524,050	1,557,210

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS DOMINION CONVENTION

	2006 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	2009 ACTUAL	2010 BUDGET	2011 BUDGET	2012 BUDGET
DEC						
Travel	57,031	47,144	-	30,000	-	32,000
Per Diem	88,757	108,284	-	36,700	-	40,000
Staff						
Travel	20,268	2,840	-	25,000	-	25,000
Per Diem	48,029	32,742	-	48,300	-	50,000
Past President						
Travel	1,919	4,663	-	5,000	-	7,000
Per Diem	5,622	4,723	-	6,900	-	9,000
DC Zone Commanders						
Travel	3,966	3,378	-	5,000	-	5,000
Per Diem	5,248	6,437	-	4,800	-	7,000
VIP - (Floris)	-	22,169	-	-	-	-
Other						
Travel	133	579	-	1,000	-	1,000
Per Diem	3,641	12,060	-	5,000	-	5,000
Entertainment	268	937	-	1,000	-	1,000
Credentials	4,500	4,650	-	4,650	-	4,650
Printing						
Convention Reports	41,057	39,591	-	45,000	-	45,000
Other	10,767	10,121	-	10,000	-	15,000
Translation & Interpretation	15,295	13,364	-	15,000	-	18,000
Postage	19,768	26,994	-	25,000	-	28,000
Freight	8,553	282	-	8,000	-	9,000
Social Activities						
President Reception	15,442	25,945	-	26,000	-	26,000
Other	9,916	4,512	-	10,000	-	10,000
Convention Centre	108,616	114,952	-	90,000	-	100,000
Convention Operation	96,687	110,372	-	120,000	-	125,000
Transportation	-	-	-	15,000	-	15,000
Ceremonies	746	599	-	1,000	-	1,000
Local Arrangements Committee	3,877	8,125	-	3,000	-	3,000
Supply	-	17	-	-	-	-
	570,106	605,480	-	541,350	-	581,650
Revenue	76,412	78,619	-	78,000	-	78,000
SUB-TOTAL	493,694	526,861	-	463,350	-	503,650
Provision	250,000	245,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
TOTAL	243,694	281,861	250,000	213,350	250,000	253,650
COMMITTEE	11,476	10,811	10,989	12,800	13,000	13,200
TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE	255,170	292,672	260,989	226,150	263,000	266,850

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND

NET REVENUE RECONCILIATION

DECEMBER 31

2008			
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			852,547
ADD (LESS):			
Reserves realized (taken)	Pilgrimage	(42,500)	
	Dominion Convention	245,000	
	Building	(30,000)	
	RCEL Conference	58,231	
	Legion Magazine	(91,000)	
	Per Capita Tax	(994,000)	
	Pension Plan	<u>(11,355)</u>	<u>(865,624)</u>
ADD (LESS):			
Fund Transfers from (to)	RCEL Fund	-	
	Centennial Fund	75,000	
	Poppy Fund	520,000	
	Pension transfers	(296,354)	
	Investment Fund - Building amortization	<u>96,284</u>	<u>394,930</u>
LESS: Year End Audit Adjustments			<u>7,233</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>389,086</u>

2009			
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			
ADD (LESS):			
Reserves realized (taken)	Pilgrimage	42,500	
	Dominion Convention	(250,000)	
	Building	(30,000)	
	RCEL Conference	(15,000)	
	Legion Magazine	-	
	Per Capita Tax	(919,000)	
	Pension Plan	<u>-</u>	<u>(1,171,500)</u>
ADD (LESS):			
Fund Transfers from (to)	RCEL Fund	-	
	Centennial Fund	75,000	
	Poppy Fund	620,000	
	Pension transfers	(348,262)	
	Investment Fund - Building amortization	<u>96,284</u>	<u>443,022</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>395,050</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Financial Statements
December 31, 2009



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April 12, 2010

Auditors' Report

To the Members of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

We have audited the balance sheet of **The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command** as at December 31, 2009 and the statements of changes in fund balances, revenue and expense and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Dominion Command's management. 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 plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Dominion Command as at December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

"PricewaterhouseCoopers" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership, or, as the context requires, the PricewaterhouseCoopers global network or other member firms of the network, each of which is a separate legal entity.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

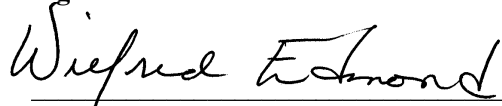
Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	7,469,560	5,796,648
Accounts receivable (note 3)	1,742,334	1,575,197
Inventories		
General	1,763,495	1,766,986
Poppy promotional material	72,093	88,642
Prepaid expense	142,887	174,951
Prepaid subscriptions	1,241,728	1,290,894
	12,432,097	10,693,318
Marketable investments (note 4)	18,241,591	17,065,010
Capital assets (note 5)	6,517,710	6,680,739
Pension asset (note 8)	596,538	284,099
	37,787,936	34,723,166
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	578,508	622,540
Per capita tax received in advance	3,040,967	3,161,292
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd. (note 7)	95,040	38,336
	3,714,515	3,822,168
Retirement obligation	348,847	285,447
	4,063,362	4,107,615
Fund balances		
General Fund		
Unrestricted	3,635,319	3,079,128
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	6,506,392	6,667,533
Other internally restricted (note 6)	5,236,319	4,264,819
Pension Plan Fund (note 8)	596,538	284,099
Investment Fund	9,354,975	8,701,190
Externally Restricted Funds	8,395,031	7,618,782
	33,724,574	30,615,551
	37,787,936	34,723,166

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

Signed on behalf of the Dominion Executive Council

 President

 Treasurer

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	Balance – Beginning of year \$	Net revenue (expense) for the year \$	Change in unrealized gains and losses on marketable investments for the year \$	Transfers from (to) \$	Balance – End of year \$
General Fund					
Unrestricted	3,079,128	1,333,268	–	(777,077)	3,635,319
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	6,667,533	(209,740)	–	48,599	6,506,392
Internally restricted (note 6)	4,264,819	–	–	971,500	5,236,319
	14,011,480	1,123,528	–	243,022	15,378,030
Pension Plan Fund (note 8)	284,099	(235,823)	–	548,262	596,538
Investment Fund (note 4)	8,701,190	(240,911)	990,980	(96,284)	9,354,975
	22,996,769	646,794	990,980	695,000	25,329,543
Externally Restricted Funds					
Poppy Trust Fund	5,349,120	1,186,266	74,807	(645,000)	5,965,193
Centennial Fund	1,586,728	50,846	62,475	(75,000)	1,625,049
RCEL Fund	558,367	(40,672)	–	25,000	542,695
Benevolent Fund	87,647	611	–	–	88,258
Troop Morale Fund	36,920	136,916	–	–	173,836
Total externally restricted funds	7,618,782	1,333,967	137,282	(695,000)	8,395,031
	30,615,551	1,980,761	1,128,262	–	33,724,574

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Revenue and Expense – General Fund

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Revenue		
Administrative fees (note 7)	75,000	75,000
Building rental (note 7)	71,394	70,344
Dividends	130,408	82,212
Estate bequests	18,803	20,683
Interest	389,835	488,659
MasterCard (MBNA)	137,541	138,380
Miscellaneous (note 7)	120,166	81,291
Per capita tax	6,136,820	6,384,658
Subscription agency fee (note 7)	545,488	545,116
Supply sales	1,949,976	2,202,491
	<u>9,575,431</u>	<u>10,088,834</u>
Expense		
Administration	747,741	682,750
Building	287,796	277,381
Committees	941,464	1,544,891
Communications	389,090	377,423
Finance	372,438	392,177
Legion magazine – subscriptions (note 7)	2,536,576	2,561,935
Membership	559,224	599,871
Miscellaneous	135,713	178,597
Service bureau	640,678	618,872
Supply –		
Operation	808,343	864,740
Cost of sales	823,100	926,786
Amortization –		
Furniture and equipment and computers	63,704	64,828
Building	146,036	146,036
	<u>8,451,903</u>	<u>9,236,287</u>
Net revenue for the year	<u>1,123,528</u>	<u>852,547</u>

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Revenue and Expense – Externally Restricted Funds

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	2009				2008	
	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Troop Morale Fund \$	Total \$
Revenue						
Donations	166,475	–	243,436	–	354,036	698,647
Interest	95,553	53,424	3,461	611	–	224,402
Dividends	16,709	13,555	–	–	–	9,833
Realized losses on sales of marketable investments	(897)	(5,778)	–	–	–	(305)
Poppies and wreaths	2,792,512	–	–	–	–	2,998,594
Promotional aids	233,604	–	–	–	–	233,244
	3,303,956	61,201	246,897	611	354,036	4,164,415
Expense						
Advertising and promotional materials	29,392	–	–	–	–	33,556
Poppy contests	17,456	–	–	–	–	15,437
Poppies and wreaths	1,546,892	–	–	–	–	1,821,596
Promotional aids	130,664	–	–	–	–	129,803
Trademark defence	17,430	–	–	–	–	16,023
Freight	181,241	–	–	–	–	234,383
General	107,915	10,355	–	–	–	114,575
Amortization – furniture and equipment	1,887	–	–	–	–	1,887
Grant – Beechwood Cemetery NMC Foundation	–	–	–	–	–	50,000
Grant – Honour House Society	10,000	–	–	–	–	–
Benevolent support and assistance	74,813	–	287,569	–	217,120	552,093
	2,117,690	10,355	287,569	–	217,120	2,969,353
Net revenue for the year	1,186,266	50,846	(40,672)	611	136,916	1,195,062

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, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net revenue (loss) for the year –		
General Fund	1,123,528	852,547
Pension Plan Fund	(235,823)	(311,915)
Investment Fund	(240,911)	(193,401)
Externally Restricted Funds	1,333,967	1,195,062
Items not affecting cash –		
Provision for pension plan	235,823	311,915
Provision for retirement obligation	117,345	100,809
Amortization	211,627	212,750
Realized losses on sales of marketable investments	230,054	179,772
Loss on foreign exchange	19,459	13,934
Payment of retirement obligation	(53,945)	(59,361)
Contributions to pension plan	(548,262)	(458,259)
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(173,520)	(413,282)
	<u>2,019,342</u>	<u>1,430,571</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on sale of marketable investments	4,979,465	2,760,248
Purchase of marketable investments	(5,277,297)	(5,122,765)
Purchase of capital assets	(48,598)	(61,238)
	<u>(346,430)</u>	<u>(2,423,755)</u>
Net change in cash for the year	1,672,912	(993,184)
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	<u>5,796,648</u>	<u>6,789,832</u>
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	<u>7,469,560</u>	<u>5,796,648</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items is comprised of:		
Accounts receivable	(167,137)	(331,611)
Inventory		
General	3,491	(214,071)
Poppy promotional material	16,549	(13,684)
Prepaid expense	32,064	178,681
Prepaid subscriptions	49,166	(43,837)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(44,032)	(1,406)
Per capita tax received in advance	(120,325)	14,041
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	56,704	(1,395)
	<u>(173,520)</u>	<u>(413,282)</u>

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

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 generally accepted accounting principles 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 revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Fund accounting

The Dominion Command uses fund accounting to account for its activities.

The actuarially determined pension expense is 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, Benevolent and Troop Morale Funds (“Special Funds”)

Special Funds are accumulated to finance special activities, including a youth track and field camp, grants to Commonwealth veterans in the Caribbean, and to provide refreshments for troops on active duty.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

Cash equivalents

Liquid short-term 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 balance sheet and realized changes in fair value are included in net revenue of the year for the Investment Fund or appropriate Externally Restricted Fund. Unrealized changes in fair value are charged or credited to the Investment Fund or appropriate Externally Restricted Fund through the statement of changes in fund balances.

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 pension plan that covers all employees of the Dominion Command, the New Brunswick Command and Canvet Publications Ltd. The annual pension payable is based on final average earnings and years of credited service.

The pension expense is actuarially determined using the projected benefit method prorated on service and the administrator's best estimate assumptions.

For the purpose of calculating the expected return on plan assets, those assets are recorded at fair market value.

Past service costs arising as a result of plan improvements are amortized over the average remaining service period of active employees who are expected to receive the benefits, on a straight-line basis.

The excess of the net actuarial gain (loss) over 10% of the greater of the accrued benefit obligation and the fair value of the plan assets is amortized over the average remaining service period of active employees, on a straight-line basis.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

The transitional asset, which arose when new accounting policies were adopted during the year ended December 31, 2000, is amortized over the average remaining service period of active employees expected to receive benefits under the plan, on a straight-line basis.

The average remaining service period of active employees expected to receive benefits under the plan is 11 years.

The cumulative excess of pension fund contributions over the amount recorded as an expense is recorded as a pension asset in the balance sheet.

Retirement obligation

The Dominion Command provides a retirement allowance for employees who have a minimum of 15 years of service and have attained the age of 55 or a minimum of 10 years of service and have attained age 60. The Dominion Command has recorded a liability for these benefits based on estimates of turnover, salary escalation and discount rates consistent with the assumptions adopted with respect to the pension plan. This liability was not determined with reference to an actuarial valuation.

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

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 Administration expenses (salaries and general office) are allocated to Membership and Service bureau expenses in The General Fund, and to general expenses of the Poppy Trust Fund, in order to reflect support and management oversight provided to these areas. These expenses are allocated based on estimates of time spent by the relevant administrative personnel on these areas during the course of the year.

A portion of Supply - Operation expenses (salaries, freight and general warehouse) are allocated to general expenses 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. The warehouse storage 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 on these areas during the course of the year.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

3 Accounts receivable

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Commands, branches and members		
General	350,980	321,072
Poppy Trust Fund	1,023,903	940,112
Other		
General	100,798	59,038
Poppy Trust Fund	158,454	146,243
Accrued interest	108,199	108,732
	<u>1,742,334</u>	<u>1,575,197</u>

4 Marketable investments

	2009		2008	
	Fair market value \$	Cost \$	Fair market value \$	Cost \$
General Fund	14,551,126	13,941,559	13,527,408	13,908,821
Poppy Trust Fund	2,099,053	2,038,466	1,993,827	2,008,047
Centennial Fund	1,591,412	1,561,403	1,543,775	1,576,241
	<u>18,241,591</u>	<u>17,541,428</u>	<u>17,065,010</u>	<u>17,493,109</u>

Net losses on sales of marketable investments of \$240,911 (2008 – net losses of \$193,401) and net increases in unrealized gains and losses of \$990,980 (2008 – net decreases of \$789,856) relate to the general investment portfolio and are accounted for in the Investment Fund.

	2009		2008	
	Fair market value \$	Cost \$	Fair market value \$	Cost \$
Government and government guaranteed bonds	9,164,343	8,899,094	10,057,292	9,627,152
Pooled bond funds	2,558,148	2,538,264	2,278,014	2,503,263
Corporate stocks and pooled equity funds	6,519,100	6,104,070	4,729,704	5,362,694
	<u>18,241,591</u>	<u>17,541,428</u>	<u>17,065,010</u>	<u>17,493,109</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

5 Capital assets

	2009		2008
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Land	950,220	—	950,220
Building	5,841,416	474,617	5,366,799
Furniture and equipment	310,930	177,844	133,086
Computers	172,487	104,882	67,605
	7,275,053	757,343	6,517,710
			6,680,739

	2009		2008
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
General Fund	7,256,187	749,795	6,506,392
Poppy Trust Fund	18,866	7,548	11,318
	7,275,053	757,343	6,517,710
			6,680,739

6 Capital management

The Dominion Command defines its capital as its fund balances.

The Dominion Command's objectives, when managing capital, are to safeguard the Dominion Command's ability to continue operations as a going concern so that it can continue to provide long-term benefits to its stakeholders.

The Dominion Command's Dominion Executive Council is responsible for overseeing the effective management of capital. The Dominion Executive Council reviews and approves the Dominion Command's financial budget annually.

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Legion Magazine	1,445,000	1,445,000
Building	112,890	82,890
RCEL conference	15,000	—
Convention	250,000	—
Pilgrimage	—	42,500
Special purpose (80 th anniversary)	26,979	26,979
Pension plan	49,450	249,450
Per capita tax	3,337,000	2,418,000
	<u>5,236,319</u>	<u>4,264,819</u>

7 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, 2009 and 2008 is as follows:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Financial position		
Total assets	<u>1,492,066</u>	<u>1,528,016</u>
Total liabilities	<u>1,456,154</u>	<u>1,485,425</u>
Shareholders’ equity	<u>35,912</u>	<u>42,591</u>
	<u>1,492,066</u>	<u>1,528,016</u>
Results of operations		
Total revenue	2,979,609	3,077,274
Total expense	<u>2,986,288</u>	<u>3,069,973</u>
Net earnings for the year	<u>(6,679)</u>	<u>7,301</u>
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities	(71,573)	126,102
Investing activity	(14,036)	(8,175)
Financing activity	<u>—</u>	<u>(1)</u>
	<u>(85,609)</u>	<u>117,926</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

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

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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Advertising	50,907	61,913
Legion magazine – subscriptions	2,409,228	2,422,812

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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Administrative fees	75,000	75,000
Building rental	59,664	59,664
Network support charge (included in miscellaneous revenue)	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee (net of computer system lease expense)	545,488	545,116

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.

The balance owing to Canvet is non-interest bearing and has no specified terms of repayment.

The parties have agreed to reduce the subscription agency fee by the amount of the lease payments made by the Dominion Command to Canvet for the use of Canvet's computer system. As a result, subscription agency fees revenue has been reduced by \$40,000 (2008 – \$40,000). This arrangement will continue through to December 31, 2010.

8 Pension plan

An extrapolation of an actuarial valuation for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2007 indicated the following information about the defined benefit plan as at the measurement date of December 31, 2009:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Accrued benefit obligation	(12,767,169)	(9,966,370)
Fair value of plan assets	13,184,227	11,248,202
Plan surplus	417,058	1,281,832
Unamortized amounts	179,480	(997,733)
Pension asset	596,538	284,099

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

Pension expense recorded for the year was \$235,823 (2008 – \$311,915) and is accounted for in the Pension Plan Fund.

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring the accrued benefit obligation are as follows:

	2009 %	2008 %
Discount rate – accrued benefit obligation	6.25	7.25
Discount rate – pension expense	7.25	5.50
Salary escalation rate	4.00	4.00
Return on assets	6.50	6.50

Other information about the overall defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Employer contributions	640,657	608,214
Employee contributions	188,519	165,820
Benefits paid	389,647	1,072,712

The next required actuarial valuation for funding purposes will be as of January 1, 2010.

The plan assets available to provide for plan benefits are invested in mutual funds as follows:

	2009		2008	
	\$	%	\$	%
Money market	195,707	1.5	—	—
Bonds	4,987,582	37.8	5,154,121	45.8
Equities	3,900,769	29.6	3,035,579	27.0
Foreign equities	3,593,209	27.3	2,493,247	22.2
Real estate	506,960	3.8	565,255	5.0
	13,184,227	100.0	11,248,202	100.0

9 Financial instruments

The Dominion Command has chosen to apply the Recommendations found in Section 3861, *Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation*, of the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

The Dominion Command's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, marketable investments, accounts payable and accrued liabilities, and amounts due to Canvet Publications Ltd. The carrying values of these financial instruments approximate their fair values due to their relatively short periods to maturity, with the exception of marketable investments (note 4).

Financial instruments expose organizations to a variety of risks.

Interest rate risk

The fair value of financial instruments bearing interest at fixed rates will fluctuate with changes in market interest rates. Cash flows will vary with respect to financial instruments bearing interest at variable rates. The Dominion Command manages these risks through the implementation of prudent investment policies.

Cash equivalents include \$6,494,929 (2008 - \$4,948,942) invested in money market mutual funds. The funds invest in high quality, short-term government and corporate debt securities, bearing interest at both fixed and variable rates.

Government and government guaranteed bonds held by the Dominion Command bear interest at fixed rates between 3.25% and 6.15% and mature between June 1, 2010 and March 8, 2016 (2008 – 3.70% and 6.25% and mature between March 8, 2009 and December 3, 2015).

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

Market risk

Market risk is the underlying risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in underlying market factors, namely, interest rates, foreign exchange rates, and other price risk from fluctuations in equity prices and market volatility. The Dominion Command is exposed to market risk on marketable investments. The Dominion Command manages this risk by adhering to investment guidelines and monitoring adherence to these investment guidelines.

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

Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. Cash includes US \$450,980 (2008 – US \$17,786). The Canadian dollar equivalent of these funds as at December 31, 2009 is \$473,983 (2008 - \$21,631). Marketable investments include securities denominated in U.S. dollars that amount to US \$2,246,952 (2008 – \$1,408,875). The Canadian dollar equivalent of these securities as at December 31, 2009 is \$2,362,632 (2008 – \$1,712,817).

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

10 Commitments and contingencies

Dominion Regalia Limited supplies the Poppy Trust Fund with poppies and related remembrance materials under an agreement which is in effect until December 31, 2013.

The Dominion Command is committed to lease payments of \$40,000 per year to Canvet relating to their computer system for the six-year period through December 31, 2010.

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

	\$
Year ending December 31, 2010	46,900
2011	40,418
2012	12,065
2013	2,372

In the normal course of operations, The Dominion Command is threatened from time to time with, or named as a defendant in, legal proceedings. The Dominion Command has been named as an Organization Respondent in one complaint filed under section 34 of the Human Rights Code (Ontario). The applicant has claimed a financial remedy of \$400,000 in their application. The outcome of the claim and Dominion Command's share, if any, cannot be determined at this time.

11 Allocation of expenses

Administration expenses have been allocated as follows:

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Membership	30,000	30,000
Service bureau	30,000	30,000
Poppy Trust Fund – General	25,000	25,000

Supply - Operation expenses of \$41,000 (2008 – \$41,000) have been allocated to general expenses of the Poppy Trust Fund.

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

M. Cook	Board Chairman
W. Edmond	Board Vice-Chairman
B. White	Secretary
P. Varga	Director
P. Cook	Director
E. Kish	Director
G. Moore	Director
T. Irvine	Director
J. Frost	Director
J. Morse	General Manager

INTRODUCTION

Canvet Publications Ltd. will exceed the commitment made to the 2002 Convention that the \$2.00 increase in per capita would see the magazine through to 2010. In fact, Legion Magazine now expects to make it to the end of 2012.

POSTAL SUBSIDY, CANADIAN MAGAZINE FUND AND CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

The Department of Canadian Heritage will discontinue both the Publications Assistance Program and the Canadian Magazine Fund Support For Editorial Content in 2010 and replace them with a new fund, titled the Canada Periodical Fund. Delays in finalizing the new fund has resulted in the creation of “one-time-only” bridge financing. As a recipient of the postal subsidy and Support For Editorial Content, Canvet has been invited to apply and expects to know whether we have qualified by summer 2010. The receipt of the new subsidy is critical to the survival of Legion Magazine. In 2008, Canvet received \$381,000 from the postal subsidy, and in 2009 the magazine received \$367,600. The Canadian Magazine Fund provided \$73,000 in 2008 and \$72,500 in 2009. Over the last two years, these continuing annual assets saved Legion Magazine almost \$900,000 and have allowed us to keep the subscription price of Legion Magazine at only \$7 per year plus GST.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Both 2008 and 2009 were solid years for the magazine. In spite of the continuing decline in members, Canvet made it through both years without the need to draw on the reserve. The first-rate results of the 2008 Printing Tender translated to savings in printing expenses and improved advertising revenue meant the magazine achieved an even bottom-line in both years. On the basis of the 2010 budget and projected forecasts, the continuing decrease in subscription revenue and rising costs will compel Canvet to withdraw \$155,000 from the reserve fund. Then in 2011, the magazine will need another \$165,000 and by 2012 the need will reach \$480,000. Although Canvet has surpassed its commitment to the 2002 Convention that the \$2.00 increase in per capita see it through 2010, by 2012 a subscription increase will be needed.

ENGLISH CONTENTS

The publication motto We Are Canadian History, We Are Canada Today reflects the dual mandate of the magazine to tell the stories of Canada's military past and present. Many of the magazine's successful series were spun from the notion that Canadians do have a strong appetite for well balanced and in-depth stories about their country's past and present. This variety in editorial content is required by the postal subsidy regulations.

In 2008 and 2009, the magazine marked major wartime anniversaries, including two special 24-page inserts, the first to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of the end of WW I, and the second for the 90th Anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. The magazine also published a special collector's issue of the 65th Anniversary of D-Day, which included a pull-out poster map. Earlier this year we published an issue that commemorated the 100th Anniversary of The Royal Canadian Navy, which included a pull-out poster and timeline. The magazine has also incorporated the contribution of youth in remembering past service.

Insofar as modern military operations go, Legion Magazine has led the way in presenting "on-the-ground and beyond-the-wire" coverage of Canadian Forces efforts in Afghanistan. The magazine also presented in-depth feature articles and news stories on the issues facing veterans today, such as their entitlement to proper pensions and benefits, as well as their access to proper health care, including treatment for operational stress injuries.

FRENCH INSERT

We published 144 French pages in 2008 with an increase to 160 in 2009 and we expect to publish 144 pages in 2010. The magazine provides a French section which is available to any member at no extra charge.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

I move acceptance of this report.

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Financial Statements
December 31, 2009



PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
99 Bank Street, Suite 800
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1P 1E4
Telephone +1 613 237 3702
Facsimile +1 613 237 3963

April 12, 2010

Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Canvet Publications Ltd.

We have audited the balance sheet of **Canvet Publications Ltd.** as at December 31, 2009 and the statements of earnings and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. 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 plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2009 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants, Licensed Public Accountants

"PricewaterhouseCoopers" refers to PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership, or, as the context requires, the PricewaterhouseCoopers global network or other member firms of the network, each of which is a separate legal entity.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)


Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,251,628	1,337,237
Accounts receivable	50,533	40,386
Income taxes recoverable	6,340	15,134
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (note 4)	95,040	38,336
Prepaid expense	34,039	40,450
	<u>1,437,580</u>	<u>1,471,543</u>
Capital assets (note 3)	54,486	56,473
	<u>1,492,066</u>	<u>1,528,016</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	88,814	81,933
GST payable	42,138	8,694
Deferred revenue	9,562	36,777
Subscriptions received in advance	1,182,983	1,229,752
	<u>1,323,497</u>	<u>1,357,156</u>
Retirement obligation	132,657	128,269
	<u>1,456,154</u>	<u>1,485,425</u>
Shareholders' equity		
Capital stock		
Authorized – 50,000 common shares		
Issued – 9 common shares	9	9
Retained earnings	<u>35,903</u>	<u>42,582</u>
	<u>35,912</u>	<u>42,591</u>
	<u>1,492,066</u>	<u>1,528,016</u>

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

Approved by the Board of Directors


 Wiefred Edmund, Director


 M. J. Leves, Director

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Earnings and Retained Earnings

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Revenue		
Subscriptions (note 4)	2,440,166	2,438,120
Newsstand sales	4,030	—
Advertising (note 4)	430,390	533,964
	<u>2,874,586</u>	<u>2,972,084</u>
Expense (schedule)		
Magazine	1,259,994	1,298,211
Employees	783,572	809,171
Administrative (note 4)	399,504	408,748
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	545,488	545,116
	<u>2,988,558</u>	<u>3,061,246</u>
Loss before the under-noted	<u>(113,972)</u>	<u>(89,162)</u>
Other income		
Canadian Magazine Fund	93,000	70,087
Interest income	9,219	28,417
Royalties – True Canadian War Stories	—	6,001
Other	2,804	685
	<u>105,023</u>	<u>105,190</u>
Earnings (Loss) before income taxes	<u>(8,949)</u>	<u>16,028</u>
Recovery of (Provision for) income taxes	<u>2,270</u>	<u>(8,727)</u>
Net earnings (loss) for the year	<u>(6,679)</u>	<u>7,301</u>
Retained earnings – Beginning of year	<u>42,582</u>	<u>35,281</u>
Retained earnings – End of year	<u>35,903</u>	<u>42,582</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, 2009

	2009 \$	2008 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net earnings (loss) for the year	(6,679)	7,301
Items not affecting cash –		
Amortization	16,023	17,663
Provision for retirement obligation	23,981	28,418
Cash paid for retirement obligation	(19,593)	–
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(85,305)	72,720
	(71,573)	126,102
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(14,036)	(8,175)
Financing activity		
Redemption of capital stock	–	(1)
Net change in cash for the year	(85,609)	117,926
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	1,337,237	1,219,311
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	1,251,628	1,337,237
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(10,147)	(6,000)
GST recoverable	–	33,790
Income taxes recoverable	8,794	(6,497)
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	(56,704)	1,395
Prepaid expense	6,411	(8,899)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	6,881	(3,068)
GST payable	33,444	8,694
Deferred revenue	(27,215)	22
Subscriptions received in advance	(46,769)	53,283
	(85,305)	72,720

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

Approved by the Board of Directors

Wielred Edmund Director

Ch. J. Leves Director

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

1 Nature of operations

Canvet Publications Ltd. ("the Company") is a federally incorporated company that publishes and distributes "Legion Magazine", which is sold to the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion, non-member subscribers and the general public.

2 Significant accounting policies

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles 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 revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Cash equivalents

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

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

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

Retirement obligation

The Company provides a retirement allowance for employees who have a minimum of 15 years of service and have attained the age of 55 or a minimum of 10 years of service and have attained age 60. The Company has recorded an estimated liability for these benefits based on estimates of turnover, salary escalation and discount rates consistent with the assumptions adopted with respect to the pension plan. This liability was not determined with reference to an actuarial valuation.

Revenue recognition

Subscription fees are recorded as revenue in the period they are received unless the fees relate to a subscription of a future year, in which case the amount is deferred and recorded as revenue in that future year.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009**3 Capital assets**

			2009	2008
	Cost	Accumulated	Net	Net
	\$	amortization	\$	\$
		\$		
Office equipment	113,689	86,322	27,367	27,065
Computer equipment	237,286	210,167	27,119	29,408
	350,975	296,489	54,486	56,473

4 Related party transactions

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

The balance owing from the Dominion Command is non-interest bearing with no specified terms of repayment.

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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Subscriptions	2,409,228	2,422,812
Advertising	50,907	61,913

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

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Accounting	75,000	75,000
Network support charge	3,000	3,000
Rent	59,664	59,664
Subscription agency fee (net of computer system lease revenue)	545,488	545,116

The parties have agreed to reduce the subscription agency fee by the amount of the lease payment made by the Dominion Command to the Company for the use of the Company's computer system. As a result, subscription agency fees have been reduced by \$40,000 (2008 – \$40,000). This arrangement will continue through to December 31, 2010.

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.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

5 Pension plan

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 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. Accrued benefit assets have not been recorded in the balance sheet. Employer contributions expensed during the year amounted to \$86,683 (2008 – \$148,683).

An extrapolation of an actuarial valuation for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2007 indicated the following information about the overall defined benefit plan as at December 31, 2009:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Accrued benefit obligation	(12,767,169)	(9,966,370)
Plan assets – at fair value	13,184,227	11,248,202
Plan surplus	417,058	1,281,832

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring the overall accrued benefit obligation for the defined benefit plan are as follows:

	2009	2008
	%	%
Discount rate – accrued benefit obligation	6.25	7.25
Salary escalation rate	4.00	4.00
Return on assets	6.50	6.50

Other information about the overall defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Employer contributions	640,657	608,214
Employee contributions	188,519	165,820
Benefits paid	389,647	1,072,712

The next required actuarial valuation for funding purposes will be as of January 1, 2010.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

The plan assets available to provide for plan benefits are invested in pooled investment funds as follows:

	2009		2008	
	\$	%	\$	%
Money market	195,707	1.5	—	—
Bonds	4,987,582	37.8	5,154,121	45.8
Equities	3,900,769	29.6	3,035,579	27.0
Foreign equities	3,593,209	27.3	2,493,247	22.2
Real estate	506,960	3.8	565,255	5.0
	13,184,227	100.0	11,248,202	100.0

6 Financial instruments

The Company has chosen to apply the Recommendations found in Section 3861, *Financial Instruments – Disclosure and Presentation*, of the Handbook of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants.

The Company's financial instruments consist of cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, amounts due from the Dominion Command and accounts payable and accrued liabilities. The carrying values of these financial instruments approximate their fair values due to their relatively short periods to maturity.

Cash equivalents include \$1,157,337 (2008 – \$1,246,500) invested in a money market mutual fund. This fund invests in high quality, short-term government and corporate debt securities, bearing interest at both fixed and variable rates.

The Company is not exposed to any significant credit, market, currency or liquidity risks.

7 Commitments

The Company has financial commitments under rental agreements for office space until December 31, 2010, and for office equipment to December 31, 2012, as follows:

	Office equipment \$	Office space \$	Total \$
2010	3,946	59,664	63,610
2011	3,946	—	3,946
2012	3,946	—	3,946

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2009

8 Capital management

The Company considers its shareholders' equity as its capital.

The Company's objectives, when managing capital, are to prudently manage operations to ensure that the Company remains a going concern so that it can continue publishing informative articles and information on Canadian military history and current events with an emphasis on military and veteran's issues.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Schedule of Expense

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2009

	2009	2008
	\$	\$
Magazine		
Editorial contributions	100,857	104,010
Freight and express	3,852	5,018
Illustrations	39,892	35,890
Postage	386,209	417,466
Printing	720,171	728,006
Desktop publishing	9,013	7,821
	1,259,994	1,298,211
Employees		
Salaries	614,525	578,521
Other benefits	169,047	230,650
	783,572	809,171
Administrative		
Accounting and computer services (note 4)	75,000	75,000
Advertising commission – CCM	72,939	93,959
Bad debt	196	—
Correspondents' meeting	—	11,258
Directors' meetings	6,000	6,000
Editorial travel	43,958	44,207
Insurance	14,296	16,904
Miscellaneous	11,295	8,580
Network support charge (note 4)	3,000	3,000
Newsstand expense	8,960	—
Office supplies	9,917	14,655
Postage	3,328	5,359
Printing and stationery	1,375	2,962
Professional fees	9,745	12,054
Rent (note 4)	59,664	59,664
Sales promotion	53,162	24,980
Subscriptions	2,393	3,897
Telephone and fax	8,253	6,606
Royalties	—	2,000
Amortization	16,023	17,663
	399,504	408,748
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	545,488	545,116
Total expense	2,988,558	3,061,246

CREDENTIALS REPORT

D. Golding	Chairman
L. Sawyer	Member
T. Wheeler	Member
D. Gosselin	Member
D. Gordon	Member
S. Levesque	Member
C. Saunders	Member
D. Blackburn	Member
B. MacLachlan	Member
E. Casey	Member

COMMAND		14 June		15 June		16 June		Observers
		Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy	
BC/Yukon	709	143	525	143	525	143	525	
Alberta-NWT	583	133	330	133	330	133	330	
Saskatchewan	242	86	95	86	95	86	95	
Manitoba & NWO	354	175	145	175	145	175	145	
Ontario	1537	342	1085	342	1085	342	1085	
Quebec	217	18	52	18	52	18	52	
New Brunswick	154	22	88	22	88	22	88	
NS/Nunavut	311	91	220	91	220	91	220	
PEI	33	19	3	19	3	19	3	
Newfoundland/ Lab	66	22	44	22	44	22	44	
DEC/PDP	19	11		11		11		
US Zones	15	7		7		7		
Europe Zone	5	2	3	2	3	2	3	
Totals	4245	1071	2590	1071	2590	1071	2590	49

The figures denote the Command entitlement to delegates and proxies based upon the final 2009 figures for Life, Ordinary, Associate and Affiliate Voting members (General By-Laws Section 903.)

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

W. Edmond	Chairman
J. Frost	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
BC/Yukon	5	5	0	10
Alberta-NWT	10	7	0	17
Saskatchewan	3	0	0	3
Manitoba & NWO	7	0	0	7
Ontario	6	21	4	31
Quebec	8	0	1	9
New Brunswick	11	0	0	11
NS/Nunavut	3	2	0	5
PEI	1	1	0	2
Newfoundland/ Labrador	4	0	0	4
Dominion Command Committees	0	0	0	43
Totals	58	36	5	142

The total number of resolutions to be considered is 142. For comparison purposes, in 2008 a total of 159 resolutions were presented to the delegates at Convention.

A total of 5 late resolutions were moved seconded and carried at Dominion Convention.

INDEX TO RESOLUTIONS

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ABBREVIATIONS

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

The code is the abbreviation for the Command or Dominion Committee that originated the resolution. The number is simply a control number.

The #/C following a resolution number 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
VSS	Veterans, Service and Seniors
P & R	Poppy and Remembrance
MEM	Membership
DEF	Defence
R & A	Ritual and Awards
C & L	Constitution and Laws
PR	Public Relations

**LOYALTY RESOLUTION
13 JUNE 2010**

**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 43rd DOMINION CONVENTION
AT WINNIPEG, MANITOBA DURING THE PERIOD 13-16 JUNE 2010.**

**WE PRAY THAT YOUR GRACIOUS MAJESTY MAY LONG BE SPARED TO GUIDE
THE DESTINIES OF THE GREAT BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.**

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

**THE QUEEN WAS PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS,
SENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ON THE
OCCASION OF THEIR FORTY-THIRD DOMINION CONVENTION WHICH IS BEING HELD
OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS IN WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.**

**HER MAJESTY MUCH APPRECIATES YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS IN WRITING AS YOU
DID AND, IN RETURN, SENDS HER WARM GOOD WISHES TO ALL THOSE WHO ARE
PRESENT FOR A SUCCESSFUL AND ENJOYABLE EVENT.**

PRIVATE SECRETARY

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. National Flag Day NS/NU 5; QUE 8/C

WHEREAS Canada attained Nationhood with peer acceptance at Vimy Ridge in 1917;
WHEREAS Nationhood was gained without Canada having a National Flag symbol;
WHEREAS the search for a suitable design for a National Flag started in 1925, but was not resolved by the House of Commons and Senate until 1964 and proclaimed by Queen Elizabeth II to take effect on the fifteenth (15) day of February, 1965. It flew over the Peace Tower on Parliament Hill on that day;

WHEREAS this National Historic Symbol has only casual acceptance in Canada but is recognized and respected as a symbol of Peace and Goodwill around the world;

WHEREAS several Provinces have established a Provincial holiday on the fifteenth (15) of February for residents and Provincial employees; and

WHEREAS civilian organizations and labour groups have indicated the need for a National Holiday in late winter:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion make representation to the Federal Government to establish the fifteenth (15) day of February as a Statutory Holiday to be known as Canada Flag Day.

VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS GENERAL

2. Vimy Day Proposal VSS 1

WHEREAS the Battle of Vimy Ridge, a battle that commenced on Easter Monday in 1917, is a day that is as historically important to Canadians as the signing of the first document that created Canada in 1867(BNA ACT);

WHEREAS the actual capture of the ridge by Canada's military forces fighting together for the first time earned Canada the right to participate as a signatory at the Treaty of Versailles in 1919;

WHEREAS the Prime Minister of the day, Sir Robert Borden, promised the nation's appreciation just prior to the battle; and

WHEREAS 90 years have now passed since that day in 1917 and it has become an embodiment of the Canadian spirit; and

WHEREAS Bill C227, passed by Parliament in 2003, declared that 9 April of every year would be known as "Vimy Ridge Day" but falls short of making it a National Federal Holiday:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Federal Government be urged to declare "Vimy Ridge Day" as a National Federal Holiday and that it be included in the Holidays Act as such.

**3. Implementation of a Government Wide Ombudsman Office with Legislated Mandate
VSS 2**

WHEREAS the Federal Government has recognized the necessity of appointing an Ombudsman to investigate systemic issues related to Veterans;

WHEREAS the Federal Government has also appointed a number of Ombudsmen in other Departments; and

WHEREAS the mandate of all these federal Ombudsmen is not enshrined in legislation which is considered a sine qua non to their independence and impartiality:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the government take immediate action to regroup all Federal Government Ombudsmen into a centralized Ombudsman office with wide ranging legislated powers, similar to the investigative powers described in Ontario's Bill 102 (An Act to establish the Seniors' Ombudsman) to cover the full range of public sector programs and services, including those providing benefits and care to Veterans through Provincial programs.

**4. Veteran Priority for Health Care
VSS 3**

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

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

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

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

**5. VAC Staffing Levels
VSS 4; NB 11/C**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada has an obligation to provide exemplary, client-centered services that respond to the needs of Veterans;

WHEREAS there has been a significant increase in the number of Canadian Forces personnel and 'Veteran clients' in the last ten years;

WHEREAS there have been more than 4000 discharges of Canadian Forces personnel per year in addition to all the Veterans' cases; and

WHEREAS with the implementation of the New Veterans Charter (NVC) the requirement for qualified, trained and dedicated case managers has increased:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC take immediate steps to staff sufficient qualified and trained case managers' positions to ensure that Veterans do not slip through the cracks in the provision of quality rehabilitation and other associated services.

6. Taxi Fare Expenses
VSS 5

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is applying a deduction, in most cases, of \$5.00 (five dollars) from the repayment of taxi fares for Veterans seeking treatment or diagnosis from doctors, hospitals or health care facilities;

WHEREAS this policy is seen as an irritant to many Veterans who are frail as they approach end-of-life and, as such, should not be subjected to this vexatious claw back from valid expenses; and

WHEREAS even though exceptions are provided, the requirement for a written rational is seen as an undue burden on these aged Veterans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada change this discriminatory policy and introduce a full refund of taxi fare expenses.

7. Case Management
VSS 6

WHEREAS a case management approach is important for all Veterans and families, but it is particularly important for Veterans and families with special needs, including those Veterans with an operational stress injury or other mental health problem, Veterans who are severely disabled, and Veterans who need rehabilitation. Due to the nature of their injury or illness, special needs Veterans are likely to be less resilient and less able to manage the transition to civilian life without appropriate support programs;

WHEREAS severely disabled Veterans report that they feel they are pushed into vocational rehabilitation too early, before they have had a chance to come to terms with their injury, and that they are often not included in team meetings to discuss their case management;

WHEREAS the ability to navigate various VAC and CF programs is a particular challenge for special needs or seriously disabled Veterans and their families;

WHEREAS there are inconsistencies in the services that special needs Veterans receive, depending on where they live (e.g., rural area, urban settings, province);

WHEREAS their entitlements are not always fully explained, and only some have access to special needs case managers; and

WHEREAS recent studies report that the quality, consistency and focus of case management services vary from district to district and are affected by workload, resources, staff skills and roles, policies and processes, and access to technology and support:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that to improve case management services, VAC should establish guiding principles, ensure case managers have appropriate training, and develop the policies, processes and technology to support effective case management.

8. VAC Communication to Reservists
VSS 7

WHEREAS communication may be a particular issue in serving Reservists;

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces are relying more on Reservists to help meet Canada's current international commitments: for example, one of every four members deployed to Afghanistan is a Reservist (550 to 600 out of 2,300) and a higher proportion of Reservists are front-line soldiers who are at greater risk of being injured; and

WHEREAS although Reservists are eligible for New Veterans Charter services, it is often more difficult to connect them with services because they tend to reintegrate into their civilian lives or community immediately following their tour and may not be aware of the programs and benefits available to them:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC and the CF ensure its outreach and education materials focus on the full range of supports available to Reservists and their families and consider making communication about programs and benefits mandatory.

**9. A Family-Centered Culture in All VAC Programs
VSS 8**

WHEREAS VAC has yet to develop a truly holistic, family-centred approach to providing services for Veterans and families such that the member or Veteran continues to be the main focus, and services for families an afterthought;

WHEREAS in most cases, family members are not eligible for services until the Veteran has been deemed eligible for benefits; and

WHEREAS faced with the stresses of military life including an injury to the member and the prospect of making the transition to civilian life, it is quite predictable that military families would find it difficult to cope and would need support. However, families who seek help often report that the bureaucratic process and attitudes of service providers make them feel “weak” or “defective”:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC continue to educate the appropriate VAC staff, service providers and the public about Veterans’ and families’ right to services; review the eligibility criteria for all programs to ensure family members have equitable access; and continue to develop service models that treat Veterans and families with respect.

**10. Veterans Review and Appeal Board
ALTA-NWT 9/C**

WHEREAS the Veterans Appeal and Review Board is an independent Federal Tribunal that hears appeals regarding un-favourable disability pension decisions at two levels;

WHEREAS this Tribunal has a history of hearing appeals for “Military Veterans”;

WHEREAS the Veteran’s Charter is specific in its mandate for Veterans;

WHEREAS the Veteran’s Charter also contains a quote in the disability pension section, “serving or discharged Royal Canadian Mounted Police Members may qualify for a disability pension related to a service injury”; and

WHEREAS members of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board may be more familiar with the duties performed by “Military Veterans” but not as familiar with the duties performed within the “Royal Canadian Mounted Police”, specifically sections such as the Dog Section, RCMP Marine Division and Air Division , where a Member could suffer debilitating injuries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada be requested to review the composition of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board and consider appointing former Members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to sit on the Board, either as a sitting member or as a resource to the Board, especially when active or former Members of the RCMP appear for a hearing.

11. The Year of the Military Spouse

MAN&NWO 7/C

WHEREAS Military spouses have over many years, during war and peace, endured loneliness, anxiety, depression and even poverty during the absence on duty of their Military partners;

WHEREAS Military spouses and their families have followed their Military partners to isolated and dangerous parts of the world;

WHEREAS Military spouses have raised families and made a home for their Military partners, frequently under trying conditions;

WHEREAS Military spouses have had to sacrifice careers, jobs, and loss of friends and family in order to sustain their relationship with their Military partners;

WHEREAS the Canada Remembers Program of Veterans Affairs Canada encourages Canadians to learn about the sacrifice and achievements made by Veterans and their families during war and peace;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada has set a precedent by proclaiming “The Year of the Veteran” in 2005, and “The Year of the War Bride” in 2006; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada traditionally celebrates numerous subjective events and anniversaries:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada be urged to set aside a year and declare it “The Year of the Military Spouse”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the designated year be as soon as administratively possible, and that pins and memorabilia be prepared and distributed accordingly.

12. Agent Orange Application

NB 4/C

WHEREAS there has been much discussion and controversy concerning the spraying of Agent Orange in Base Gagetown;

WHEREAS as of the 1st of April, 2009, the ex-gratia compensation of \$20,000.00 has expired for those applicants, Military and Civilian, who have suffered medically from Agent Orange spraying in Base Gagetown; and

WHEREAS this particular compensation is now considered closed and no further discussion and applications will be considered:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that those particular individuals who feel that they still have a substantial claim should be able to submit their applications onwards to VAC for further consideration.

13. Disability Pensions Letters

NB 5/C

WHEREAS we have experienced in the past few years a lengthy period of time to receive a disability decision;

WHEREAS upon receipt of the decision letter, the recipient is quoted various articles and/or tables of either the Pension Act and/or the new Canadian Forces Act;

WHEREAS it has caused the recipient some confusion because they are not conversant or knowledgeable about the various Acts, articles or tables as mentioned in their letter;

WHEREAS in some cases they do not have access to the Acts, articles or tables to see or read exactly what the decision means; and

WHEREAS upon contacting VAC they are directed or are advised to consult the internet, and here again majority of our senior Veterans do not have accessibility to a computer, nor care to do so:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC review its letter-writing policy to ensure simplicity and understanding, and if need be to ensure the recipient comprehends the decision letter, possibly having a copy of the particular Act, article and/or Table be attached to the letter for clarification.

**14. Benefit of Doubt
NB 7/C**

WHEREAS there is a general feeling, especially among our Peacetime Veterans, that VAC and the Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) do not clearly apply the benefit of doubt when considering a particular application for a disability;

WHEREAS a majority of these Veterans also feel that VAC and VRAB members do not have much knowledge of military background, operations and environmental conditions during those Peacetime situations, as a result they do not have a good understanding of the military occupations, and they further feel that the benefit of doubt clause was not being properly interpreted especially when considering uncontradicted evidence;

WHEREAS it should be noted that the majority of medical evidence during our Peacetime service was never recorded or reported either by the individual and/or medical staff, because it was considered insignificant; and

WHEREAS only serious cases would get to see a Medical Officer;

WHEREAS we never complained, nor did we seek compensation because of an illness during our Military career, because we did not want to be known as a slacker trying to get out of a duty, etc; and

WHEREAS it appears that VAC and VRAB depend on medical evidence and/or documentation in an individual's medical file, and if nothing is on file, and then nothing is considered available to the Veteran for that particular disability:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC and VRAB Members, when in doubt, should definitely apply the benefit in favour of the applicant.

**403. Homeless Veterans Program
ONT 32**

WHEREAS the Media has reported that there are many homeless Veterans living on the streets in urban centre; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs does not have an outreach program specifically to identify and service homeless Veterans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada in conjunction with the Provincial Commands of The Royal Canadian Legion develop and maintain a program to service homeless Veterans.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

15. Offset of VAC Disability Pension by SISIP Long Term Disability VSS 9

WHEREAS those deemed eligible for Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) disability pensions are victimized by an offset from the amount paid out by the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP) Long Term Disability (LTD) as monthly income replacement benefits;

WHEREAS VAC disability pensions are not taxable and are not considered income but disability benefits to compensate for pain and suffering for injuries sustained in the service of one's country;

WHEREAS there is a further contradiction in that still serving Canadian Forces members can receive a VAC disability pension while still receiving their full salary; and

WHEREAS this unfairness has been corrected in the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (the New Veterans Charter):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SISIP offset of VAC disability pensions be terminated forthwith whatever the cost to government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Treasury Board, who make the rules in that matter, recognize that the operational needs and the impact of the occupational environment of Canadian Forces members are very different than those of Public Servants.

16. 10% Annual Reduction in Paid-up Death Benefit under Supplementary Death Benefit (SDB) VSS 10

WHEREAS with the passage of Bill C-78 in 1999, the annual 10% reduction in coverage of the Paid-up Death Benefit for Public Civil Servants now commence at age 66 while the same reduction for Canadian Forces (CF) members starts at age 61; and

WHEREAS this disparity in benefits clearly disadvantages CF members who loyally served their country:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the annual reduction in coverage of the Paid-up Death Benefits be delayed until age 66 to bring it in line with that of Public Servants.

17. Environmental Exposure VSS 11

WHEREAS the government announced an Ex Gratia payment for those exposed to Agent Orange based on whether or not potential beneficiaries were living, or had worked and trained in the Gagetown area during a specific time frame and within a specific area;

WHEREAS VAC will award disability benefits for direct exposure to Agent Orange, such as handling, touching or being directly exposed to such chemicals but will not recognize secondary exposure such as training in a field and dispersing soils by digging, churning up the ground with various ordnances where Agent Orange, or other chemicals were dispersed; and

WHEREAS VAC will not generally recognize environmental exposure to radiation such as residues of Depleted Uranium (DU) ammunition as a causal link to the award of disability benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC recognize exposure to Agent Orange or to DU as significant determinants of a disability.

18. Yearly Adjustment to Disability Award
VSS 12

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

WHEREAS the amount of a Disability Award is adjusted yearly for Cost of Living and other factors; and

WHEREAS the non-economic impacts of a disability do not disappear after one year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Disability Award program be improved to provide a yearly increment to those Veterans and still serving members that are eligible for this program.

19. End the Insurance-Based Approach to Economic Benefits
VSS 13

WHEREAS SISIP- Long Term Disability (LTD) is a mandatory program to provide coverage for service-related disabilities and while in the Canadian Forces, members pay 15% of their insurance premiums and the Government pays 85%;

WHEREAS in the event they are injured, regular force members are assessed by SISIP-LTD and, if deemed eligible for long-term disability, may receive up to two years of disability payments from SISIP-LTD equal to up to 75% of their income while serving in the Canadian Forces;

WHEREAS regular force members who, because of their injury, end up having to medically release from the Canadian Forces also become eligible for benefits under the New Veterans Charter which is a needs-based approach to economic benefits. However, the programs themselves continue to be limited by the requirement that they be consistent with the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP) an insurance based program;

WHEREAS the relationship with SISIP leads to arbitrary time and benefit limits which prevent VAC from developing the seamless, transparent, equitable and easy-to-navigate system of benefits it wants to offer Veterans and families; and

WHEREAS Veterans report that they have to work with two distinct systems and programs which is confusing, and that they do not receive enough help to work through the process:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence (DND) revamp SISIP. The full cost of disability insurance in the Canadian Forces should be borne by the Government, not by serving members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC no longer be required to align its programs and benefits with SISIP.

20. Ensure Disabled Veterans Receive a Fair, Equitable Income Consistent with a Normal Military Career
VSS 14

WHEREAS Veterans are eligible for the Earnings Loss Benefit (equal to up to 75% of their military salary and taxable) while they participate in rehabilitation and search for a job;

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

WHEREAS the program as it is currently designed and administered (based on 75% of salary at time of medical release and taxable) means a significant loss in income for all eligible Veterans and families;

WHEREAS it is particularly devastating for Veterans who are injured at a young age because they will continue to be compensated at an entry level salary throughout their lives; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED for long-term recipients, VAC should: (1) use a probable earnings approach to reflect what the Veteran would have earned over a normal military career and set the minimum at the salary level of a corporal; (2) either continue to provide the benefit after age 65 or use the benefit as a basis to calculate the Veteran's pensions; and (3) increase the Supplementary Retirement Benefit and make it non-taxable.

21. Disability Award
VSS 15; ONT 11

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

WHEREAS VAC provides \$500 for financial counselling; this is not sufficient to buy ongoing financial counselling services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC develop options for paying out the Disability Award, including making a series of payments over time or allowing the lump sum to be converted into an annuity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC provide appropriate funding (i.e., >\$500 currently allowed) to allow Veterans and families to hire qualified financial advisors.

22. Services and Benefits for Commonwealth Veterans
BC/Yukon 3/C

WHEREAS Canadian troops and their Commonwealth counterparts served side by side in World War I & II, Korean, on various UN and NATO operations;

WHEREAS many Commonwealth service people later settled in Canada;

WHEREAS British war Veterans were eligible for services and benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs until 1995;

WHEREAS Commonwealth service people receive no services or benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

WHEREAS Canadians settling in other Commonwealth countries receive no services or benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs or its Commonwealth counterparts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion lobby the Federal Government to seek reciprocal arrangements with its Commonwealth counterparts whereby Commonwealth veterans receive equivalent services and benefits wherever in the Commonwealth they settle;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion lobby its Commonwealth counterparts to support the quest for similar reciprocal arrangements through their respective governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this be a priority for The Royal Canadian Legion so that all Commonwealth veterans receive appropriate and necessary assistance while they are still alive.

**23. Death Benefit under the New Veterans Charter
ONT 10**

WHEREAS under present Legislation single members of the Canadian Forces killed in action are not always eligible for a death benefit;

WHEREAS members of the Canadian Forces who have less than twelve months in a common law relationship at the time of deployment and who are killed in action are not eligible for a death benefit; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all service persons killed in action in the service of Canada be granted a death benefit provided for under the New Veterans Charter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such benefits be retroactive.

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (VIP) AND HEALTH BENEFITS

**24. Rationalization of Health Care Benefits
VSS 16**

WHEREAS the current policies covering the delivery of Health Care Benefits are very complex and, for that reason, very difficult to understand, even from the perspective of those that administer these benefits;

WHEREAS these policies are even more complex from the perspective of recipients who are often frail;

WHEREAS the cost of drugs and remedial appliances are continually rising;

WHEREAS the Health Benefits provided, especially VIP and treatment benefits are insufficient to meet the needs of Veterans and caregivers; and

WHEREAS because of the complexity associated with various entry gates, Veterans are often wary to even ask for benefits, let alone understand their eligibility requirements:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) undertake a comprehensive rationalization of Health Care benefits to facilitate the streamlining of business processes and policies that determine service delivery parameters, to increase benefits grids, and to communicate the same to potential and actual recipients in a simple, easy to understand manner.

**25. VIP for RCMP
VSS 17**

WHEREAS recent changes to eligibility for the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) now allow Canadian Forces members to qualify while still serving or after release when qualified as a result of their pensioned condition; and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are eligible for disability pension payments while still serving or after release, with funding allocated from the Solicitor General's fiscal envelope:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Veterans Independence Program be made available to members of the RCMP on the same basis as for members of the Canadian Forces with required funding allocated from the Solicitor General's fiscal envelope, with full support of the RCMP Commissioner.

**26. VIP Benefits for Frail Veterans
VSS 18; NB 3/C**

WHEREAS Veterans who apply for VIP benefits are often frail and are approaching end of life; **WHEREAS** the processing of applications for VIP benefits for frail Veterans is only considered when these Veterans have established eligibility for a disability, resulting in long delays and often increased expenditures for VAC; and

WHEREAS in these instances, surviving spouses are often victimized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all frail Veterans be deemed eligible for VIP benefits irrespective of their having established disability entitlement.

**27. Portability of Services
VSS 19**

WHEREAS a Veteran who is on the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and is living in a condominium/co-op type of housing does not qualify for a reimbursement for groundskeeping from Veterans Affairs Canada VAC; and

WHEREAS a Veteran on VIP residing in condominium/co-op type of housing pays a monthly maintenance fee to cover the costs of grass cutting and snow removal, that is to say, groundskeeping:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) pay the Veteran on VIP residing in a condominium or a co-operative type of retirement housing his respective share of the groundskeeping either monthly or yearly.

**28. Guidelines for Use of Chemical Restraints
VSS 20**

WHEREAS chemical restraints are often used in Long Term Care facilities; and

WHEREAS chemical restraints should not be used to lighten staff load without first investigating more humane and proactive programs:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that national guidelines be developed for the use of chemical restraints in Long Term Care facilities. These guidelines should include guidance to facility Directors and staff to first examine needs of residents and to provide adequate programs and adequate staffing. Chemical restraints should only be used as a last resort.

29. Allocation of Veterans' Beds
VSS 21

WHEREAS the Minister of Veterans Affairs has responsibility for Long Term Care for Veterans in Canada and most Long Term Care facilities, except Ste. Anne's hospital, have a mix of Veteran and non Veteran residents;

WHEREAS the allocation of beds in specific areas must balance the needs of Veteran and non Veteran populations and it is desirable to accommodate Veterans near families and familiar community support; and

WHEREAS it is frequently desirable for spouses of Veterans to have the opportunity to reside in the same facility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada work closely with the veterans' organizations, provincial and municipal authorities to define appropriate criteria for the allocation of beds to Veterans to ensure that their needs are met and that the criteria include the provision for accommodating the spouses of Veterans when that would be appropriate at all facilities, including Ste. Anne's hospital, providing the needs of Veterans are given priority.

30. Oversight for Transition from Acute Care
VSS 22

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada is responsible for Veterans in Priority Access Beds (PABs) and a number of Long Term Care facilities across the country;

WHEREAS from time to time Veterans in those facilities require acute care;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada through the Veterans Independence Program provides health care to Veterans at home;

WHEREAS some of these Veterans from time to time also require acute care;

WHEREAS there is no comprehensive program conducted by Veterans Affairs Canada to ensure the needs of Veterans are met when they are in a state of transition to or from acute care, whatever the circumstances; and

WHEREAS cases have arisen where Veterans have been released from acute care and have found themselves in perilous circumstances as a result of the lack of such a program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada institute a transitional care program to meet the needs of those Veterans who transition to or from acute care. This transitional care program should ensure the safety and dignity of the veteran.

31. Palliative Care of Veterans
VSS 23

WHEREAS Canadian Norms of Practice for Hospice Palliative Care prepared by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association sets out current societal standards for timely access to comprehensive, coordinated, quality care to relieve suffering and improve the experience of living and dying;

WHEREAS numerous Veterans entitled to care in accordance with Veterans Health Care Regulations are in the latter stages of life; and

WHEREAS many major Veterans care facilities and community Long Term Care facilities accommodating Veterans under contractual and other arrangements established by Veterans Affairs Canada have limited palliative care capacity and resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada enter into partnership agreements with provincial health authorities and contract facilities to ensure Veterans receive a common level of palliative care that meets current societal standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada establish practical arrangements for the delivery of appropriate palliative care services to Veterans in community facilities and ensure that these programs are made known to eligible Veterans via a proactive communication campaign.

**32. Ensuring Quality Long Term Care for Veterans
VSS 24**

WHEREAS the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to Veterans requiring Long Term Care has been affirmed in the June 2003 report of the Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs entitled Honouring the Pledge: Ensuring Quality Long Term Care for Veterans;

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion had the privilege of addressing the committee and highlighting shortcomings in Veterans care which arose in large part through the administration of contracts with provincial health authorities by which the Minister of Veterans Affairs discharges his responsibilities for the Long Term Care of Veterans;

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion fully endorses the 25 recommendations contained in the report but is concerned that the implementation of the recommendations may be hindered and the Minister's responsibility obscured by contract administration processes; and

WHEREAS the recommendations are collectively directed at ensuring a common high standard of care for Veterans irrespective of provincial jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs affirm the Department's responsibility for the Long Term Care of Veterans and that Veterans Affairs Canada promulgate and institute its national standard for Long Term Care of Veterans everywhere in Canada, including an update on the status of implementing the 25 recommendations of the Standing Committee Report.

**33. Employment of Full Time Employees in Long Term Care Facilities
VSS 25**

WHEREAS Long Term Care facilities should be mandated to provide a high level of care to Veterans and other residents;

WHEREAS quality care is often a function of the quality of staffing. Part time staff may be less engaged in providing high quality care as their continuing employment is often uncertain and they do not benefit from comprehensive benefits; and

WHEREAS quality care should be a priority for Veterans in Long Term Care facilities, especially as they become frail and approach end of life:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Long Term Care facilities providing services to Veterans should be encouraged to hire permanent staff. VAC should provide incentives to achieve this aim.

34. Support for Survivors and Families of Wounded or Deceased
VSS 26

WHEREAS despite the number of members of the Canadian Forces who fall in the line of duty, there is no formal, funded bereavement policy or program for survivors;

WHEREAS because there are no formal bereavement services, some military and Veteran families are using private bereavement counselling services for which they have to pay themselves. This situation creates both emotional and economic hardship; and

WHEREAS with the death of a member, families often lose access to Canadian Forces services, such as child care, at a time when they may need it the most:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC and CF should develop programs to cover the cost of professional bereavement support services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC extend VIP benefits to surviving spouses and families for at least one year, and tailor VIP services to meet surviving families' needs (e.g., child care services).

35. Beds in Care Facilities
ALTA-NWT 11

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada secures beds in health care facilities across Canada;

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada will be eliminating beds in some facilities; and

WHEREAS there are a new group of Veterans that will require these beds:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada review the current and future usage of beds in care facilities and develop a long term solution prior to closing any beds.

36. Treatment of Macular Degeneration
ONT 3/C

WHEREAS many Veterans are experiencing problems with their eyesight;

WHEREAS many problems are caused by Macular Degeneration, for which there is no cure;

WHEREAS treatment for same is costly and continuous for the Veteran's remaining years; and

WHEREAS such treatment is not covered by OHIP:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada add the cost of treatments for Macular Degeneration to their schedule of payment for health benefits.

37. Escort Fee
ONT 12

WHEREAS the present policies of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) regarding 'escort fee' payments only allows for the immediate family members of a Veteran that do not live with the Veteran, to be recipients of the 'escort fee' payment;

WHEREAS any person other than a member of the immediate family that lives with the Veteran can be a recipient of the 'escort fee' payment; and

WHEREAS the VAC policies regarding 'escort fees' does by the very nature of the context and intent of the wording only serves to discriminate against a specific category of people namely the 'immediate family members' that reside with a veteran:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the immediate family member of a Veteran that resides with a Veteran and that serve as an 'escort' for the veteran shall be recognized by VAC as qualified recipients of all benefits and entitlements provided by VAC under the provisions of the 'escort fee' policy.

**38. VAC Personal Care Services Policy
ONT 14**

WHEREAS the present policies of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) regarding "personal care services" states under VPPM Vol. 2, 3.2.3 par. 3, 4 and I quote, "relatives of the client who resides in the client's home cannot be paid for personal care serves. However, relatives of the client living outside the client's home can be paid to provide these services and are to be treated like any other service provider in the community (reference policy on client relatives VPPM vol. 2,3.2.3.1.9.) end of quote. This VAC policy only allows for the immediate family members of a Veteran that, do not live with the Veteran, to be recipients of the "personal care services" payment;

WHEREAS any person other than a member of the immediate family that, lives with the Veteran can be a recipient of the "personal care services" payment;

WHEREAS the VAC policies regarding "personal care services" does by the very nature of the context and intent of the wording prove to discriminate against a specific category of people namely the "immediate family members" that reside with a Veteran; and

WHEREAS said VAC policies place a severe financial burden on the immediate family members to employ someone outside of the immediate family to serve as a "personal care service provider":

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the immediate family member(s) of a Veteran that resides with a Veteran and serves in the capacity of a "personal care service provider" for the Veteran shall be recognized by VAC as qualified recipients of all benefits and entitlements provided by VAC under the provisions of the "personal care services" policy.

**404. Ste-Anne-De-Bellevue Hospital
QUE 8**

WHEREAS Veteran's Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Department of National Defense (DND) have defined a Veteran as a former member of the Canadian Forces or Reserve Force who has met the military occupational classification requirements and has been honorably discharged from the Canadian Forces;

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion has recognized any person who has honourably served in the Armed Forces of Canada, the Commonwealth and its wartime allies or who have served in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command during wartime;

WHEREAS Ste-Anne-de Bellevue Hospital is designated as the long term care hospital for Veterans of Canada and has now become internationally known;

WHEREAS apart from the Veterans of World War II and the Korean War, other Veterans will need help with hospitalization in the future because of their services in NATO and many other UN commitments;

WHEREAS many Veterans do and will need hospitalization for Operational Stress injuries and disabilities caused by their military service; and

WHEREAS the status of the ownership of the hospital has been put into jeopardy by possible transfer to the Province of Quebec and therefore causing anguish and concern to Veterans and their dependants since it is not clear how these people will be looked after: **THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED** that The Royal Canadian Legion defend the position that the Ste-Anne-de Bellevue Hospital remain a Federal Government institution under VAC to allow for all Veterans as defined by VAC, DND and the Royal Canadian Legion; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that VAC institute services for Operational Stress Injuries and handicapped Veterans for their rehabilitation; **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that sufficient space be available for all future Veterans who require full time long term care hospitalization; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if the hospital is administered by the Province of Quebec, the Government of Canada will ensure that allocation of space will be in priority given to all Veterans and it will make certain that the high quality of care now offered by Veterans Affairs Canada will be continued.

CF / RCMP

39. Determination of CFSA Survivor Pensions VSS 27

WHEREAS career members of the Canadian Forces and their dependants rely largely on superannuation (pension for service) to provide the main portion of their retirement income; **WHEREAS** CFSA provides for a survivor allowance paid at only 50% of the members superannuation pension based on a formula conceived in different economic times; and **WHEREAS** a survivor faces many lifestyle adjustments, particularly with regard to basic living expenses typically exceeding 50% of the expenses borne by a couple prior to the pensioners death:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CFSA survivor allowances be paid in an amount equivalent to at least 70% of the member's pension, which is closer to the norm in various private pension plans.

40. Elimination of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) offset at age 65 VSS 28

WHEREAS Canadian Forces members who retire with Canadian Forces Superannuation Act pension benefits are subjected to an abatement in these benefits when they reach age 65 and are eligible to receive Canada Pension Plan (CPP) benefits;

WHEREAS this in effect reduces CFSA benefits when these benefits are most needed;

WHEREAS CF members have in effect contributed to both the CPP and the CFSA, and that the CFSA Pension Fund has accrued a large surplus; and

WHEREAS CF members were never asked whether or not they wanted a "stacked approach" to CFSA and CPP benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the CPP offset at age 65 be eliminated and that CFSA surplus funds be used to pay "stacked benefits" similar to the benefits provided to Members of Parliament.

**41. VAC Benefits for Canadian Civilian Police Who Serve on UN Missions
VSS 29**

WHEREAS the Canadian Government through the Royal Canadian Mounted Police recruited Police Officers from Canadian Civilian Police Departments to assist by participating in Peace Making missions in order for our Government to meet its mandate to the United Nations;

WHEREAS the Peace Keeping and Peace Making missions have resulted in participating Peace Officers being killed and injured;

WHEREAS at the present time Civilian Police Officers who wear the Canadian flag on their shoulder and serve in these missions on behalf of Canadians are excluded from coverage by Veterans Affairs Canada; and

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Mounted Police receive all benefits while Civilian Police performing the exact same duties while in missions are excluded:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Government provide all benefits and privileges under the Department of Veterans Affairs to all Canadian Civilian Police officers who volunteer to serve on any United Nations mission.

**401. Legislation for Pension Protection
ONT 30**

WHEREAS many large corporations are in financial trouble and peoples pensions are at risk; and

WHEREAS the Canadian Government is able to pass legislation to modify pension, corporation and bankruptcy laws:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Government enact legislation to better protect peoples pension.

**402. Canada Pension Plan and Death Benefits
ONT 31**

WHEREAS the Federal and Ontario Governments both tax this death Benefit reducing the amount awarded by over \$500.00 in its present form;

WHEREAS this creates a further financial hardship to most seniors and Veterans spouses who receive it:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the benefit be awarded tax free.

FUNERALS AND BURIALS

**42. Immediate Increase of Funeral and Burial Benefits for Veterans
VSS 30**

WHEREAS the funeral and burial benefits for Veterans funeral services have not been updated since November 2001 at which time the allowable maximum was increased from \$2,993 to \$3,600;

WHEREAS average costs of funeral services have steadily increased every year since 1995 while the Canadian Funeral Services Association and Veterans families are complaining

that the Veterans Funeral and Burial Program allowable maximum cost benefit for funeral services has not kept pace with annual inflationary increases since 1995;

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canadian Forces (CF) have had their allowable maximum costs recently increased to \$12,700 in recognition of the prevailing higher funeral services; and

WHEREAS many Veterans who now lack of sufficient funds, are being denied a dignified funeral and burial because of increased cost of funeral services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister Veterans Affairs take necessary action immediately to increase the Veterans Funeral and Burial Program funeral services allowable maximum to an equivalent level established for the RCMP and CF.

**43. VAC Funeral & Burial Benefits
VSS 31**

WHEREAS it appears that funeral and burial benefits may only apply to Canadian Forces Veterans who qualified for Loss of Earnings Benefits or the Income Support Program;

WHEREAS the eligibility criteria for these benefits are likely to be very restrictive since eligibility for Income Support will require the successful completion of a rehabilitation program, following which these Veterans would have been deemed unemployable, would have reached age 65, and would have a low income;

WHEREAS there is the potential that a large number of Veterans who served after the Korean War who do not have enough money in their estate to pay for funeral and burial benefits will not qualify because they have not qualified for Loss of Earnings and Income Support benefits; and

WHEREAS there is currently a discrepancy between funeral and burial benefits provided by the CF and VAC, with the CF providing more generous benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Last Post Fund funeral and burial benefits equal to those provided to CF members killed on duty be made available to all those CF Veterans who have insufficient financial means without complex eligibility requirements which are contrary to the "need principles" enshrined in the Canadian Forces Military and Veterans Re-Establishment and Compensation Act (CFMVRCA).

**44. Increase of Survivor/Dependant Estate Exemption
QUE 5/C**

WHEREAS the Survivor/Dependent Estate Exemption is the key parameter for approval or denial of Funeral and Burial benefits for Veterans;

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS prior to 1995 the estate exemption were subject to an indexing formula based to annual changes to the CPI; and

WHEREAS the estate exemption has not been increased, the number of Veterans applying for Funeral and Burial benefits has increased, particularly by World War II Veterans who in many cases have limited financial resources but are above the estate exemption reduced in 1995: **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Minister of Veterans Affairs take the necessary action to restore and increase the Survivor / Dependent Estate Exemption to a level not less than the poverty level as determined by Statistics Canada; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each year thereafter, to introduce a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) equal to Statistics Canada's annual adjusted CPI for this exemption.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

45. Improved Mental Health Care for CF Members, Veterans and Families VSS 32

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) administers Operational Stress Injury(OSI) clinics for Veterans;

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces administers Operational Trauma and Stress Support Centres (OTSSC) for Canadian Forces members;

WHEREAS Veterans must change over to different practitioners and different models of care when they retire while CF members and families cannot access VAC OSI clinics in a seamless fashion; and

WHEREAS there is a definite capacity problem to meet the growing needs for Mental Health Care while families cannot access this care in their own right:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Forces (CF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) harmonize the delivery of Mental Health Care for CF members and veterans suffering from Operational Stress Injuries and modify the regulations to provide Mental Health Care for families in their own right.

46. Funding for Canadian Military and Veterans Transition Clinics VSS 33

WHEREAS a primary mandate of The Royal Canadian Legion is the welfare of our Veterans;

WHEREAS many Veterans suffer from post traumatic stress disorder;

WHEREAS it is imperative that these Veterans maintain their privacy; and

WHEREAS there seems to be a shortage of funds available for the Canadian military and Veterans transition program clinics:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion advocate for appropriate government agencies for help in funding the Canadian military and Veterans transition program clinics.

47. Provisions for Health Care in New Veterans Charter VSS 34

WHEREAS The New Veterans Charter includes provisions for health care for Veterans;

WHEREAS income qualified Veterans and civilians, meaning those persons who receive the War Veterans Allowance benefit, or would receive it if not for also receiving Old Age

Security Act benefits are eligible to receive Group “B” health benefits on demonstrated health need;

WHEREAS Prisoners of War (POW) in receipt of services through the Veterans Independence Program are eligible to receive Group “B” health benefits on demonstrated health need;

WHEREAS Veterans, civilians, and special duty Veterans who are receiving services through the Veterans Independence Program are eligible to receive Group “B” health benefits on demonstrated health need;

WHEREAS Canada Service Veterans, meaning Veterans who served in Canada only during WWI or WWII, are over age 65 and who are income qualified and are receiving services through the Veterans Independence Program, are eligible to receive Group “B” health benefits on demonstrated health need; and

WHEREAS the term ‘Veteran’ has been expanded and is accepted by VAC to also include those who served during peacetime:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that peacetime military service pensioners or award recipients shall be included and covered in the provision for Group “B” health benefits or services.

**48. Canada Seniors Independence Program
VSS 35**

WHEREAS Canadian seniors generally value their independence and prefer to age in their own familiar home and community;

WHEREAS age-related physical limitations or health needs, which restrict a senior’s ability to maintain a home or live without support, prematurely drive seniors into care facilities; and

WHEREAS the cost effectiveness of providing properly administered support services to defer the institutionalization of seniors with the desire and capacity to remain independent in their own familiar home and community has been demonstrated through the Veterans Affairs Canada, Veterans Independence Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada follow up on a recommendation of the Royal Canadian Legion adopted by the Prime Minister’s (PM) Task Force on seniors that a national Seniors Independence Program be implemented to assist seniors to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as they are able.

**49. Seniors Bill of Rights
VSS 36**

WHEREAS seniors are increasing in number while those contributing to their social benefits are decreasing;

WHEREAS seniors are the group most likely to be at risk as they approach end of life; and

WHEREAS seniors need to be treated humanely and with civility by their country and their government:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED A federal Seniors Bill of Rights be enacted to protect all Canadian seniors in a standardized manner irrespective of jurisdictional boundaries within the country as a whole and within provincial agencies.

50. Rehabilitation Programs
VSS 37

WHEREAS VAC appears to still be using a more traditional, insurance industry approach to rehabilitation and return-to-work;

WHEREAS VAC is using a process, rather than an outcome-based approach, counting the number of visits and length of time a client is in the program instead of setting realistic client-centred goals and then assessing progress in reaching those goals;

WHEREAS the different components of rehabilitation as medical, psychosocial and vocational are provided sequentially such that the Veteran usually completes his or her medical and psychosocial rehabilitation before beginning any vocational rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS the guidelines for the amount of rehabilitation services each client should receive are being interpreted by some VAC staff as hard limits on the program, which may not be appropriate for all Veterans:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC improve its rehabilitation program by adopting best practices, such as integrating physical, psychosocial and educational and vocational rehabilitation rather than providing them sequentially; educating VAC staff; making contact with potential workplaces and employers early in the rehabilitation process; and educating employers on the benefits of hiring Veterans.

51. Access to VAC Rehabilitation Services
VSS 38

WHEREAS rehabilitation is most effective when it begins early and is consistent and ongoing;

WHEREAS needs vary, depending on the individual, therefore the length of a rehabilitation program should be based on need rather than an arbitrary time limit;

WHEREAS there is often a delay between the time when members of the Canadian Forces are injured and when they are referred/linked to the VAC rehabilitation program. In some cases, members remain too long in CF rehabilitation programs, when it is clear that they will be unable to return to work in the Canadian Forces; and

WHEREAS even when members do make the transition from the Canadian Forces to VAC, there has not been a standard approach to sharing information, assessing needs, involving family members and establishing a timeline for action:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that eligibility requirements be changed to ensure that all Veterans and families with a health condition can apply for rehabilitation services, and to make it easier for participants whose needs change to re-enter the program at any time.

52. Access to Skilled, Knowledgeable Health Care Providers
VSS 39

WHEREAS VAC staff are responsible for case management services and for providing funding for services, Veterans and their families will receive most of their primary care, counseling and rehabilitation services from service providers in their community;

WHEREAS there is a shortage of primary care providers and mental health professionals in most provinces and territories and there is a smaller proportion who understand the mental health and other issues facing members of the CF and Veterans;

WHEREAS VAC has taken steps to develop networks of skilled mental health service providers, but Veterans and families still report that providers are not as aware of operational stress injuries and mental health stressors associated with life in the Canadian Forces; and

WHEREAS Veterans and families are critical of the VAC policy to cover only the cost of providers who are registered with Blue Cross or meet VAC's criteria for professional training:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC explore a range of strategies such as contracting with family physicians, paying to train and employ physician assistants and nurse practitioners, developing training programs for service providers on the impact of military service on health, and ensuring Veterans and families have access to a wide range of health providers and benefits.

POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE

53. Poppy Trust Fund – Military Family Resource Center P&R 1; NFLD/LAB 3/C; ATLA-NWT 6/C

WHEREAS Provincial Commands and/or Branches should reach out to Canadian Forces members and modern Veterans as part of the DEC approved “We care” Program; and

WHEREAS Canadian Military Family Resource Centres (MFRC) are independent, not-for-profit centres that, even though partially funded, are called upon to support non-funded site-specific programs that benefit families only, such as child care, through donations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Command, or subject to the prior approval of the Provincial Command, a District, Zone, Branch or group of Branches, may, for the purposes of supporting Canadian MFRC's non funded family oriented programs, expend a portion of the monies in its Poppy Trust Account, not exceeding ten percent of the total available in the account on the thirtieth (30th) day of September in the year preceding the expenditure, for site specific non-funded programs.

54. Auction of Commemorative Items from the Memorial Cup ONT 15

WHEREAS the Memorial Cup originated in 1919 as a memorial to the Canadian dead of WW I and represents the true meaning of Remembrance in Canadian Junior Hockey;

WHEREAS the Memorial Cup Tournament is played throughout the Provinces of Canada and internationally throughout many northern States;

WHEREAS terms of reference have been established by Dominion Command for the use of the poppy symbol, the wearing of the poppy, the incorporation of Remembrance and the sale of the commemorative sweaters and helmets by the Canadian Hockey League (CHL);

WHEREAS the host Branch(es) is responsible for much of the preliminary work in preparation of the tournament;

WHEREAS the branches donate most of their Poppy Trust Funds to assist Veterans and their dependents, hospitals and bursaries, etc; and

WHEREAS the Dominion Command Poppy and Remembrance Committee has decided that all proceeds from the sale of the commemorative sweaters and helmets be directed to the Dominion Poppy Trust Fund:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all proceeds from the sale of the commemorative items such as sweaters and helmets be directed to the local Branch(es) Poppy Trust Fund.

**215. Use of Poppy Trust Funds For A Reading Program For Students
NS/NU 1/C**

WHEREAS sixty-five years have passed since young Canadian men and women went off to free the citizens of other countries from oppression;

WHEREAS various schools throughout Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command commemorate the sacrifices made by those who gave their lives on our behalf;

WHEREAS many of our young fighting men and women were lacking at the time in the basic skills of reading and writing;

WHEREAS to encourage young people to read by presenting school libraries with suitable reading matter would stimulate the development of a more literate society;

WHEREAS it has been our experience that a close involvement with students in such a manner has led to a greater appreciation of the Legion by the youth of the community and by their parents; and

WHEREAS it has been further noted that young people who are familiar with such work in the community tend to give greater consideration to Legion membership as they become young adults:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command petition Dominion Command to allow, subject to prior approval by a Provincial Command, the use of a portion of Branch Poppy Trust Funds to fund a Veterans' Reading program for students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such portion not to exceed 5% of excessive funds after all expenses are paid for fiscal year.

**305. Poppy Trust Funds
ALTA-NWT 14**

WHEREAS Article XI of The Royal Canadian Legion General By-Laws provides for the direction necessary to operate the Poppy Campaign and lists the ways in which funds that have been collected may be used;

WHEREAS The Poppy Manual provides amplification of fund utilization;

WHEREAS The Poppy Manual also provides guidance on numerous subjects, one of which is disbursement of funds for bursaries to children or grandchildren of Canadian ex-service persons who are in need of this assistance, this assistance may be awarded at any stage of a college or university program;

WHEREAS Many Canadian ex-service persons are now in their seventy's or older and their children and grand-children are now in their life and may not require educational program assistance; and

WHEREAS Great Grand-children of Canadian ex-service persons may be in need of bursary assistance, but the existing rule regarding the disbursement of Poppy funds does not presently allow for this action:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Great Grand-children be included in the disbursement of Poppy funds and allowed to receive bursaries in the same manner as already established for Grand-children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Poppy Manual be amended to reflect this resolution; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Bylaws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended as required to reflect this resolution.

**310. Poppy Trust Fund Expenditures – Public Notice
NS/NU 4**

WHEREAS Section 606 of the Poppy Manual states that “Branches SHALL provide the public with a financial statement through the local media showing the amount collected, the disbursements and any other relevant information of the previous year campaign”;

WHEREAS the cost of doing this can be very costly to Branches, \$1,000.00 or more in some areas; and

WHEREAS many of our Branches are not following the instructions of the Poppy Manual because of the cost the local media may be charging:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dominion Command Poppy Committee make changes to paragraph 606 of the Poppy Manual that will make it less costly for Branches to get this information out to the public, such as handouts at Poppy Outlets, posting on public notice boards and at Legion Branches, etc.

**405. Section 1109 General By-Laws Cadet Funding
ONT 33**

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion at all levels, has been a strong and long time supporter of cadets in Canada;

WHEREAS within the past several years all cadet league’s and corp’s in Canada have seen significant cuts in funding from The Department of National Defence;

WHEREAS these cuts have had a severe impact in areas such as training, meal support, insurance and other programs; and

WHEREAS without adequate funding league’s and corp’s may be forced to close:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 1109 of the General By-Laws be amended by removing the following:

“not exceeding ten percent”

and replacing it with:

“up to 20%”.

MEMBERSHIP

**55. Ladies Auxiliary Years of Continuous Service
BC/Yukon 6**

WHEREAS the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion authorize the formation of Ladies Auxiliaries, and Auxiliaries were formed nationwide;

WHEREAS the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion place the Ladies Auxiliaries under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Command and the local Branch;

WHEREAS Auxiliaries have assisted Provincial Commands and Branches with operations and supported the aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion;

WHEREAS members of the Auxiliaries were recognized for their contributions by way of service medals, pins and membership card denoting years of continuous service;

WHEREAS declining membership in the Auxiliaries has led to the surrendering of Charters and the loss of Auxiliaries;

WHEREAS members of the Auxiliaries surrendering their Charters have the option of transferring to another Auxiliary to retain membership in the Ladies Auxiliary;

WHEREAS members of Auxiliaries, through no fault of their own due to geographic location and proximity to an existing Auxiliary, cannot exercise the option of transferring to another Auxiliary and remaining an active participant;

WHEREAS members of Ladies Auxiliaries are permitted to be members of a Branch, but upon joining the Branch lose the recognition of their years of continuous service; and

WHEREAS Provincial Commands and local Branches are desirous of implementing a means of providing recognition for their years of continuous service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Provincial Commands and local Branches jurisdiction over their Ladies Auxiliaries be recognized to include the ability to develop and implement a policy to provide recognition for their years of continuous service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event of a Ladies Auxiliary surrendering its Charter, and a member of the Auxiliary joining the local Branch, that the member's years of verified continuous service be carried over to the Branch; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the years of continuous service be reflected on the Branch membership card by means of a numerical sticker as approved by the Provincial Command.

221. Associate Membership

MAN&NWO 1/C

WHEREAS Section 207 of the General By-Laws recognizes only members of Fire Services, which in most urban centers includes Emergency Response Services (i.e. Rescue, Emergency Medical/Paramedic and Hazardous Materials personnel), Office Staff, Telephone Operators, Radio Dispatchers, Maintenance and Mechanics, as persons acceptable for "Associate Membership";

WHEREAS under the existing By-Laws an anomaly exists in that all personnel attached to a "city, municipal, volunteer, unorganized territories or federal Fire Service" are acceptable as Associate Members while personnel of provincial Fire Services and Emergency Response Services (not attached to a "Fire Service") are only acceptable as Affiliate Members; and

WHEREAS Emergency Response Personnel place their safety and lives at risk for the protection of people and property on a regular basis:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Associate members, Subsection 207.h. of the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be deleted and replaced with:

- h. served in a city, municipal, volunteer, unorganized territories, provincial or federal Emergency Response Service for not less than one year.

SPORTS

56. Legion Eight Ball (Pool)
ONT 8; NB 9/C

WHEREAS Legion Eight Ball is a popular sport throughout Canada and that interest in this sport is high within most Provincial Commands;

WHEREAS Eight Ball is already played on a competitive basis within many Legion Commands;

WHEREAS Eight Ball is played in many branches across Canada;

WHEREAS Eight Ball is a sport that can be played within Legion branches; and

WHEREAS such an event can help promote a higher interest in the membership of all Legions and promote comradeship among Legion members:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion sponsor an annual national Eight Ball Tournament within the same parameters and with the same support afforded the other current Dominion sports.

DEFENCE

57. Service Pin For Members With Less Than 12 Years Service
Defence 1

WHEREAS the current Canadian Forces Decoration is awarded after a minimum 12 years of service in the regular and reserve force;

WHEREAS upon release a member having served 12 to 21 years receives a Bronze Tri Service pin, 22-31 receives a Silver Tri Service pin and 32 plus receives a Gold Tri Service pin;

WHEREAS many current and previous serving regular and reserve force personnel do not serve the 12 years required to receive the decoration or pin; and

WHEREAS many regular and reserve force personnel who have served their country but have not served the required 12 years to be awarded a Canadian forces Decoration or Tri-Service pin receive no recognition of service whatsoever:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence be requested to review their "Depart With Dignity" program and support the creation of a pin to be awarded to members who have served but did not meet the current minimum 12 year requirement.

58. The Canadian WWII Volunteer Service Medal – Reduction In Qualifying Time
Defence 3

WHEREAS the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal is granted to persons of any rank in the Naval, Army or Air Forces of Canada who voluntarily served on Active Service and have honourably completed eighteen months (540 days) total voluntary service from September 3, 1939 to March 1, 1947; and

WHEREAS there are veterans who voluntarily enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces after November 1943 and who were involuntarily discharged in mid 1945 and whom Canada fails to recognize as volunteers by denying them the Canadian Voluntary Service Medal:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Legion support the granting of the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal to all of those who volunteered without limiting time criteria.

RITUAL AND AWARDS

60. Branch Service Medals R&A 1

WHEREAS there would seem to be sufficient Medals in the Branches and Ladies Auxiliaries to the Branches to recognize service on Branch and L.A. Executive Committees and Committee Chairs;

WHEREAS while there are Certificates and Plaques available to recognize the significant efforts of members who, for their own reasons, have not yet sought leadership positions as Chairs of Committees or as members of the Branch /L.A. Executive, the Legion and the L.A. lack a tangible, visible method of recognizing the value of these many hard-working, behind-the-scenes volunteers; and

WHEREAS from time to time, the Legion issues Commemorative Medals to recognize Legion Anniversaries, such as: 50th, 60th and 75th Anniversaries, however, in many instances, these valued Anniversary Medals don't reach the behind-the-scenes volunteers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Convention authorize the creation of Branch and L.A. Service Medals for members of the Branch and of Ladies Auxiliaries to the Branch to recognize the significant work accomplished by their many members, outside of or prior to their acceptance of leadership positions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Service Medal be senior to all Commemorative Medals and junior to the Branch and/or L.A. Office Medal and that the authorizing/approving authority be the Branch or L.A. Executive Committee and/or General Membership Meeting.

61. Secretary Treasurer Bar at District and Zone Levels BC/Yukon 7

WHEREAS the Executive Officer positions of Secretary and Treasurer are often combined; and

WHEREAS there are Secretary Treasurer bars available at Provincial and Branch Executive levels, but not at District or Zone:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a Secretary Treasurer bar be struck for presentation at the Legion District and Zone levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a similar Secretary Treasurer bar be struck for presentation at the Ladies Auxiliary District and Zone levels.

62. Honouring Aboriginal Veterans - Pin ONT 4/C

WHEREAS there were some 4000 Canadian Aboriginal men who joined the Allied Forces on the European Battlefield during World War I and more than 3000 Canadian Aboriginal peoples served during the World War II; and

WHEREAS it has been the practice of the Royal Canadian Legion to strike a different commemorative pin each year:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Royal Canadian Legion approach Veteran's Affairs Canada (Canada Remembers Division) and suggest consideration be given to striking a pin to honour the First Nations, Metis and Inuit Veterans of Canada.

232. Wearing Cadet Medal on Legion Uniform
SASK 1/C

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion proudly sponsors the Cadet Legion Medal of Excellence to deserving cadets across Canada each year;

WHEREAS the Cadet Legion Medal of Excellence currently may only be worn on the cadet uniform; and

WHEREAS many of the Cadet recipients of the Cadet Legion Medal of Excellence are currently members of The Royal Canadian Legion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cadet Legion Medal of Excellence be authorized to be worn on the right hand side of the Legion uniform.

HIS EXCELLENCY WILHELMUS JULIUS PETRUS GEERTS AMBASSADOR TO THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS

ADDRESS TO THE 43RD BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

Dear Dominion President and Legion Members, Minister of Veterans Affairs, Deputy Minister of Veterans Affairs, Senators, Members of Parliament and Members of the Manitoba Legislature,

Your Worship, City councillors, Fellow veterans organizations, and, above all, dear Veterans!

It's an honour and a pleasure for me to be here today for the opening of the 43rd Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion.

As Ambassador of the Netherlands to Canada, it's a privilege for me to be here in this very special year for us, in which we celebrate the 65th anniversary of the liberation of The Netherlands.

The liberation of my country, in which brave Canadian men and women in uniform played such a pivotal role.

Let me take you back for a moment to those years by showing you a short slideshow.

2010 marks the 65th Anniversary of the Canadians and other Allied Forces' victory.

Sixty-five years is a very long period but At Home, the gratitude for the courageous efforts of Canadian soldiers stays the same and will stay the same for always.

Our gratitude towards the Canadians and their role in the history of our country is so vast that it could never disappear.

We remain profoundly thankful for the sacrifices that the Canadians have made to restore our liberty and our hope.

Since I became the Dutch Ambassador to Canada, I've been fortunate enough to meet many veterans.

Typically, when I ask them what it was like, many of them say that they were "just doing their job".

Think about that for a moment: risking your life for the freedom of others, far away from home, under often extremely difficult circumstances.

Near and at the end of the war, Canadian soldiers were giving out their own rations to feed and help Dutch people who had been literally starved to death by the defeated occupational Nazis.

What do you mean they were "just doing their job"?!

These veterans have a very special place in our hearts.

They are our liberators.

They are our heroes.

Forever.

I was born long after the Second World War.

My parents were teenagers at the time.

They instilled in me a deep sense of gratitude towards Canada and the brave men and women in uniform who liberated our country. My parents would have led very different lives if our country had not been liberated from fascism and tyranny.

That's why I'm here, representing Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, our Head of State, and my fellow countrymen and women, to humbly say thank you. Thank you on behalf of my grandparents and their generation. Thank you on behalf of my parents and their generation. And thank you on my own behalf and my generation. And thank you on behalf of my children and their generation. We can never thank you enough. It's as simple as that!

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have a responsibility to pass our experiences and memories on to next generations. It is important to remember our past. Also because it helps us shape our common future.

In many schools, teachers educate today's youth about their heritage and their past. There are many ways to keep the memories of veterans alive. In The Netherlands, for example, thousands of school children tend to the graves of the soldiers, including those of at the Canadian War Cemeteries.

Last month, more than 2,000 Canadian high school students travelled to The Netherlands to mark 65 years of liberation. They walked in the footsteps of their fellow countrymen and women. They honoured and commemorated Canada's fallen soldiers. And they experienced the lasting gratitude of the Dutch for the help and courage of Canadian soldiers during World War II. Such projects are part of our responsibility to pass the torch.

It is important to pass on the torch to the young generations so they never forget the history of that war.

Peace is not free!

Peace can be vulnerable.

We should never think that the peace is something which is acquired permanently.

Other highlights for us last month were the official visit of Prime Minister Harper – accompanied by minister Blackburn and Deputy Minister Tining – to The Netherlands to commemorate and celebrate with us. And the visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of The Netherlands and her husband Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven to Canada.

It was no coincidence that they started off their Canadian tour in Ottawa, at Legion House. They met with veterans in Ottawa and in Calgary. Their visit gave a fresh impetus to the further development of the special relationship between Canada and The Netherlands.

For me as representative of The Netherlands, our relationship with the Royal Canadian Legion is very valuable. Over the years, we've partnered in many activities to underline our friendship and to improve public exposure to the shared history between Canada and The Netherlands and to encourage public discussion on a variety of subjects. We have worked together to stress the importance of remembrance.

The Legion is by far the largest veteran's organization in Canada. That is quite an achievement. It shows that the mandates of the Legion are well chosen and are relevant in today's society. It shows the Legion is a flexible organization and is adjusting to meet new demands. From an organization that advocated for improved pension legislation and other benefits, to veterans and their families, to maintaining a nation-wide network of professionals helping veterans, ex-service members and their families on various issues, like health care, health insurance and social housing, venturing forth to today's commitments.

There is a close connection between the Legion and our Royal Family. Two years ago, Prince Floris, the youngest son of Princess Margriet and Professor van Vollenhoven was the Guest of Honour at the 42nd Convention held in Ottawa. During that Convention, he was named Honorary Vice-President of The Royal Canadian Legion. He is also a godchild of the Legion. He may be the only godchild in the world with more than 350,000 godfathers.

One of the pillars of the Legion is keeping the memory alive. That's something that binds us as well. Making clear the relevance of Remembrance is a visible strength of the Legion. The Legion reinforces the idea of Remembrance as a national ideal each November. It shows great leadership in remembering all those who fell for the freedom and democracy of other. The Legion is the guardian of Remembrance in Canada.

In The Netherlands, too, we stress the importance of Remembering. We observe two minutes of silence on our Remembrance Day, requesting everyone to suspend activities for two minutes and reflect upon those who paid the highest possible price while carrying out their duties in military operations.

In both Canada and The Netherlands, we need to reflect upon how we will and should remember – let's say – 20 years from now. A new generation of veterans need attention and assistance with their problems. Unfortunately, the group of veterans of the Second World War is getting smaller, so we need to engage younger generations to preserve the stories and memories that form a part of our collective history. And we can use new tools for that such a social media.

Our countries can learn from each other when it comes to identifying ways to raising the awareness of the importance of remembrance, taking care of veterans, and taking these issues forward into the future. That's not only a matter for the Legion, it's relevant for Canada as a whole as well as for my country.

We are responsible nations. We believe in the same values: Liberty, democracy and people's rights.

Our goals may seem to lie on a distant horizon. But let's keep in mind the song that Canadian soldiers sang in 1944 when they landed in Normandy.

"There is a long, long trail a-winding

Into the land of "my dreams".

Fortunately, those brave young soldiers were prepared to take that long, long trail. We owe our freedom and democracy to them. We know that freedom is not free. That it can never be taken for granted.

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my deepest respect for all the Canadian and Dutch men and women in uniform who are doing a tremendous job in Afghanistan and elsewhere today. They deserve our strongest support. And we will never forget those – including Keith Morley – who have paid the ultimate price while they were there.

Freedom demands our joined efforts. Tolerance, Engagement, Understanding.

Freedom demands responsibility, Determination, Courage.

Inspired by our liberators who showed all these qualities 65 years ago, we have a duty to stay the course. That is our task in today's global society.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you once again for being here and thank you for your attention. And to the veterans, for all they have done for us., I simply say "thank you, thank you, thank you".

I now declare the 43rd Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion open!

Thank you,

**THE GRAND PRESIDENT
CHARLES BELZILE C.M., C.M.M., C.D.**

**ADDRESS TO THE 43rd BIENNIAL DOMINION
CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

Thank you Comrade Chairman

Please allow me to welcome you to this important meeting. As usual, your agenda is very busy so you'll forgive me if my remarks are rather short. During this meeting, and in front of the Dominion Convention starting tomorrow, we will have many chances to talk.

After nine years of having the honour of being your Grand President as well as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Veterans' Unity, I will restrict those few comments to that field, or better yet, that dream of establishing a unified voice for our support to veterans. I continue to believe that the Legion has reached a critical point in attracting...and establishing a consensus between different veterans support organizations, even though we have already made some great strides towards our mutual agreements on joint, or at least coordinated, advocacy. I know that all members of the Dominion Executive Council will continue to seek agreement, in a positive and generous manner, with our partners in the support of veterans and their families as well as remembrance, also a pillar of our organization.

As you all well know, and as will be commemorated this afternoon, by the dedication of a plaque by the Historic Sites and Monument Board of Canada, at this historic hotel where the Legion was born, we have been in existence for quite some time...since 1925.

We have all discussed how the RCL can work towards that eventual cooperative process, or at least, enhance our cumulative advocacy efforts with this myriad...and growing phenomenon of a multiplicity of organizations. We all know the importance that all of us attribute to that feeling of belonging to organizations of people who share a badge, a regimental association, service on a particular ship or squadron, a special time or location of service with its dangers. The Legion must accommodate those feelings and indeed encourage them, whether we are dealing with WWII, Korea, United Nations Peace keepers and current peacemaking efforts by the Canadian military as well as outright war service such as the Canadian Forces currently serving in Afghanistan. We must share this feeling of belonging with all of them as well as those still in uniform and bring them into our branches. After all many of us belong to more than one organization, and this does not in any way reduce our common heritage of service. That after all is what counts in this great brotherhood of past and current service to our nation.

In February of this year, I first voiced those views and I continue to encourage us all to be missionaries in that endeavour. Let us indeed welcome all men and women in uniform and their families to support our common goals.

I'm very hopeful that after this meeting, and the one at convention, we will return to our homes and our branches full of this missionary spirit. The future could only be better for the well-being of our veterans, their families, and our nation.

Have a great and fruitful meeting.

**THE HONOURABLE JEAN-PIERRE BLACKBURN
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF STATE (AGRICULTURE)**

**WELCOMING REMARKS
THE 43rd BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

Good morning. Bonjour.

Honoured Veterans, President, Wilf Edmond, Honourary Grand President Charles Belzile, Members of the Legion, Ladies and gentlemen, Mesdames et messieurs.

Thank you, Mr. Edmond, for that kind introduction.

It is truly an honour to be here in Winnipeg for the 43rd Dominion Command Convention.

Manitoba's commitment to Canada's defence and to our Veterans runs deep.

Generations of men and women from this province have courageously served our country in Air Force, Army and Navy units. And that proud tradition of service continues today at CFB Shilo and 17 Wing Winnipeg.

When I think of Winnipeg, I also think of the Deer Lodge Centre. Established as a military hospital during the First World War, today this fine facility houses the region's Operational Stress Injury Clinic funded by Veterans Affairs. It is also home to many area Veterans who need long-term care.

But of course, there's another important reason that Winnipeg holds a special place in the hearts of Canada's Veterans. It is the birthplace of The Royal Canadian Legion.

For more than 85 (eighty-five) years, the Legion has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Veterans of Canada. You have been there for Veterans. You continue to be there for Veterans. Time and time again.

And so much of your work is done by dedicated volunteers. That is what makes it so exceptional. Just this weekend I had the pleasure of presenting the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendations. And many of the recipients were longstanding members of their local Legion.

So, I want to start this morning with a sincere "thank you." Thank you for your dedication to Canada's Veterans. As Minister of Veterans Affairs, I am proud to join you on this important mission.

I've been Minister of Veterans Affairs for five months now. And I can tell you, it is truly an honour to work side by side with you, day in and day out, to improve the lives of the brave men and women who have served our country.

Veterans Affairs has always worked in close partnership with the Legion. Over the years, the valuable input and sound advice from your members has helped guide the Department's policy decisions and shape departmental programs.

Today, the Department is going through a period of change. I know I don't have to tell you that because you are seeing the same change in your Legion halls. Our traditional Veterans are aging. Their needs are changing and their numbers are declining.

And at the same time, both our organizations are reaching out to a new generation of Veterans whose needs are very different.

But one thing has not changed: our shared commitment to serve our Veterans. It has not wavered. It has strengthened.

Working together, I am proud to say that we continue to produce positive results for Canada's Veterans and their families.

Over the last five months, I have been very active and have heard from individual Veterans, from members of the Legion, the Veterans' Ombudsman and from others who are passionate about Veterans' issues. I have been listening.

I have listened to Veterans in one-on-one meetings, on Canadian Forces bases and at commemorative events.

One of my first visits was to CFB Valcartier. I insisted on going there in the first weeks of my mandate.

I participated in a Town Hall meeting held by the Veterans Ombudsman, Colonel Pat Stogran. I wanted to hear from people on the ground, at the very onset of my mandate. The comments I heard were sometimes positive, sometimes negative. I heard some heartfelt cries for help and messages of thanks. And I took many notes.

These Veterans, your advice, and the advice of many others have helped me to set my priorities.

I am here to take action. Action on issues like PTSD, the New Veterans Charter—especially the lump-sum payment; getting the right decisions to Veterans faster; and increasing Canadians' participation in remembrance.

I am going to talk more about my priorities in a few minutes. But first I want to highlight some recent accomplishments and touch on some topics of particular interest to the Legion.

One of my first events as Minister of Veterans Affairs was the official opening of a new residential operational stress injury clinic at Ste. Anne's Hospital.

The Ste. Anne's clinic is the first to provide a residential option for men and women who suffer from these complex operational stress injuries like PTSD.

I would like to thank the Legion for its gift to the Ste. Anne's clinic. Your generosity is helping patients' recovery by making their time spent at the clinic more comfortable.

I know that the future of Ste. Anne's has been the subject of interest lately. Since the 1960s, 17 (seventeen) Veterans Affairs' hospitals and institutions have been successfully transferred—including Deer Lodge here in Winnipeg.

Veterans themselves have told us how pleased they have been with the services they continue to receive after the transfers.

For Ste. Anne's, our discussions are still in the very early stages. I want to assure you that our primary concern is the same as it has always been—our Veterans. I personally met with the residents in April to reassure them of the department's continued commitment to them—that they will receive the highest quality of care and that this care will be offered in the language of their choice.

My 4 priorities are:

1. Veterans will always be first
2. We will make sure that the services will always be done in the language of their choice
3. We will maintain the quality of the services
4. Will make sure that the collective agreement is respected

Another topic that I know is of great interest to you—and one on which I have focused a lot of attention—is the New Veterans Charter.

I wish to thank the members of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group, who presented their report in October 2009. I know the Legion is active in that group. You inspired us and gave us many points to consider.

Many of the Advisory Group's recommendations have already prompted change. For example, we have acted on the recommendation to fill gaps to ensure a smooth transition from military to civilian life.

The Department created a Seriously Injured Unit specifically for the soldiers coming from Afghanistan. For these clients, the turnaround time for disability benefits is 11 weeks—well below the published service standard of 24 weeks.

Concerning improved access to skilled, knowledgeable health care workers, Veterans Affairs is piloting the use of nurse practitioners where physicians are not available.

And on the recommendation to improve case management services, the Department is hiring additional case managers in areas where the number of Canadian Forces Veterans is increasing, so that we can offer greater support for CF Veterans who require more intensive and one-on-one support.

This shows you how we listen to the recommendations and comments made by your organization and others who advocate for our Veterans. I know that you work closely with the Veterans' community and I assure you, your insights are always welcome.

In the last few months, I have also undertaken a review to determine how well the Charter is meeting the needs of Veterans, in particular the lump-sum payment for disabilities.

This form of compensation was created to recognize pain and suffering, and the effects of a permanent disability.

Modern-day Veterans can use this sum to buy a house, or make investments. Financial counselling is available to provide advice on how best to make that money work to their advantage.

In addition to the lump-sum payment, there are other financial benefits such as the Earnings Loss Benefit and a Permanent Impairment Allowance. These monthly payments are available for those who need them.

Let me assure you, I have heard your comments on the New Veterans Charter. As a result, I asked the Department to survey those who have received the lump-sum payment. This has given recipients the opportunity to tell us about any concerns they have. The Department has just completed the survey and results will follow shortly.

Overall, I believe the Charter is a solid foundation for the future but it is not perfect. And, we are continuing to identify options for further improvement.

The last several months have been very busy on the commemoration front. Earlier this year, our government announced a program to provide financial support for building new community war memorials.

This complements the Cenotaph/Monument restoration program already in place.

The success of these commemorations is due, in no small part, to our partners both locally and nationally.

One of the most moving experiences in my time as Minister was meeting and spending time with Veterans of the Second World War in the Netherlands and here in Canada on VE-Day. The faces of the Veterans on the slides behind me stay with me.

I would have loved for you all to be there with me to witness the heartfelt gratitude shown to us—to YOU—by the crowds gathered. That is why I have decided to show you a slide presentation of some of the powerful photos taken at these events.

On May 3, our delegation honoured those Canadians who took part in the campaign in Northwest Europe and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. As you can see in these photos, I was with Her Majesty Queen Beatrix and Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands.

During this ceremony and many others throughout the week, we remembered the 7,600 Canadians who died liberating the Netherlands, and the many others who were wounded. We walked along and reflected on the 2,338 Canadian gravesites in Groesbeek.

I think back to the Dutch children laying flowers at the Canadian graves. The thousands of Canadian teenagers with their remembrance banners in the Wageningen parade. We were all very touched by the ceremonies and events. And the Dutch people were so proud to get our Veterans' signatures in their memory books.

Fannie Simon, one of our youth delegates, became overwhelmed with emotion as she told the story of fellow New Brunswicker, Mr. Émile Frenette, standing next to his tombstone.

Fannie was not the only one. I too had the same wave of emotion as I heard the story of M. Leroy whose best friend died during the liberation and was buried in the Netherlands. Sixty-five years later, M. Leroy's ashes were spread on the grave of his friend.

For me, remembering the sacrifices and achievements of our Veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice is our duty. I take every opportunity to remind Canadians of this, even at events unrelated to Veterans' issues.

Our Prime Minister, Mr. Harper, felt the same emotions as he joined us in Bergen-op-Zoom for a very touching ceremony. He was very moved by your stories.

The men and women who served our country gave their youth for our freedom; some paid with their lives. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude. We repay that debt by remembering. Always.

I have had so many high points during my first five months as Minister of Veterans Affairs that I could go on and on. But I want to turn now to the future—to tell you about my priorities and my commitment to you.

I am putting in place an action plan focusing on five priorities—topics that you and others have raised with me since I became Minister:

1. Reviewing the lump-sum payment;
2. Reducing wait times and bureaucracy; we will go from 24 to 16 weeks;
3. Improving service to clients;
4. Creating better awareness among Canadians and Quebeckers of the actions of Veterans, including modern-day Veterans; and
5. Increasing the participation of the private sector in commemoration.

As I mentioned earlier, I have asked the Department to survey our clients who received the lump-sum payment. The survey will give us the solid data we need to take measures, if necessary, concerning the lump-sum payment.

I think the survey results will surprise many people.

I have heard your concerns that modernizing our services and programs is a priority. That's why we are going to ensure Veterans, our clients, receive the right answer at the earliest time possible.

We are working on reducing wait times—in fact, we have already eliminated the backlog of applications for disability benefits.

We are making sure more decisions can be made on the front lines. And we are simplifying medical questionnaires and application forms. We are already making progress and we will be moving forward with further changes.

As you know, Veterans Affairs Canada doesn't just provide services to Veterans, but also to serving members of the Canadian Forces. We have integrated personnel support centres on 19 major bases and wings to help Canadian Forces members make the transition from military to civilian life. We are encouraged to see more and more CF members use these centres. And in the coming months, I am pleased to say we will add more of these units at wings across Canada.

With DND support, we are reaching out to Canadian Forces members earlier—before they decide to transfer out of the Forces. We are making improvements to ensure members know what services and benefits are available to them.

Another area I am focusing on in my action plan is remembrance—the need to raise awareness in Canada overall, but especially in the province of Quebec.

Coming from Quebec, I feel there is less understanding there of the importance of remembrance. I have taken a personal interest in this.

Earlier this year, I was very pleased to launch a new addition to the Veterans Affairs' Web site called *La force francophone*.

It honours French-speaking Canadians who joined the fight at home and overseas during the Second World War. It gives them the opportunity to tell their stories.

In other efforts to increase awareness of our Veterans in Quebec, this year we invited a journalist from *Le Droit*, a Quebec newspaper, in our media delegation for the overseas events in the Netherlands. I'm pleased to say this resulted in more media coverage in French than in previous years.

We are trying to use various new technologies to help highlight commemoration stories involving Quebeckers.

And, we are working on a new initiative that encourages private sector companies to join us in honouring Canada's Veterans.

Through the Corporate Remembrance Champions Initiative, Veterans Affairs will approach companies to carry out remembrance activities for their employees and the general public.

Many businesses already publically recognize Veterans' contributions to peace and freedom worldwide. This initiative will enhance and expand on remembrance activities to reach a much broader audience of Canadians in new and innovative ways. You will be hearing more about this initiative when it is launched this fall.

As I move forward on this action plan, I know I can count on the support and guidance of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Before closing, I want to acknowledge and thank you once again for your continued leadership. You are a very important partner in serving Veterans.

Your service is the essence of community service, and it's what has made the 350,000 members of The Royal Canadian Legion such a powerful force for Veterans.

At Veterans Affairs Canada, we truly value our association with the Legion. While we may not always agree on specifics, your opinions help us greatly. We must continue to work together and celebrate our accomplishments in serving Canada's Veterans.

I want to finish this morning by borrowing the words of my colleague and predecessor Greg Thompson.

Many of you know Mr. Thompson personally. So you know how devoted he is to helping Canada's Veterans.

I think he found just the right words to express the importance of your mission, and my mission: to serve the men and women who have stepped forward to serve our country.

Mr. Thompson spoke of the fierce determination demonstrated by our older traditional Veterans as they carry out that mission:

“Their step is no longer as brisk as it once was. Their salute is not quite as sharp. Their knees now resist the bend,” he said.

“But despite aging bodies, they march in formation. They continue to march on the colours, to lay wreaths and to honour their fallen comrades.

“Because they know, better than the rest of us, that the greatest gift we can give our Veterans is the Gift of Remembrance.”

From those who served in the two Great Wars, to those in Afghanistan today, our service men and women have always given their very best to this country. One thing is certain: the Government of Canada is committed to ensuring we do our very best for them.

Lest we forget.

Thank you and have a good meeting.

