



CONVENTION REPORT
THE PROCEEDINGS
of
THE 44th DOMINION CONVENTION
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

10 JUNE - 13 JUNE 2012



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

IN THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE RECORDED THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 44TH DOMINION CONVENTION OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ASSEMBLED AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA. CONTAINING THE CONVENTION REPORTS AND RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE DELEGATES, IT IS OF CONSIDERABLE PRACTICAL AS WELL AS HISTORICAL VALUE AND SHOULD BE PRESERVED FOR FUTURE READY REFERENCE.

DOMINION COMMAND OFFICERS

Honorary Officers

Patron

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

Grand President

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

Dominion Honorary Vice-President

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

Dominion Honorary Chaplain

Rabbi R. Bulka
Brigadier General K.R. McLean, C.D., B.A.,
M.TH., H.C.Q., D.D.

Dominion Executive Council

Dominion President

P. Varga

Dominion First Vice-President

G. Moore

Dominion Vice-Presidents

G. O'Dair
D. Flannigan
T. Eagles

Dominion Treasurer

M. Cook

Dominion Chairman

T. Irvine

Immediate Past Dominion President

W. Edmond

Provincial Command/Special Section Representatives/Presidents

British Columbia/Yukon

B. Brady

Alberta-NWT

D. Jones

Saskatchewan

B. Wignes

Manitoba/NWO

R. Bennett

Ontario

A. Paquette

Quebec

M. Arsenault

New Brunswick

P. Poirier

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

J.M. Deveaux

Prince Edward Island

D. Kennedy

Newfoundland/Labrador

A. Crewe


President of the Tuberculous Veterans' Section


C. Paul


Dominion Secretary


B. K. White


DOMINION COMMAND PAST PRESIDENTS


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


 Lieutenant—General Sir Arthur Currie
Quebec, 1928—1929


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


 Major John S. Roper
Nova Scotia, 1931—1934

 Brigadier—General Alex Ross
Saskatchewan, 1934—1938


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


 Alex Walker
Alberta, 1940—1946


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


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


 Group Captain Alfred Watts
British Columbia, 1950—1952


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


 Very Reverend John O. Anderson
Manitoba, 1954—1956

 David L. Burgess
Ontario, 1956—1960


 The Honourable Justice Mervyn Woods
Saskatchewan, 1960—1962


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


 Fred T. O'Brecht
Ontario, 1964—1966


 Ronald E. MacBeath
New Brunswick, 1966—1968

 Robert Kohaly
Saskatchewan, 1968—1970

 The Honourable Justice Redmond Roche
Quebec, 1970—1972

 Robert G. Smellie
Manitoba, 1972—1974


 Robert D. McChesney
Ontario, 1974—1976


 Douglas McDonald
Ontario, 1976—1978


Edward C. Coley
Alberta, 1978—1980

 Al Harvey
Newfoundland, 1980—1982

 Dave Capperault
Ontario, 1982—1984

 Steve Dunsdon
British Columbia, 1984—1986


 Anthony Stacey
Ontario, 1986—1988

 Gaston Garceau
Quebec, 1988—1990


 Fred Williams
Newfoundland, 1990—1991

 Jack Jolleys
British Columbia, 1991—1994

Hugh M. Greene
Alberta, 1994—1996

 Joseph Kobolak
Ontario, 1996—1998

 Chuck Murphy
British Columbia, 1998—2000

 William (Bill) Barclay
Saskatchewan, 2000—2002

Allan Parks
Prince Edward Island, 2002—2004

Mary Ann Burdett
British Columbia, 2004—2006

Jack Frost
Ontario, 2006—2008

Wilfred Edmond
Nova Scotia, 2008—2010

Patricia Varga
Saskatchewan, 2010—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

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

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

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

JUST RIGHTS

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

LOYALTY

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

COMRADESHIP— SERVICE

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

SYMBOLS

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

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

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

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

—THE SECOND PART—

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



—THE THIRD PART—

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

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44TH DOMINION CONVENTION REPORT

The 44th Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion was held at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax, N.S. from 10 to 13 June 2012. It was preceded by a meeting of the Dominion Executive Council held in the Halifax A Ballroom of the Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel on 9 June.

ATTENDANCE

There were 1,075 accredited delegates carrying 2,538 proxy votes for a total voting strength of 3,613. The number of delegates in attendance was four higher than the previous convention but 52 less proxy votes were carried. There were 67 observers in attendance and 50 guests from governments and veterans organizations, at home and abroad.

A parade and wreath laying ceremony was held on the Sunday as is customary. Opening the Dominion Convention was the Legion's Grand President Comrade Larry Murray.

WREATH LAYING AND OPENING CEREMONIES

The Sunday Parade started at Victoria Park at 1 p.m., proceeded down Spring Garden Road where the salute was taken by the Dominion President of the Legion, Comrade Pat Varga, and the national Memorial (Silver) Cross Mother, Mrs. Patty Braun of Raemore, Sask. The Parade Marshal was Comrade John Bowser and the Parade Commander was Comrade Tom Kane; the Dominion Command Colour Party led the Parade, followed by the Stadacona Band of the Royal Canadian Navy and Dominion Command officers. It consisted of 800 delegates separated by provincial commands. It proceeded to a left turn on Grafton Street, a right turn on Sackville Street and another left turn onto Argyle Street where the parade was positioned in front of the Grand Parade at City Hall before it was dismissed to watch the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph there. The other bands participating in the parade were the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Pipes and Drums, the Ulster Accordion Band, the Massed Cadet Pipe Band and the Cadet Tri-Service Band.

Emceed by Comrade Tom Waters, the invocation and benediction were given by Lieutenant-Colonel Canon Doctor Gary Thorne. The Last Post and Rouse were played by PO2 Rafe Wilson and the Lament was played by Pipe Major Brian Morrison of the RCMP Pipes and Drums. The Act of Remembrance was delivered bilingually by Comrades Patricia Varga in English and Larry Murray in French.

The wreath laying began with a wreath laid by Mrs. Patty Braun, assisted by the First Vice-President Comrade Gordon Moore, followed by the Honorable Steve Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, assisted by Comrade Tom Eagles, a Vice-President of Dominion Command. Following them was Captain (N) S. Jorgensen, representing the Canadian Forces, assisted by Vice-President of Dominion Command Comrade George O'Dair, Inspector Roy Doggett, Executive Officer of "H" Division of the RCMP, assisted by Vice-President of Dominion Command Comrade David Flannigan, the Premier of Nova Scotia, the Honourable Darrell Dexter, assisted by the Dominion Chairman Comrade Tom Irvine and the Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality, His Worship Peter Kelly, assisted by the Dominion Treasurer Comrade Michael Cook. The Royal Canadian Legion placed the last two wreaths with Comrade Patricia Varga, the Dominion President leading off, assisted by Comrade Wilf Edmond, the Immediate Past Dominion President, and Comrade

Jean-Marie Deveaux, President of Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, assisted by Comrade Dave Blanchard, the Local Arrangements Committee Chairman. After the benediction the delegates filed into the Halifax Metro Centre for the Opening Ceremonies.

The Ceremonies started with musical presentations by the Cadet Tri-Service Band, Mr. Terry Kelly and the Stadacona Band. The special guests were then piped onto the stage by Pipe Major Brian Morrison before the proceedings were started by the Dominion Chairman. Along with legionnaires, special guests included Mrs. Patty Braun, the Honourable Steven Blaney, the Honourable Darrell Dexter, Mr. Bill Karsten who is the Deputy Mayor of the Halifax Regional Municipality, Captain (N) S. Jorgensen representing the Canadian Forces, Mr. Daniel Ludwig, a former National Commander of the American Legion, Mr. John Farmer, the National Chairman of the Royal British Legion and Comrade Brian Watkins, who is the Legion's representative to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League Council in London, England.

With the guests in place, the Dominion Chairman asked for the Colours to be marched on. After they were placed, the branch banners were marched in and O Canada was performed by Leading Seaman Natalie Alcorn. The Dominion Chairman then conducted the Opening Ritual. The Last Post was played by PO2 Rafe Wilson followed by the Two Minutes of Silence. During the silence, a mass Poppy drop saw 140,000 hand-made Poppies with veterans names on them descend from the ceiling. The Poppies were made by the school children of Nova Scotia. Following this was the Lament by Pipe Major Morrison and the Rouse by PO2 Wilson. The Act of Remembrance was delivered by the Dominion President and the Grand President in a bilingual format and the Invocation was delivered by Lieutenant-Colonel Canon Doctor Gary Thorne. The guests on the stage were announced by the Dominion Chairman followed by the presentation of flowers to the National (Silver) Memorial Cross Mother and the spouse of the Dominion President. They were presented by Army Cadet Master Warrant Officer Boyce Purcell and Air Cadet Warrant Officer First Class Carly Slaney. Greetings to the Convention were brought by the Honorable Steven Blaney on behalf of the Government of Canada, the Honourable Darrell Dexter on behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia and Deputy Mayor Bill Karsten on behalf of the Halifax Regional Municipality. The Convention was then officially opened by Comrade Larry Murray, the Legion's Grand President. The Resolution of Loyalty was then adopted unanimously. After the branch banners were marched out and the guests left the stage the meeting was adjourned to the next day.

CONVENTION BUSINESS

During the next three days there were three keynote speakers. The first day it was the Honourable Steven Blaney, Minister of Veterans Affairs, who made an announcement during his speech that he would put forward a proposal that veterans would no longer require taxi receipts for their appointments with medical doctors or VAC representatives. The second day saw General Walter Natynczyk, the Chief of the Defence Staff, give an overview of the Canadian Forces and thank the Legion for being there when it was needed. The third day saw Mr. Brian Watkins, the Legion's representative to the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League Council and the League's Legal Advisor, give a speech on what it is to Remember.

During the meetings a number of guests brought greetings to the Legion from their organizations. They were: Mr. John Farmer, National Chairman of The Royal British Legion; Mr. Daniel Ludwig, a Past National Commander of The American Legion; Mr. John Larlee, Chairman of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board; Mr. James Whitham, Director General of the Canadian War Museum; Mr. Guy Parent, Veterans Ombudsman; Mr. Dominique Boulais, Deputy Secretary General of

the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Canada Agency; Mr. Ray Kokkonen, National President of the Canadian Peacekeeper Veterans Association; Mr. Michael Maidment, Federal Government Relations Liaison Officer with the Salvation Army; Mr. Peter Nawrot of the Polish Veterans Association; Mr. George Beaulieu, First Vice-President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada; Mr. Tim Hoban, Immediate Past President of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans Association; Comrade Ron Griffis, National President of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping; Captain Douglas Himmelman from the Company of Master Mariners of Canada; Vice-Admiral (retired) Ron Buck of the Navy League of Canada accompanied by Mr. Terry Whitty, Executive Director of the Army Cadet League of Canada and Mr. Bob Robert, National President of the Air Cadet League (they also signed an accord with the Legion); and Mr. Doug Thomas, President of the Nova Scotia Naval Officers Association.

Presentations were also made by the following: Mr. Tim Laidler and Dr. Marvin Westwood of the Veterans Transition Program; Mr. Charles Keliher of the Bureau of Pensions Advocates; Mr. Scott Briand, who was the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command representative on the 2011 Pilgrimage of Remembrance; Rear Admiral (retired) Barry Keeler on the Funeral and Burial Program and the Last Post Fund Unmarked Grave Program; and Mr. Jeremy Diamond, Ms. Clarice Dale and Dr. Alex Herd for the Memory Project.

The Invocations for the first day's business session was given by Lieutenant-Colonel Canon Doctor Gary Thorne. The next two days invocations were given by the Reverend Arthur Nash, the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Provincial Command Padre, as was the closing Benediction. The Local Arrangements Chairman, Comrade Dave Blanchard made his announcements after the Invocations each day.

On the first day, the Queen's Response to the Loyalty Resolution was read by the Dominion Chairman, the Procedures report done and the Dominion Chairman's remarks followed. There was a recognition of the Past Presidents in attendance (five) which was followed by the Grand President's Report. This was immediately followed by the Dominion President's Report in which she announced the "Leave the Streets Behind" program, a national program designed to get homeless veterans the help they need. It highlighted an infusion of cash into the Provincial Commands to get this program to work. She also briefed the delegates on the Focus on Future Committee which she chaired during her term. It was noted during the presentation that the Legion would modernize its method of recruitment and add people to the staff where it was deemed needed.

Following the keynote address for Monday the delegates settled in to listen to reports, none of which could be passed until the Treasurer's Report was adopted later in the proceedings and resolutions were heard. They also listened to presentations and greetings. The Credentials Report for day one was given in the morning. Meanwhile, there were calls for nominations for all positions at the Dominion Command level with Comrade Gordon Moore being acclaimed as Dominion President. Committee reports continued until the Dominion Chairman called for an adjournment at approximately 2:30 p.m.

The second day saw the keynote address delivered, the second call for nominations and the closure of nominations for the First Vice-President position. After the second ballot the delegates elected Comrade Tom Eagles as the new First Vice-President of Dominion Command. The reports continued. But during the elections a briefing was also given by the Dominion President on the conditions found in the Caribbean region by visitors from the Legion as part of its work with the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL). A collection of donations to the RCEL Fund

(Canada) was taken and \$195,156 was collected. There were pledges of \$3,700 and additional donations were made after the collection. The fund was set up to give grants to the needy veterans and widows of veterans. Later in the day saw the closure of the nominations for Dominion Vice-President with the delegates electing David Flannigan of Newfoundland and Labrador Command, Peter Piper of Saskatchewan Command and Edward Pigeau of Ontario Command. The deadline for non-concurred resolutions to be brought back for debate also passed at 1 p.m.

On the third day, Dominion President Pat Varga gave a presentation on the Troop Morale Fund and The Welcome Home and Thank You to the Troops initiative. She also announced that actor, producer, director and writer Mr. Paul Gross was the recipient of the Legion's first Founders Award for his commitment to Remembrance for his film *Passchendaele*. Mr. Gross accepted the award by video from Princeton, New Jersey. Elections were held for both the position of Dominion Treasurer and the Dominion Chairman. The delegates elected Comrade Michael Cook to the former and Comrade Tom Irvine to the latter. The delegates also dealt with 92 resolutions, including those brought back by the deadline. All of the Committee Reports passed with the decisions on the resolutions made. Following any new business the floor was cleared while the Dominion Convention prepared to install its new officers.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The installation of officers elected was conducted by Grand President Comrade Larry Murray. Once the installation was completed, the Benediction given, the comments of the Chairman of the Local Arrangements Committee for Edmonton in 2014, Comrade Mac Torrie, were made, and the closing comments of the Local Arrangements Committee for the 44th Dominion Convention were delivered, the Dominion Chairman gave the closing ritual.

CONCLUSION

The major highlights of the 44th Dominion Convention were:

- The keynote speakers' addresses,
- The announcement of the "Leave the Streets Behind" program,
- The announcement that Mr. Paul Gross had become the first recipient of the Legion's Founders Award,
- The election of a new Dominion President,
- The collection from the floor of \$195,156.07 for the RCEL Fund,
- The 2011 Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance presentation by Scott Briand,
- The signing of an accord by The Royal Canadian Legion and both the Navy League of Canada and Air Cadet League of Canada, and
- The poppy drop during the Opening Ceremonies.

There were a number of changes made to Dominion Command policies at the Dominion Convention and The Royal Canadian Legion affirmed that it would continue its work for the veterans of Canada. It also confirmed that it would maintain its relationship with other veterans' organizations and speak with one voice when it came to its commitment to Remembrance of those in the military, Merchant Navy and Ferry Command who made the ultimate sacrifice for Canada.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

Good morning Comrades, distinguished guests and friends of the legion. Welcome to the 44th Dominion Convention in beautiful Halifax. My report will be distributed through the Whips at a later time.

It is very hard to believe that it has been two years since you, the members, chose me to lead you. What an honour and a privilege it has been to serve you, even as you have served others. I would once again like to thank you for the opportunity and take the time to review the past two years.

I have been extremely busy and engaged throughout my term as your President. It seemed that I was either packing or unpacking for the past two years. In fact, to ensure that my family did not forget what I looked like, PIB, through Kelly Smith presented me with a framed 8 x 10 picture which they suggested I place on my pillow when leaving on yet another trip.

In Winnipeg, I promised you to work hard, be open and honest, inclusive, to operate with transparency and to listen. I have fulfilled that promise. I promised to lead the DEC on a positive, progressive, productive and proactive path to the future of this great organization. I challenged them and you to walk the path of service with me. "Service, not for self but for the betterment of others". I believe that together we have started to build the foundation for our future. The members of DEC have been open to new ideas and projects and certainly part of a great team. There are still many challenges ahead, but together we have started the planning that will guide us to long term stability for the future. We have maintained our traditions while we have begun to modernize and ensure our continuing relevance in our Communities and in Canada. The Legion is, as the Grand President, Comrade Larry Murray has often said, a Canadian institution and we will maintain that place in Canada.

We have continued to fulfill our Mission and been true to our Aims and Objectives.

We have been positive in our outlook and our approach. We have been proactive when we see things not happening for our Veterans and the currently serving forces. We have been closely monitoring what is happening in Veterans Affairs and in the Canadian Forces. We have and always will strive to ensure that our Veteran's are looked after now and always, and in the manner in which they deserve and indeed, are owed.

We continue to support currently serving members of the CF and have endeavoured to build stronger ties to the currently and past serving members of the RCMP. We will continue to do this. Our serving men and women put their lives on the line everyday and we will always give them our full support.

We are and continue to be an organization founded on comradeship and in the spirit of brothers in arms; carried on in part by the bloodlines of our families and assisted by those who share our common aims.

We are the guardians of Remembrance in Canada. We carry the torch and we hold it high. We have and will continue to protect the Poppy as Canada's symbol of Remembrance.

We have continued to do great work in our communities. Imagine for a moment, if we were not present in our communities, large and small, who would take on the tasks? Who would provide the service and support? Many communities continue to depend on the Legion for a vast array of services and we are always there!

You, the members and our branches are the lifeblood of your communities. You are the heart and soul of the Royal Canadian Legion. Each member is valued and necessary. Together we have developed a volunteering spirit that is immeasurable. Because we stand together as one, we are the greatest service and volunteer organization in Canada!

Two years ago I dedicated my term to the Veterans of my family who are no longer with us. I made them, and you, promises and I know that I can leave this most wonderful office having met those promises and knowing that those Veterans would be awfully proud. And, many times I felt their presence and their guidance throughout my term.

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

We have had a busy two years within the committees and the DEC. I would thank all members of the DEC, who have stepped up to the plate and got on board with looking to the future while at the same time fulfilling our aims and objectives. The Senior Elected Officers and other Dominion Chairs were challenged to learn and defend their committee budgets and programs. They too accepted this challenge, and the process enabled all of us to better understand the programs and issues at the dominion level. Communications have continued to improve between the Provinces and we are developing a closer working relationship. Often during the past two years I have spoken with the Command Presidents, just to make sure all is ok. When I first started to phone, I was asked two questions; what did I do wrong and what do you want? Now when I call, the Presidents, they understand the only reason is to communicate.

As we move through the convention you will hear reports from each of the Chairs of the Dominion Committees but I would like to highlight a few items for you.

VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS

Our Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee in conjunction with the Dominion Command Service Bureau continue to be proactive in advocating for Veterans and still serving personnel. We continue to reach out by all means possible to assist those in need. We continue to appear before Parliamentary and Senate Committee hearings to ensure that those issues which are still outstanding for all Veterans are not forgotten.

As you are aware, last year, VAC made some long awaited changes to the New Veterans Charter. Those changes did prove that it is a living charter, however, there are still many more changes needed. We continue to advocate for issues arising from the Pension Act such as funeral and burial costs; changes to the Veteran's Independence Program and Long Term Care.

Our Service Bureau personnel from coast to coast inform us of the increase in the numbers of modern and still serving Veterans that are coming forward for assistance.

The Legion is also continuing the Long Term Care Surveyor program which the Minister of Veterans Affairs assured me will continue this fiscal year. I would hope that the minimal cost of this program compared to others will ensure its future. In the past many Veterans never received visits from VAC staff and the conditions in which some of them lived were to say the least unacceptable and in many cases absolutely deplorable. Our Legion members are making a difference by visiting Veterans in Long Term facilities to ensure that they are receiving proper and just care.

We will continue to carefully watch the changes in VAC due to their transformation program and the budget reductions. Any decrease in services or support to our Veterans is intolerable and will not be taken lightly.

I would like to congratulate Ontario, BC/Yukon, AB/NWT and Nova Scotia/Nunavut Provincial Commands that are involved in Homeless or Near Homeless Veterans programs. Your efforts have been exceptional. To all, you saw a need and filled it! To the other Commands, I know you are working diligently to develop programs that will meet the needs in your Provinces.

To BC/Yukon, AB/NWT and Nova Scotia/Nunavut, your work with transitioning Veterans is fantastic! I know that BC/Yukon has been supporting this program for many, many years. You will be hearing more about this program during the convention. To those Commands, again, you saw a need and filled it!

To all the volunteers, members and branches that are involved with programs for our Veterans and our currently serving military, thank you. You too saw a need and have continued to fill those needs at the local level.

So to all of you, a big bravo zulu!

SUPPORT TO OUR MILITARY

We support our troops! The success of this program was tremendous and it certainly demonstrated the generosity and caring of our members. Our Welcome Home project was overwhelmingly successful and again that was totally due to you, our members. The Royal Canadian Legion continues to support Operation Santa Clause and Canada Day for those CF members deployed. We also sponsor the Canadian Forces Sports Championships and the Nijmegen March. I am so proud of our efforts to support the men and women of the Canadian Forces, in the past and the present, and I know this support will continue into the future.

REMEMBRANCE

I firmly believe that the Legion has earned the title, and will always be the Guardians of Remembrance in Canada. As Canadians stand in silence at Memorials and Cenotaphs, you can be proud of the work that you do as Legionnaires to ensure Canadians remember. Now and always your work in the Poppy Campaign and the education programs that ensure our youth understand the importance of Remembrance is outstanding. Your commitment and dedication to ensure that sacrifices are not forgotten is amazing. Your volunteer time during the Remembrance period is something you should be very proud of. As your Dominion President I could not be prouder of you.

As I attended many Remembrance Services, in Ottawa, France, England, Hong Kong, the United States and Malta it was apparent to me that not only do we remember but so do others. It was an honour to represent this organization on all occasions, but these events I will remember for a long time. I will remember also a lesson I heard on the Two Minute Silence; one minute is for the fallen; one minute for those who survived. To quote the words of Terry Kelly, such a Pittance of Time.

SUPPORT TO OUR COMMUNITIES

Our communities were built by the Veterans returning home. They served and continue to serve until death. What a wonderful legacy they left; a legacy of service, of hard work, of dedication to Canadian values and of support to those in need. The Royal Canadian Legion will continue to be an important and indeed integral part of our communities. Our members care about our communities and we continue to assist where ever and when ever needed. As I said before, who would fill the void if we were not there?

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

We have been looking to the future. We have “set the train on the track” for future development. We know that there are many issues at the Branch level and we will give you guidance and support to ensure your continued success. I cannot overstate the value of communications and being proactive and progressive. This committee has achieved much in the past 18 months and will, I am assured, continue to develop tools for you to use and continue to build the foundation for our future. I thank those of you who took the time at your provincial conventions to fill out a questionnaire. The answers on the survey assisted us in setting objectives that you will hear more about in my later report. This was the first time (but will not be the last) that the members have been directly engaged. You still can state your opinion and ideas through our email at future@legion.ca.

PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS

I know that we all share the same concerns about the future. Can our branch survive? What can we do to ensure that we have the members and volunteers that we need? We are the largest Veterans organization in Canada with a coast to coast to coast reach. But, society is changing and we have to be prepared to change with it. We need to maintain our traditions but be open to the possibility of doing things differently. I know Branches are struggling. I know we are all looking to attract new members and more volunteers. But, are we doing the best to encourage this? Are you a closed door branch? Or are you open and welcoming to new members? The future is wide open and it is up to you. Do you rigidly stick to the old tried and true because that's how it's always been done? Or are you open to change, to evolution, to modernization? It has been said that only the strongest survive. Well Comrades, we are the strongest organization that exists in this great country of ours. I think that we will do what we have to, we will survive and we will grow in the years ahead. I challenge you to approach that wide open future as our Veterans did in the past. With the strength of their convictions and their devotion to the ideals that make us great as a country. I challenge you to continue to walk the path of service! I challenge you to continue to be part of the greatest organization in Canada!

I want to thank each and every member for all the work you do and for supporting your branch, your communities and our Veterans so well. I thank your families as well for allowing you to volunteer such large amounts of time.

I would also like to give tribute to our long-time partners in all our endeavours, the Ladies Auxiliary members. Talk about invaluable. Many branches could not and would not survive without their assistance. So to all of you, a big thank you and bravo zulu.

Before I close there are many that deserve a thank you, beginning with you the members. In the ten years that I have been a Senior Elected officer you supported me. I offer each of you my heartfelt thanks and gratitude for allowing me to serve you.

I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to our Grand President, Comrade Larry. Your advice and guidance during my term has been immeasurable. Your friendship is just the icing on the cake. I know that you stand ready aye ready to continue your support to us and to Veterans. Together we even taught a few what navy terminology like bravo zulu means!

To the Senior Elected Officers, members of the Dominion Executive Council, all of the other officers and members that I have worked with over my term, thank you for all your dedication, advice, honesty and professionalism. We didn't always agree, but we always put the Legion first and foremost.

To my mentors, thank you for being there and listening. I trusted and believed in you with all my heart and you came through. Not just as a mentor, but as a friend.

To Coleville Branch members, my home branch, thank you for everything you have done. I promise to get to more meetings in the next two years.

To Saskatchewan Command members and officers, thanks for hanging in with me through thick and thin for these many years. Your friendship, comradeship and support kept me going.

To Comrade Brad White our Dominion Secretary, words are not enough to explain how much your support and advice meant to me. To all the Dominion staff that I was fortunate enough to work with, your dedication and professionalism is extraordinary. I appreciate each of you and consider you to be friends and comrades.

To Minister Steven Blaney and his staff, it has been great to work with all of you as well as your predecessors. I look forward to you continuing an open, honest relationship with my successor. Don't forget that we too have a job to do and that is to protect Veterans. Our Veterans are among Canada's most vulnerable citizens and servants. They signed that blank cheque made out to Canada for anything up to and including death. We as a nation owe them. We hope that you, as the Minister of Veterans Affairs, will continue to do your utmost for them. We thank you for what you have accomplished since taking on the portfolio. But as I have told you before, and I will repeat, we are not going away and we will be watching!

To my family, thank you for understanding how important this time was to me. Thank you for your support and love always.

To the two that helped raise me; Kay and Rob Metcalfe of Sechelt, BC thanks again for teaching me those values and ethics along the way. Thanks for being there this past two years, you listened, and then gave me the kick where and when I most needed it. Love you!

And best of all. To my husband, Lorne, I cannot tell you what you mean to me. The road hasn't always been easy but you have always been there. I could not have done any of my Legion work without your support, understanding, patience and love. You are my rock! Love you!

And finally and again, to you, the members, I cannot thank you enough for giving me the honour and privilege of being your Dominion President. You had faith in me, and Comrades I have faith in you.

We will continue to serve! We will always remember them.

Respectfully submitted
Patricia (Pat) Varga, Dominion President

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

P. Varga	Chairman
G. Moore	Vice-Chairman
B. Brady	Member
R. Groulx	Member
C. Saunders	Member
L. Murray	Member
M. Tremblay	Ad Hoc Member
A. Siew	Secretary
S. Carey	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

Since Dominion Convention in Winnipeg in 2010, all Veterans, including members of the Canadian Forces (CF), 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 Government Ministers, the “Comments on Resolutions 43rd Dominion Convention 2010” issued by Dominion Command was published in December 2011 and distributed to Legion Branches for the guidance of all Legion members.

MANDATE OF VSS COMMITTEE

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee has promoted a more active advocacy stance while maintaining its focus on proving, day in and day out, to all Canada’s Veterans, including serving CF and RCMP members and their families that The Legion cares.

ADVOCACY

In 2010, The Legion appeared at the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA) on three occasions, to confirm our support to the recommendations of the New Veterans Charter Advisory Group (NVCAG), to discuss issues related to Bill C-473, an Act to protect insignia of military orders and military decorations and medals that are of cultural significance for future generations, and to discuss issues related to combat / operational stress.

The Legion also appeared at the Senate Sub Committee on Veterans Affairs to again discuss issues related to the New Veterans Charter and to provide information to the Senate on Legion advocacy, providing an update on Legion Resolutions approved at the 43rd Dominion Convention in Winnipeg in June 2010. It should be noted that when invited to appear at Parliamentary and Senate committees we now consult with other Veterans organizations to seek their views and support on Legion advocacy issues.

In 2011, the Legion appeared at the Senate Sub Committee of Veterans Affairs (VEAC) on two occasions to discuss issues related to Bill C-55, the Enhanced New Veterans Charter, and to speak on “Services and Benefits provided to Veterans and their Families”. The Legion also

appeared at the Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs (ACVA) twice to discuss issues related to the “Delivery of Front-line Health and Wellbeing Services for Canadian Veterans.”

The Dominion President / VSS Chair, Patricia Varga, sent a number of letters to Government officials to advocate for various Legion advocacy goals:

In 2010 and again in 2011, two letters were forwarded to Minister Blackburn regarding improvements to Funeral and Burial benefits;

The Legion cooperated very closely with the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Society to advocate for recognition by VAC that Veterans who suffer from ALS should be receiving disability benefits. VAC agreed with our recommendations and adopted a new policy to that effect in October 2010.

The Dominion President / VSS Chair, Patricia Varga, also sent a number of letters to the Minister Veterans Affairs, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, on urgent Legion advocacy issues related to improvements to the New Veterans Charter and other Legion advocacy goals such as the recognition of ALS.

A number of announcements on planned improvements did take place starting in September 2010:

- i. VAC announced a monthly supplement of \$1000.00 for those Veterans unable to be suitably and gainfully employed while improving access to the Permanent Impairment Allowance. The Earnings Loss Benefit (ELB) was also set at a minimum of \$40,000.00;
- ii. VAC announced a partnership with The Legion to help Homeless Veterans in Ontario;
- iii. The CF announced 5 new initiatives to support injured CF members, including barrier-free transitional housing, support services such as wheelchair accessible transportation to medical appointments, caregiver respite, child care, etc., improved access to CF Spousal Education Program, and improved Case Management;
- iv. VAC announced improved support for Veterans with ALS;
- v. the Government tabled legislation (Bill C-55) to improve financial support for injured CF members and Veterans while introducing options for CF members and Veterans who would prefer to receive the existing lump sum Disability award as either an annual payment or as a combination of a partial lump-sum and annual installments; and
- vi. Finally, VAC announced important changes to Agent Orange Ex Gratia Payment.

In 2011 letters were forwarded to Ministers MacKay and Blaney and to the Veterans’ and CF Ombudsmen to express the Legion’s concern with some elements of the “Legacy of Care” program, which were deemed to be restricted to Afghanistan only serving members and their families, contrary to the initial announcement;

In 2011, a letter was forwarded to Minister Flaherty requesting that Veterans programs be exempt from the ongoing budget deficit review process, and promoting a tax credit linked to the hiring of injured Veterans; and

In 2011, a letter was forwarded to Prime Minister Harper, again advocating for an exemption for Veterans from the ongoing budget deficit review process.

In 2010, the Dominion President / VSS Chair, Patricia Varga, attended consultations with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, Jean-Pierre Blackburn, in Ottawa to discuss anticipated improvements to the New Veterans Charter. This was followed by briefings and a formal announcement on Bill C-55: an Act to amend the Canadian Forces Members and Veterans Re-Establishment and Compensation Act and the Pension Act and the introduction of payment options for the Disability Award.

In 2011, The Dominion President / VSS Chair, Patricia Varga, attended two meetings with the newly appointed Minister Veterans Affairs, Steven Blaney, followed by stakeholders' meetings with VAC staff and other Veterans organizations. A second stakeholders meeting was held in February 2012 which the VSS Chair and Vice-Chair participated.

The VSS Deputy Chair, Gordon Moore, attended the Chief of Military personnel "Caring for Our Own" Symposium in Ottawa, 21 September 2011. This symposium was attended by 200 personnel, including senior CF members, Parliamentarians and Senators. The Legion also hosted a kiosk at this event highlighting the services offered through the Service Bureau Network.

In 2010 and 2011, the Dominion President / VSS Chair, Patricia Varga, conducted liaison visits to VAC Head Office in Charlottetown with the Deputy Chair / 1st Vice President, Gordon Moore, and the Grand President, Larry Murray. They met on two occasions with the Deputy Minister, Suzanne Tining, VAC senior staff, and also with the VRAB Chair, John Larlee.

In late 2011, the Grand President, Larry Murray, attended the second annual Canadian Military Veterans Health Research Symposium (CIMVHR). We also hosted a kiosk at this venue which The Legion sponsored. We are engaged in developing a formal partnership with CIMVHR to ensure a credible and independent Military and Veteran health research capacity.

CLOSURE OF ST. ANNE'S

In 2010, we participated in a meeting in Ste-Anne de Bellevue to discuss the proposed transfer of the Ste-Anne's Hospital to the Province of Quebec. We reiterated our full support to the objectives of Resolution DC 404, approved at the 43rd Dominion Convention, including the retention of the status quo at the Liaison Centre.

In 2011, the Chief negotiator, Mr. Neville, has indicated that negotiations with the Province of Quebec are moving ahead as indicated in his regular advisory reports. We are still awaiting further action on this sensitive issue.

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

Service to all Veterans, including serving CF and RCMP members 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 benefit process and to help with benevolent needs. The Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) held formal hearings at Legion House.

In 2010, a formal training session for new Service Officers was held at Dominion Command. Of note, Brian Richardson from NS/Nunavut Command was in attendance. Also, all Command Service Officers assembled in Charlottetown for the biennial Service Officer Professional Development (SOPD) training session from 5-7 October. The SOPD session included one day of formal training in the Client Service Delivery Network (CSDN) training lab.

In 2011, three formal training sessions for new Service Officers were held at Dominion Command. Of note, Allan Waddy from BC / Yukon Command, Wayne Pike from PEI Command, Tara Kovac from ALTA/NWT Command, and Carolyn Gasser and Ray McInnis from Dominion Command participated. Other attendees included representatives from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), the Canadian Forces, and retired RCMP members.

Command Service Officers will be attending a training / professional development session in Charlottetown in 2012. They will benefit from consultation with VAC staff 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, following consultation with the Provincial Command Service Officers.

OUTREACH

We have continued to investigate opportunities to reach out to CF Regular and Reserve Force members and their families in cooperation with the Military Family Resource Centres and other agencies, including the newly formed Joint Personnel Support Unit and the Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC). Concurrently, this initiative was adopted simultaneously by other Provincial Commands who are reaching out to these agencies to show "We Care". On 2 occasions, we also assisted in information sessions in Toronto and Montreal for IPSCs Service Managers and conducted regular liaison with the Director Casualty Support Management and his staff, promoting the availability of Legion representation for released military members.

Recently, we embarked on negotiations with VAC Service Delivery and Information Technology staff to ensure the integration of the Legion Service Bureau Network in VAC's transformation agenda to gain access to Electronic Service Health Records through the Client Service Delivery Network data base, and to ensure more secure means to communicate protected information via the VAC GroupWise network. These new tools will ensure a meaningful and efficient role for Legion Command Service Officers as we embark on a modernization of the Service Bureau Network.

LONG TERM CARE

In 2010, Legion surveyors visited 4230 Veterans residing in 868 different facilities. Training courses for Legion surveyors were held in Montreal in March and in Charlottetown in September. Breakdown of visits by Region is as follows:

Region	# Veterans	# Facilities
Atlantic	651	141
Quebec	497	140
Ontario	1767	268
Western	1315	319
TOTAL	4230	868

In 2011, Legion surveyors visited 1911 Veterans residing in 643 different facilities. Training courses for Legion surveyors were held in Montreal in March and in October. Lower numbers can be attributed to a five month interruption of taskings during the Federal election and contract renewal process. Breakdown of visits by Region is as follows:

Region	# Veterans	# Facilities
Atlantic	389	127
Quebec	200	137
Ontario	771	182
Western	551	197
TOTAL	1911	643

The Long Term Care Surveyor (LTCS) Program, of which the Legion provides trained “surveyors” to visit and interview Veterans in Long Term Care facilities at the request of Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC), has been very successful since its introduction in 2003. Unfortunately, we are not sure that this program will continue. The Legion has indicated its displeasure with any move to end the program at this time. We feel this program is even more warranted in consideration of the increasing needs due to the advancing age of these Veterans.

LEGION HOUSING

As the last step in closing down the Legion Housing Centre for Excellence, hard copies and an electronic version of Legion Housing inventory were distributed to Provincial Commands for retention and updating of Command web sites and for ongoing management of this program. A database and handbook of current housing inventory was produced for all Provincial Commands which will be updated annually by Dominion Command.

BENEVOLENT FUND REPORT

The following are Benevolent Fund statistics for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 December, 2011:

FUND	2010		2011	
	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT
POPPY	154	\$ 60,124.84	148	\$ 89,910.16
IABTF (SCOWP)	8	\$ 5,606.16	6	\$ 3,232.91
RAFBF	83	\$ 122,219.93	120	\$ 154,375.57
RNBTF	37	\$ 39,060.96	37	\$ 37,131.63
UK Regimental	58	\$ 52,918.22	71	\$ 56,450.69
TOTAL	340	\$ 279,930.11	382	\$ 341,100.96

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

RESOLUTIONS

The VSS Committee has reviewed 19 Resolutions; 14 have been concurred, while 5 have been non-concurred. Of the 19 that have been concurred, 11 have been merged.

CONCLUSION

During 2012 the VSS Committee will continue their advocacy efforts focused on ensuring that all Veterans and their families are afforded the same benefits and services irrespective of when and where they served.

I move acceptance of this report.

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

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

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	12,851	8,586	11,500	11,700	12,000
Per Diem	6,630	9,239	8,800	9,000	9,200
Cdn. Assoc. on Gerontology	2,719	715	2,400	2,400	2,500
Printing, Stationery	1,022	1,729	2,000	2,000	2,100
Telephone & Fax	203	210	600	600	600
Postage	72	179	400	400	400
Outreach Policies - Legion Magazine	2,264	2,264	6,000	6,100	6,300
Miscellaneous	2,312	2,846	1,500	1,600	1,700
Publications					
- Write off old stock	2,279	-	3,390	-	3,000
- Distribution of new stock	6,675	153	7,000	-	7,000
TOTAL	37,026	25,920	43,590	33,800	44,800

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

T. Eagles	Chair
G. Walker	Vice-Chair
W. Edmond	Member
M. Arsenault	Member
J. Ross	Member
S. Pottle	Member
W. Maxwell	Secretary
K. Therien	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Canadian Legion, through the Dominion Command Poppy and Remembrance Committee, has continued its lead role in fostering the tradition of Remembrance by providing Canadians with opportunities to Remember and Honour our Fallen. Through 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 two occasions in February 2011 and February 2012. 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 and Home Hardware.

POPPY & REMEMBRANCE PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

Dominion Command sales of Poppy and Remembrance material from 2008 through 2011

	2008	2009	2010	2011
January	2,647.25	2,949.65	4,580.85	-6713.79
February	325.80	13,214.65	10,364.10	16,178.00
March	46,120.62	15,104.55	7,358.86	91,449.55
April	61,544.01	13,829.57	38,530.01	1123.40
May	-23,014.13	14,135.69	95,359.37	92,310.63
June	146,106.38	123,969.66	137,643.62	153,728.05
July	62,412.88	103,611.02	323,424.88	217,367.62
August	567,673.24	269,959.67	248,050.19	693,018.40
September	1,386,856.43	1,318,216.72	1,299,841.10	897,767.11

	2008	2009	2010	2011
October	531,536.10	772,073.04	196,407.39	683,072.49
November	441,615.53	365,754.99	655,456.20	677,594.32
December	49.46	21,331.80	96,654.67	1,718.86
TOTAL	3,223,873.57	3,034,151.01	3,113,671.24	3,518,614.64
	(-4.9%)	(-5.9%)	(+2.6%)	(+13%)

Individual Poppy and Wreath distribution quantities for 2008 through 2011

ITEM	2008	2009	2010	2011
Lapel Poppy, Box of 1000	17,767	15,279	15,959	18,684
Car / Window Poppy	24,438	24,561	21,163	23,715
Table Poppy	4,146	3,173	4,542	3,114
#8 Wreath	4,291	4,044	3,774	3,939
#14 Wreath	20,223	20,624	19,234	20,108
#20 Wreath	8,873	8,785	8,374	9,142
#24 Wreath	821	780	581	924
#26 Wreath	146	119	69	100
Poppy Spray	555	364	307	362
Grass Cross	9,903	9,889	9,043	8,950
White Cross	3,533	3,096	2,687	2,761

As the numbers reported indicate Poppy volumes increased quite significantly in 2011. Poppy wreath volumes were also up for the first time in several years. Some of this increase may be the result of shortages in 2010. Regardless, the production schedule will be based on the higher volumes in 2011 to ensure that these volumes, plus a buffer, will be produced and available for the 2012 Campaign. The one product that ran short for the 2011 Campaign was the #24 wreaths. Demand was unusually higher in 2011. Production will be increased to 1050 units, of the #24 wreath, for the 2012 Campaign.

Fulfillment proceeded well for the 2011 Poppy Campaign. While there were a few problems, the problems were back to being exceptions rather than common place. Again Provincial Commands continue to expedite the orders and provided valuable assistance in servicing branches.

As was commonplace several years ago larger orders for Poppies and wreaths were shipped by truck (LTL) freight. Not only does this save on freight but it also allows the larger orders to be received all at once simplifying the receipt for the branch. Shipping these larger orders by parcel was resulting in confusion over receipts as the orders were being delivered at multiple times over several days. Branches were systematically contacted by phone to advise of the pending truck receipt and to confirm if lift-gates were required in the absence of loading docks. This change in process worked well and will be repeated for the 2012 Campaign.

Several quality related issues were reported by branches and provincial commands:

- **Poppies losing flocking**—Branches and Commands in Alberta, Ontario, and New Brunswick and Nova Scotia reported that some Poppies were losing their flocking. The flocking manufacturer through Dominion Regalia was contacted and they were able identify

that some flawed material had been produced in one run of material. The root problem was the drying process that assists in adhering the flocking to the material. This manufacturer has provided assurances that they have corrected the problem. Regardless, Dominion Regalia has agreed to add a quality control step previous to forming the Poppies.

- **Car Poppies not sticking**—Two reports of car Poppies not sticking were received. We were unsuccessful at recreating the problem with our stock and Dominion Regalia reported the same. The suction cups used on the car Poppies are made of a rubber material which can harden and deteriorate over a number of years. Attention should be made to rotating stock on all materials using the first in first out (FIFO) methodology to ensure that stock is sold within 2-3 years. Any defective merchandise will be replaced at no charge to the branch or provincial command.
- **Report of water damaged boxes and foul smelling wreaths**—While we cannot confirm if boxes became wet prior to or during shipping we have communicated this concern to Dominion Regalia. We have received assurances that stock will be stored on dry trailers and that product will only be shipped in new undamaged boxes.

A production schedule has been prepared, by the Director of Supply, for the 2012 Poppy Campaign. While creating this schedule has proven beneficial, it was also beneficial to perform physical audits to ensure that the schedule was adhered to. A minimum of three audits will be conducted again this year to ensure that stock has been produced and is ready for shipment as orders are received.

A new look for promotional materials was developed for the 2011 Poppy Campaign. Commands and branches are encouraged to consume older stock first (FIFO) to ensure that these changes can be phased in every 4-5 years while managing the cost to produce these items supportive of the Campaign. Stock on many promotional items was reordered during the Campaign to meet the increasing demand. Each year in February the supply department solicits forecasts on the anticipated consumption of promotional materials. Provincial Commands are encouraged to consider any anomalous demands that will cause an excess of materials to be consumed. Consumption has nearly doubled on “Poster and Literacy Contest” brochures over the past few years. While this consumption indicates that our message is getting out there we do need everyone’s assistance in making sure we can meet the demand.

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

The Legion is honoured to organize and direct this national ceremony on behalf of the People of Canada. In 2010 an estimated 30,000 spectators attended the Ceremony while in 2011 attendance was 25,000. The Silver Cross Mother for 2010/11 was Mrs. Mabel Girouard of Bathurst, New Brunswick. The Silver Cross Mother for 2011/12 is Mrs. Patricia Braun from Radmore Saskatchewan. Mrs. Braun will remain as Silver Cross Mother until 31 October 2012.

POSTER AND LITERARY CONTEST

The Poster and Literary Contests 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 2010 and 2011 contests.

The deadline date for each Provincial Command to submit their winning entries to Dominion Command is 15 February. This has enabled the national results to be released before the end of March each year since 2006.

2011 YOUTH LEADERS' PILGRIMAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

A total of 36 pilgrims participated in the 2011 Pilgrimage. It was very successful thanks mainly to the advanced planning and preparations. In accordance with the planned timetable, there were thirteen 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, after 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 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 and all Commands were represented.

The 2011 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 conducted a review of the Poppy Manual for required and recommended amendments and updates. A revised Poppy Manual was published in February 2011 containing all changes since June 2007.

POPPY TRADEMARK

Since the last Convention, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee continues to review applications for the use of the trademarked image of the Poppy Image to ensure appropriate usage as the Symbol of Remembrance. All requests are recorded in the trademark log, which forms the historical account of these requests.

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.

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 2010 and 2011 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.

2012 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed fourteen Resolutions submitted for consideration at this 2012 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.

SUMMARY – COMBINED BRANCH POPPY CAMPAIGN

PERIOD ENDING 30 SEPT	2008	2009	2010	2011
Revenue ¹	17,202,361	18,035,808	17,400,163	20,486,919
Expenses ² /Poppy Material Purchased from Provincial Commands	6,021,126	5,876,275	5,840,720	6,359,741
Disbursements ³	10,378,560	11,083,892	11,054,913	13,428,057

NOTE: As the reporting period is 1 Oct. of the preceding year to 30 Sept. 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 AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	7,768	3,277	6,600	6,700	6,900
Per Diem	4,775	1,924	4,000	4,100	4,200
Postage & Office	3,032	3,936	4,500	4,600	4,700
Telephone and Fax	1	4	1,000	1,000	1,000
Teachers Guide Update	-	-	6,000		
Write Off Old Publications	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase and distribution of new stock	-	3,704	1,000	-	4,000
Miscellaneous	1,730	487	1,000	-	-
TOTAL	17,306	13,333	24,100	16,400	20,800
<u>EUROPE ZONE</u>					
Grant	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Europe - Wreaths	1,302	1,501	1,000	1,200	1,500
	11,302	11,501	11,000	11,200	11,500
<u>NATIONAL CEREMONY</u>					
Travel	5,097	8,888	6,000	6,200	6,300
Per Diem	6,054	6,834	6,000	6,200	6,300
Printing, Stationery	45	481	1,000	1,000	1,000
Telephone, Postage	362	386	1,000	1,000	1,000
Colour Party Activities Summer & Fall	237	313	1,000	1,000	1,000
Meeting, Planning	298	852	200	200	200
Remembrance Reception	3,439	4,536	3,500	3,600	4,000
St. John's Ambulance	300	300	300	300	300
Silver Cross Mother	3,617	5,616	4,000	4,100	4,200
Cadet of the Year	12,125	7,316	10,000	10,200	10,400
Miscellaneous	5,253	1,012	2,500	2,600	2,600
TOTAL	36,827	36,534	35,500	36,400	37,300
<u>PILGRIMAGE</u>					
Poppy Grant	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)
Expenses	37,569	24,841	34,000	35,000	36,000
TOTAL	12,569	(159)	9,000	10,000	11,000
TOTAL	78,005	61,208	79,600	74,000	80,600
<u>ASSOCIATED EXPENSES (Poppy Fund)</u>					
National Literary/Poster Contests					
Travel	3,388	4,504	5,000	5,100	5,200
Per Diem	5,258	5,258	5,000	5,100	5,200
Bursaries/Gifts	6,380	6,555	7,600	7,800	8,000
TOTAL	15,026	16,317	17,600	18,000	18,400

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

G. O'Dair	Chairman
P. Piper	Vice-Chairman
R. Bennett	Committee Member
J.M. Deveaux	Committee Member
A. Paquette	Committee Member
D. Horrocks	Committee Member
M. Thompson	Secretary
C. O'Grady	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

Since the last convention the Membership Committee has noticed a slight shift in the trend of declining membership. The 2010 Membership year was one of the best years that Membership has experienced in a long time. Although we have not yet been able to eliminate the losses that we suffer each year we have made a dent in slowing down the number of members that we lose each year through non-renewals. In 2010 the overall losses were reduced to just over 5,000 members. For comparison purposes in 2009 the losses were close to 12,000 members – this is a difference of almost 7,000 members from the previous year.

The Committee is 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 Committee members have worked hard over the past two years by introducing new tools and methods for the branches to use to entice both the general public and military members to join our organization. But the tools and programs that Dominion Command and Provincial Command provide to the branches are only of benefit if the branches use them.

A Welcome Home the Troops Campaign was implemented this year and branches were provided with tools to use to help to ensure a successful campaign. Through this program we were able to sign up over 725 new members. Recruitment of the military continues through our Retired Military Member at Large Program that provides a one year free membership to newly retired military members who are new to the Legion.

Membership starts at the branch level, but it does not end there. We are all responsible for promoting membership and doing our part to ensure that we remain a viable organization in the future. Our strength is in our numbers so let's not sit back and continue to watch our numbers fall.

Remember the decisions that you make throughout this convention are the ones that will guide us in the future.

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

2011 Final Paid Membership—The final paid membership for 2011 is 332,209. This includes all paid memberships up to and including January 31st. This total represents 96.81% of our paid membership goal. This resulted in an overall loss of 10,936 members and a decrease of 1.73% over the previous year. For comparison purposes, the 2010 final membership statistics showed a loss 5,083 members and in 2009, as loss of 11,974 members.

2011 Renewals—The renewals are down slightly over last year and fell just short of reaching the 90% renewal goal by 0.22%. We were able to achieve 89.78% which represents a decrease of 1.45% over 2010. There were seven commands that were successful in surpassing the 90% renewal goal for their 2011 renewals. The remaining commands followed quite closely behind.

2011 Recruitment—Recruitment numbers decreased slightly this year. We show a decrease of 0.28% over our recruitment totals for 2010 with several commands showing an increase from last year. Only Quebec Command was close in reaching the 10% recruitment goal.

Gains and Losses—As of 31 January 2012, we show a total loss of (10,936) members for the 2011 membership year. PEI Command was the only Command to surpass their previous year's paid membership. However, NFLD/Labrador Command came quite close in meeting their last year's paid membership with a total of 99.28%.

In order to better explain the results of the membership gains and losses for 2011 and to show how the losses are determined, please find attached a chart showing the history for the past 10 years.

- a. The total number of non-renewals is determined by subtracting the total number of renewals for 2011 (308,075) from the 2010 Final Paid Membership Totals (343,145).
- b. The total number of non-renewals (35,070) as indicated in the chart, are made up of the following:
 - i. the total number of members who did not renew their membership for 2011 (27,579) added to,
 - ii. the total number of deceased members (7,491).

Gains and Losses 2002-2011

Year	Renewals	New Members	Final Paid Membership Total	Members not renewed	Members Deceased	Total # of Non-Renewals	Total Loss for 2011
2011	308,075	24,134	332,209	27,579	7,491	35,070	-10936
2010	317,684	25,461	343,145	23,103	7,441	30,544	-5083
2009	322,925	25,303	348,228	29,545	7,732	37,277	-11974
2008	334,366	25,836	360,202	30,834	8,167	39,001	-13165
2007	347,125	26,242	373,367	33,461	7,998	41,459	-15217
2006	361,932	26,652	388,584	35,215	8,321	43,536	-16884
2005	375,831	29,637	405,468	31,140	9,100	40,240	-10603
2004	385,497	30,574	416,071	34,629	9,030	43,659	-13085
2003	397,945	31,211	429,156	36,656	8,847	45,503	-14292
2002	411,169	32,279	443,448	35,829	9,526	45,355	-13076

Based on the information in the chart the number of members who did not renew their membership (not including deceased) exceeds the number of new members that were recruited this year.

In order to just maintain our current membership numbers we must:

- a. Recruit enough new members to cover the losses through death and non-renewals and/or
- b. Decrease the number of losses created by members that are eligible to renew their membership but do not.

AWARDS

2011 Membership Achievement Award—recognizes the Command for the best overall performance over the previous year. This year PEI Command wins this award. This command ended the year with 100.67% of their 2010 paid membership total. Congratulations!!

2011 Renewal Award—is based on the gains and losses over the previous year and the 2011 winner is PEI Command with an increase of 0.27% over 2010. Congratulations!

2012 Early Bird Campaign—The Early Bird Campaign material is sent to the branches and commands in July each year. The Early Bird Campaign runs from September 1st to November 30th and submissions received at Dominion Command by the December 15th deadline date are included in the final statistics (submissions received after this date are not included). The Committee felt that branches should be encouraged to play a more active role in renewing members by providing them with greater incentives to meet the challenge of declining membership. The minimum requirement for issuing Early Bird Certificates and/or percentage seals was increased from 50% to 75% for the 2011 Early Bird Campaign.

The Early Bird renewal period is a busy time for branches as well as the Membership Section. During the 2012 Early Bird Campaign more than 307 branches were successful in winning awards for renewing 75% or more of their members. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

The Membership Committee recognizes the Provincial Command that showed an increase in early membership renewals based on the gains and losses over last year's campaign. The winner of the 2012 Early Bird Award is Manitoba/NWO Command with an increase of 1.95% over last year's campaign. Congratulations!

Branch Membership Achievement Award—A new award program for branches was introduced in 2011 in order to recognize those branches that work so diligently to increase their membership each year. The certificates were presented to branches in recognition of their exemplary dedication, hard work and the many man hours they spend contacting members to renew their membership and recruiting new members. The award is based on the Final Year End Paid Membership Statistics (posted on the website after January 31st) and are issued to all branches that achieve 100% or more of their total paid membership from the previous year. Awards issued are based on the following chart:

Certificate Issued	% Achieved
Gold	111 +
Silver	106-110
Bronze	100-105

In 2011 the Committee was pleased to issue 617 certificates to the branches that reached 100% or more of their 2009 paid membership totals and this year we issued 509 certificates. Certificates are forwarded to the Provincial Secretaries for distribution to the appropriate branches once the final year-end figures have been compiled and posted and the certificates printed.

BRANCH CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Totals at Dec. 31 st
2010	19	0	1	1494
2011	12	0	1	1483

ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION

The following is a summary of current items relating to advertising and promotion of membership programs. 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 each issue of Legion Magazine. Two of the ads are dedicated to recruiting/renewing members and the remaining issues are geared to attracting the general public to join the Legion.
- b. **External Magazine Advertising**—Includes the placement of membership related ads in the following publications:

Publication	Frequency	Ad Size
Esprit de Corps	6 times per year	¼ page
Blue Line (new)	6 times per year	⅓ page
Vanguard	6 times per year	¼ page
Frontline	2 times per year	½ page
On Guard – CF Directory	1 time per year	½ page
Canadian Trucking Magazine	8 times per year	Full page
Military Base Newspapers	2 times per year	¼ page
RCMP Quarterly	4 times per year	¼ page
RMC Yearbook	1 time per year	Full page
Zoomer (discontinued in 2011)	1 time per year	¼ page

Many thanks to Dave MacKenzie, Director of Client Services at Canadian Trucking Magazine who lets Membership place a full page advertisement for the Legion in his magazine at no charge. Ads have appeared in each issue of the magazine since April 2009.

- c. **External Advertising**—The advertising focus in the past has traditionally been in magazines and newspapers. In 2011 Membership decided to go outside the box and chose two new and different advertising venues.
 - i. Airtime was purchased for Membership ads to be played during the live online broadcast of each game of the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup Championship held in

Mississauga from May 20 – 29th, 2011. The games were broadcast live and carried by www.chl.ca as the exclusive radio broadcast of the Canadian Hockey League.

- ii. The second venue that was chosen provided the Legion with the opportunity to air Membership commercials during the national radio broadcasts of the Blue Jays baseball games that are aired coast to coast on 20 different radio stations. In addition to the 40 commercial spots that were purchased, the radio station added bonus airtime at no additional cost to the Legion. In total, more than 180 commercials were broadcast between the months of May until August. These two new venues have provided the Legion with an entirely different approach to advertising to the general public and as a result, it has increased the profile and scope of our audience.

MEMBERSHIP PROMOTIONAL & PROCESSING MATERIAL

- a. **Membership Manual**—In 2011 the three membership manuals were combined into one new and inclusive Membership Manual. Contents of the manual are divided into a processing section, chairman's guide and a section on eligibility criteria. The new manual provides the branches with instructions and samples of the appropriate forms required to process membership and step by step instructions with completed processing form(s) for each individual section. This detailed guide will help to provide answers to the questions that branches may have as to the proper form to use, as well as the information required to complete them. Error percentages based on the number of items returned to branches is approximately 30%. Items being returned to branches are missing critical information required to complete processing and this becomes a very time consuming process. The new guide should help to alleviate the number of forms that are being returned to the branches and eliminate further delays in processing membership.
- b. **Flyers, Postcards, Bookmarks**—Stock on a number of these items have been depleted and have come up for re-order and as a result have been updated with a new look.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

The Committee implemented a nation-wide recruitment campaign in May and all branches were invited to participate. Branches were provided with kits that contained all the items available for order from the Supply Department as well as tips and suggestions to help ensure that they hosted a successful campaign. The kits were sent out to the branches in mid-March and orders for these specially designed kit items must have reached the Supply Department by April for distribution by May. The success of the campaign will be analyzed at the next Membership Meeting tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2012.

PAID UP APPLICANT FORM

An initiative that began with BC/Yukon Command regarding a “new” Paid Up Applicant form was previously approved by the DC Membership Committee, DEC and C&L for use by the Provincial Commands. The purpose for the use of this form was to establish a process to allow prospective members to commit their interest in joining the Legion when approached by a Legion Official at various venues.

The form (E & F) was modified for use by all Commands and its use left up to the discretion of the Provincial Commands. It is the Command's responsibility to ensure its proper use. Copies

of the forms as well as an instructional sheet outlining its use were sent out in January to DEC, Provincial Secretaries, Provincial Membership Chairmen and the DC Membership Committee. The purpose of the form is to engage and recruit a prospective new member at the time of contact. It is a preliminary form and does not replace the Membership Application Form. Anyone recruited in this manner is still required to fulfill all the membership requirements of the General By-Laws in their entirety prior to acceptance as a member of The Royal Canadian Legion.

NON-RENEWALS

For the past two years during the month of April renewal notices were sent out to members showing in the membership database as not paid for the current and/or previous membership year. As a result, more than 30% of the members that received a renewal notice renewed their membership. The responses received to the renewal notices would indicate that the return on investment far outweighs the cost to administer the program.

Over the past two years we have compiled a list of reasons as to why members that had received a renewal notice had failed to renew their membership, or their membership had not been processed by the deadline date. For your information we have indicated the most popular reasons below:

- members had paid dues to their branch but payment had not been submitted to Dominion Command for processing.
- members were deceased – but Dominion Command had not been notified.
- submissions mailed to the Dominion Command office were never received. Further investigation indicated that branches were still using old per capita tax envelopes with the old address on them.
- members had more than one membership number – this was a result of the member being submitted for processing more than once by their branch and without any membership number and indicated as “new” on the processing form.
- The member’s payments were processed after the file for the renewal notice was created.
- and a number of miscellaneous reasons that required further follow-up by the branch/command.

The purpose of the renewal notice is to provide the member with a reminder that membership dues have not been received and processed by Dominion Command. It was not intended to replace the branch’s role in the renewal process, but to be done in conjunction with it. This program helps to alleviate some of the financial burden incurred by the branches as well as provide the membership chairman with more time to address any problems pertaining to renewals on a more personal basis. This program has proven itself successful in helping to pick up late renewals and also in identifying any problems that may exist at the branch level. It not only provides confirmation to members that their payments have been processed but also confirms they are indeed members in good standing.

FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP TO NEWLY RETIRED VETERANS

In June 2008 a program was implemented that offered newly retiring military members, who are not currently Legion members, a free one year membership in The Royal Canadian Legion. New members processed in this branch do not pay membership dues for the first year; however, the cost of the magazine is covered by Dominion Command. As a result a special holding branch was set up at Dominion Command to process these members. 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 out at the end of the free period are moved into the Dominion Command holding branch and are eligible to renew their membership for the next year there. We have processed approximately 500 new members in this branch since the program began.

PROMOTING MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Section Head attended the Track and Field meet held in Ottawa, Ontario in August 2010 and 2011. Attendance at the meet was to provide membership information to those visiting the event and to answer any eligibility questions that may arise. In total more than 200 brochures and application forms were handed out to those visiting the booth. It is still evident that general public is 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.

In addition the Membership Section Head set up a membership booth at the Zoomer Media Show held in Toronto during the last weekend in October in 2010 and 2011. Attendance at the show was in excess of 25,000 and once again provided the opportunity to share information about the Legion and provide attendees with brochures and application forms. In total, more than 1,200 brochures and application forms have been distributed as well as a number of items that were provided as a handout to the attendees. Many thanks to the following: the Supply Department for providing poppy seeds, the Sports Committee for baseball caps and 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.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has reviewed a total of three (3) resolutions.

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.

CONCLUSION

This convention completes my two year term and I would like to thank all the members of the Committee who motivated and challenged me and willingly shared their ideas and opinions. So too, do I thank the Committee Secretary, Comrade Maureen Thompson and her Membership Section staff for their excellent service delivery and cooperation. You will understand that a lot of work goes on behind the scenes and the cooperation of many other committees and their staff was also much appreciated.

I thank Dominion President Pat for choosing me to chair the Membership Committee. The task was challenging but also fulfilling.

The Committee has worked hard to address all the membership concerns that have been brought to its attention. We hope that we have provided the branches with the incentive and the tools necessary to ensure that they are able to conduct successful renewal and recruitment campaigns.

We created new membership programs to encourage branches to work harder, and made changes to others; changes that were not so popular with some of the branches. But these were changes that we believed would benefit membership and aid in reducing the downside that the Legion has faced over the years.

Membership starts at the branch level and I would be remiss if I did not thank everyone who has dedicated their time and their efforts to their branch. You are to be commended for all that you do in promoting membership. It's comforting to know that your commitment remains and that the Legion is in good hands.

The Membership resolutions will be presented later on in the Convention Agenda, but for now I move adoption of the Membership Report.

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

LEGION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE 1998-2011

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
2010	11,716	96,195	168,380	64,690	74		2,090	343,145
2011	11,304	91,223	163,768	64,146	73		1,695	332,209

2011 PAID MEMBERSHIP—GAINS AND LOSSES All Categories

COMMAND	2011 to date	2010 Total	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	60,299	63,377	-3,078	-4.86
ALBERTA/NWT	47,583	49,133	-1,550	-3.15
SASKATCHEWAN	12,411	12,770	-359	-2.81
MANITOBA/NWO	26,725	27,385	-660	-2.41
ONTARIO	126,299	130,459	-4,160	-3.19
QUEBEC	15,115	15,583	-468	-3.00
NEW BRUNSWICK	10,309	10,723	-414	-3.86
NS/NUNAVUT	24,716	25,475	-759	-2.98
PEI	2,391	2,375	16	0.67
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,405	4,437	-32	-0.72
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	988	460	528	114.78
US BRANCHES	650	639	11	1.72
EUROPE ZONE	318	329	-11	-3.34
TOTAL	332,209	343,145	-10,936	-3.19

2011 RENEWALS—GAINS AND LOSSES

All Categories

COMMAND	2011	2010	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	55,120	57,255	-2,135	-3.73
ALBERTA/NWT	44,122	45,124	-1,002	-2.22
SASKATCHEWAN	11,670	12,144	-474	-3.90
MANITOBA/NWO	25,003	25,634	-631	-2.46
ONTARIO	118,279	122,399	-4,120	-3.37
QUEBEC	13,694	14,070	-376	-2.67
NEW BRUNSWICK	9,784	10,078	-294	-2.92
NS/NUNAVUT	22,930	23,498	-568	-2.42
PEI	2,194	2,188	6	0.27
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,061	4,103	-42	-1.02
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	349	302	47	15.56
US BRANCHES	587	587	0	0.00
EUROPE ZONE	282	302	-20	-6.62
TOTAL	308,075	317,684	-9,609	-1.19

2011 NEW MEMBERS—GAINS AND LOSSES

All Categories

COMMAND	2011	2010	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	5,179	6,122	-943	-15.40
ALBERTA/NWT	3,461	4,009	-548	-13.67
SASKATCHEWAN	741	626	115	18.37
MANITOBA/NWO	1,722	1,751	-29	-1.66
ONTARIO	8,020	8,060	-40	-0.50
QUEBEC	1,421	1,513	-92	-6.08
NEW BRUNSWICK	525	645	-120	-18.60
NS/NUNAVUT	1,786	1,977	-191	-9.66
PEI	197	187	10	5.35
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	344	334	10	2.99
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	639	158	481	304.43
US BRANCHES	63	52	11	21.15
EUROPE ZONE	36	27	9	33.33
TOTAL	24,134	25,461	-1,327	24.62

2011 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL—PERCENTAGE STATISTICS

Goal 90%+ All Categories

COMMAND	2011	%	2010	%
BC/YUKON	55,120	86.97	57,255	89.63
ALBERTA/NWT	44,122	89.80	45,124	91.80
SASKATCHEWAN	11,670	91.39	12,144	92.92
MANITOBA/NWO	25,003	91.30	25,634	92.18
ONTARIO	118,279	90.66	122,399	91.62
QUEBEC	13,694	87.88	14,070	89.20
NEW BRUNSWICK	9,784	91.24	10,078	91.77
NS/NUNAVUT	22,930	90.01	23,498	91.62
PEI	2,194	92.38	2,188	90.90
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	4,061	91.53	4,103	91.22
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	349	75.87	302	74.94
US BRANCHES	587	91.86	587	87.22
EUROPE ZONE	282	85.71	302	87.54
TOTAL	308,075	89.78	317,684	91.23

2011 NEW MEMBERS—PERCENTAGE STATISTICS

Goal 10%+ All Categories

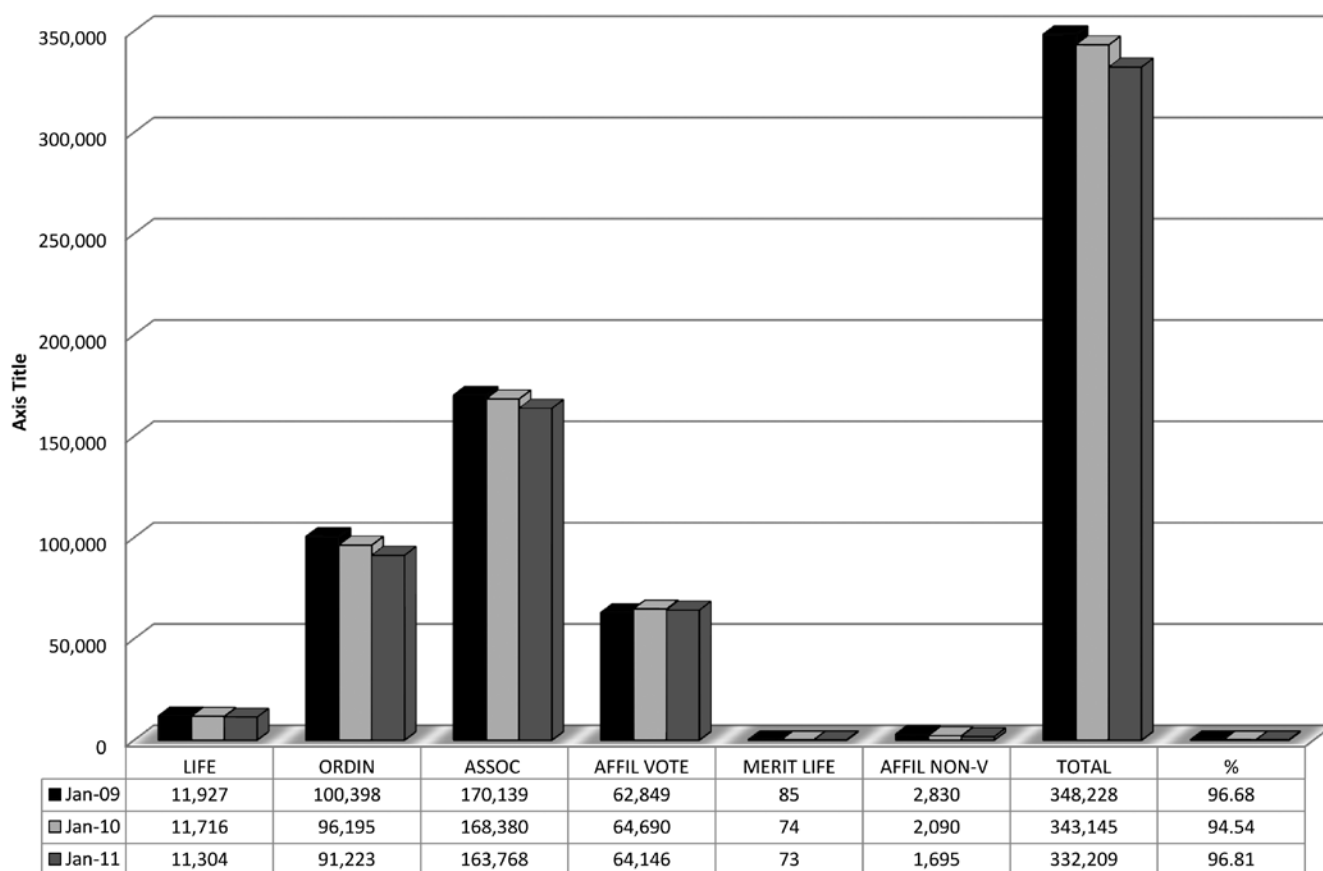
COMMAND	2011	%	2010	%
BC/YUKON	5179	8.17	6122	9.58
ALBERTA/NWT	3461	7.04	4009	8.16
SASKATCHEWAN	741	5.8	626	4.79
MANITOBA/NWO	1722	6.29	1751	6.3
ONTARIO	8020	6.15	8060	6.03
QUEBEC	1421	9.12	1513	9.59
NEW BRUNSWICK	525	4.9	645	5.87
NS/NUNAVUT	1786	7.01	1977	7.71
PEI	197	8.29	187	7.77
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	344	7.75	334	7.43
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	639	138.91	158	39.21
US BRANCHES	63	9.86	52	7.73
EUROPE ZONE	36	10.94	27	7.83
TOTAL	24,134	7.03	25,461	7.31

2012 EARLY BIRD AWARD— GAINS AND LOSSES

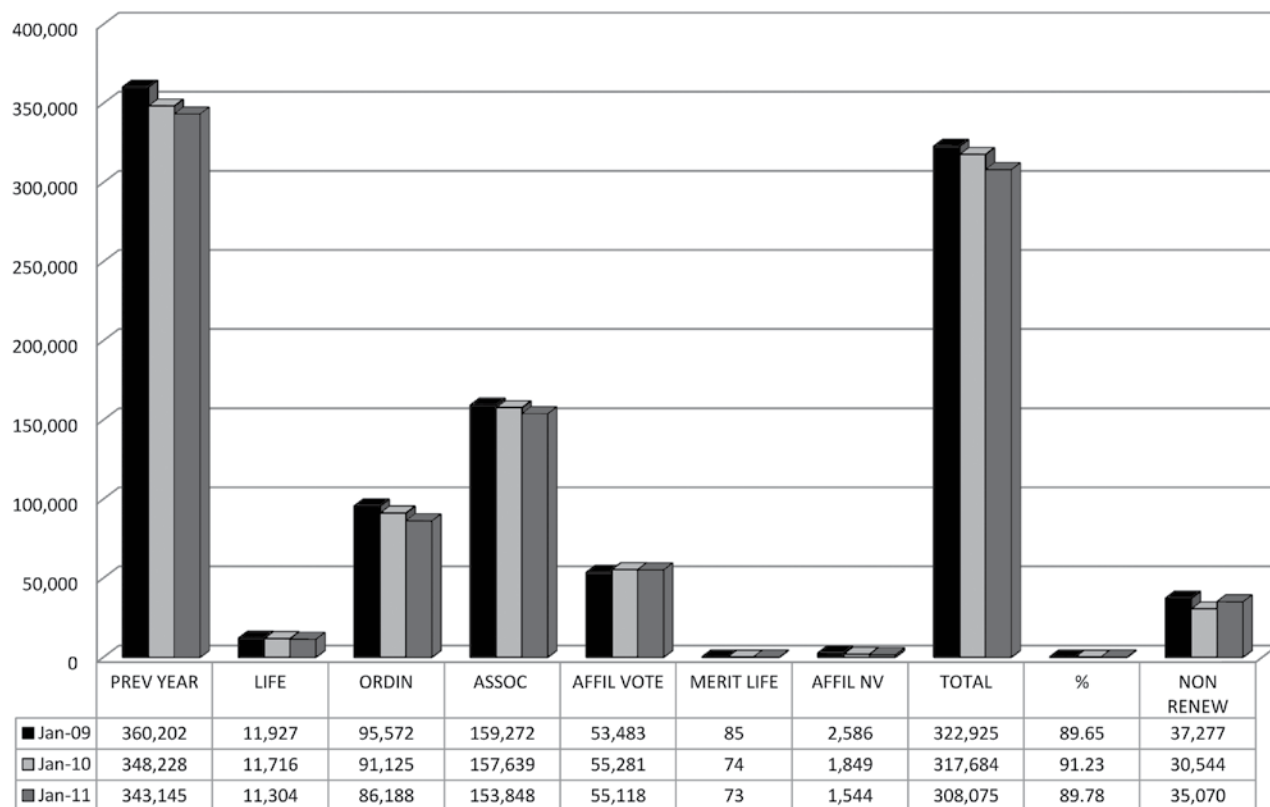
All Categories

COMMAND	2011	2010	Gain/(-)Loss	%
BC/YUKON	29,412	30,051	(639)	(2.13)
ALBERTA/NWT	25,364	26,711	(1,347)	(5.04)
SASKATCHEWAN	5,832	5,799	33	0.57
MANITOBA/NWO	13,505	13,247	258	1.95
ONTARIO	68,956	70,519	(1,563)	(2.22)
QUEBEC	6,667	7,314	(647)	(8.85)
NEW BRUNSWICK	5,048	5,490	(442)	(8.05)
NS/NUNAVUT	9,238	10,014	(776)	(7.75)
PEI	1,029	1,014	15	1.48
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	2,151	2,217	(66)	(2.98)
DOM. CMD. BRANCHES	790	311	479	154.02
US BRANCHES	308	271	37	13.65
EUROPE ZONE	20	60	(40)	(66.67)
TOTAL	168,320	173,018	(4,698)	(2.72)

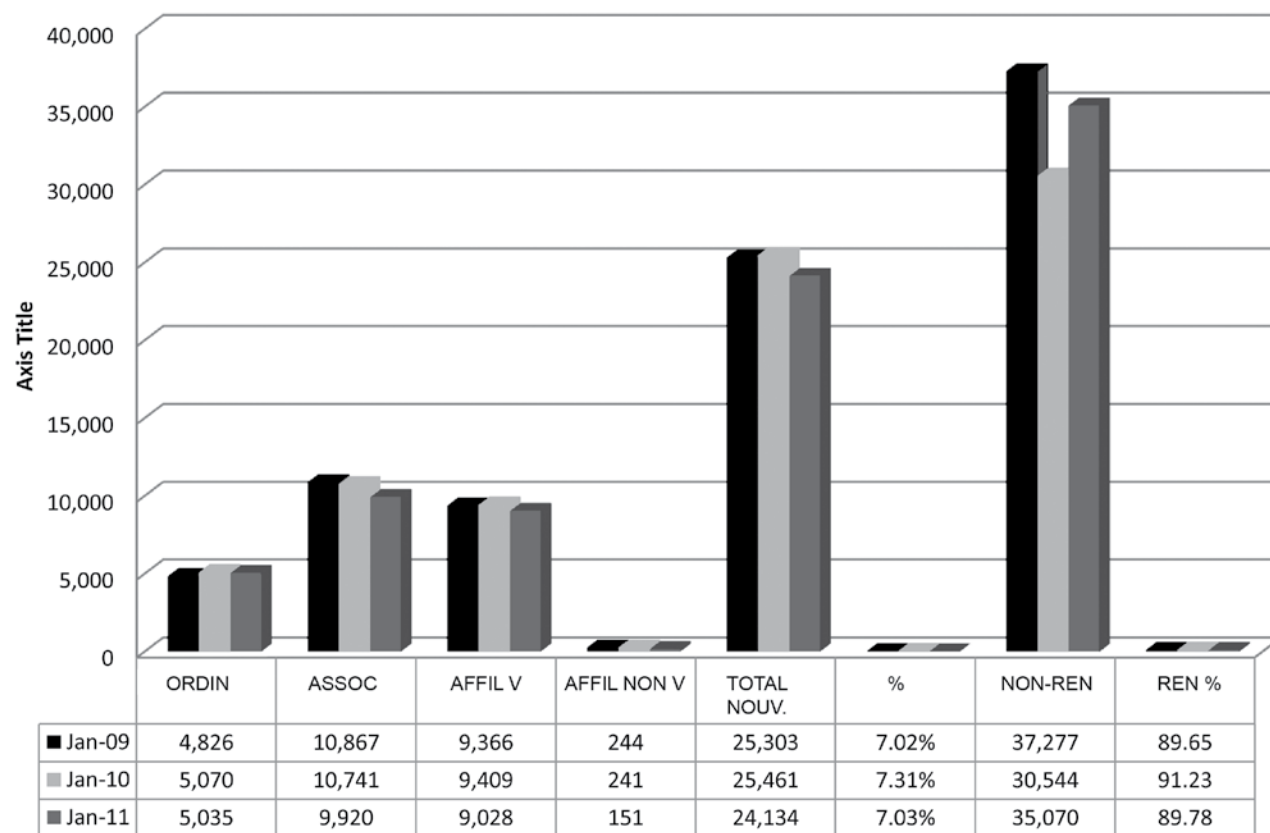
PAID MEMBERSHIP 2009 – 2011



RENEWALS 2009 – 2011



NEW MEMBERS VERSUS NON-RENEWALS 2009 – 2011



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	6,422	2,218	6,800	6,900	7,000
Per Diem	5,768	3,050	6,500	6,600	6,700
Printing and Office	1,753	974	1,000	1,000	1,000
Postage	933	59	500	500	500
Publications					
Write off	-	13,049	-	-	5,000
Purchase and Distribution of New	-	7,769	-	-	8,000
Telephone & Fax	35	7	100	100	100
Miscellaneous	3,291	2,749	6,500	6,600	6,800
	<u>18,200</u>	<u>29,875</u>	<u>21,400</u>	<u>21,700</u>	<u>35,100</u>
<u>PRINTING & STATIONERY</u>					
Chairman's Guide	-	-	-	-	-
Processing Guide	-	-	-	-	-
Membership Forms	6,080	4,739	8,500	8,500	8,500
Early Bird Certificate	-	-	500	500	500
Early Bird Stickers	-	2,601	3,000	-	3,100
Eligibility Guide	-	-	-	-	-
News Letter	180	792	1,000	1,000	1,000
RCL Welcomes You (booklet)	9,571	-	10,000	-	11,000
Flyers and Postcards	-	-	10,000	-	11,000
Bookmarks	-	1,637	3,500	3,500	3,500
We Care Poster	-	-	5,000	-	5,200
Renewal Poster	-	-	4,500	-	4,700
Early Bird Poster	-	-	4,500	-	4,700
The RCL & C.F. Brochure	-	1,544	-	2,000	-
RCL Needs You Brochure	-	-	6,000	-	6,200
Membership Gift Pack	-	-	5,000	-	5,200
Free Membership for CF retirees	2,648	13,573	10,000	10,200	10,400
Reminder Notice	-	5,004	-	5,500	-
Non Renewal Mailers	51,236	53,736	58,000	59,000	60,000
	<u>69,715</u>	<u>83,626</u>	<u>129,500</u>	<u>90,200</u>	<u>135,000</u>

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>NATIONAL ADVERTISING</u>					
Canvet Ads	26,247	29,408	29,400	30,000	31,000
Esprit de Corps	2,726	2,797	3,000	3,000	3,100
RCMP Quarterly	4,410	6,328	6,500	6,600	6,800
Airforce Magazine	-	-	-		
Trident Magazine	3,503	8,645	-	-	-
Base Newspapers	8,480	367	49,000	50,000	52,000
Frontline Magazine	2,780	3,362	3,800	3,900	4,000
Zoomer	9,374	-	-	-	-
Vanguard	5,212	5,136	6,300	5,400	6,600
Memorial Cup	-	-	8,000	8,200	8,300
Blue Jays	-	-	8,000	8,200	8,300
Blue Line	-	3,300	9,500	9,700	9,900
Canadian Geographic	-	-	26,000	27,000	28,000
Internet	282	-	1,500	1,500	1,600
Early Bird Campaign	-	-	6,000	6,100	6,200
New Recruitment Campaign	-	-	20,000	20,400	20,800
Misc. Advertising	2,088	3,841	5,000	5,100	5,200
	<u>65,102</u>	<u>63,183</u>	<u>182,000</u>	<u>185,100</u>	<u>191,800</u>
TOTAL	<u>153,018</u>	<u>176,683</u>	<u>332,900</u>	<u>297,000</u>	<u>361,900</u>

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

G. Moore	Chairman
D. Sinclair	Vice-Chairman
S. Wessel	Member
C. Paul	Member
A. Crewe	Member
D. Kennedy	Member
R. Butt	Secretary
P. Riley	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Public Relations Committee has met in Ottawa three times since the 2010 Dominion Convention, and e-mails have been exchanged on matters of importance. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period and introduces a draft plan and budget for 2012 to 2014. It has been a very active time for the Committee as the Communications Department underwent a communications audit and a review process to see what it could do to market the Legion in the future.

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 2010.

PROJECT REPORT

The following projects were completed during the past two years:

- a. **Maintenance of an effective Web Site**—During the period the web site has remained as being a major form of communications between the branches, Provincial Commands and Dominion Command. In 2010 we registered almost 6 million page views on it and in 2011 we outdid that with more than 10 1/2 million page views. Compare that to 2009 where we had 5 million page views. Also in 2011 we introduced a branch locator feature. The site will undergo a major revamp this year to bring it more in line with what we want to achieve in our proposed marketing endeavours.
- b. **Branch Surveys**—There was one branch survey done during the period of this report. It has given us the information we need to run public relations programs. The results were also broken down by command and sent to the Provincial Commands for their use
- c. **Training**—Training in PR and Media Relations was still available at Dominion Command at a shared cost with 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 its sports

championships. Funding to support the Nijmegen March Team's visit to Vimy Ridge was increased due to inflation. A member of the Legion is chosen each year as part of the marching contingent. In 2010 we donated 4,000 pocket calendars and pens as part of Operation Santa Claus. In 2011 we gave the deployed troops a Legion crested caribiner watch for Christmas. In 2010 we also started giving deployed troops a gift on Canada Day. For 2010 it was a crested nail file set and for 2011 it was ball caps. For 2012 it is a box of maple candy which comes in the shape of Maple Leaves and is labelled "A Taste of Home".

- e. **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**—During the period we supported three national track and field events, one in Sherbrooke and two in Ottawa. We provided plans and on-site support (media escorts) as well as photographic and web-site support.
 - ii. **Membership**—PR Assistance to this Committee has consisted of graphical and photographic support and the production of a public service announcement for use on TV.
 - iii. **Surveys**—There was one branch survey done and two public surveys were completed, one for general statistics and one for the marketing person.
 - iv. **Radio and Television Public Service Announcements**—Radio and television public service announcements were again produced and used to support the Remembrance program.
 - v. **Defence and Security Committee**—Graphics and media support were given to this committee in its conduct of the "Welcome Home" campaign.

THE PLAN – 2012 TO 2014

As mentioned earlier, the Committee intends to carry on with what has been successful for the Legion and add to it. So our plan for the next two years includes some marketing ventures and includes the following:

- a. **Committee Support**—We will continue to support all Dominion Command committees with the support they need to carry out their programs.
- b. **Provincial Command and Branch Support**—The Provincial Commands and branches will be supported as need be and as resources are available.
- c. **Research**—The PR Committee intends to carry out two specific surveys in the upcoming period of operations, one at the branch level and one of the general public.
- d. **Internal Communication**—The Committee plans to revamp its internet site as it continually reviews, updates and adds to the 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.

- 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, social media and the continued provision of timely and accurate information on the Legion. It will seek the advice of a marketing person where necessary.
- 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 at home and abroad.

RESOLUTIONS

There was one resolution considered by the Committee and it was non-concurred.

BUDGET

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

CONCLUSION

In 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 am so proud to be a member.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION—DOMINION COMMAND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>DIRECT EXPENSES</u>					
Travel	6,222	8,023	9,000	9,000	9,000
Per Diem	8,021	5,772	7,000	6,000	6,000
Printing, Stationery	569	438	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone & Fax	285	320	800	800	800
Postage	182	92	400	400	400
Miscellaneous	348	152	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	15,627	14,796	18,700	17,700	17,700
<u>PR SECTION INTERNAL</u>					
Backgrounders	-	-	-	-	-
Speakers	-	-	-	-	-
Posters/Brochures	2,956	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Branch Survey	-	-	-	3,500	-
SUB-TOTAL	2,956	-	5,000	8,500	5,000
<u>PR SECTION EXTERNAL</u>					
Media Monitoring	22,182	24,833	28,000	28,000	28,000
Media Distribution	2,560	1,995	4,500	3,500	3,500
Listings	-	642	3,000	3,000	3,000
Training/Liaison					
Per Diem	3,784	4,308	5,000	4,000	4,000
Travel	2,375	883	5,000	4,000	4,000
PSA's	-	8,514	10,000	10,000	10,000
Advertising	9,837	6,978	3,000	7,500	7,500
CFFSAD	-	-	7,000	-	-
CF Sponsorship					
Sports Championships and Awards Ceremony	26,000	33,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Operation Santa Claus	10,739	14,760	15,000	15,000	15,000
Operation Canada Day	11,546	9,595	15,000	15,000	15,000
Nijmegen	7,000	7,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
Navy Centennial	20,000	-	-	-	-
Ceremonial - PPCLI	-	-	10,000	-	-
Research	964	455	20,000	-	20,000
SUB-TOTAL	116,986	112,964	168,500	133,000	153,000
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	135,569	127,761	192,200	159,200	175,700

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

D. Flannigan	Chairman
L. Nash	Vice Chairman
B. Wignes	Member
D. Jones	Member
P. Poirier	Member
L. Washburn	Member
D. Martin	Secretary
A. Keeling	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command Sports Committee has met four times since the 2010 Dominion Convention – twice in Ottawa and twice by teleconference. The committee's focus remained one of containing costs, improving both the member sports program and the National Youth Track and Field Championships.

MEMBER SPORTS GENERAL

Member sports continue 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 major decline in popularity and is no longer part of the sports curriculum in Ontario, Alberta/Northwest Territory and New Brunswick Commands (56% of Legion membership is no longer eligible to compete in the national finals). The committee has reviewed the participation rates for curling and based on the findings has submitted a resolution to convention to remove curling as a national member sport.

Eight Ball, as directed by resolution at the 2010 National Convention, was introduced in 2012. As the tournament is scheduled for 25-28 May 2012 no feedback on participation rates was available at the time of the submission of this report.

In late June 2010 Jarden Branded Consumables (JBC) Canada whose subsidiary (Bicycle Playing Cards) agreed to sponsor the 2011 Dominion Cribbage by providing boards and cards for the cribbage championships for both provincial and national play as well as \$10,000, five of which was divided amongst the commands. The sponsorship was not renewed in 2012.

During the 2010 national Darts Tournament a suggestion was made and agreed upon by all in attendance that instead of using the results of the round-robin play to determine the winner(s) it was recommended that the top two teams in each category (singles, pairs and teams) have a best of three to determine the winner. It was felt that this change would create a more interesting final(s) as well as allow the remainder of the players to observe the championship play. As a result the Sports Committee approved a motion that the format of the National Dart Tournament be modified to include a final between the two top individuals/teams, in each category, to determine the winner. This was implemented in 2012.

2011 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

An update is provided on the outcome of member sports events for 2011:

a. Curling

Hosted by: Br #115 Hudson, QC, 19-25 March 2011
2011 Champions: Br #10 Sherbrooke, QC, Jeff Cheal (Skip), Evan Mooney (Third),
Matt McCrea (Second), Danny Comeau (Lead)

b. Cribbage

Hosted by: Br #251, Laval, QC, 29 April – 2 May 2011
2011 Champions: Singles: Br #186 Carrot River, SK, Jim Sisson,
Doubles: Br #15 Marysville, NB, Dean McLaughlin, Roger, LeBlanc
Team: Br #18 Miscouche, PEI, Wayne Corcoran,
William Corcoran, Paul Corcoran, Brian Hayward

c. Darts

Hosted By: Br #385, Aurora, ON, 13-16 May 2011
2011 Champions: Singles: Br #583 Newbury, ON, Jim Long
Doubles: Br #160 Dartmouth, NS, Jerry Myles, Chris Steiger
Team: Br #35 Stephenville, NF, Sam Organ, Les Hulan,
Adam Bullen, Brian Joy

2012 DOMINION MEMBER SPORT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results for the 2012 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: 16 - 23 March 2012

Hosted by: Branches #362, #78 & #63 The Royal Canadian Legion
3021 Louise St
Saskatoon, SK S7J 3L1

b. Cribbage: 27 - 30 April 2012

Hosted by: Branch #104, The Royal Canadian Legion
5108-49 Ave #1
Innisfail, AB T4G 1R1

c. Darts: 4 - 7 May 2012

Hosted By: Branch #118, The Royal Canadian Legion
123 West 15th Street
North Vancouver, BC V7M 1R7

d. Eight Ball: 25-28 May 2012

Hosted by: Branch #7, The Royal Canadian Legion
780 Summit Ave
Victoria, BC V8T 5C2

TRACK & FIELD - GENERAL

The Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships remains the premiere Legion Program for Canadian youth under the age of 18 years. Now sanctioned, by Athletics Canada, as the official Canadian championships in track & field for both the youth and midget categories both the profile of the event and the participation level continues to increase. This marked shift from closed internal meet to national level distinction has started to provide benefits in the areas of hosting applications, sponsorship, increased revenue for both the Legion and the host community and providing Legion exposure on a national level.

The committee continues to pursue avenues of savings through agreements with airlines, providing revenue sharing activities with the host committee and proactively seeking sponsorship partners.

The electronic media such as Twitter and Facebook is also being introduced and used in order to provide more exposure and relevancy to the target audience (i.e. young adults under 18).

Other areas of interest include the official design and registration of the Legion Nationals logo:



As well, the track and field program was recognized, nominated and a finalist in the Corporate Excellence Award category under the 39th Canadian Sports Awards.

2010 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2010 Legion Canadian Youth Track and Field Championships took place 4-10 August at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility located in Ottawa ON. The total attendance was 318 Legion sponsored athletes, 33 chaperones and 25 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 510 open category athletes competing constituting 790 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. For 2010 a candlelight vigil was held on the evening of 5 August at the National War Memorial.

The LGov of ON, The Honourable David C. Onley attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the Ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception at the Army Officers Mess on Somerset Street. Further receptions were held at local branches for the coaches and the chaperones on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the Cartier Square Drill Hall with WO MacDonald, a Star of Courage recipient and CDA Vimy Award winner as the guest speaker.

The meet was held on 6-8 August under perfect weather conditions with the exception of the final hour which experienced rain. The facility at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility was newly refurbished and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out for the first time over a

three day period under the excellent organization of the local meet director Andy McInnis. During the competition 14 Canadian Youth and 20 Legion records were broken – all but three Legion and one Cdn Youth were achieved by Legion selected athletes. The top Legion male and female athletes for the meet were Xavier King and Christian Brennan both from ON.

The Canadian midget 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. Additional funding as realized from the open category entry fees in the amount of \$31,703.90. Overall the open model has enhanced the competition without affecting the standard program.

In addition to the monies received from entry fees funding was also received from a VAC grant \$20,000, sponsorship from MBNA for \$5000 and Home Hardware for \$5000. Total cost reduction in these areas was \$61,703.90.

2011 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2011 Legion Canadian Youth Track and Field Championships took place 3-9 August at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility located in Ottawa ON. The total attendance was 324 Legion sponsored athletes, 33 chaperones and 25 coaches representing all 10 commands. In addition there were 580 open category athletes.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes and coaches, a clinic conducted by Athletics Canada, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2011 a remembrance ceremony was held on the morning of 8 August at the National Peacekeeping Monument followed by a visit to the National War Museum.

The Deputy Mayor of Ottawa, Mr. Eli El-Chantiry attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest speaker. Immediately following the ceremony Dominion Command hosted a reception at the Air Force Officers Mess on Gloucester Street. Further receptions were held at local branches for the chaperones and coaches on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the National War Museum in the LeBreton Gallery with Retired Lieutenant General Bill Leach former Commander Land Force Command, as the guest speaker.

The meet was held on 5-7 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at the Terry Fox Athletic Facility is in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out for the first time over a full three day period under the excellent organization of the local meet director Andy McInnis. During the competition 6 Canadian Youth and 14 Legion records were broken. – all but four were achieved by Legion selected athletes. The top Legion female athlete was Julia Zrinyi from MAN/NWO and the top male athlete was Brandon McBride from ONT. Both were presented a plaque and a \$500 bursary by MBNA Canada.

The open categories continue to be an unqualified success. Registration was carried out electronically by Athletics Canada for both the open and Legion categories. Additional funding was realized from the open category entry fees in excess of 31K, A VAC grant of 25K and sponsorship from both Home Hardware 20K and MBNA 5K.

2012 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Charlottetown, PE has been selected as the host site for the 2012 championships 15-21 Aug 2012. The Local Arrangements Committee Chairman is Comrade Cletus Dunn. Two site visits have been conducted (Oct 11 and Apr 12). Accommodations have been confirmed at the University of Prince Edward Island and the competition will take place at the university complex located on campus.

2013 – 2014 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Langley, BC has been selected to host the 2013 and 2014 Legion Nationals. Event dates are as follows:

2013: 7 – 13 Aug

2014: 6 – 12 Aug

An initial site visit will be conducted in Sep 2012.

DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS GUIDE

Based on several revisions, the addition of Eight Ball as a new member sport, the Sports Guide will be re-published post convention 2012.

2012 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The committee has reviewed one submitted resolution and has generated one resolution 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 20011-2012 budgets for Member Sports, the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships and the Sports Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Sports Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The Legion Sports Committee continues to focus on the development and advancement of the Legion Sports programs all within the philosophy of “value”. That would mean value for the money spent, value to the organization and value to the participants. Over the past two years I believe that your Sports Committee has advanced the program under the value label.

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

I move acceptance of this report as presented.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	5,197	4,059	8,000	8,200	8,300
Per Diem	3,509	3,628	7,500	7,700	7,800
T & F LAC					
Ottawa -2010/2011	4,933	4,178	-	-	-
Charlottetown - 2012	-	5,608	6,000	-	-
Langley- 2013	-	-	4,000	6,100	-
Langley- 2014	-	-	-	-	4,000
Printing, Stationery	1,046	3,860	4,000	4,100	4,200
Telephone & Fax	98	102	800	800	800
Postage	2,918	1,374	300	300	300
Write Off Old Publications	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase and distribution of new stock	-	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	79	10	2,000	2,000	2,100
TOTAL COMMITTEE	17,779	22,819	32,600	29,200	27,500

	Stephenville NFLD	Hudson QC	Saskatoon SK		
<u>CURLING</u>					
Travel					
Participants	23,186	16,002	25,000	25,500	26,000
Committee	6,029	2,600	4,000	4,100	4,200
Awards & Prizes	1,642	1,548	2,000	2,000	2,100
Entertainment	215	300	300	300	300
Ground Transportation	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advance to Host Branch	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL CURLING	34,072	23,450	34,300	34,900	35,600

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>DARTS</u>	Chester NS	Aurora ON	Innisfail AB		
Travel					
Participants	21,643	20,361	35,000	35,700	36,400
Committee	2,039	2,890	2,100	2,200	2,300
Awards & Prizes	1,781	2,285	2,300	2,400	2,400
Entertainment	160	200	200	200	200
Advance to Host Branch	400	400	400	400	400
Ground Transportation	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL DARTS	<u>27,023</u>	<u>27,136</u>	<u>41,000</u>	<u>41,900</u>	<u>42,700</u>

	Sussex NB	Chamonix QC	Vancouver BC		
<u>CRIBBAGE</u>					
Sponsorships	-	(5,000)	-	-	-
Travel	23,740	30,499	35,000	35,700	36,400
Participants	2,029	2,756	3,000	3,100	3,200
Committee	1,720	2,202	2,300	2,400	2,400
Awards & Prizes	900	500	400	400	400
Advance to Host Branch	166	200	200	200	200
Entertainment	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ground Transportation	<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL CRIBBAGE	<u>29,555</u>	<u>32,158</u>	<u>41,900</u>	<u>42,800</u>	<u>43,600</u>

			Victoria BC		
<u>EIGHT BALL</u>					
Travel	-	-	35,000	35,700	36,400
Participants	-	-	5,000	5,100	5,200
Committee	-	-	2,300	2,400	2,400
Awards & Prizes	-	-	400	400	400
Entertainment	-	-	200	200	200
Advance to Host Branch	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Ground Transportation	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL EIGHT BALL	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>43,900</u>	<u>44,800</u>	<u>45,600</u>
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	<u>90,651</u>	<u>82,744</u>	<u>161,100</u>	<u>164,400</u>	<u>167,500</u>

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS</u>	Ottawa ON	Ottawa ON	Charlottetown PEI	Langley BC	Langley BC
Transportation	131,573	147,233	170,000	173,400	176,900
Accommodations, Meals	131,546	131,459	140,000	142,800	145,700
Committee - Travel	5,162	5,617	5,500	5,600	5,700
Committee - Per Diem	12,845	9,971	17,600	18,000	18,300
Local Committee	18,200	6,000	3,000	3,100	3,100
Kits / Supplies / Medals	9,193	12,949	5,500	5,600	5,800
Buses	6,727	9,187	6,000	6,200	6,300
Honoraria	10,250	8,583	8,000	8,200	8,300
Reception	2,778	5,845	2,200	2,300	2,300
Medical	240	162	1,000	1,000	1,000
Athletic Facilities	2,513	3,250	4,000	4,100	4,200
Equipment / Mtg Rooms	2,553	10,412	4,000	4,100	4,200
Clinicians	-	-	4,400	4,500	4,600
Officials	-	7,233	8,000	8,200	8,300
Media Coverage & PR	17,208	11,596	10,000	10,200	10,400
Freight & Express	-	-	1,500	1,500	1,600
Miscellaneous	607	2,329	1,000	1,000	1,000
GROSS EXPENSE	351,394	371,825	391,700	399,800	407,700
Less Prov Portion	(82,706)	(83,691)	(82,000)	(82,000)	(82,000)
SUB TOTAL	268,688	288,134	309,700	317,800	325,700
RECOVERIES					
Registration - Non Legion Athletes	(31,703)	(32,011)	(12,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)
Sponsorships	(10,000)	(26,000)	(20,000)	-	-
Grant - VAC	(20,000)	(25,000)	-	-	-
Total Recoveries	(61,703)	(83,011)	(32,000)	(12,000)	(12,000)
NET EXPENSE TRACK & FIELD	206,985	205,123	277,700	305,800	313,700
TOTAL COMMITTEE	17,779	22,819	32,600	29,200	27,500
TOTAL TRACK & FIELD	206,985	205,123	277,700	305,800	313,700
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	90,651	82,744	161,100	164,400	167,500
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE	315,415	310,686	471,400	499,400	508,700

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

B. Leach	Chairman
L. Murray	Ex-Officio
D. Brown	Member
R. Price	Member
W. Martin	Member
D. Martin	Secretary

INTRODUCTION

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

GENERAL

The committee keeps abreast of defence and security concerns through the Legion membership in the Conference of Defence Associations (CDA). This includes interaction at the CDA conferences, attendance at the Vimy Awards and active participation with CDA members. As well a close liaison is maintained with the Department of National Defence group principals. The relationship with the relatively new addition of the RCMP to the committee's terms of reference is being cultivated through RCMP representation on the committee and planned future liaison with RCMP group principals.

COMMITTEE MANDATE/TERMS OF REFERENCE

Since the 2010 convention the Defence Committee has been transformed to include the RCMP with both an ex-RCMP appointed as a committee member, the renaming of the committee to "Defence and Security" and revised terms of reference to reflect these changes.

CF RESERVE PAY, ALLOWANCES AND TRAINING

The Committee supported the CDA resolution in regard to the commitment and protection of the CF reserves pay, allowances and training. This situation was brought about due to a reallocation of defence spending which resulted in a cut to funding for the reserves in the early part of 2010. This cut has directly affected the reserves ability to train and meet both their operational as well as community commitments. The CDS responded to the concerns of the CDA through a written response acknowledging the problem and the need to do better.

CDA PAPER – PROPOSAL ON DEFENCE SPENDING

The CDA was given the Legion's support on a paper submitted to the government outlining the need to sustain defence spending. The messages conveyed by the paper were as follows:

- The Government's support to funding the Canadian Forces over the past several years has been very positive. Capability renewal is well underway.

- A partial withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2011 presents the Government with an opportunity to begin to address other important defence priorities – continued capital investment, refurbishment of equipment, increased focus on domestic requirements and so on – within the current and projected defence budget.
- Although the 2010 budget made reductions to Defence funding growth, future budgets must sustain funding if the Canada First Defence Strategy priorities are to be met. The Government must remain committed to a strong and capable military force.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE (DND) - LIAISON

The Chairman conducted courtesy visits in 2011 to the Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Military Personnel and the commanders of the Army, Navy and Air Force. Some of the points raised during the discussions, from the DND perspective, were (in no particular order):

- The CF perceives the Legion as the dominant veteran's organization within Canada. The Legion is also perceived to be a stabilizing force in concern of veteran's concerns and an organization that represents all veteran's not just splinter groups.
- There is concern in the CF over the reintegration of recent veteran's into society in that many are reservists who do not have the immediate support network that serving regular force members have. The same applies for those that leave the military.
- The Legion has a far greater reach in concern of retired veterans of all ages than does the CF or VAC. This Legion "reach" was perceived through the amount of Legion branches established in communities across the country. There is interest in utilizing this resource in partnership with the CF in concern of veteran reintegration into society.
- The Legion presence in the Joint Personnel Support Centres (i.e. Edmonton, Halifax) was a surprise to some and considered a positive contribution by all.
- The ability for serving and retired members of the CF to have the opportunity to belong to the Legion, without necessarily belonging to a branch, was considered important as postings, work commitments and families take up a considerable amount of a serving veteran's time. Membership forms and information packets should have both the option and explanation, respectively, to allow for this type of membership.

WELCOME HOME INITIATIVE

In the spring of 2011 the committee encouraged the official recognition of the Canadian Forces end of combat mission in Afghanistan which was set for 1 Jul 11. Through this initiative Dominion Command formed the "Welcome Home" team which led the way to help organize and promote this significant date in our military legacy. With the assistance of Legion branches nationwide this initiative provided a suitable and successful "thank you" to our returning troops. The culmination of this initiative was the dedication of an Inuksuk and tree at Legion House on 10 Sep 11 that was attended by all the DND group principals.

Based on the participation rate the following statistics attest to the success achieved:

- Over 200 Legion branches participated in hosting events;
- Over 7,000 Afghanistan Veterans attended these events;
- Over 10,000 family members of these Veterans were in attendance; and
- Over 50,000 Canadians attended these events.

On the downside it was also noted that some individual branches that supported the initiative had great difficulty in connecting to local Afghanistan veterans despite a concerted effort to do so. This caused some consternation amongst those Legion branches as the effort put forth did not meet the expected result. It was also noted that future initiatives of this nature will have to find solutions to the privacy barriers that prevented contact with currently serving veterans in order to both encourage branch participation and enable those branches to participate.

VIRTUAL LEGION

The Committee has both introduced and been a strong proponent of the Virtual Legion concept that would allow modern day veterans an electronic forum to socialize and provide a voice under the umbrella of the Legion. As a result the Legion has rethought its current strategy of veteran solidarity in regard to their current model of branch membership and is moving forward to provide an additional environment that will attract the veteran of today.

A Virtual Legion branch 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 will allow veterans to interrelate, associate, voice concerns, contribute and find help all within their comfort zones and skill level. The programs general characteristics are:

- Secure closed forum(s).
- Veteran only.
- Registered membership required to participate.
- Monitored under the guidance of the General By-Laws.
- Centralised control.
- Individual branches based on missions, units, sqns, commissioned ships with a start point of 1968.
- Additional branches prior to 1968 possible upon request and substantiation.
- Membership in specific branches based on previous association.

The Virtual Legion will have a military look and feel to it. It will reflect the ships, units, squadrons, and missions that the CF currently has and has participated in respectively. It will be designed to allow the familiarity that those that served can only truly understand.

The initial development phase is underway with an independent company contracted to produce the Virtual Legion platform under the guidance of the Legion.

2012 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2001-2012 budgets for Defence & Security Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Defence Committee, will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

Through close liaison with defence and security 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 AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	3,505	3,007	5,000	5,100	5,200
Per Diem	3,466	5,466	5,500	5,600	5,800
Printing, Postage,	18	401	150	200	200
Telephone & Fax	-	11	100	100	100
Miscellaneous	-	120	300	300	300
Annual Vimy Award & AGM	4,175	5,120	5,400	5,500	5,600
Conference of Defence Association Fee & CIC Fee	2,110	2,000	2,150	2,200	2,200
Virtual Branch	-	-	35,000	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	13,274	16,125	53,600	19,000	19,400
LESS: Recovery from Troop Morale Fund	-	-	(15,000)	-	-
NET EXPENSE	13,274	16,125	38,600	19,000	19,400

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

P. Varga	Chairman
G. Moore	Vice-Chairman
W. Edmond	Member
B. White	Secretary
R. McInnis	Assistant Secretary

INTRODUCTION

The primary goal of The Royal Canadian Legion's RCEL Committee continues to be the support of veterans in the Caribbean countries whose organizations and governments are unable to provide full care for their needs. Legion programs are focused on the provision of individual assistance as veterans in need are identified. During the past two years up to 282 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 2010 you donated \$276,158 to this fund and in 2011 you donated \$209,900. These donations have enabled the Committee to meet the needs of the destitute, but we continue to need funds to continue our work even though there are a declining number of those who need our help. Inflation and our further commitment to help the member organizations in the Caribbean with their medical and administrative grants is a major concern.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

A total of \$614,609 has been committed or spent on support activities in the Caribbean since this Committee reported to you in 2010. This number includes the funds expended in 2010 and 2011. A further \$274,500 has been committed for 2012 out of a total budget of \$280,500 which leaves a small margin of reserve. We are continuing to hold our grants meetings in the year preceding the allocation for ease of handling, accounting and reporting.

- a. **Individual and Administrative Assistance**—In 2010 we were able to help 161 veterans and 126 widows with the standard rates of assistance set for them. In 2011 we helped 176 veterans and 130 widows and so far in 2012 we have helped 157 veterans and 127 widows.
- b. **Poppy Material**—Poppy material is provided free of charge on request to assist the local Legions to raise funds for themselves. Material valued at \$17,799 was donated in 2010 and \$18,386 worth of material was provided in 2011. Requests for 2012 are approximately \$20,000. This amount cannot be finalized until we receive all the requests and the shipping bills.
- c. **Emergency Assistance**—To date we have not had to deal with any emergencies in the region but we do keep the surplus that occurs because of unforeseen circumstances in the region for that purpose.

- d. **SCOWP and Projects**—Our contribution to the RCEL Standing Committee on Welfare Projects funding for 2010 and 2012 remained constant at \$5,500 per year to assist with the maintenance of the Curphey Veterans Home in Jamaica. In addition, in 2011 we provided \$5,500 to Guyana for the completion of their new veterans home in Georgetown. In 2011 we helped the Bahamas Legion with some supplies and our grants were \$6,900.
- e. **Other Assistance and Projects**—Eyeglass collection and distribution was maintained during the period of the report but is no longer needed. The provision of regalia items such as crests, badges, banners, ties, berets and clothing was maintained and the costs charged to the ordering organization.

LIAISON VISITS

In 2011 scheduled visits were made to Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Kitt's and the Bahamas 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 as well as advocate for more care for the veterans. They also visited Belize and the Cayman Islands 2012 where they did the same. The Dominion President and the Dominion Secretary went to a pre-triennial conference gathering in Hong Kong in 2011 and the Dominion President, the 1st Vice-President and the Dominion Secretary went to the Triennial RCEL Conference in Malta in May 2012.

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 the Caribbean region. We have maintained that trust. While the demand is decreasing due to death we expect that there will continue to be a need for major assistance for at least three years and decreasing assistance for at least another eight to ten years.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

31ST RCEL CONFERENCE, MALTA

The 31st Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League conference was held in Malta during the period 4 – 10 May 2012. Forty two countries were represented with only two, Jamaica and Dominica not being present. The Legion was represented by the Dominion President, Dominion First Vice President and Dominion Secretary and spouses.

The main subject of discussion for the conference was the future of the RCEL as previously discussed with DEC. The conference agreed that as the core business of looking after the welfare of Commonwealth WWII veterans declines through normal attrition that the RCEL would transition to fulfilling more agency work for those who have served in the UK Forces. Agency work involves assisting in the delivery of UK military and regimental association monies to those who in need who have recently served in the UK military. Given the extensive network of the RCEL, it is an ideal role for the organization and one that is easily achievable.

During the conference, we had the opportunity to conduct a regional conference with all the Caribbean nations that were in attendance. This was an excellent opportunity to meet with all and to discuss numerous issues. Primarily, the focus was to explain to the Caribbean nations the process and administrative requirements for benevolent grants to Commonwealth veterans and widows in the Caribbean region. In addition, we highlighted the need for accountability in the distribution of those grants including grants for administration and medical. Many questions were asked and answered. It is now clear to all that these grants are based on need and not on entitlement.

The conference agreed that there will be as a minimum two more gatherings in 2016 and most likely the final gathering in 2021 which coincides with the 100th Anniversary of the RCEL.

I move acceptance of my report.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>Meetings</u>					
Per Diem	538	798	800	800	900
<u>Caribbean Legion Liaison</u>					
Travel	21,001	26,487	27,500	28,000	29,000
Per Diem	14,354	12,086	15,000	15,300	15,500
Postage, Printing	253	380	300	300	300
Telephone & Fax	-	14	50	50	50
Miscellaneous	20	1,119	350	350	400
TOTAL	36,166	40,884	44,000	44,800	46,150

RCEL ASSISTANCE FUND

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
<u>Reserve</u>	542,695	515,496	416,570	337,570	258,570,
<u>Income</u>					
Donations	276,158	209,900	200,000	200,000	200,000
Poppy Levy	0	0	0	0	0
Interest	1,026	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500
TOTAL	819,879	726,796	618,070	539,070	460,070,
<u>Expenditures</u>					
Poppy	17,799	18,386	20,000	20,000	20,000
Assistance	280,860	284,940	250,500	250,000	250,000
Education	0	0	0	0	0
Projects	5,500	6,900	10,000	10,000	10,000
Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	224	0	0	500	500
TOTAL	304,383	310,226	280,500	280,500	280,500
Surplus +/- (Deficit)	+515,496	+416,570	+337,570	+258,570	+179,570,

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

R. Goebel	Chairman
B. Décarie	Vice-Chairman
C. Morris	Member
R Goodwin	Member
R. S. Heiter	Secretary
B. Poulin	Assistant Secretary

STATISTICS

Your Committee continues to report activity by calendar year to provide information that is meaningful. Statistics shown below represent figures for the two year period ending 31 December 2011.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

AWARD	2010 APPROVED	2010 RETURNED	2010 TOTAL	2011 APPROVED	2011 RETURNED	2011 TOTAL
Palm Leaf - MSM	30	7	37	30	3	33
Palm Leaf - MSA	7	0	7	2	0	2
MSM	72	12	84	63	13	76
MSA	19	3	22	21	1	22
Media Award	12		12	6		6
Friendship Award	30		30	35		35
Total Reviewed	170	22	192	157	17	174

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Changes to the membership of the committee occurred as a result of events at the 43rd Dominion Convention. Outgoing Chairman George O'Dair is replaced by former Vice-Chairman Ron Goebel, who is replaced at Vice Chairman by Committee Member Bernie Décarie. The incoming new Committee Member is Ron Goodwin. The newly created position of Assistant Secretary is held by Bruce Poulin.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

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

COMMITTEE MANUALS

The Committee completed revising both the Honours and Awards Manual and Ritual and Insignia Manual. Changes were required to make the manuals up to date, including all modifications required by Resolutions to the 2010 Convention. The new editions of the manuals were printed in January 2011 and were circulated to all branches and commands.

BRANCH SERVICE MEDAL

Following the approval of a resolution at our 43rd Dominion Convention, a Branch/L.A. Service Medal was created and made available to Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries. The criteria for the awarding of these medals were included in the updated Honours and Awards Manual.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH DEC AND PROVINCIAL CHAIRMEN

In order to open up a better line of communications, Committee minutes are now distributed to all members of DEC and Provincial Secretaries who in turn pass them on to their respective Provincial H & A Chairmen. Minutes include discussions and decisions made by the Committee along with the details of the number of applications processed for major awards by Command. The Committee also compiled a Major Award Application Check List for the Provincial H & A Chairmen to better assist them with the processing of major award applications.

REVIEW OF APPLICATION FORMS

All application forms for Major Awards have been reviewed and revised. The new versions of the forms are available from the Supply Department and are also available electronically on the Legion Web Site.

CHAPLAIN'S MANUAL

Due to revisions in the Ritual and Insignia Manual, the Committee has revised the Chaplain's Manual. It is currently being formatted for publication and will be ready for printing and distribution in the near future.

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

The Dominion President requested that all committees review the report on Focus on the Future and take an active part in making suggestions and comments to the Focus on the Future Committee. The Committee submitted a report on the Focus on the Future initiatives being undertaken by the Ritual and Awards Committee. The Committee also participated in a review of the Legion's Marketing and Communications Strategies.

YEARS OF SERVICE PINS

The Committee authorized the Supply Department to produce the 40 Year Associate Lapel Pin and the 15 Year Affiliate Lapel Pin, and authorized the distribution of them commencing 1 January 2012.

COMMUNICATING THROUGH LEGION WEB SITE – LINK FOR R & A

The Committee Secretary has been working with the Communications Department on the development of a Ritual and Awards section on the Legion web site. The page will be composed of information regarding all aspects of ritual, protocol and Legion awards, and frequently asked questions. The Committee approved the plan. Work continues on the page and it is expected to be completed in the near future.

PAST OFFICE BARS

Approval was given by DEC to change the listing of Past Office Bars in our current Honours and Awards Manual. The designation of U.S. only has been removed from the bars indicated as District or Zone Vice-Commander, Finance Officer and, Branch or Post Finance Officer.

CADET MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE

At our last Dominion Convention in Winnipeg, approval was given for wearing the CME on Legion uniform. As a result, a new section 129 was added to our Ritual and Insignia Manual to accommodate the approval of this resolution. Other references concerning medal precedence were also included in this manual. A picture and description of this medal will be included in our next revision of the Honours and Awards Manual.

AMERICAN FLAG

Questions were raised following our last Dominion Convention concerning the absence of the American Flag from the Legion Colours posted at our Convention. As a result, and with no disrespect to the American Flag, DEC confirmed the current composition of Legion Colours posted at RCL Conventions and large assemblies.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Committee received a complete overhaul by the Committee and have been expanded considerably. These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually by the Committee.

WEARING OF REGIMENTAL SERVICE BADGE

Following an inquiry by a Quebec Regiment, DEC gave approval to a change in Section 102 (a) of the Ritual and Insignia Manual regarding the wearing of a Regimental Service Badge on a Legion blazer. The following has now been added to this section. If for any reason the wearing of the Regimental Badge on the lower right side pocket would appear to bring discredit to the unit/regiment/service, then and only then, would the badge be allowed to be worn on the lower left side pocket.

RESOLUTIONS

In preparation for the Dominion Convention, the committee reviewed a total of 7 resolutions received. All were non-concurred by the committee.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Ritual and Awards 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.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I thank the Dominion President for her 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.

It is the goal of the Ritual and Awards Committee to maintain the highest standards for Legion awards, and for the protocol, ritual and ceremonies practiced by members, Branches and Commands of the Legion. This committee has put forth great effort to achieve that goal.

I move acceptance of this report.

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	1,784	1,479	3,000	3,000	3,000
Per Diem	3,255	3,178	4,000	4,000	4,100
Printing, Stationery	-	553	500	500	500
Telephone & Fax	-	9	200	200	200
Postage	472	546	500	500	500
Promotion	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,100
Publications					
Write off old stock	-	4,813	1,000	-	1,500
Distribution of new stock	-	9,280	5,800	-	6,500
TOTAL	5,511	19,858	17,000	10,200	18,400

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE

J. Rycroft	Chairman
D. Eaton	Vice-Chairman
T. Irvine	Member
J. Pott	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 2010-2012, the Committee reviewed and approved proposed amendments to the Provincial Command By-Laws for six commands. The General By-Laws for Europe Zone were also approved.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

Since the last Convention held in Winnipeg, MB in June 2010, the Dominion Executive Council has approved five By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 77, 78, 79, 80 and 81 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. 77

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 11th day of September 2010 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 403.

Delete the current wording of Section 403 and replace with:

403. The term of office of the Grand President and all honorary officers as appointed by the Dominion President will be from Dominion Convention to Dominion Convention and may be extended as circumstances warrant.

Section 407.

Delete the current wording of Section 407 and replace with:

407. The Dominion Executive Council shall meet twice yearly in February/March and in September of each non-convention year. In a convention year, the Dominion Executive Council will also meet at the convention. A majority of the voting members of the Dominion Executive Council shall form a quorum.

Subsection 409.a.

Delete the current wording of Subsection 409.a. and replace with:

- 409.a. The Dominion Executive Council, between meetings of the Dominion Convention, shall exercise any of the powers conferred on the Dominion Convention by Section 6 (1) of the Act of Incorporation. Such powers shall only be effective if supported by at least two-thirds of all voting members of the Dominion Executive Council.

Subsection 907.a.

Delete the current wording of Subsection 907.a. and replace with:

- 907.a. Voting members of the Dominion Executive Council who are not accredited branch delegates shall be accredited delegates to Dominion Convention.

Sub subsection 1104.a.i.

Delete the current wording of Sub subsection 1104.a.i. and replace with:

- 1104.a.i. any person who is serving or who has honourably served in the Canadian Forces and their dependants who are in need of assistance.

Sub subsection 1104.a.iv.

Delete Sub subsection 1104.a.iv.

BY - LAW NO. 78

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 27th day of February 2011 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Sub subsection 304.b.iv.

Delete the current wording in sub subsection 304.b.iv. and replace with:

- 304.b.iv. address it to and lodge it with the Secretary of the appropriate branch or command within 15 days from the date the complainant in good faith, first had knowledge of sufficient facts of the alleged offence having been committed.

Subsection 304.c.

Delete the current wording in subsection 304.c. and replace with:

304.c. To properly lodge a complaint:

- i. Where a complaint alleges theft or misappropriation of Poppy funds or Legion funds or property it must be lodged within 15 days from the time the complainant has knowledge of sufficient facts of the offence to constitute a valid complaint, regardless of when the alleged offence occurred.
- ii. In all other cases, the complaint must be lodged within 15 days from the time the complainant has knowledge of sufficient facts of the offence to constitute a valid complaint, and within one year from the time the offence was allegedly committed.

BY - LAW NO. 79

**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 10th day of September 2011 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 304.a.

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

- 304.a. Any member, not in arrears in payment of dues, may, on reasonable and probable grounds, initiate complaint proceedings against another member, alleging one or more of the following offences:

BY - LAW NO. 80

**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 19th day of September 2011 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 112.b.

Insert as Subsection 112.b.:

- 112.b. For the purposes of this Article, a member who provides unpaid volunteer services to a branch is not, by virtue of accepting tips from paying customers, considered to be receiving a salary or wages.

Renumber old Subsection 112.b. to Subsection 112.c.

BY - LAW NO. 81
**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 26th day of February 2012 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 418.b.

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

- 418.b. An appeal to Dominion Command may be made by any command, branch, auxiliary or officer affected by such action. The following applies to an appeal from a decision made on the authority of subsection 418 a. or section 505 of The General By-Laws:
- i. Senior Elected Officers, Past Dominion Presidents and Presidents of Provincial Commands shall be eligible to serve on an Appeal Committee. The Dominion Executive Council shall designate an individual from the above to be Chairman of Appeals. The Chairman shall be tasked by the Dominion Secretary to name three members to an Appeal Committee from among a list of those eligible and who are available to hear a particular case. None of those named shall have any specific knowledge, or actual or perceived bias as to the particular case to be heard;
 - ii. An appeal under the above provision must be made in writing and served on the Dominion Secretary within 30 days of the notice of decision. Service must be made by registered mail or prepaid courier or personal delivery in the presence of a witness;
 - iii. The appeal shall state and explain the grounds for the appeal and shall include any evidence and documents relevant to the enquiry which has formed the basis for the decision being appealed. Where required to provide a fair hearing, oral and/or written submissions and such evidence as the committee may find relevant to the appeal, may be received by the Appeal Committee;
 - iv. On receipt of the appeal at Dominion Command, it shall be referred by the Dominion Secretary to the Chairman of the Constitution and Laws Committee to determine if the appeal has been properly lodged and has sufficient merit to justify the appointment of an Appeal Committee. If the appeal does not meet the necessary requirements it shall be dismissed by the President (or in the case where the appeal is against a decision of the Dominion President, the Dominion First Vice President) and the person appealing shall be advised accordingly by the Dominion Secretary. Otherwise the appeal shall proceed as follows;
 - v. The Chairman of Appeals shall name three members to the appeal committee from among those eligible and available as listed in sub subsection 418.b.i. The Dominion Secretary shall serve notice of the Appeal Committee, as specified in sub subsection 301.b.ii of The General By-Laws, on the affected parties including the Provincial Command President, when applicable;
 - vi. The Appeal Committee shall meet either in person or by teleconference, or such means considered appropriate, to hear the matters raised by either party to the appeal and render a decision based on the submissions made and any relevant evidence received;

- vii. The Appeal Committee may make any of the following dispositions:
- (1) confirm the decision of the Command President;
 - (2) substitute their decision for that of the Command President, based on the submissions at the appeal hearing;
 - (3) reverse the decision of the Command President; or,
 - (4) return the matter to the Command President for a new decision after directing further enquiry by the Command President.
- viii. A copy of the decision shall be served on the parties affected by the decision in accordance with subsection 301.i of The General By-Laws.
- ix. Dominion Command shall be responsible only for the expenses of the Chairman and members of the Appeal Committee.
- x. Subsection 314.o of The General By-Laws shall apply. In the case of an appeal against a decision of the Dominion President, the Dominion First Vice President shall perform the duties of the Dominion President.

EXPEDITED MEMBERSHIP FORM

At the request of the Dominion Command Membership Committee, members reviewed the expedited membership form proposed by BC/Yukon Command and identified necessary amendments for its implementation. Members determined that the process, incorporating the noted amendments, does not contravene the current General By-Laws as it pertains to membership.

COMPLAINT FORM

To address the matter of non-members submitting complaints and the unnecessary administration caused by the inability of the form to differentiate between members and non-members, the Committee agreed to amend the current complaint form to include the complainant's membership number.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee members considered eight resolutions presented for consideration by the delegates at the 2012 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 2012-2014 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE

BY-LAW NO. 82

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 9th day of June 2012 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 1108

Replace the current wording of Section 1108 with:

1108. A Command, or, subject to the prior approval of the Provincial Command, a District, Zone, Branch or group of branches, may, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and preserving local monuments to veterans, expend a portion of the monies in its poppy trust account, not exceeding twenty-five percent of the total available in the account on the thirtieth (30th) day of September in the year preceding the expenditure, provided that the allocated twenty-five percent does not exceed fifty percent of the total funds required to construct, maintain and preserve local monuments for which the funds are allocated.

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 AND LAWS COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	659	173	100	100	100
Per Diem	368	750	150	200	200
Printing, Stationery	2	635	350	400	400
Telephone & Fax	18	63	100	100	100
Postage	49	366	300	400	400
Miscellaneous	-	-	100	100	100
Publications					
Write off of old stock	6,800	-	5,100	-	5,100
Distribution of new stock	3,040	30	3,300	-	3,300
TOTAL	10,936	2,016	9,500	1,300	9,700

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

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

HISTORY

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

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

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

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

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.

It is interesting to note that Saskatchewan was a leader in the fight against Tuberculosis, a major cause of illness and death in Canada in the early 1900's. The province pioneered the practice of x-raying whole communities to find TB cases. The policy brought "the white plague" under control in Saskatchewan by the 1950's. The first mass survey for TB in Canada was conducted in Melville in 1941. Soon after that Moose Jaw became the first city in North America to x-ray all of its residents.

By 1947 Saskatchewan had conducted x-ray surveys throughout the entire province. In 1958 federal health grants allowed the distribution of antibiotic streptomycin, and within a few years TB has been all but eliminated.

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!

BRANCHES AND ACTIVITIES

Bi-annually in conjunction with the Dominion Convention members and delegates of the Tuberculosis Veterans Section gather to conduct their own convention. The last convention was held in 2010 in Winnipeg; birthplace of the Legion. This convention reconfirmed its commitment to represent the special interests of respiratory disabled veterans now and for the immediate future. We will meet again in Halifax NS in June of this year to elect a new executive body, which will endeavor to assist those veterans who might suffer from lung ailments

The Tuberculosis Veterans Section (TVS) has maintained 4 branches since the last convention. These branches exist in Vancouver, Calgary, Saskatoon and St John. Total membership stands at around 520 as of year end 2011. This is a slight decrease of 36 members since 2010 year end. We face the same membership challenges as regular legion branches and strive to recruit new members. Most of our members have suffered lung ailments such as asthma, pneumonia, bronchitis or TB at sometime in their life and these are the individuals we are actively seeking out to join our branches.

All branches remain quite active each according to their membership, resources and finances. As a result of the branches activities we collectively are still able to fund scholarships for post secondary education for dependents, and those involved in tubercular research. Strict criteria are applied to ensure support only goes to deserving students. Bursaries and scholarships are available at the local and national level.

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.

CORRESPONDING WITH THE BRANCHES

Because of the great distance between branches; and to keep costs down to a minimum we try to keep in contact with all the branches using telephone conference calls as much as possible. Most correspondence received comes over the internet as it is the most cost effective way to deal with the business at hand. We still use Canada Post as an alternative as we want to ensure all our branches are receiving news and information. Also three of the branches produce a monthly newsletter which in turn is sent to the other TVS branches across Canada. This ensures that news from across the country is being distributed to our members.

CONCLUSION

The Tuberculosis Veterans Section is grateful for the Legion framework which has protected the traditions and special interests of tuberculosis 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 Tuberculosis 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.

On behalf of the National TVS members, their executive members and myself, I would like to thank the Dominion Command council and staff for all the timely information TVS has received over the past two years. The effort put in by everyone from Dominion to the local memberships at the branches has served for the betterment of all veterans and their dependants.

I move acceptance of my report.

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

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

L. Murray	Chairman
P. Varga	Member
G. Moore	Member
Defence and Security Cttee	Member
L. MacKenzie	Member
C. Belzile	Member
B. White	Secretary
A. Siew	Assistant Secretary

GENERAL

As reported to the delegates at the 43rd Dominion Convention, the focus of this committee changed from attempting to unify the various veterans' organizations under the Legion umbrella to providing a forum for discussion of the various veterans' issues so that all organizations could advocate with a unified voice to the government. Hence, the name of this committee was changed from Veterans Unity to Veterans Consultation.

I am pleased to report that the Committee hosted two very successful meetings, one in October 2010 and one in October 2011. At both meetings the attendance of groups was impressive with over 15 groups attending representing all of the groups that are now advocating on behalf of Canada's Veterans. The annual October meetings will continue but this does not limit the Legion's discussion opportunities with any group at any time.

ISSUES

Over the course of the past two years and at both meetings, the issues affecting our veterans have not changed drastically. While this is comforting, it is also disconcerting that progress made on these issues is sometimes slow to occur. I would like to provide you with a brief synopsis of these issues:

- **Funeral and Burial Benefits.** The Legion has been for sometime advocating equalizing the benefits to both veterans and serving members of the Canadian Forces (CF). All groups agree that this issue is of concern and will continue to push the government for changes.
- **Government Funding for Veterans.** All groups agree that government reductions should not affect the care and welfare of our veterans. We realize that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) is undergoing a transition process and at the same time all government departments are being asked to reduce budgets to deal with the deficit.
- **Research.** The Committee agreed that there is a requirement to conduct independent research into health issues of veterans and serving members of the CF. There is little to no research currently being conducted in Canada and the development of the Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Health Research by Queen's University and RMC, which the Legion is supporting, was considered a positive step.

- **Transitioning to Civilian Life**. The Committee is concerned that members of the CF may fall through the cracks as they are being transitioned out of the military into either the civilian world or as a client of VAC. This is an extremely delicate time in one's life, especially if that person is wounded or injured.
- **New Veterans Charter (NVC)**. The Committee generally agreed that the government needs to continue considering amendments to the NVC. The 17 recommendations of the NVC Advisory Committee are still valid and if implemented will continue to improve the NVC.
- **Long Term Care (LTC)**. Long term care for all veterans continues to be discussed and will be a major point of advocacy in the future. The Legion will be considering a resolution concerning LTC at this convention. It is imperative that those who are currently eligible for LTC continue to receive quality care.

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

BUDGET

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

CONCLUSION

This forum for discussion allows for honest and frank discussion with our comrades from other organizations. It permits us to find common ground so that we can collectively champion veterans' issues to government in a unified manner. This forum also serves to break down individual organizational barriers and provides an opportunity for the Legion to demonstrate its professionalism and programs to assist veterans.

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

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – DOMINION COMMAND THE VETERANS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	2,836	1,572	3,200	3,200	3,300
Per Diem	2,650	2,597	2,800	2,900	2,900
Printing & Office	-	-	50	50	50
Telephone	-	-	50	50	50
Postage	-	-	50	50	50
Miscellaneous	142	-	50	50	50
TOTAL	5,628	4,169	6,200	6,300	6,400

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE COMMITTEE

P. Varga	Chairman
G. Moore	Vice Chairman
T. Eagles	Member
E. Pigeau	Member
M. Cook	Member
D. Jones	Member
L. Murray	Facilitator
B. White	Secretary

GENERAL

Following the last Dominion Convention, Dominion Command commenced a review of its marketing and advertising activities to assess where we were and where we should be. A natural outflow from this process also led to a discussion on where the Legion should be positioned in the future. As a result of these discussions, it was decided to form a committee to look to the future of the organization. The aim of the Committee is:

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

The Committee’s Terms of Reference charged the members to:

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

The Focus on the Future Committee has taken these tasks seriously and I am pleased to report the committee’s progress to you today.

THE LEGION MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

Mission Statement

There has been discussion and confusion about the Legion’s Mission Statement. Many have asked whether or not it applies to them. Who is a veteran and how does it affect me. The Legion’s mission statement has been:

“To serve veterans and their dependants, promote Remembrance and to act in the service of Canada and its communities.”

In reviewing the Mission Statement, it was decided that it could be updated and further expanded to be more definitive in what our exact mission is. Therefore the Committee proposed and as accepted by the Dominion Executive Council the Mission Statement was updated to read:

“To serve veterans, which includes currently serving military and RCMP members, and their families, to promote Remembrance and to serve our Communities and our Country.”

Vision Statement

There has never been a defined Vision Statement for the Legion which provided a marker of what we should strive to achieve in the future. In considering a Vision Statement, the Committee realized that both the Mission and Vision Statements go hand in hand and should always be used together. Therefore, as proposed and accepted by the Dominion Executive Council, a Vision Statement was created:

“Our vision is to be the most highly respected Veteran and Community Service organization.”

Core Values

The next question that came up for discussion was: “What values define us as members of the Legion?” The Committee pondered the question and presented to the Dominion Executive Council for approval a set of core values which define Legionnaires. Those values are:

- **SERVICE**—We provide dedicated support and compassionate assistance.
- **INTEGRITY**—We behave ethically and in a manner which inspires trust, mutual understanding and confidence.
- **RESPECT**—We are supportive, inclusive, courteous and fair to all, honouring the dignity and worth of every person.
- **LOYALTY**—We are steadfast in our patriotic allegiance to the Sovereign, to our Country, to The Royal Canadian Legion and to our Comrades.
- **TEAMWORK**—We cooperate and work together selflessly, in Comradeship, to achieve our shared Mission.

The Mission Statement, the Vision Statement (although slightly altered) and the Core Values were test driven at the provincial conventions in 2011 and were widely welcomed by all delegates. I would therefore ask the delegates of this Dominion Convention to ratify these states and values by voting on this recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION: It is requested that the delegates to the 44th Dominion Convention ratify the Dominion Executive Council’s approval of the above Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Core Values.

CARRIED

FUTURE OBJECTIVES

In addition to reviewing the Mission and Vision Statements and the Core Values, the Committee then turned its attention to what objectives should the Legion be striving for to ensure that the organization transitions smoothly to meet the needs of our members in the future as well as the needs of those we serve. Taking into account our Aims and Objects as well as factoring in our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, the Committee developed six objectives to help guide its work in the future. Those objectives are:

- a. To establish Mission and Vision Statements and Core Values.
- b. To review and clarify RCL decision making processes and committee structure.
- c. To improve training and development of potential RCL leaders.
- d. To proactively create multiple means of delivering consistent and creative messaging within the Legion organization and to the public at large.
- e. To review and update all current RCL programs to ensure that they remain relevant and that their assigned priority and resources are appropriate.
- f. To improve retention, recruitment and renewal of members.

While the Legion has moved forward on the first objective, there is still much work to be done and I would like to further update you on our progress.

NATIONAL TRAINING STRATEGY

The coordination of training of our members and officers has been a subject of discussion for some time within the Legion. As mentioned above, one of the objectives is:

“Improve the training and development of potential RCL leaders.”

Out of this objective a couple of goals were determined:

- To facilitate the collaboration of Provincial Commands to develop a Legion wide training program.
- To develop training material that can be delivered through various communications channels, i.e. technology, print and seminars.

Training has been a recognized need and further defined as a future objective with goals. To address this, the Dominion Executive Council reviewed a draft National Training Strategy. This concept is not reinventing the wheel but suggests that we take advantage of all the existing material that commands have, establish a centre of excellence and resources, and use modern media to make this information available to all of our members. The availability of this material to our members can be achieved through an updated website which would be downloadable thereby giving them direct access to the materials. Work in this area continues as the Dominion Executive Council has approved the concept.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

It has become clear through the deliberations of the Committee and with the initial draft of a marketing study that within the Legion we need to improve our internal and external communications to clearly explain to our members and the general public the benefits of belonging to a national organization that supports Canada’s veterans and greatly supports local community initiatives. We need to take advantage of existing and modern means of communication and to do this a marketing and communications audit was commissioned to review our current state of

capability and to provide recommendations to improve our methods. The results of this audit will guide us into the future and with implementation we will be able to project the Legion and our great programs forward. For some time we have been overly reactive in our approach and time is now to address this situation so that we can be proactive and responsive to our veterans and members needs. The work in this area also continues.

PROGRAM REVIEW

Dominion Command Committees were asked to review their Terms of Reference that were presented to DEC. Following on from there, Committees were then asked to review the initial Marketing Study and provide feedback in relation to their own programs. This review provided rationale for each current program with some projection into the future. As a result of this, a more in-depth program review was initiated which ties programming into the Aims and Objects of the Legion.

In comparing the submissions of the program review to the initial marketing concept, common themes arose:

- The need to conduct periodic reviews of programs to measure the benefit to the members and the organization.
- The need to determine the future direction of programs to meet the needs of our members.
- The need to modernize our programs using updated tools like modern media.
- The need to market and communicate our programs to members and non members alike.

This initial review has been an educational process which has involved our members, elected officers and staff. These initial results provide an excellent baseline from which to project the Legion's current programs into the future and for consideration of other programming needs that will take us into the future. The Committee agreed that this process is necessary and provides a continual review of what we are delivering to our members and our veterans.

CONSULTATION AND SURVEYS

Any future plans for the Legion are dependent upon the input of our members to ensure that we have a consistent and relevant approach. Last year during the provincial command conventions, the Committee conducted an initial survey to take into consideration the wishes of our members. The response at the provincial conventions was excellent and well worth the effort. It demonstrated that members were very concerned about local initiatives but less informed about national programs and activities at the provincial and national level. The ability of the Legion to be a national advocate for veterans and community service depends upon each level of the organization understanding and accepting of common ideals. In order to do this, we need to improve our communications and feedback mechanisms. Members demonstrated a desire to be engaged in the process and the will to do so. The Committee will continue to look a ways by which we engage and inform our membership. We have available to you today a survey that we hope you will take the time to consider and respond to. Your input is **IMPORTANT!**

During the recent provincial conventions, members were informed of an email address, future@legion.ca through which they could submit their comments and become engaged in the future of the Legion. That address continues to exist and members are strongly encouraged to submit their ideas. Submissions will be taken into account and passed on to the appropriate Dominion Command Committee for review and consideration.

By working together we can build and strengthen our organization.

NEXT STEPS

The old expression: “There is much to do and so little time to do it!”; is very appropriate, however by working together we will see progress. The Legion is an important organization based in over 85 years of history and existence. Over the years the Legion has seen many transformations but most importantly we are dedicated to delivering a service to Canada’s veterans and our communities. That basic tenets of the Legion will never change. The way in which we deliver those services is what counts.

As an important next step, we need to continually review our programs and measure their effectiveness. It is realized that one particular program does not fit all and that branches have programs which are essential to their survival. That will not change but what needs to change is the engagement of you in our national advocacy efforts. We need to reach out to new people, to our local Reserve units who have done stellar service to the country in the past and to our local communities. Our mantra has to be “Service not Self” in anything that we do.

While we continue to progress the Committee is committed to engaging our members and others to assist us in determining our future. We hope to conduct focus groups of our members, Canadian Forces personnel and Canadians to assist us in determining our destiny. Most of all, we need our members to be engaged and active.

CONCLUSION

The members of the Committee wanted to express their appreciation to you as we have progressed the workings of the Committee. As members and leaders of this great organization, we all have a vested interest in ensuring our future success. The road will not be an easy one, but needed progress can and will be made so that the Legion can flourish in the future and remain a strong veterans advocate and community service organization.

ADDENDUM TO REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND FOCUS ON THE FUTURE COMMITTEE

Over the past couple of years Dominion Command has been reviewing how effectively the Legion communicates both internally and externally to our various audiences which includes not only our members but also the prospective members to the Legion. Recently, a communications/agency firm was hired to conduct an audit and to provide recommendations for future consideration.

I would like to take this opportunity to review some of the salient points which have been identified:

- As an organization, the Legion has strong member retention, having consistently maintained a retention rate of 90% for 10 years.
- However, our acquisition rate requires improvement. The Legion’s acquisition rate has been a steady 7% since 2002. A healthy acquisition rate is 20-30%.
- To increase our membership acquisition, we need to modernize our brand, communications and operations

- A significant 65% of our branches are losing members, while only 35% are retaining or growing their membership. This ratio must be reversed for the Legion to survive and prosper.
- A feasible acquisition goal is 20%. This will generate 80,000 new members and \$4,000,000 in revenue. It is highly realistic to achieve this goal within 5 years.
- In order to grow membership, several opportunities have been identified and recommended:
 - o Develop an effective acquisition approach and campaign.
 - o Allow for automatic membership renewal.
 - o Create a virtual Legion, where Canadians can support the Legion via the internet. This will attract younger Canadians, who are busy and don't necessarily have the time to visit a branch. It will also create a rich pool of candidates for later branch involvement.
 - o Implement a branch incentive and recognition program.
 - o The Legion brand is well recognized but needs refreshing:
 1. Redefine the Legion message with a compelling value proposition and messaging
 2. Refresh our brand imagery
 - o Launch new, compelling brand and marketing materials
 - o Enhance and refresh the Legion's web site

Comrades, as we continue to move forward in our deliberations on the future of the organization, we will take these recommendations into consideration. The future prospects are exciting and will only enhance our overall reach to Canadians.

I move acceptance of my report.

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

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

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
Travel	8,976	22,793	19,000	19,400	19,800
Per Diem	9,123	27,024	15,000	15,300	15,600
Printing & Office	-	-	600	600	600
Postage	-	30	200	200	200
Telephone & Fax	-	4	200	200	200
Survey & Communications	-	1,224	5,000	5,100	5,200
Miscellaneous	337	125	300	300	300
TOTAL	18,436	51,201	40,300	41,100	41,900

REPORT OF THE DOMINION SECRETARY

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

INTRODUCTION

Comrades, it is my pleasure to be able to report on the activities at Dominion Command since my last report to Convention in 2010. The last two years have been busy ones for Dominion Command and the staff at Legion House. I had the pleasure of attending two provincial conventions last year at BC/Yukon and Ontario Commands and was provided the opportunity to bring greetings. At these two conventions, I stated the purpose of the staff at Dominion Command is to assist our elected officers in the conduct of their duties and to provide advice. During my visits to the two provincial commands, I also stated that Dominion Command was open for business which it is. If you have questions or issues that we can assist with that are within our area of jurisdiction, we are here to provide that assistance to you. I also stated that our aim is to improve communications and relations within the organization. We are well on the road to achieving that.

As I mentioned in my last convention report we have reviewed our organization and staffing to ensure that we provide the Legion with the best possible support. I would now like to highlight how we will be doing that and some of the changes and improvements we have made in the last two years.

ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING

In conjunction with the Focus on the Future Committee and the Dominion Executive Council, we have undertaken a review on how we provide our services from Dominion Command. While there have been no major changes structurally, we have focussed on improving our efficiencies and our output to meet the many demands made upon us. We have recognized that we need to better our communication resources and how we project the image of the Legion.

In light of that recognition, we just finished conducting a communications audit and will look at how we can implement some of those recommendations to improve our internal and external communications. Our target is to increase the internal knowledge of our members and that of ordinary Canadians, so that everyone understands the mission and relevance of the Legion. By understanding those two aspects, we hope to entice more Canadians to become members and active participants in veteran and community affairs.

We last talked about modernizing our computer infrastructure and the development of the Legion's web store. After extensive testing and trials we launched the web store and as expected, there were no system problems experienced. We learned our lesson from the last major overhaul of our computer system. We continue to update and modernize our IT infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective communications. We recognize that IT is a vital core capability and enhances the overall reach of the Legion. We are taking steps to modernize our web site and increase our outreach on these modern forms of communicating.

The Service Bureau has undergone some extensive changes since last convention. Pierre Allard retired after 10 years of excellent service to the Legion and our veterans and Andrea Siew has replaced him. We have a crew of experienced, talented and energized service officers and our numbers indicate that there is no shortage of veterans needing assistance out there. Today, we are assisting more serving and recently ex-service personnel with pension applications and benevolence. Our fundamental mission remains unchanged.

The Administration Department continues to provide overall support to Dominion Command and the Legion through program management and assistance to Committees. Our program officers are reviewing and updating all programs to ensure that we are using your money effectively to get the most out of each program.

The Supply Department is becoming busier with the implementation of the Legion's web store. The profits realized through increased sales go to support our programs and profits are shared with each provincial command.

The Finance Department continues keep our finances running smoothly and up to date. Their support is absolutely necessary when dealing with our members and those companies who we with deal with outside of the Legion.

As mentioned earlier, we are reviewing and restructuring what used to be called our Communications Department, which I now call Outreach, to enable us to project the image of the Legion across our great country to all Canadians. More to follow on this in the coming years.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, the small and dedicated staff at Dominion Command assist the Legion, our elected officers and our Dominion Command Committees in the course of their daily business. We take the motto: "We serve those who serve" to heart.

On behalf of the staff at Dominion Command, I would like to thank you for all your dedication and the support that you have demonstrated. As I said last convention, the Legion is the sum of all its parts and we reflect the Canadian mosaic well. Together we can accomplish great things and by working side by side, we will make a difference to our veterans and in our communities.

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
P. Varga	Vice Chairman
B. White	Member
T. Murphy	Secretary

This Committee has the responsibility for the investment of the funds that were originally collected also 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, 2010 was \$1,692,244. These funds are invested in the following areas. As at December 31, 2011, \$769,000 was invested in Government bonds, \$646,000 was invested in a Pooled Bond Fund that contains a mixed portfolio of consisting of government and corporate bonds, \$230,000 in a Pooled Equities Fund with the balance in short term deposits and cash.

I made the distinction above regarding realized fund balance because this is the total amount that we have in the Fund that is not speculative. Since 2009, accounting regulations have required that we include the difference between the trading value (referred to as fair market value) on the last day of the fiscal year and the original cost of the investment as income to the Fund. 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 realized fund surplus.

The earnings yield on investments for 2010 was 4.3% and 3.2% for 2011.

Interest rates are still at historic lows and have been for the past several years. This has reduced our investment returns. As our higher earning older bonds mature they are replaced by new bonds at current rates available. It is hard to predict investment markets trends but interest rates increases (if any) are expected to be modest over the next two years.

Our current bond holdings have interest rates that range from 3.05% to 6.0% and the dividend yields on our equity investments are improving. Our forecast for returns on investments for 2012 and 2013 are 3.3% and 3.6% respectively.

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

A summary of the Operations of the Fund from its inception in 1966 to 2011, a total of 45 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:

	2009 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 PROJECTED	2013 PROJECTED
	\$1,595,041	\$1,652,758	\$1,692,244	\$1,738,000	\$1,788,000
<u>Decrease - Increase +</u>	-0.17%%	+3.61%	+2.38%	+2.70%	+2.89%

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, 2011

REVENUE			6,215,026
EXPENSE			
Action Program			133,817
Dominion Command			
Track and Field	1974 - 1992	2,174,724	
Track and Field	1996 - 2011	<u>1,725,000</u>	3,899,724
Geriatric Fellowship	1981 - 1992		1,152,015
Fund Management Fees	1966 - 2011		<u>366,282</u>
			<u>5,551,838</u>
NET REVENUE			663,188
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS			<u>1,029,056</u>
REALIZED FUND BALANCE AT BALANCE DECEMBER 31, 2011			<u>1,692,244</u>
Add: Unrealized gains on marketable investments			<u>45,397</u>
FUND BALANCE (including unrealized gains) AT DECEMBER 31, 2011			<u>1,737,641</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 that time, it was anticipated that a Per Capita Tax increase would be requested in 2012. But I am pleased to report that with tight financial oversight over the past five years I am not asking for a Per Capita increase for the Dominion Command portion of the Per Capita as this is not necessary at this time. At the end of 2011 we have \$4,115,869 held in this reserve. Beginning in 2012 we will start drawing down on this. It is anticipated that we will drawn down a total of \$2.7 million over the 2012 to 2014 period.

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

Firstly, in the revenue section:

This is where we are most challenged in our financial operations.

The funds generated by Per Capita Tax have declined steadily due to a reduction in the number of members in our organization. We have gone from \$6.1 million in 2010 to a projected contribution of \$5.3 million in 2014. This is a serious problem for the Legion. As well, investment earnings have gone from a peak of \$570,000 in 2008 to \$493,000 in 2011. Interest rates are at historically low levels and with the economic uncertainty over the past few years some businesses have reduced their dividend pay outs. Over the next few years we will have a little less available to invest as we draw down the Per Capita Reserve. The impact of the decline in membership numbers has become evident in other areas as well. The amount generated by our MBNA MasterCard is falling. Supply sales have moderated but sales are expected to improve a bit with the opening of the Web Store.

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

Within the Department, Section and Committee budgets it is expected that there will be modest increases because of inflation. These are reflected in the budget projections.

The critical situation of the decline in membership levels is being addressed with the following initiatives.

Two years ago the Focus on the Future Committee was formed to explore what was needed to remain relevant and vital in the coming years. One of the requirements to be successful going forward was recognized as the ability to promote and market the organization and its programs and activities.

It was recognized that in today's world membership based organizations like us cannot hope to grow (or even stabilize) without a robust marketing, communications and promotional program. If we stay in the same spot, this won't maintain our position because others will pass us and leave

us behind. Promoting ourselves is something that is relatively new for us and the organization was not put together to accommodate this need.

To address this, we have contracted with a Marketing/Communications specialist agency to assess what avenues are available to meet our needs in the marketing/communications/promotions area. By finding appropriate modern ways of communicating the value of our programs and activities to the community and country it is hoped that with a better understanding by the public of what we do will lead to increased interest in the Legion. This increased knowledge will encourage interest in joining as a Legion Member. The Agency will do an audit of our current Communications capacity to meet the needs of a 21st Century organization. Accordingly, \$35,000 has been budgeted in 2012 for this review with an additional \$50,000 for a promotional program if required.

It is anticipated that we do not currently have the capacity to meet these requirements within Dominion Command. Therefore, within the Outreach Department budget a line has been added for several contract hires to handle the marketing, social media and promotional communications. But, the findings of the Agency's study will ultimately drive our response as the Legion moves forward in this key area.

In order to increase the Legion profile the Membership Committee is taking out media spots and ads in or with the Blue Jays, the Memorial Cup, Canadian Geographic magazine and CF Base newspapers. In order to better reach currently serving Forces members the Service Bureau started the "We Care" program in 2010. Dominion Command also will revamp its web site in 2012 to enhance the look and make it easier to navigate.

Attached are the financial statements with the actual results for 2010 and 2011 and the forecasts for 2012 through 2014.

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 2012 and 2013.

CARRIED

Comrades, we have provided you with a full accounting of the actual expenses for the years 2010 and 2011 and estimates for the next three years. I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have concerning these.

ADDENDUM TO DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

If you will follow along with me I will highlight some of the new proposed additions as mentioned above.

Page 75: You will see that in the temporary and contract staff line, we have made provision for the anticipated marketing staff.

Page 77: This is a new page because we separated out the IT Section away from the old Public Relations Department in order to give us a more accurate costing of maintaining our computer network and our public relations cost.

Page 79: You will now see some additions which cover the costs of our new web store.

Page 80: At the bottom of the expenses, we have added the cost of the marketing audit and provided a small allowance from some marketing

Page 6: The only increase in the VSS budget is a provision for a new Service Officers Manual.

Page 12: Here again the projected increase is an allowance for updating the Teachers Manual.

Page 26: In the Membership Committee, allowances have been made for new posters as our stock of old ones has gone and new ones will be produced. We have also made provisions for increased advertising in military magazines and outside publications.

Page 31: We have allowed for our research program that takes place every 2 years.

Page 38: The new addition here is the provision for the Eight Ball Championships as approved at our last convention.

Page 43: The new provision here is allowing for the establishment of the Virtual Branch Project.

Page 56: As you can see here we provide funding to print new General By-Law books after each Dominion Convention.

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

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Per Capita Tax-current	6,117,469	5,975,025	5,736,000	5,515,800	5,295,600
Per Capita Tax-from Reserve	-	-	657,730	825,700	1,220,500
Canvet					
Agency Fee & Support	492,744	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Investment Income	475,965	492,585	485,000	465,000	450,000
Service Bureau Revenue	520,000	580,000	608,000	595,000	638,000
Supply Department	2,016,165	1,746,847	2,100,000	2,150,000	2,200,000
Legion House					
Tenants	72,438	72,438	72,000	73,500	73,500
Internal	316,000	316,000	316,000	322,200	322,200
Miscellaneous					
Master Card	108,359	88,975	90,000	85,000	80,000
Other	81,338	60,842	65,000	65,000	65,000
Estate Bequest	3,125	2,681	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	10,203,602	9,735,392	10,529,730	10,497,200	10,744,800
EXPENSE					
LEGION Magazine					
Subscriptions	2,511,341	2,544,077	2,430,000	2,337,600	2,245,200
Administration	778,149	887,691	868,600	898,900	929,800
Membership	580,353	574,480	608,000	631,200	641,400
IT	-	-	285,700	294,100	303,600
Finance	354,485	355,046	377,100	390,600	404,800
Outreach	446,448	515,163	416,300	445,700	459,800
Service Bureau	725,919	747,636	752,100	742,800	796,400
Supply	1,734,903	1,675,982	1,946,550	1,997,300	2,044,750
Committees	1,139,139	1,354,284	1,748,780	1,698,700	1,828,350
Miscellaneous	126,390	195,095	281,500	223,200	230,900
Depreciation	116,753	121,353	120,000	122,000	122,500
Employer Pension Contributions	333,736	369,843	380,000	393,000	407,000
Legion House	285,012	306,408	315,100	322,100	330,300
Per Capita Tax Reserve	700,869	78,000	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	9,833,497	9,725,058	10,529,730	10,497,200	10,744,800
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE)	370,105	10,334	-	-	-

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS ADMINISTRATION

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	547,925	598,277	633,000	656,000	682,000
Retirement Allowance	25,939	13,838	12,600	12,600	12,600
Other Benefits	54,905	57,486	60,000	62,000	63,000
Temporary & Contract Staff	<u>10,117</u>	<u>73,713</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>638,886</u>	<u>743,315</u>	<u>711,600</u>	<u>736,600</u>	<u>763,600</u>
Office Supplies	55,685	51,854	52,000	53,000	54,000
Telephone	8,327	11,730	11,000	12,000	13,000
Postage, Express	7,882	12,116	12,000	12,500	13,500
Printing, Stationery	8,100	10,012	10,000	10,200	10,400
Staff Travel	453	512	1,000	1,000	1,000
Insurance	18,606	18,979	20,000	20,400	20,800
Rent (CR to Building)	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,000	110,000
Staff Recruitment	7,086	3,327	9,000	9,100	9,200
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	5,755	6,456	7,000	7,100	7,300
Training	<u>1,368</u>	<u>3,391</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>863,149</u>	<u>972,691</u>	<u>953,600</u>	<u>983,900</u>	<u>1,014,800</u>
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	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>	<u>85,000</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>778,149</u>	<u>887,691</u>	<u>868,600</u>	<u>898,900</u>	<u>929,800</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS FINANCE DEPARTMENT

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	276,045	315,758	355,000	368,000	381,000
Retirement Allowance	13,163	7,289	7,100	7,100	7,100
Other Benefits	36,552	37,848	39,000	39,700	40,500
Temporary & Contract Staff	<u>51,980</u>	<u>25,484</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>377,740</u>	<u>386,379</u>	<u>401,100</u>	<u>414,800</u>	<u>428,600</u>
Office Supplies	1,260	1,076	2,000	2,000	2,000
Telephone	1,756	1,978	2,000	2,000	2,100
Postage, Express	7,214	6,625	8,000	8,100	8,300
Printing, Stationery	4,262	1,657	3,000	3,100	3,100
Staff Travel	453	335	1,000	1,000	1,000
Audit Fees	50,055	48,986	50,000	51,000	52,000
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,600	29,600
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	<u>1,960</u>	<u>1,574</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,100</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>476,700</u>	<u>480,609</u>	<u>502,100</u>	<u>517,600</u>	<u>532,800</u>
Less: charged to:					
Supply	47,214	50,563	50,000	52,000	53,000
Canvet	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>
	<u>122,214</u>	<u>125,563</u>	<u>125,000</u>	<u>127,000</u>	<u>128,000</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>354,485</u>	<u>355,046</u>	<u>377,100</u>	<u>390,600</u>	<u>404,800</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	314,329	337,553	188,000	194,600	201,500
Retirement Allowance	14,791	7,798	3,800	3,800	3,800
Other Benefits	29,751	27,213	22,000	24,000	24,500
Temporary & Contract Staff	-	-	133,000	183,000	189,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	358,871	372,565	346,800	405,400	418,800
Office Supplies	6,567	5,834	3,000	3,000	3,100
Network Support/Lease	29,005	-	-		
Telephone	5,276	6,188	4,000	4,100	4,200
Postage, Express	1,720	1,471	1,500	1,500	1,600
Printing, Stationery	1,456	2,825	2,500	2,600	2,700
Staff Travel	538	681	500	600	700
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	19,000	19,400	19,400
Miscellaneous	1,433	1,702	2,000	2,000	2,100
Computer Network Support	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Network & PC					
Maint. Contracts/Leases	-	52,890	-	-	-
Programming & Support	-	42,504	-	-	-
Supplies & Other	-	1,487	-	-	-
Legion Website & Internet	8,668	18,897	4,000	4,100	4,200
Website Upgrade	-	-	30,000		
Web Store development	14,460	118	-	-	-
Computer Training	10,453	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSE	467,448	536,163	416,300	445,700	459,800
Less: charged to:					
Administration	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Finance	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Membership	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Service Bureau	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
Supply	6,000	6,000	-	-	-
Canvet	3,000	3,000	-	-	-
	21,000	21,000	-	-	-
NET EXPENSE	446,448	515,163	416,300	445,700	459,800

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS

MEMBERSHIP SECTION (ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Agency Fee	<u>470,820</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>470,820</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>	<u>400,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	307,750	333,350	349,000	362,000	375,000
Retirement Allowance	14,604	7,699	7,000	7,000	7,000
Other Benefits	43,825	41,710	44,000	45,000	46,000
Temporary Staff	<u>24,665</u>	<u>21,509</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>390,844</u>	<u>404,268</u>	<u>430,000</u>	<u>444,000</u>	<u>458,000</u>
Computer:					
Computer processing/ maintenance	37,157	-	-		
Membership cards, forms and paper	20,755	28,792	34,000	34,500	35,300
Stationery, Supplies	4,122	4,688	7,000	7,100	7,300
Rent (CR to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
Membership Packout	11,871	11,562	13,000	13,300	13,500
Postage & Express	33,185	37,065	39,000	39,800	40,500
Provincial Conventions	-	4,680	-	6,000	-
Miscellaneous	2,092	2,916	5,000	5,100	5,200
Telephone	2,327	2,508	2,000	2,500	2,700
Computer Network Support	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Administrative Support	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>580,353</u>	<u>574,480</u>	<u>608,000</u>	<u>631,200</u>	<u>641,400</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>(109,533)</u>	<u>(174,480)</u>	<u>(208,000)</u>	<u>(231,200)</u>	<u>(241,400)</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS

IT SECTION (ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT)

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
EXPENSE					
Salaries	-	-	161,000	167,000	173,000
Retirement Allowance	-	-	3,300	3,300	3,300
Other Benefits	-	-	14,400	14,700	15,000
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>178,700</u>	<u>185,000</u>	<u>191,300</u>
Office Supplies	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,100
Telephone	-	-	2,500	2,500	2,600
Postage, Express	-	-	500	500	500
Printing, Stationery	-	-	500	500	500
Staff Travel	-	-	500	500	500
Rent (CR to Building)	-	-	10,000	10,200	10,200
Miscellaneous	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Network & PC					
Maint. Contracts/Leases	-	-	68,000	69,400	70,800
Programming & Support	-	-	20,000	20,000	21,000
Supplies & Other	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,100
Website & Internet connectivity & support	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,500</u>	<u>23,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>309,700</u>	<u>318,100</u>	<u>327,600</u>
Less: charged to:					
Administration	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Finance	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Membership	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Outreach	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Service Bureau	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Supply	-	-	6,000	6,000	6,000
Canvet	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>285,700</u>	<u>294,100</u>	<u>303,600</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS SERVICE BUREAU

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Poppy Fund Grant	<u>520,000</u>	<u>580,000</u>	<u>608,000</u>	<u>595,000</u>	<u>638,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	466,211	531,456	502,000	520,000	539,000
Retirement Allowance	22,258	12,311	10,100	10,100	10,100
Other Benefits	42,683	42,483	44,000	45,000	46,000
Temporary & Contract Staff	<u>15,601</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>546,753</u>	<u>586,250</u>	<u>556,100</u>	<u>575,100</u>	<u>595,100</u>
Office Supplies Expense	6,747	7,185	7,000	7,200	7,300
Telephone	3,725	4,691	5,000	5,100	5,200
Postage	5,991	9,734	11,000	11,300	11,400
Staff Travel	4,598	5,773	7,000	7,100	7,200
VAC - Liaison	2,780	3,527	4,000	4,100	4,200
Rent (Cr to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
Service Officers Conference	26,001	-	31,000		32,000
Legion Cares Program	40,629	51,369	50,000	51,000	52,000
Housing Consultant Travel	10,000	-	-	-	-
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>694</u>	<u>1,106</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,100</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>725,919</u>	<u>747,636</u>	<u>752,100</u>	<u>742,800</u>	<u>796,400</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Sales of Supplies	2,016,165	1,746,847	2,100,000	2,150,000	2,200,000
Less Cost of Goods	<u>823,408</u>	<u>751,429</u>	<u>903,000</u>	<u>924,500</u>	<u>946,000</u>
GROSS MARGIN	<u>1,192,756</u>	<u>995,419</u>	<u>1,197,000</u>	<u>1,225,500</u>	<u>1,254,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	415,442	488,681	503,000	521,000	539,000
Retirement Allowance	20,561	11,289	10,100	10,100	10,100
Other Benefits	49,628	58,873	62,000	63,300	64,500
Temporary & Contract Staff	<u>20,243</u>	<u>43,047</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>	<u>65,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	<u>505,874</u>	<u>601,890</u>	<u>640,100</u>	<u>659,400</u>	<u>678,600</u>
Telephone	5,652	6,446	8,000	8,100	8,200
Postage, Express	42,705	46,943	35,000	38,000	39,000
Printing, Stationery	4,941	4,164	6,000	6,000	6,100
Staff Travel	4,816	5,034	6,000	6,100	6,200
Insurance	818	1,480	1,500	1,500	1,500
Catalogue Production	48,913	-	-	-	-
Rent (CR to Building)	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	61,200
Storage	3,179	3,187	3,200	3,200	3,300
Web Store - T1 connection line	-	-	12,600	12,800	13,000
Advertising/Catalogue Distribution	98,719	125,731	172,000	175,000	177,500
Wrapping Material	19,607	24,515	25,000	25,500	26,000
Finance/Admin. Support	47,214	50,563	50,000	52,000	53,000
Office Supplies	5,324	1,110	3,000	3,000	3,100
Bad Debts	2,028	1,750	2,000	2,000	2,100
Computer Network Support	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Miscellaneous	<u>2,952</u>	<u>3,119</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>3,100</u>	<u>3,200</u>
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>858,741</u>	<u>941,931</u>	<u>1,033,400</u>	<u>1,062,900</u>	<u>1,088,000</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>817,741</u>	<u>900,931</u>	<u>992,400</u>	<u>1,021,900</u>	<u>1,047,000</u>
GAIN OR (LOSS)	375,015	94,487	204,600	203,600	207,000
PROVINCIAL COMMAND SHARE@ 25%	<u>(93,754)</u>	<u>(23,622)</u>	<u>(51,150)</u>	<u>(50,900)</u>	<u>(51,750)</u>
Excess of Revenue over Direct Costs	<u>281,261</u>	<u>70,866</u>	<u>153,450</u>	<u>152,700</u>	<u>155,250</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
RCEL					
Conference	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	16,000
SCOWP	<u>955</u>	<u>1,424</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>3,000</u>
RCEL TOTAL	<u>15,955</u>	<u>16,424</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>
Request for Support	10,000	19,250	20,000	20,000	20,000
Dominion Bursaries	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Historica (EWC)	25	135	500	500	500
Legal & Other	21,945	35,524	60,000	35,000	37,000
MBP Ads	17,466	26,143	27,000	27,500	28,000
Comradeship Awards	2,933	672	6,000	6,000	6,100
Legion Policy Positions	6,852	11,101	12,000	12,200	12,500
Translation (note)	35,214	28,996	38,000	38,000	39,800
Marketing					
Audit	-	40,849	35,000	51,000	52,000
Program	<u>-</u>	<u>17,809</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>126,390</u>	<u>195,095</u>	<u>281,500</u>	<u>223,200</u>	<u>230,900</u>

***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

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
REVENUE					
Rent Tenants	72,438	72,438	72,000	73,500	73,500
Rent Charge to Depts					
Administration	108,000	108,000	108,000	110,000	110,000
Membership	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
IT	-	-	10,000	10,200	10,200
Service Bureau	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,900	45,900
Supply	60,000	60,000	60,000	61,200	61,200
Finance	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,600	29,600
Communications/ Outreach	29,000	29,000	19,000	19,400	19,400
TOTAL REVENUE	388,438	388,438	388,000	395,700	395,700
EXPENSE					
Salaries	22,018	22,622	23,000	23,800	24,600
Retirement Allowance	1,035	522	500	500	500
Other Benefits	4,043	3,935	3,600	3,700	3,800
Temporary Staff	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	27,096	27,079	27,100	28,000	28,900
Elevator Maintenance	4,807	4,942	7,000	7,100	7,200
A/C, Electrical, Plumbing	20,556	20,654	35,000	35,700	36,400
Interior & Exterior	58,921	73,833	55,000	56,100	57,200
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	46,661	48,931	51,000	52,000	53,100
Fuel	6,759	7,982	11,000	11,200	11,400
Light & Power	39,558	41,358	44,000	46,000	49,000
Water and Sewage	1,048	907	2,000	2,000	2,000
Taxes	45,582	46,524	48,000	49,000	50,000
Insurance	4,025	4,198	5,000	5,000	5,100
Reserve Fund	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	285,012	306,408	315,100	322,100	330,300
GAIN OR LOSS	103,426	82,030	72,900	73,600	65,400

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS COMMITTEES AND ELECTED OFFICERS EXPENSE

	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
COMMITTEES					
1 Veterans, Service and Seniors	37,026	25,920	43,590	33,800	44,800
2 Poppy & Remembrance	78,005	61,208	79,600	74,000	80,600
3 Membership	153,018	176,683	332,900	297,000	361,900
4 Public Relations	135,569	127,761	192,200	159,200	175,700
5 RCEL	36,166	40,884	44,000	44,800	46,150
6 Sports	315,415	310,686	471,400	499,400	508,700
7 Ritual & Awards	5,511	19,858	17,000	10,200	18,400
8 Constitution & Laws	10,936	2,016	9,500	1,300	9,700
9 Defence & Security	13,274	16,125	38,600	19,000	19,400
10 Veterans Consultation	5,628	4,169	6,200	6,300	6,400
11 Focus on the Future	<u>18,436</u>	<u>51,201</u>	<u>40,300</u>	<u>41,100</u>	<u>41,900</u>
COMMITTEE TOTAL	<u>808,984</u>	<u>836,511</u>	<u>1,275,290</u>	<u>1,186,100</u>	<u>1,313,650</u>
12 Elected Officers	80,267	169,335	119,200	158,000	123,900
13 DEC/Senior Elected Officers	72,927	88,212	91,600	93,900	99,400
14 Dominion Convention	<u>176,961</u>	<u>260,226</u>	<u>262,690</u>	<u>260,700</u>	<u>291,400</u>
SUB-TOTAL	<u>330,156</u>	<u>517,773</u>	<u>473,490</u>	<u>512,600</u>	<u>514,700</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>1,139,139</u>	<u>1,354,284</u>	<u>1,748,780</u>	<u>1,698,700</u>	<u>1,828,350</u>

DOMINION COMMAND / GENERAL FUNDS DOMINION CONVENTION

	2008 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGET	2013 BUDGET	2014 BUDGET
DEC						
Travel	47,144	36,316	-	38,000	-	39,900
Per Diem	108,284	69,788	-	68,000	-	71,400
Staff						
Travel	2,840	15,572	-	16,500	-	17,325
Per Diem	32,742	49,384	-	52,000	-	54,600
Past President						
Travel	4,663	9,073	-	9,500	-	9,975
Per Diem	4,723	2,540	-	10,000	-	10,500
DC Zone Commanders						
Travel	3,378	2,707	-	2,850	-	2,993
Per Diem	6,437	4,702	-	4,800	-	5,040
VIP - (Floris)	22,169	-	-	-	-	
Other						
Travel	579	591	-	600	-	630
Per Diem	12,060	4,654	-	5,000	-	5,250
Entertainment	937	-	-		-	
Credentials	4,650	4,650	-	4,750	-	4,987
Printing & Design						
Convention Reports	39,591	35,193	-	45,000	-	47,250
Other	10,121	6,709	-	8,000	-	8,400
Translation & Interpretation	13,364	3,571	-	4,000	-	4,200
Postage	26,994	23,222	-	25,000	-	26,250
Freight	282	5,545	-	8,000	-	8,400
Social Activities						
President Reception	25,945	18,690	-	20,000	-	21,000
Other	4,512	2,490	-	5,000	-	5,250
Convention Centre	114,952	87,539	-	105,000	-	110,250
Convention Operation	110,372	84,365	-	120,000	-	126,000
Transportation	-	-	-		-	
Ceremonies	615	39	-	1,000	-	1,050
Local Arrangements Committee	8,125	3,000	-	3,000	-	3,150
	605,479	470,340	-	556,000	-	583,800
Revenue	78,619	59,624	-	61,000	-	61,000
SUB-TOTAL	526,860	410,716	-	495,000	-	522,800
Provision	245,000	250,000	250,000	(250,000)	250,000	(250,000)
TOTAL	281,860	160,716	250,000	245,000	250,000	272,800
COMMITTEE (FROM 15A)	10,811	16,245	10,226	17,690	10,700	18,600
TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE	292,671	176,961	260,226	262,690	260,700	291,400

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND

NET REVENUE RECONCILIATION

DECEMBER 31

2010			
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			600,520
ADD (LESS):			
Reserves realized (taken)	Pilgrimage	(13,500)	
	Dominion Convention	250,000	
	Building	(30,000)	
	RCEL Conference	(15,000)	
	Legion Magazine	-	
	Per Capita Tax	(700,869)	
	Pension Plan	<u>49,450</u>	<u>(459,919)</u>
ADD (LESS):			
Fund Transfers from (to)	RCEL Fund	-	
	Centennial Fund	-	
	Poppy Fund	520,000	
	Pension transfers	(386,781)	
	Investment Fund - Building amortization	<u>96,285</u>	<u>229,504</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>370,105</u>

2011			
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT			(3,480)
ADD (LESS):			
Reserves realized (taken)	Pilgrimage	13,500	
	Dominion Convention	(250,000)	
	Building	(8,269)	
	RCEL Conference	(15,000)	
	Legion Magazine	-	
	Per Capita Tax	(78,000)	
	Pension Plan	<u>-</u>	<u>(337,769)</u>
ADD (LESS):			
Fund Transfers from (to)	RCEL Fund	-	
	Centennial Fund	-	
	Poppy Fund	630,000	
	Pension transfers	(374,521)	
	Investment Fund - Building amortization	<u>96,284</u>	<u>351,763</u>
LESS: Year End Audit Adjustments			<u>(180)</u>
NET REVENUE (EXPENSE) PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS			<u>10,334</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Financial Statements
December 31, 2011



April 5, 2012

Independent Auditor's Report

**To the Members of
The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2011 and the statements of changes in fund balances, operations – general fund, operations – externally restricted funds and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

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

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

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



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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command as at December 31, 2011 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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 9)	8,569,403	6,904,630
Accounts receivable (note 3)	1,256,609	2,143,495
Inventories		
General	1,558,132	1,699,008
Poppy promotional material	86,350	79,712
Prepaid expense	324,354	212,737
Prepaid subscriptions	1,245,722	1,286,894
	13,040,570	12,326,476
Marketable investments (note 4)	20,670,601	20,446,285
Capital assets (note 5)	6,217,617	6,359,228
Pension asset (note 8)	802,882	831,177
	40,731,670	39,963,166
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	864,195	680,244
Per capita tax received in advance	2,966,083	3,064,131
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd. (note 7)	74,822	548
	3,905,100	3,744,923
Retirement obligation (note 8)	483,317	461,197
	4,388,417	4,206,120
Fund balances		
General Fund		
Unrestricted	4,312,257	4,162,018
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	6,210,072	6,349,797
Other internally restricted (note 6)	6,034,007	5,696,238
Pension Plan Fund (note 8)	802,882	831,177
Investment Fund	9,280,615	9,752,774
Externally Restricted Funds	9,703,420	8,965,042
	36,343,253	35,757,046
	40,731,670	39,963,166

Signed on Behalf of the Dominion Executive Council

President

Treasurer

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

For the year ended December 31, 2011

	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	4,162,018	214,158	–	(63,919)	4,312,257
Invested in capital assets (note 5)	6,349,797	(217,638)	–	77,913	6,210,072
Internally restricted (note 6)	5,696,238	–	–	337,769	6,034,007
	16,208,053	(3,480)	–	351,763	16,556,336
Pension Plan Fund (note 8)	831,177	(402,816)	–	374,521	802,882
Investment Fund (note 4)	9,752,774	399,661	(775,536)	(96,284)	9,280,615
	26,792,004	(6,635)	(775,536)	630,000	26,639,833
Externally Restricted Funds					
Poppy Trust Fund	6,554,203	1,538,319	(47,413)	(630,000)	7,415,109
Centennial Fund	1,703,577	39,486	(5,422)	–	1,737,641
RCEL Fund	515,497	(70,048)	–	–	445,449
Benevolent Fund	88,439	355	–	–	88,794
Troop Morale Fund	103,326	(86,899)	–	–	16,427
Total externally restricted funds	8,965,042	1,421,213	(52,835)	(630,000)	9,703,420
	35,757,046	1,414,578	(828,371)	–	36,343,253

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Operations – General Fund

For the year ended December 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Revenue		
Administrative fees (note 7)	75,000	75,000
Building rental (note 7)	72,438	72,438
Dividends	103,813	112,020
Estate bequests	2,681	3,125
Interest	388,772	363,945
MasterCard (MBNA)	88,975	108,359
Miscellaneous (note 7)	61,021	81,338
Per capita tax	5,975,025	6,117,469
Subscription agency fee (note 7)	400,000	492,744
Supply sales	1,746,847	2,016,165
	<u>8,914,572</u>	<u>9,442,603</u>
Expense		
Administration	775,009	666,554
Building	298,142	255,012
Committees	1,167,784	1,375,639
Communications	486,163	417,448
Finance	401,047	400,486
Legion magazine – subscriptions (note 7)	2,544,077	2,511,341
Membership	529,480	535,353
Miscellaneous	180,095	111,390
Service bureau (note 7)	702,636	680,919
Supply –		
Operation	864,553	851,495
Cost of sales	751,429	823,409
Amortization –		
Furniture and equipment and computers	71,601	67,001
Building	146,036	146,036
	<u>8,918,052</u>	<u>8,842,083</u>
Net revenue (expense) for the year	<u>(3,480)</u>	<u>600,520</u>

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Statement of Operations – Externally Restricted Funds

For the year ended December 31, 2011

	Poppy Trust Fund \$	Centennial Fund \$	RCEL Fund \$	Benevolent Fund \$	Morale Fund	Troop Fund \$	2011 Total \$	2010 Total \$
Revenue								
Donations	88,961	—	238,679	—	27,267	—	354,907	463,584
Interest	110,089	54,589	2,010	355	—	—	167,043	148,980
Dividends	12,465	6,816	—	—	—	—	19,281	22,397
Realized gains (losses) on sales of marketable investments	14,647	(11,049)	—	—	—	—	3,598	(5,616)
Poppies and wreaths	3,215,935	—	—	—	—	—	3,215,935	2,856,167
Promotional aids	304,165	—	—	—	—	—	304,165	256,967
HST rebate on poppies and wreaths	145,987	—	—	—	—	—	145,987	—
	<u>3,892,249</u>	<u>50,356</u>	<u>240,689</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>27,267</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>4,210,916</u>	<u>3,742,479</u>
Expense								
Advertising and promotional materials	52,941	—	—	—	—	—	52,941	33,265
Poppy contests	16,317	—	—	—	—	—	16,317	15,026
Poppies and wreaths	1,610,923	—	—	—	—	—	1,610,923	1,552,008
Promotional aids	167,453	—	—	—	—	—	167,453	149,395
Trademark defence	17,127	—	—	—	—	—	17,127	65,278
Freight	301,553	—	—	—	—	—	301,553	254,628
General	102,113	10,870	—	—	—	—	112,983	109,723
Amortization – furniture and equipment	1,887	—	—	—	—	—	1,887	1,887
Welcome home Afghanistan veterans	—	—	—	—	76,918	—	76,918	—
Benevolent support and assistance	83,616	—	310,737	—	37,248	—	431,601	562,143
	<u>2,353,930</u>	<u>10,870</u>	<u>310,737</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>114,166</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>2,789,703</u>	<u>2,743,353</u>
Net revenue (expense) for the year	<u>1,538,319</u>	<u>39,486</u>	<u>(70,048)</u>	<u>355</u>	<u>(86,899)</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>1,421,213</u>	<u>999,126</u>

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, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net revenue (expense) for the year –		
General Fund	(3,480)	600,520
Pension Plan Fund	(402,816)	(152,142)
Investment Fund	399,661	(58,904)
Externally Restricted Funds	1,421,213	999,126
Items not affecting cash –		
Provision for pension plan	402,816	152,142
Provision for retirement obligation	60,745	112,350
Amortization	219,524	214,924
Realized (gains) losses on sales of marketable investments	(372,198)	45,956
(Gain) loss on foreign exchange	(31,061)	18,886
Contributions to pension plan	(374,521)	(386,781)
Cash paid for retirement obligation	(38,625)	–
Net change in non-cash working capital items	1,110,856	(428,901)
	<u>2,392,114</u>	<u>1,117,176</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on sale of marketable investments	10,338,027	4,200,104
Purchase of marketable investments	(10,987,455)	(5,825,768)
Purchase of capital assets	(77,913)	(56,442)
	<u>(727,341)</u>	<u>(1,682,106)</u>
Net change in cash for the year	1,664,773	(564,930)
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	6,904,630	7,469,560
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	<u>8,569,403</u>	<u>6,904,630</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	886,886	(352,882)
Inventory –		
General	140,876	64,487
Poppy promotional material	(6,638)	(7,619)
Prepaid expense	(111,617)	(69,850)
Prepaid subscriptions	41,172	(45,166)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	183,951	53,457
Per capita tax received in advance	(98,048)	23,164
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	74,274	(94,492)
	<u>1,110,856</u>	<u>(428,901)</u>

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

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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 revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Fund accounting

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

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

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

Externally Restricted Funds are accounted for as follows:

Poppy Trust Fund

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

Centennial, RCEL, 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, 2011

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.

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

The related pension expenses are 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 Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

The excess of the net actuarial gains (losses) over 10% of the greater of the accrued benefit obligations and any fair value of plan assets are amortized over the average remaining service period of active employees, on a straight-line basis.

The transitional asset related to the plan, 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 periods of active employees expected to receive benefits under the plan and under the retirement allowance is 10 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.

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) is 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, 2011

3 Accounts receivable

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Commands, branches and members		
General	188,739	279,135
Poppy Trust Fund	463,560	1,417,362
Other		
General	333,300	179,049
Poppy Trust Fund	173,985	168,299
Accrued interest	97,025	99,650
	1,256,609	2,143,495

4 Marketable investments

	2011		2010	
	Fair value	Cost	Fair value	Cost
	\$	\$	\$	\$
General Fund	16,002,783	15,615,765	15,901,051	14,738,497
Poppy Trust Fund	2,977,037	2,893,789	2,928,261	2,797,600
Centennial Fund	1,690,781	1,645,383	1,616,973	1,566,153
	20,670,601	20,154,937	20,446,285	19,102,250

Net gains on sales of marketable investments of \$399,661 (2010 – net losses of \$58,904) and net decreases in unrealized gains and losses of \$775,536 (2010 – net increases in unrealized gains and losses of \$552,987) relate to the general investment portfolio and are accounted for in the Investment Fund.

	2011		2010	
	Fair value	Cost	Fair value	Cost
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Government and government guaranteed bonds	11,189,453	10,762,511	10,531,318	10,285,959
Pooled bond funds	5,741,693	5,569,668	2,678,379	2,588,263
Corporate stocks and pooled equity funds	3,739,455	3,822,758	7,236,588	6,228,028
	20,670,601	20,154,937	20,446,285	19,102,250

(4)

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

5 Capital assets

	2011		2010
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Land	950,220	—	950,220
Building	5,841,416	766,689	5,074,727
Furniture and equipment	322,804	227,177	95,627
Computers	246,137	149,094	97,043
	7,360,577	1,142,960	6,217,617
			6,359,228

	2011		2010
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
General Fund	7,341,711	1,131,639	6,210,072
Poppy Trust Fund	18,866	11,321	7,545
	7,360,577	1,142,960	6,217,617
			6,359,228

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 Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Legion Magazine	1,445,000	1,445,000
Building	151,159	142,890
RCEL conference	45,000	30,000
Convention	250,000	—
Pilgrimage	—	13,500
Special purpose (80th anniversary)	26,979	26,979
Per capita tax	4,115,869	4,037,869
	<u>6,034,007</u>	<u>5,696,238</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.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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, 2011 and 2010 is as follows:

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Financial position		
Total assets	1,886,914	1,830,235
Total liabilities	1,624,456	1,712,878
Shareholders' equity	262,458	117,357
	1,886,914	1,830,235
Results of operations		
Total revenue	3,518,351	3,335,512
Total expense	3,373,250	3,254,067
Net earnings for the year	145,101	81,445
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities	(155,189)	436,565
Investing activity	(18,613)	(4,550)
	(173,802)	432,015

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

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

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Legion magazine – subscriptions	2,299,470	2,380,457
Advertising	70,531	70,022
Design services	11,165	–

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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

	2011 \$	2010 \$
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 (2010 – net of computer system lease expense)	400,000	492,744

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 \$nil (2010 – \$40,000).

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

8 Employee future benefits

Extrapolations of actuarial valuations for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2011 and February 1, 2011 indicated the following information about the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit plan, respectively (2010 – January 1, 2010 for both valuations), as at the measurement date of December 31:

	2011		2010	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$
Accrued benefit obligation	(468,400)	(17,687,800)	(444,650)	(13,792,372)
Fair value of plan assets	–	14,091,083	–	14,613,424
Surplus (deficit)	(468,400)	(3,596,717)	(444,650)	821,052
Unamortized amounts	(14,917)	4,399,599	(16,547)	10,125
Retirement obligation/pension asset	(483,317)	802,882	(461,197)	831,177

Pension expense recorded for the year for the plan was \$402,816 (2010 – \$152,142) and is accounted for in the Pension Plan Fund.

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The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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

	2011		2010	
	Retirement obligation %	Pension Plan %	Retirement obligation %	Pension Plan %
Discount rate – accrued benefit obligation	3.9	4.6	4.0	5.5
Discount rate – pension expense	4.0	5.5	4.5	6.3
Salary escalation rate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Return on assets	n/a	6.5	n/a	6.5

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

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Employer contributions	460,118	470,083
Employee contributions	205,203	189,719
Benefits paid	1,192,498	567,728

The next required actuarial valuations for funding purposes will be as of January 1, 2014.

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

	2011		2010	
	\$	%	\$	%
Money market	245,967	1.7	761,237	5.2
Bonds	4,760,075	33.8	4,891,954	33.5
Equities	4,714,212	33.5	5,179,797	35.4
Foreign equities	3,350,495	23.8	3,184,992	21.8
Real estate	1,020,334	7.2	595,444	4.1
	14,091,083	100.0	14,613,424	100.0

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

9 Financial instruments

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

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.

Financial instruments expose organizations to a variety of risks.

Interest rate risk

The fair values 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 \$nil (2010 – \$4,440,354) 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 3.0% and 6.5% and mature between April 15, 2012 and June 1, 2018 (2010 – 3.0% and 5.9% and mature between January 25, 2011 and June 15, 2017).

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. 8% (2010 – 13%) of marketable investments is denominated in U.S. dollars.

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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 the following payments for equipment under various leases:

	\$
Year ending December 31, 2012	39,301
2013	39,301
2014	39,301
2015	39,301
2016	2,425

11 Allocation of expenses

Administration expenses have been allocated as follows:

	2011 \$	2010 \$
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 (2010 – \$41,000) have been allocated to general expenses of the Poppy Trust Fund.

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

G. Moore	Board Chairman
P. Varga	Board Vice-Chairman
B. White	Secretary
M. Cook	Director
T. Eagles	Director
W. Edmond	Director
D. Flannigan	Director
T. Irvine	Director
G. O'Dair	Director
J. Morse	General Manager

INTRODUCTION

Canvet Publications Ltd. made a commitment to the 2002 Dominion Convention to make the approved \$2 subscription increase carry the magazine through to 2010. We are pleased to report that not only did the magazine meet that obligation, but it has exceeded expectations by two years.

CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

In September 2011, Legion Magazine was informed that it was eligible for \$574,000 in funding under the Department of Canadian Heritage's (DCH) Canada Periodical Fund (CPF). Publications and periodicals must apply for this funding annually, and Canvet will hear whether or not that application is successful in late spring.

The receipt of this subsidy is one of the magazine's main streams of revenue and remains critical to its survival. Over the last five years, this continuing annual asset saved Legion Magazine over \$2,500,300. Although Canvet has a proven record of careful financial management, it is important to note that all commitments and budgets are predicated on the magazine's eligibility for the CPF.

EDITORIAL COVERAGE

In 2010 and 2011 Legion Magazine continued to present balanced and in-depth stories of Canada's past and present military history. Throughout 2010 we marked the 100th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy with articles on the navy's beginning, the merchant navy and the navy's operations today on the Arabian Sea. The magazine also marked major anniversaries of the Italian campaign, the Liberation of the Netherlands and the Battle of the Somme. We have developed keepsake posters on the navy, Canadian Victoria Cross recipients and Canada's fallen. At the same time we have kept readers abreast of the Canadian Forces mission in Afghanistan, Legion advocacy and changes in the New Veterans Charter.

In 2012, the magazine began coverage of the 200th Anniversary of The War of 1812.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

In 2008, Canvet was asked to administer The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Member Benefits Package (MBP), and list of partners keeps growing. The eleventh corporation on board is Ancestry.ca, the world's largest online family history resource. Legion members will receive the exclusive one-time offer of 50 per cent off a world deluxe annual membership.

The other partners include Dell Canada Inc. offering up to 30 per cent in savings on carefully selected computers, and 10 per cent off all Dell mobility products; Connect Hearing, offering a 10 per cent discount on hearing aids, five years of complimentary batteries and a 15 per cent discount on Everyday Listening Products; Medipac Travel Insurance, which not only offers discounts but also shares its support with your branch every time a member of the RCL purchases travel insurance from them; Travelodge Canada, which is pleased to offer a 15 per cent discount to Legion members and their families; Home Hardware, who have committed to contribute \$20,000 annually to The RCL's Canadian Youth Track and Field Championships; Relocation Services Group, from whom you can expect a cash rebate of up to \$3.25 per \$1,000 of value of your home sale or purchase; Carlson Wagonlit Travel, with exclusive discounts on vacations, rentals and airport parking; Philips Lifeline Canada, offering RCL members and their dependants two months free service when they subscribe to their personal response and support service; ICI Paints and Bétonel stores, which offers 25 per cent off its paints when you purchase from one of its 210 stores; and MBNA Canada Bank, whose commitment translates to significant financial support of The Legion's national programs.

The RCL MBP is another way to serve all Legionnaires and their families and to help maintain and attract new members. As the list grows, the savings offered more than offset the cost of membership in The Legion.

AWARDS

For the first time, Legion Magazine has won an award. Last September the magazine was awarded the bronze medal at the Canadian Newsstand Awards for WW I: The War That Shaped a Nation. This followed the nomination at the Canadian Magazine Awards (CMA) for best single issue.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

In 2011, revenue was higher than budgeted but expenses remained relatively stable. The biggest gain in 2011 came from the newsstand, primarily due to the blockbuster WW I book-a-zine. This is the last year Canvet can avoid drawing from the reserve fund with a surplus of \$150,000.

In 2012, Canvet will withdraw a minimum of \$20,000 from the reserve fund. The largest hit to our bottom line will come from the projected decline of 10,000 subscribers or \$70,000, and the conclusion of the Canada Magazine Fund subsidy, \$35,000.

By 2013, the combination of declining subscribers and rising costs means that Canvet must withdraw another \$130,000 from the reserve fund. In 2014, the need will almost triple to \$325,000 and, come 2015, a minimum of \$385,000 will be needed to publish the magazine, a three year total deficit of \$840,000.

SUBSCRIPTION FEE INCREASE

For the tenth year in a row a subscription to Legion Magazine has remained at \$7 plus tax. The costs to publish Legion Magazine have grown considerably over the last decade and even so Canvet has exceeded its commitment to Convention by two years. The time has come for a subscription increase. This is a separate and planned increase, an increase that has been committed to in good faith for ten years.

Canvet has provided two options for your consideration.

a. Option A – Status Quo - \$7.00 Annual Subscription

The only upside to this option is that there is no increase in the subscription to Legion Magazine. The downsides, however, are numerous.

Should convention refuse a subscription increase, the magazine will begin posting significant deficits as early as 2013, and as early as 2015 will have to downsize. The only logical publishing schedule left is a quarterly magazine, and even then it would be difficult to continue operations without a deficit. The problem with downsizing is that every aspect of publishing is affected and we would definitely lose subscribers as they perceive less value for their dollars. Cuts to editorial would affect all sections, and the magazine would become less appealing to both members and advertisers. Advertising revenue would drop with the reduced frequency and two staff members would have to be cut. Within two years of publishing as a quarterly, Legion Magazine would cease to exist.

If that happens, then \$527,000 or \$1.77 per subscriber will no longer be returned to the general fund of The RCL. Canvet pays over a half a million dollars to Dominion Command annually: a sizeable subscription agency fee of \$400,000; an accounting fee of \$75,000; rent of \$50,000; and another \$12,000 in miscellaneous revenue. Ironically, that represents a large percentage of the subscription increase that Canvet needs to continue publishing.

Finally, Dominion Command may face a backlash of resentment at the cancellation of the magazine, a tradition since 1926.

No subscription increase is not an option we would recommend.

b. Option B - \$9.49 Annual Subscription

Should convention increase the subscription of Legion Magazine by \$2.49 to \$9.49 annually then Canvet will not require a further increase in the cost of an annual subscription for eight more years or through to the end of 2020.

With this option there will be no need for a reduction in pages or content and our subscribers will continue to get uninterrupted delivery of six issues annually. Canvet will be able to produce the high quality magazine that our readers have come to expect. Further, The RCL will retain a vital and top-quality communication link with all its members. Even at the \$9.49 price point Legion Magazine is a bargain, at 38% of the average cost of magazines in our category.

The only downside is that the annual subscription to Legion Magazine will cost \$2.49 more.

The best lessons are often found in the past and our 86 year history has guidance to offer. Legion magazine struggled financially for years; with stability only coming after universal subscription was mandated by the 1954 Dominion Convention and effective with the 1956 dues. The surprise was the unexpected and direct effect this embedding of the subscription had on RCL membership.

An initiative designed to provide financial stability to the magazine could be argued to have been the single most effective membership decision The RCL has ever made. From 164,000 members before the change, The Legion soared to 265,000 members in 1962, an increase of 62 per cent. If Legion Magazine ceases to exist the opposite outcome is almost a certainty. To risk the symbiotic partnership between The RCL and Legion Magazine, a partnership that has thrived for over half a century, will certainly damage both organizations and that harm may be irreversible.

When Legion members opt to subscribe to Legion Magazine they are not only purchasing the stories of Canada, they are also supporting a valuable tool both now and in the future for maintaining and increasing membership. What we have built in the decades together is and will continue to be greater than the sum of our parts.

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the annual subscription to Legion Magazine be increased by \$2.49 to \$9.49 (plus applicable taxes).

CARRIED

2012 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

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

BUDGET

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

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Financial Statements
December 31, 2011



April 5, 2012

Independent Auditor's Report

**To the Shareholders of
Canvet Publications Ltd.**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Canvet Publications Ltd., which comprise the balance sheet as at December 31, 2011 and the statements of earnings and retained earnings and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes, which comprise a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

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

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

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



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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Canvet Publications Ltd. as at December 31, 2011 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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

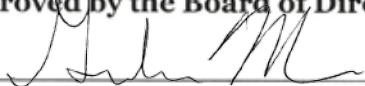
(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Balance Sheet

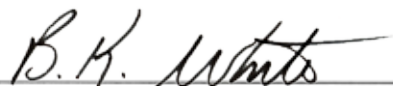
As at December 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents (note 6)	1,509,841	1,683,643
Accounts receivable	102,829	59,493
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (note 4)	74,822	548
Prepaid expense	149,619	41,765
	<u>1,837,111</u>	<u>1,785,449</u>
Capital assets (note 3)	<u>49,803</u>	<u>44,786</u>
	<u>1,886,914</u>	<u>1,830,235</u>
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	185,316	132,581
GST/HST payable	87,625	56,953
Income taxes payable	13,848	14,150
Deferred revenue	62,447	216,753
Subscriptions received in advance	1,132,873	1,164,986
	<u>1,482,109</u>	<u>1,585,423</u>
Retirement obligation (note 5)	<u>142,347</u>	<u>127,455</u>
	<u>1,624,456</u>	<u>1,712,878</u>
Shareholders' equity		
Capital stock		
Authorized – 50,000 common shares		
Issued – 9 common shares	9	9
Retained earnings	<u>262,449</u>	<u>117,348</u>
	<u>262,458</u>	<u>117,357</u>
	<u>1,886,914</u>	<u>1,830,235</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors



Director



Director

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Earnings and Retained Earnings

For the year ended December 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Revenue		
Subscriptions (note 4)	2,335,291	2,415,403
Newsstand sales	65,985	12,273
Advertising (note 4)	494,056	475,699
	<u>2,895,332</u>	<u>2,903,375</u>
Expense (schedule)		
Magazine	1,695,262	1,542,310
Employees	825,614	784,488
Administrative (note 4)	422,957	419,121
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	400,000	492,744
	<u>3,343,833</u>	<u>3,238,663</u>
Loss before the under-noted	<u>(448,501)</u>	<u>(335,288)</u>
Other income		
Canadian Periodical Fund	568,304	375,788
Canadian Magazine Fund	35,532	47,561
Interest income	6,737	4,416
Other	12,446	4,372
	<u>623,019</u>	<u>432,137</u>
Earnings before income taxes	174,518	96,849
Provision for income taxes	<u>29,417</u>	<u>15,404</u>
Net earnings for the year	145,101	81,445
Retained earnings – Beginning of year	<u>117,348</u>	<u>35,903</u>
Retained earnings – End of year	<u>262,449</u>	<u>117,348</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, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net earnings for the year	145,101	81,445
Items not affecting cash –		
Amortization	13,596	14,250
Provision for (recovery of) retirement obligation	14,892	(5,202)
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(328,778)	346,072
	(155,189)	436,565
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(18,613)	(4,550)
Net change in cash for the year	(173,802)	432,015
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	1,683,643	1,251,628
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	1,509,841	1,683,643
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(43,336)	(8,960)
Income taxes recoverable	–	6,340
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	(74,274)	94,492
Prepaid expense	(107,854)	(7,726)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	52,735	43,767
GST/HST payable	30,672	14,815
Income taxes payable	(302)	14,150
Deferred revenue	(154,306)	207,191
Subscriptions received in advance	(32,113)	(17,997)
	(328,778)	346,072
Supplementary non-cash information –		
Income taxes paid (recovered)	29,707	(5,086)

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

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

1 Nature of operations

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

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 revenue and expense during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Cash equivalents

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

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

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

Retirement obligation

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

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

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

The average remaining service period of active employees expected to receive benefits under the retirement allowance is 12 years.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

Revenue recognition

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

3 Capital assets

	2011		2010
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net
	\$	\$	\$
Office equipment	121,862	97,142	24,720
Computer equipment	252,277	227,194	25,083
	374,139	324,336	49,803
			44,786

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:

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Subscriptions	2,299,470	2,380,457
Advertising	70,531	70,022
Design Services	11,165	–

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

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
Accounting and computer services	75,000	75,000
Building rental	59,644	59,664
Network support charge	3,000	3,000
Subscription agency fee (2010 – net of computer system lease revenue)	400,000	492,744

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

The parties have agreed to reduce the subscription agency fee by the amount of the lease payments 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 \$nil (2010 – \$40,000).

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

5 Employee future benefits

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

The Company's portion of the plan is accounted for as a defined contribution plan such that the Company's contributions to the plan are included in employees' expense in the statement of earnings and retained earnings. Accrued benefit assets have not been recorded in the balance sheet. Employer contributions expensed during the year amounted to \$87,287 (2010 – \$83,435).

Extrapolations of actuarial valuations for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2011 and February 1, 2011 indicated the following information about the retirement allowance and the overall defined benefit plan, respectively (2010 – January 1, 2010 for both valuations), as at the measurement date of December 31:

	2011		2010	
	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$	Retirement obligation \$	Pension Plan \$
Accrued benefit obligation	(143,200)	(17,687,800)	(126,524)	(13,792,372)
Fair value of plan assets	–	14,091,083	–	14,613,424
Surplus (deficit)	(143,200)	<u>(3,596,717)</u>	(126,524)	<u>821,052</u>
Unamortized amounts	<u>853</u>		<u>(931)</u>	
Retirement obligation	<u>(142,347)</u>		<u>(127,455)</u>	

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

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

	2011		2010	
	Retirement obligation %	Pension Plan %	Retirement obligation %	Pension Plan %
Discount rate – accrued benefit obligation	3.9	4.6	4.0	5.5
Discount rate – pension expense	4.0	n/a	4.5	n/a
Salary escalation rate	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Return on assets	n/a	6.5	n/a	6.5

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

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Employer contributions	460,118	470,083
Employee contributions	205,203	189,719
Benefits paid	1,192,498	567,728

The next required actuarial valuation for funding purposes will be as of January 1, 2014.

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

	2011		2010	
	\$	%	\$	%
Money market	245,967	1.7	761,237	5.2
Bonds	4,760,075	33.8	4,891,954	33.5
Equities	4,714,212	33.5	5,179,797	35.4
Foreign equities	3,350,495	23.8	3,184,992	21.8
Real estate	1,020,334	7.2	595,444	4.1
	14,091,083	100.0	14,613,424	100.0

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2011

6 Financial instruments

The Company has chosen to apply the requirements 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 \$1,470,841 (2010 – \$1,671,742) 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 and office equipment to December 31, 2012, as follows:

Office space	Office equipment	Total
\$	\$	\$
59,664	3,946	63,610

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 veterans' issues.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Schedule of Expense

(Unaudited)

For the year ended December 31, 2011

	2011 \$	2010 \$
Magazine		
Editorial contributions	102,012	108,330
Freight and express	3,147	2,966
Illustrations	38,038	38,587
Postage	783,140	656,087
Printing	761,301	728,680
Desktop publishing	7,624	7,660
	<u>1,695,262</u>	<u>1,542,310</u>
Employees		
Salaries	665,056	631,359
Other benefits	160,558	153,129
	<u>825,614</u>	<u>784,488</u>
Administrative		
Accounting and computer services (note 4)	75,000	75,000
Advertising commission – CCM	74,717	77,169
Building rental (note 4)	59,664	59,664
Correspondents' meeting	—	9,954
Directors' meetings	6,000	6,000
Editorial travel	45,433	48,866
Insurance	13,638	14,013
Miscellaneous	8,213	9,627
Network support charge (note 4)	3,000	3,000
Newsstand expense	22,130	15,212
Office supplies	14,965	10,214
Postage	3,328	3,915
Printing and stationery	2,623	1,275
Professional fees	15,676	11,061
Sales promotion	54,304	50,406
Subscriptions	2,548	1,782
Telephone and fax	8,122	7,713
Amortization	13,596	14,250
	<u>422,957</u>	<u>419,121</u>
Subscription agency fee (note 4)	<u>400,000</u>	<u>492,744</u>
Total expense	<u>3,343,833</u>	<u>3,238,663</u>

CREDENTIALS REPORT

V. Mitchell-Veinotte	Chairman
I. Kruse	Member
T. Wheeler	Member
D. Gosselin	Member
D. Golding	Member
D. Gordon	Member
P. Cook	Member
C. Saunders	Member
B. MacLachlan	Member
K. Gatehouse	Member

COMMAND		11 June		12 June		13 June		Observers
		Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy	
BC/Yukon	672	109	424	109	424	109	424	4
Alberta-NWT	562	101	325	101	325	101	325	3
Saskatchewan	235	79	127	79	127	79	127	2
Manitoba & NWO	342	70	256	70	256	70	256	5
Ontario	1469	413	1016	413	1016	413	1016	19
Quebec	210	26	104	26	104	26	104	0
New Brunswick	143	34	107	34	107	34	107	2
NS/Nunavut	300	167	131	167	131	167	131	23
PEI	33	29	3	29	3	29	3	1
Newfoundland/ Labrador	65	27	38	27	38	27	38	8
DEC/PDP	24	12	0	12	0	12	0	0
US Zones	16	6	4	6	4	6	4	0
Europe Zone	5	2	3	2	3	2	3	0
Totals	4076	1075	2538	1075	2538	1075	2538	67

The figures denote the Command entitlement to delegates and proxies based upon the final 2011 figures for Life, Ordinary, Associate and Affiliate Voting members (General By-Laws Section 903).

REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE ON DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

P. Varga	Chairman
W. Edmond	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	Total Number of Resolutions
BC/Yukon	13	0	13
Alberta-NWT	2	0	2
Saskatchewan	7	2	9
Manitoba & NWO	6	0	6
Ontario	2	2	4
Quebec	5	0	5
New Brunswick	9	0	9
NS/Nunavut	4	0	4
PEI	0	1	1
Newfoundland/Labrador	3	0	3
Dominion Command Committees	0	0	30
Totals	51	5	86

The total number of resolutions to be considered is 86. For comparison purposes, in 2010 a total of 137 resolutions were presented to the delegates at Convention.

INDEX TO RESOLUTIONS

Committee/Subject	Page No.
Veterans Service	137
General	137
Disability Benefits	138
Veterans Independence Program & Health Benefits	142
Canadian Forces/RCMP	146
Funerals and Burials	147
Physical/Mental Health	148
Seniors	149
Poppy and Remembrance	149
Defence & Security	151
Constitution & Laws	152

ABBREVIATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE
PASSED BY THIS 44th DOMINION CONVENTION**

**LOYALTY RESOLUTION
10 JUNE 2012**

**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 44th DOMINION CONVENTION
AT HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA DURING THE PERIOD 10-13 JUNE 2012.**

**WE JOYOUSLY COMMEMORATE YOUR MAJESTY'S DIAMOND JUBILEE
AND PRAY THAT YOUR GRACIOUS MAJESTY
MAY LONG BE SPARED TO GUIDE THE DESTINIES OF
THE GREAT COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.**

I REMAIN YOUR MAJESTY'S HUMBLE AND OBEDIENT SERVANT

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

**YOUR KIND MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS, SENT ON BEHALF OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ON THE OCCASION
OF THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF MY ACCESSION TO THE THRONE,
HAS BEEN GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.**

**I SEND MY THANKS TO YOU ALL FOR YOUR LOYALTY AND SUPPORT,
AND MY WARMEST GOOD WISHES TO ALL CONCERNED FOR YOUR
FORTY-FOURTH DOMINION CONVENTION WHICH IS
BEING HELD IN HALIFAX.**

ELIZABETH R.

VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS

GENERAL

1. Veterans Review and Appeal Board Composition VSS 1

WHEREAS the Veterans Appeal and Review Board is an independent Federal Tribunal that hears appeals regarding Veterans Affairs Canada decisions on disability applications; and **WHEREAS** this Tribunal has a responsibility to hear appeals related to injuries attributable to the service of Canadian Forces or RCMP Veterans:

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 RCMP and Canadian Forces to the Board to ensure that there is sufficient representation with the understanding and knowledge of the operational experience of all Veterans.

2. Outreach to Reservists VSS 2

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces (CF) are relying more on Reservists to help meet Canada's current international commitments: for example, one of every four CF members who have deployed to Afghanistan are Reservists and a higher proportion of Reservists are soldiers who are at greater risk of being injured;

WHEREAS although Reservists are eligible for New Veterans Charter services, it is often more difficult to connect them to access Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces (DND/CF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) programs because they tend to reintegrate into their civilian lives or community immediately following their deployment and may not be aware of the programs and benefits available to them;

WHEREAS the DND/CF Reserve Mentor Liaison Team four year pilot project proved successful in following up with over 90% of Reservists who had deployed and reaching out to most Reservists to communicate on available health benefits and services. This Project has ceased and has not been replaced; and

WHEREAS VAC conducted a Life After Service Study (LASS) to understand the issues related to CF members after release. This Study only included Regular Force members:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC and the DND/CF implement an outreach program to ensure all Reservists and their families are aware of the available health programs and services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC conduct the LASS for Reserve Force members to better understand their unique needs and program requirements.

3. Employer Tax Credits VSS 3

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

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

WHEREAS wounded Canadian Forces (CF) members or survivors have unique needs and often face significant physical and financial challenges:

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

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

**4. Veterans Identification Card/Veterans Family Identification Card
VSS 4**

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS growing number of commercial establishments locally, nationally and internationally have introduced appreciation programs offering significant discounts for goods and services, as well as access to community and sporting events for Veterans and their families. With formal recognition to establish their identity as the family of a Veteran, the card would greatly facilitate access to these benefits:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada provide a Veteran's Identification card for all CF Veterans and a Veteran's Family Identification card to honour the inherent resilience of Veteran's families and pay tribute to the sacrifices of families made in support of Canada.

DISABILITY BENEFITS

**5. Offset of VAC Disability Pension by SISIP Long Term Disability
VSS 5**

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 to 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 Re-establishment and Compensation Act (the New Veterans Charter):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SISIP offset of VAC disability pensions be terminated immediately; 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.

6. 10% Annual Reduction in Paid-up Death Benefit under Supplementary Death Benefit (SDB)

VSS 6

WHEREAS with the passage of Bill C-78 in 1999, the annual 10% reduction in coverage of the paid-up Death Benefit for Public Servants now commences at age 66; however, the same reduction for Canadian 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.

7. Agent Orange Application

VSS 7; NB 1/C; NB 2/C

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

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) announced an extension of the ex gratia compensation program of \$20,000 to 30 December 2011;

WHEREAS despite the deadline illnesses and diseases will continue to be diagnosed for many years and the Government has an obligation to recognize these families; and

WHEREAS the eligibility criteria of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) conditions related to Agent Orange exposure - Update 2004 continue to apply and do not include the conditions in the IOM Update 2010:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC remove the artificial deadline and continue the program to ensure that all the families impacted by Agent Orange are recognized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that VAC amend the Program's eligibility criteria to include the conditions related to Agent Orange exposure in the IOM Update 2010.

8. Environmental Exposure

VSS 8

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

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will award disability benefits for direct exposure to Agent Orange based on stringent and unrealistic eligibility requirements including handling, touching or being directly exposed to such chemicals but will not recognize the effects of secondary exposure such as training in a field and dispersing soils by digging,

churning up the ground with various ordnances where Agent Orange, or other chemicals were dispersed; and

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC recognize and review the Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines related to Agent Orange exposure and to DU as significant determinants of a disability.

9. Ensure Disabled Veterans Receive a Fair, Equitable Income for their Lifetime
VSS 9

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

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

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

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

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

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

10. Death Benefit under the New Veterans Charter
VSS 10

WHEREAS under present legislation single members of the Canadian Forces (CF) whose death is attributable to military service are not eligible for a death benefit;

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

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

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

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

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

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

**11. Disability Award Financial Counseling
VSS 11**

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC increase funding to \$1,500 to allow Veterans and families to engage qualified financial advisors.

**12. Earnings Loss Benefit Disparity for Part-Time Reservists
VSS 12**

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

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

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

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

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

**13. Extend Education Assistance Program
VSS 13**

WHEREAS the Education Assistance Program provides financial assistance for post-secondary education to the children of Canadian Forces (CF) members who have lost their lives attributable to their military service; and

WHEREAS CF members who have suffered severe and permanent impairment attributable to their service lack the financial means to save for their children's post-secondary education and face significant lifelong challenges:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada recognize the lifelong challenges and financial limitations of CF members who have been totally and permanently incapacitated and extend the Education Assistance Program benefits to the children of these families.

**14. Attendance Allowance in the New Veterans Charter
VSS 14**

WHEREAS Attendance Allowance is a program in the Pension Act which recognizes the care giving requirements for disabled Veterans;

WHEREAS the New Veterans Charter does not have a similar program and as such families of disabled Canadian Forces Veterans are left to cope with the costs of care giving themselves; and

WHEREAS families suffer from burnout, stress and financial difficulties with the lifelong care requirements especially post 65 when the Veterans income declines significantly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada recognize the care giving challenges that many disabled Veterans confront to cope with their daily living tasks and include Attendance Allowance in the New Veterans Charter.

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (VIP) AND HEALTH BENEFITS

15. Rationalization of Eligibility Criteria for Health Care Benefits VSS 15

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) undertake a comprehensive rationalization of the eligibility criteria for Health Care Benefits. The entitlement criteria should be more manageable for decision makers and Veterans and their families such that it is streamlined from the current 18 categories to a maximum of four categories as recommended in “Keeping the Promise” the 2006 Report of the Gerontological Advisory Council.

16. VIP for RCMP VSS 16

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

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) 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 VIP 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.

17. VIP Benefits for Frail Veterans
VSS 17; SASK 4/C; NB 3/C

WHEREAS Veterans who apply for Veterans Independence Program (VIP) benefits are often frail and are approaching the end of their life;

WHEREAS the processing of applications for VIP benefits for frail Veterans is only considered when these Veterans have established eligibility for a disability or low income, resulting in long delays and often increased expenditures for Veterans Affairs Canada; and

WHEREAS VIP is key to keeping Veterans independent and safe in their own home:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all World War II and Korea War Veterans be deemed eligible for VIP benefits based on need, irrespective of their having established disability entitlement or low income status, as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Council in their 2006 Report "Keeping the Promise"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Allied World War II and Korea War Veterans be deemed eligible for VIP benefits based on need irrespective of their income as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Council in their 2006 Report "Keeping the Promise".

18. Extension VIP Benefits to Survivors
VSS 18; ONT 1/C; SASK 5/C; NB 5/C; NB 6/C; NB 9/C

WHEREAS eligibility criteria for Veterans Independence Program (VIP) benefits for survivors is the result of extending and expanding the benefit over many years;

WHEREAS VIP is not available to all survivors of World War II and Korean War Veterans and is dependent on a complex eligibility criteria grid difficult for decision makers and Veterans to understand; and

WHEREAS the survivors of War Veterans have supported their spouses for many years and their contribution should be recognized:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada end the complex eligibility criteria for VIP benefits and extend the benefit to all survivors of World War II and Korea War Veterans including the survivors of Allied Veterans. This benefit should be granted to these survivors based on need as was recommended by the Gerontological Advisory Council in their 2006 Report "Keeping the Promise".

19. Portability of VIP Services
VSS 19

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada reimburse the Veteran, who is on VIP and residing in a condominium or a co-operative type of retirement housing, the portion of the condominium/co-operative housing fee related to grounds-keeping, either monthly or yearly.

20. \$2400 – VIP Expansion Allowance
NB 7/C

WHEREAS we have been informed from some surviving spouses that the various dollar amounts allocated for housekeeping and ground maintenance individually, were at times insufficient to meet their current needs, because:

- a. severe or several snow storms consumed the allocated funds and therefore there were insufficient funds remaining for the summer months to cover any additional ground maintenance,
- b. majority of cleaning company fees may range from \$60 to \$80 dollars per hour for house cleaning, which would limit the number of visits, and
- c. registered providers or individuals are now charging more for their housekeeping services.

WHEREAS the above situations have created some financial difficulties for some low income or disabled surviving spouses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that VAC review the \$2,400 maximum amount for VIP as this amount has been in place for several years and has not been changed or amended to reflect the current prices being charged today; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that when a low income or disabled surviving spouse has experienced some financial difficulty that VAC financial assistance be provided to them by VAC.

21. Extension of Criteria for Assessment of the Veterans Independence Program Frail Veteran Benefits
ONT 3

WHEREAS Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) introduced the Frail Veteran criteria to their Veterans Independence Program (VIP);

WHEREAS this new policy enables a veteran with any approved disability pension or award to make application for assessment for the Veterans Independence program (VIP) under the new Frail Veteran Criteria;

WHEREAS the basis for assessment was based on support for personal health needs (assistance with bathing, dressing, feeding, toileting) or mobility restrictions;

WHEREAS Veterans with coronary issues, are encouraged by their attending medical specialist to main a level of mobility, and have no other health needs that need supporting assistance; they are being refused the benefits of the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) under the present frail veteran criteria; and

WHEREAS attending medical specialist recommend the Veteran stay mobile, they emphasize that they should not participate in strenuous exercise or heavy work (snow shoveling or grass maintenance):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veteran Affairs Canada alter their Veteran Independence Program (VIP) Frail Veteran assessment criteria, to include approval, for veterans who suffer from a coronary condition where the attending medical specialist restricts strenuous exercise or heavy work activities, in their daily regimen.

22. Expansion of Long Term Care Eligibility
VSS 20; SASK 3/C; QUE 2/C

WHEREAS the current eligibility criteria is very complex and does not provide for equal access to Long Term Care for Veterans;

WHEREAS access to benefits and services should not depend on when and where a Veteran served; and

WHEREAS Veterans who are deemed Seriously Disabled (SDV) with greater than 78% service attributable disability may not have eligibility to Long Term Care:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the eligibility criteria be changed to accommodate ALL World War II and Korean War Veterans whether they have overseas service or not. It should be based on need regardless of whether or not the Long Term Care requirement is related to a pensioned condition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that eligibility to Long Term Care for all modern Veterans be amended to include all Veterans deemed Seriously Disabled (SDV) with greater than 78% service attributable disability.

23. Assistance with the Cost of Alternate Level of Care (ALC) for Veterans
ONT 4

WHEREAS Long Term Care (LTC) assessment for placement for some Veterans may results in an extended period of waiting for admission to a Long Term Care facility;

WHEREAS some Veterans become hospitalized prior to being assessed and accepted for Long Term Care (LTC) placement;

WHEREAS hospitals attempt to discharge and return the Veteran to a home atmosphere, as soon as possible, while awaiting Long Term Care (LTC) placement;

WHEREAS some spouses are unable to provide the level of personal care required by the Veteran, if they were returned to the home atmosphere;

WHEREAS hospitals will suggest and accommodate a transfer from inpatient to Alternate Level of Care (ALC), at a cost of approximately \$70.00 per day;

WHEREAS placing a Veteran into the Alternate Level of Care (ALC) accommodations could create a financial burden for the spouse and family; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will assist and share the cost of a Long Term Care (LTC) placement for Veterans who qualify:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veteran Affairs Canada (VAC) be petitioned to cover the costs, or re-imbursement, for qualified Veterans, or Veterans who may become qualified for cost sharing assistance with Long Term Care (LTC) placement, while they are in an Alternate Level of Care (ALC) accommodations, awaiting placement into a Long Term Care (LTC) facility.

CANADIAN FORCES/RCMP

24. Determination of CFSA Survivor Pensions VSS 21

WHEREAS Canadian Forces members and their families rely largely on superannuation (pension for service) to provide the main portion of their retirement income;

WHEREAS Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA) provides for a survivor allowance paid at only 50% of the member's superannuation pension based on a formula conceived in different economic times; and

WHEREAS a survivor faces many lifestyle adjustments, particularly with regard to basic living expenses typically exceeding 50% of the expenses borne by a couple prior to the pensioner's death:

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

25. Elimination of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) Offset At Age 65 VSS 22

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

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

WHEREAS 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.

26. Extend Legacy of Care Program VSS 23

WHEREAS when the Legacy of Care Program was announced, the news release indicated that all injured Canadian Forces (CF) members would be eligible for the benefits;

WHEREAS when implemented the eligibility for the Canadian Forces Attendant Care Benefit, the Care Giver Benefit and the Spousal Education Upgrade Benefit was restricted to "Afghanistan only" injured CF members and their families; and

WHEREAS the Legacy of Care Program categorizes seriously ill and injured CF members by where they served:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces recognize that those who sustain illness and injury while serving their country should have access to the same benefits, regardless of the nature of their service and where and when they serve. The Legacy of Care Program benefits should be available to all those who serve their country regardless of where they were injured.

FUNERALS AND BURIALS

27. Immediate Increase of Funeral and Burial Benefits for Veterans VSS 24

WHEREAS the funeral and burial benefit for the Veterans Affairs Canada Last Post Fund has 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 Last Post Fund 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 lack sufficient funds and are being denied a dignified funeral and burial because of the increased cost of funeral services:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada immediately increase the Last Post Fund Funeral and Burial Program allowable maximum rate.

28. VAC Funeral and Burial Benefits VSS 25

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

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

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

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

29. Increase of Survivor/Dependant Estate Exemption VSS 26

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS the estate exemption has not been increased, the number of Veterans applying for funeral and burial benefits has increased, particularly by World War II Veterans who in many cases have limited financial resources but are above the estate exemption reduced in 1995:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs take the necessary action to restore and increase the Survivor / Dependent Estate Exemption to a level not less than the poverty level as determined by Statistics Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each year thereafter, introduce a Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) equal to Statistics Canada's annual adjusted CPI for this exemption.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

30. Funding for Veteran Transition Program Treatment VSS 27

WHEREAS the mandate of The Royal Canadian Legion is the welfare of our Veterans;

WHEREAS many Veterans suffer from operational stress injuries;

WHEREAS it is imperative that these Veterans maintain receive the best treatment options to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS the Veteran Transition Program has been delivering a mental health treatment program since 1998:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada consider this program as a treatment program for Veterans suffering from operational stress injuries and provide the funding as a treatment option.

31. Support for Families of Injured or Deceased Canadian Forces and RCMP Members VSS 28

WHEREAS despite the number of Canadian Forces (CF) and RCMP members who are injured or who have died attributable to military service, the Department of National Defence/Canadian Forces (DND/CF) and Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) do not provide funding for bereavement or mental health counseling for families;

WHEREAS there is no formal, funded bereavement or mental health policy or program for families; and

WHEREAS some families are paying for these counseling services themselves which is causing both emotional and economic hardship:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DND/CF and VAC should fund bereavement and mental health counseling programs for families of injured or deceased CF and RCMP Members.

SENIORS

32. **Legislation for Pension Protection** **VSS 29**

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

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

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Federal Government enact legislation to better protect individual pensions.

POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE

34. **Poppy & Remembrance Washroom Facilities for Persons with Disabilities** **ATLA-NWT 2/C; NB 8/C**

WHEREAS the Poppy Manual allows the use of Poppy Trust Funds, subject to prior approval by Provincial Command, to provide access to the branch itself by Veterans, their dependents and other persons with disabilities; and

WHEREAS upon entering the branch, there is no provision to ensure that washroom facilities in the branch meet the requirements of persons with disabilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 402.m. of the Poppy Manual be changed to include:

“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 the Poppy Trust Fund on the thirtieth day (30th) of September in the Poppy Year preceding the expenditure, to cover the cost of installation, of a washroom door, toilet and sink for the purpose of assisting Veterans, their dependants and other person with disabilities”.

35. **Taxes Charged on War Memorials** **SASK 8**

WHEREAS during past World Wars and other conflicts many Canadian Servicemen paid the ultimate sacrifice; and

WHEREAS many families and Legion Branches are erecting memorial walls and other remembrances:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Provincial and Dominion Commands petition the Provincial and Federal Governments to exempt all memorial items, eg. pictures, plaques, from all Federal and Provincial Taxes and that these Servicemen have totally paid all debts to our Country and their families should not be taxed further.

**36. Use of Poppy Funds for Day Trips
MAN&NWO 4/C**

WHEREAS many of our veterans reside in care homes have very limited access to the community and countryside; and

WHEREAS organized day excursions via a suitable vehicle (handivan) would allow our veterans to enjoy the sights and sounds of life In Canada that they fought so hard to secure for future generations:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that “Poppy Fund” by-laws be amended to allow for monies from this fund be used to cover the cost of occasional day trips thereby improving the quality of life for our surviving veterans.

**37. Use of Poppy Trust Funds for Branch Washroom Facilities
NB 8/C**

WHEREAS the Poppy Trust Funds have been amended to allow monies to be used for expenditures 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 address with a handicap door operator:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Poppy Trust Funds, with special approval from Provincial Command, be extended to be used for the upgrading of small, outdated bathroom facilities to allow the Veterans that now can access the branch the ability to access the washroom facilities when they attend function held at the branch.

**38. Support to Cadets
NFLD/LAB 3/C**

WHEREAS the training given our young people in the service cadet movement imparts valuable lessons in good citizenship, leadership and physical fitness;

WHEREAS there is an increasing lack of interest on cadet training by our youth; and

WHEREAS some cadet corps are down to only a third or even a quarter of their usual strength:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion at all levels give every possible encouragement to the Cadet movement by financial support but more importantly by morale support by attending cadet meetings, including cadet corps in Legion ceremonies and parades and by attending cadet parades especially their ACRs.

**207. Poppy Fund – Inclusion of Veteran Transition Programs
BC/Yukon 10/C**

WHEREAS the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion allow for the use of Poppy Funds to support many activities and programs for veterans, it does not allow funding to support programs to transition from the regular or reserve forces back into civilian life through education and training;

WHEREAS under the Purposes and Objects of the Legion it is stated under Section K, to support suitable undertakings for the training, employment and settlement of ex-service personnel, and the education of their children;

WHEREAS under the Purposes and Objects of the Legion it is stated under section m., to assist comrades now serving, especially in connection with their return to civilian life and to safeguard the interest of their dependants whilst they are in service;

WHEREAS under the Purposes and Objects of the Legion it is stated under section n., to assist ex-service personnel to secure not less than the recognized standard rate of wages;

WHEREAS under the General By-laws section 1104.b.iv, we allow for bursaries to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren;

WHEREAS under the General By-laws section 1106 we allow for care and comforts through many programs for veterans it does not cover the needs of the new veterans; and

WHEREAS our new mission statement reads “Our mission is to serve Veterans, including currently serving Military and RCMP Members, and their families, to promote Remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.” We need to revise our current Poppy manual to reflect this change:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article XI Poppy Fund of the General By-Laws be amended to include a new section for funding of Veteran Transition Programs which are approved by the Provincial Commands and are partnered with registered institutions in providing the services to meet the veterans needs that are directly related to the training, educating and support needs, of veterans of the regular or reserve forces in need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the amount eligible to fund this section is up to 50% of the balance remaining in the Poppy Fund at September 30th of the previous year.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

218. Voluntary Service Medal MAN&NWO 5/C

WHEREAS there are a substantial number of military veterans who were not in the Canadian Military Forces long enough (twelve years) to qualify for the Canadian Forces Decoration;

WHEREAS there is a lack of a Voluntary Service Medal following World War Two; and

WHEREAS these veterans would be proud to wear a medal of recognition for their service:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada be approached to consider having the government produce a Voluntary Service Medal for three years of military service in the Canadian Armed Forces after September 2nd, 1945 and said medal be awarded retroactively to all those who qualify along with those who qualify in the future.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS

41. Review Article III of The General By-Laws ALTA-NWT 1/C

WHEREAS Article III of The General Bylaws of The Royal Canadian Legion was written at a time when all members of the Legion were former members of a military organization;
WHEREAS all members of a military organization are and were subject to discipline while in the service and understood the consequences of misconduct;

WHEREAS most members of today's Legion have never worn a uniform or served in any military organization or understand the reasons for military laws and decorum;

WHEREAS many complaints now launched are of a trivial nature and could in many cases be resolved through dispute resolution;

WHEREAS Article III allows for mediation, which is a form of dispute resolution; and

WHEREAS should a complaint not be resolved through dispute resolution, there shall be a cost assigned, to further the complaint to the next senior level of The Royal Canadian Legion:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion, Dominion Command, Constitution and Laws Committee, review Article III and rewrite same to reflect a stronger utilization of dispute resolution, except for theft or misappropriation of Legion funds, Poppy funds or property.

**THE GRAND PRESIDENT
LARRY MURRAY, C.M.M., C.D.**

**ADDRESS TO THE
44th BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

Thank you, comrade chair. Good morning, comrades. I think that I had more than my fair share of speaking time yesterday during the opening ceremonies so I will try to keep my comments fairly brief.

To begin, it has been a great honour to be your grand president for the past two years. Since our last Dominion Convention in Winnipeg, I have had the privilege of participating with and occasionally representing comrade pat at a number of memorable events, a few of which I would like to mention and to share with you this morning.

One of the most enjoyable has been the presentation of the first poppy to the

Governor General and Her Excellency in late October each year. In 2010, this ceremony was among the first that the then, recently appointed Governor General had done and he left shortly thereafter to ensure that he had visited the troops in Afghanistan prior to Remembrance Day. Every time that I meet the Governor General and Her Excellency, I am impressed with their warmth, humility and tremendous concern for the welfare of currently serving members of the Canadian Forces and for all veterans and their families.

Thanks to them, the first poppy presentation ceremony each year is a really special and quite moving event for the many veterans from Perley Rideau and elsewhere who are included and who also personally receive poppies from their excellencies.

Participating in the annual national remembrance events with Comrade Pat and others has also been a very moving experience. The attendance by the general public for the past two years has been outstanding and I think that everyone in the legion involved in the planning and execution of this extremely important national ceremony should take great pride in their efforts. That is also true of all of you and your comrades who do so much to ensure that Remembrance Ceremonies from coast to coast to coast are also of a rare high standard and appropriate to commemorate those who sacrificed so much for Canada.

I also want to highlight the incredibly important role played by our Silver Cross Mothers, Mabel Girouard and Patty Braun, in the national remembrance activities of the past two years. Both are very special people and remarkable women, who did an amazing job of responding to countless requests from the media and in representing all Canadian memorial cross families in a warm, thoughtful and compassionate manner. It was a real honour to meet them.

I mention these two events to highlight the incredibly important role that the Legion plays with respect to remembrance in Canada, since I think that we sometimes take it for granted. As my predecessor, Comrade Charlie Belzille did in Winnipeg, I would like to make a few specific comments about the veterans consultation group meetings of the past two years.

In 2010, the annual meeting occurred on 30 October and as that date approached and the controversy mounted with respect to the 6 November day of protest and so on, I was a bit concerned. However, notwithstanding the various controversies in play at the time, there was an excellent turnout and remarkable agreement on key priorities among the 15 veterans' organizations that attended.

This led to a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs, agreed by all and signed by comrade Pat, that highlighted concerns with the new veterans charter and other key issues. I would note that there certainly were other factors and advocacy by the legion but it was shortly after this letter that the government's decision to add two billion more dollars to the new veterans charter benefits was announced.

Similarly in 2011, the meeting was extremely well attended and there was, once again, a solid consensus among the many organizations represented on the most pressing issues facing veterans and their families, which again led to a joint letter to the minister signed by Comrade Pat. Many of the other veterans organizations also agreed to follow the legion's lead and to write individual letters to the prime minister expressing concerns about the need to avoid possible budget impacts on veterans and their families. I mention the veterans consultation group primarily to underline that the hard work and selfless dedication in support of this annual gathering by Comrade Charlie and others, including a number of you in this room, has made a very positive difference and continues to pay real dividends for veterans and their families.

Another promising initiative which I would like to comment on is the ongoing establishment of the Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Health Research. Led by Queen's University and RMC, the institute now has 22 universities involved and enjoys strong support from the Canadian Forces Surgeon General and Veterans Affairs. It is clear that Canada badly needs a professional 'arms length from government' institution to conduct objective peer reviewed, scientific research to ensure credible and timely decisions are made to meet valid veterans and Canadian Forces health care and disability support needs. This initiative shows great promise to do just that and The Royal Canadian Legion has been playing a very supportive role in its development for the past few years.

The Institute's evolving organizational and consultation structure look good and I believe that the Canadian Institute of Military and Veterans Health Research will continue to warrant active engagement and strong support from the legion as it moves forward.

Before concluding my comments, I did want to say that I found the terrific response by so many branches to the "welcome home for the troops program" particularly moving. I also know that this effort was greatly appreciated by Afghanistan Veterans and their families, including the families of the fallen. It is noteworthy that this initiative was specifically mentioned by the CDS in his greetings in the front of the convention magazine.

Congratulations and well done or, in the language of the navy, bravo zulu to everyone involved in this richly deserved tribute to these very special Canadians.

Speaking of appreciation, I would like to conclude my comments this morning by expressing my deep personal thanks and a big bravo zulu to Comrade Pat and to all the members of the DEC "team" throughout the past two years.

Comrade Pat has done a truly remarkable job “at the helm” and it has been a real privilege to work for and with her and with all of our other DEC comrades. It has also been fun!

They have all taught me a great deal in my first two years in the honorary position of Grand President.

My heartfelt thanks for that and best wishes to Comrade Pat and to each of the members of DEC for a future always blessed with fair winds and following seas, wherever this convention and life may lead.

That concludes my comments. Thanks very much, comrades.

**THE HONOURABLE STEVEN BLANEY
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**ADDRESS TO THE
THE 44th BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

Thank you, President Varga, for this warm welcome.

Grand President Murray

Dominion President Varga of the Royal Canadian Legion

Members of the Dominion executive

Legionnaires

Honoured veterans

Ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

It is a great honour for me to be part of the 44th Dominion Convention. This is my first Dominion Convention and your hospitality is just overwhelming. You've made me feel very welcomed and I enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat with many legionnaires, especially last night at the Canadian Legion in Sackville.

It was also a privilege yesterday to pay tribute to a strong advocate of the veterans' community. President Varga, whom I had the pleasure of hosting on our journey to France in April for the 95th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge; she makes no compromises when it comes to advocating for veterans. She worked with our government—and my predecessor in particular—to make enhancements to the new Veterans Charter. These enhancements addressed the issues of seriously ill and injured veterans and added some flexibility to the disability award.

Thank you Pat Varga, and by association to the Royal Canadian Legion, for your leadership in accomplishing this important step and in making the new Veterans Charter a true and living document. Congratulations, Pat Varga.

Eighty-six years ago, the needs of Canadian veterans of the First World War led to the formation of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Today, Canada has a new generation of veterans . . . men and women who have fought to protect our freedoms and to make the world a safer place.

I know the Legion is rededicating itself to the care of ALL Veterans . . . essentially building bridges into the future . . . a theme you have appropriately chosen for this year's convention.

Much like the Legion, Veterans Affairs Canada is facing the same challenges and going through our own evolution as we strive to meet the unique needs of both generations of heroes.

And that's why we, at the Department of Veterans Affairs have established five priorities for our future:

- Reducing the complexity of our programs.
- Improving the way we deliver those programs, and making them more flexible.
- Strengthening our partnership with the Department of National Defense and others to help service men and women move smoothly back into civilian life.
- Sustaining the New Veterans Charter and making it a true living document.
- And, finally, continuing to put our resources where they are needed based on veteran demographics.

I'm proud to tell you that the former Chief of Military Personnel, General Walter Semianiw has joined the executive team at the department. Having General Semianiw on board will go a long way in helping us achieve those priorities and meeting the needs of veterans.

And so, as you know, we have undertaken a comprehensive approach to streamline paperwork.

We are working hard to cut red tape and eliminate unnecessary steps and layers of bureaucracy to deliver better, faster service to veterans and their families. In fact, I announced here just a few months ago in Halifax at the Somme Branch our first major initiative in cutting red tape. I announced we would make the VIP a grant instead of a procedural and administrative measure. So we are improving the way we do things while enhancing service to veterans. We have streamlined the process for reimbursing veterans and their families for housekeeping and grounds maintenance, cut the red tape for veterans, primary caregivers and survivors and eliminated the workload associated with millions of annual transactions.

In Winnipeg I announced, based on recommendations from the Veterans Ombudsman, that we are making our communication with Veterans and their families clearer and simpler. We started out by simplifying disability decision letters. You had long since complained that they were too full of legal and medical jargon and difficult to understand. These letters are now more user-friendly, use plainer and simpler language and use "lay-person" terms.

We have rewritten, reworked and created a total of 15 decision letter templates. What does that mean? Well, these 15 decisions ALONE will mean approximately 19,000 individuals will receive a letter within the coming year they can easily understand and act upon if necessary.

What we are doing is very simple, we are making sure that when we communicate with our veterans, we use a clear and simple language so they know what the analysis is, what the department's response is, what recourse they have, and what the reasons for the decision are.

And with that, I would like to recognize the work of the ombudsman Mr. Parent who is here with us this morning. Thank you, Mr. Parent, for helping the department, by means of your recommendations, to better serve veterans. And as you can see, this measure we implemented, that helps us communicate with our veterans more effectively, is a direct result of your recommendations.

Just two weeks ago, I was with Minister MacKay to announce our government accepted the Federal Court decision on long-term disability benefits for veterans. Most of you know this as SISIP. Not only did we accept the ruling but we went even further to harmonize our disability benefits at Veterans Affairs to reflect the planned changes to the Service Income Security Insurance Plan (SISIP).

With these changes, Veterans Affairs' disability pension will no longer be deducted from the Earnings Loss Benefit, as will also be the case with the War Veterans Allowance and the Canadian

Forces Income Support Benefit. This is yet another example of how the departments of National Defence and Veterans Affairs are working together to ensure veterans and Canadian Forces members receive the benefits they deserve.

In a few hours, I'll be returning to Ottawa.

As a government, we have to demonstrate fiscal responsibility. We know what's going on in other parts of the world where the debt crisis is critical and is putting a lot of pressure on governments. Our Prime Minister has made it clear that the crisis will not impact veterans. I will vote on a budget that maintains benefits to veterans and commits to cutting into red tape. This is my way of doing the best I can for veterans ... by supporting this budget and having it pass we will maintain benefits to veterans, continue to cut into red tape and improve our programs.

As I mentioned previously, I was with Dominion President Pat Varga in Vimy April 9. It was a tremendous experience. I feel myself very privileged not only to be the Minister of Veterans Affairs but to have had the chance to see the memorial of Vimy. There were 5,000 young Canadians who participated in the 90th anniversary ceremonies. They traveled from Canada, they were committed to remembrance and they understood the importance of doing so.

We must pass the torch of remembrance to this new generation so that they understand the sacrifice, the ultimate sacrifice made not only by those who fought at Vimy, but by all those who served in the military ... whether First World War, Second, Korean or post-Korean wars. We have an important duty to find new ways to reach out and communicate this great legacy ... a legacy that makes us so proud to be Canadian.

In a few weeks time, I will travel with Bomber Command veterans to London, England. Our government is proud to contribute to the construction of the Bomber Command Memorial at Green Park. Why are we doing so? Because it's important to recognize the sacrifices made by those great airmen. This monument will highlight the key role 50,000 Canadian servicemen and women played during the Second World War. Approximately 40 veterans will come with me to see the memorial unveiled.

Also, this summer we'll have the 70th anniversary of the Dieppe raid, and this is only one of the important gatherings we will have.

It's important to me to remember the post-Korean conflicts as well. I know many of you feel Canadians do not know enough about what has happened in the past 10, 15, 20, 25 years. Just to name a few, think of the Balkan War ... the Gulf War ... Rwanda. There are many missions and we need to tell Canadians we were there. We participated. It's important to talk about the Canadian successes and the results of those missions.

The height of remembrance for Canadians of course takes place in November. And as we do each fall, we will work with the Legion and an ever-growing number of organizations to promote Veterans' Week 2012. Our goal is to engage an even greater number of young Canadians in remembrance activities this year.

As the Royal Canadian Legion has done throughout the decades, the Department of Veterans Affairs has found new ways of keeping the torch of remembrance burning and ensuring that the accomplishments of Canada's veterans are never forgotten.

That's why I thought this convention would be the perfect opportunity to make another important announcement.

Effective immediately, veterans will no longer submit receipts or appointment verification from health care providers to recover expenses for their travel to medical appointments.

These kinds of announcements make everybody happy. It makes life simpler for veterans. It eliminates routine and administrative task for employees and it's good for the taxpayer. Veterans will only need to save their receipts and supporting documentation for one year in case they are requested.

Before I close there are a couple of things I'd like to say about cutting more red tape.

I want to make a commitment as the Minister of Veterans Affairs, to communicate in an even more efficient manner on our programs and services that are available to veterans and to which they are entitled. The Ombudsman has said this is very important. We have many programs. We have many services so I commit myself that we will do a better job of telling you about them.

Also, as I've stated earlier, it's important to embrace and enlarge our vision of remembrance to put an important emphasis on the post-Korean missions so that Canadians know of the huge sacrifices made by men and women who served on peacekeeping, UN, NATO missions or other activities throughout the world.

And of course I intend to work with the Royal Canadian Legion ... because you are a key stakeholder—as you've demonstrated in the past. The Department needs to work in close partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion. We have an example here this morning of a relationship that is based on respect and dialogue. We can agree not to always agree, but we can also agree that we have to do the utmost for veterans.

I've highlighted the great work of the executive but I want to thank each local branch for your local activities. In my own riding, even before I was a Minister, I worked with the Canadian Legion. We are organizing (Canada day celebrations and in particular this year, the anniversary of the War of 1812,) in Lévis, at the Lévis Forts.

Every year on the 1st of July, we organize in the Lévis Forts (a celebration to commemorate the rich history of Canada, and this year in particular, the war of 1812), with the cooperation of the Royal Canadian Legion. This is a partner who always says yes, who's always ready, and this is a good example for me of a Legion that is accessible, that is close to the needs, that is close to its people.

And another example; last summer I was in Toronto and I visited Good Shepherd Ministries with Brother Lynch. I want to thank the Royal Canadian Legion, Ontario Provincial Command, for their great initiative to work with the homeless in the streets of Toronto. This is a marvelous example of what an organization can do to really make a difference. I salute the initiative of the Royal Canadian Legion to tackle this issue.

In closing, I wish you a great convention. I thank you for your attention. I thank you for your daily commitment toward bettering the life of veterans and their families. On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and our government I want to thank you. I want to thank you for all you do for veterans.

Keep up the good work.

Thank you.

**CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF
GENERAL WALT NATYNCZYK, CMM, MSC, CD**

**ADDRESS TO THE
THE 44th BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

If I can just say to Grand President and Vice-Admiral Larry Murray, Admiral, this gentleman here was one of my mentors. And if I'm the leader I am today, it's because of his extraordinary example and leadership, and I just want to thank you, Larry, for all you do for everybody.

Gordon Moore, distinguished veterans, ladies and gentlemen, it's great to be here with you in Halifax, a great Navy town, a great Army town, a great Air Force town. I'd like to know here, give us a show of hands, how many in this room were Army? Hands up.

I should have heard a hu-ah there. How many were Air Force? Hands up. How many were Navy? Hands up.

I just want to know how many were on a run ashore last night and how many of you guys are awake this morning.

Because I know that Halifax is a great port town. I hear about these run ashores, but I'm told that you guys only focus on cultural sites like churches and museums. Is that right?

I was asking Dominion Command whether the Provost was picking up anybody here, but I gather not.

Another piece of personal information I need from you: how many here are ecstatic about the Los Angeles Kings winning last night?

OK. So how many are Toronto fans? Hands up.

Montreal fans, hands up.

There you go. Vancouver. Anybody from Vancouver?

There you go. Where are the Albertans at? Where are the Calgarians and the Edmonton crew? OK.

Now, what about those Winnipeg Jets?

I'm with you guys.

Hey, listen. I'm just so thrilled to be here with all of you just to share a few moments. They told me I have 20 minutes. But you know what? I'm the Chief of Defence, so it's just going to go on and on, OK?

But first, I'd like to thank Pat Varga for her tremendous leadership of this very important institution. Running one of these organizations, as I know and many of you know, it's tough business - tough business, tough calls. But you need strong and dynamic leadership, and Pat, that's what you've

provided. I want to thank you on behalf of all the members of the Canadian Forces for all that you've done for us, for the Legion, and for Canada. Thank you, Pat.

I also want to congratulate Gordon and wish him every success as he takes the torch from Pat to lead this great organization into the future. And I say to him that the Canadian Forces will be a great partner to work together with the Legion to support all of our veterans.

And indeed, my message to you this morning is that the Legion, with Veterans Affairs Canada and the Canadian Forces, we're all about partnership. That is the cooperation and the bonds of trust and confidence that we share together, and the combined effort that we have are all going to work together to support our veterans and their families. None of the issues that we face each day are easy. Each and every one of our folks is different, and each member needs to have the support tailored to them and their circumstances. You know, I got this job four years ago, and I consider my constituency as 68,000 regular members, 27,000 reservists, 25,000 civilians, and a million veterans, and all of their families. That's who I'm responsible for, and I care.

You know, I visit Perley Rideau every time we have a major function at the War Memorial, and we're coming up to the Korean Veterans' War Memorial, and I'll be out there. And we'll go to Perley Rideau just before, but to see the World War II vets, to see the Korean vets, but also to see the peacekeeping vets, to see the Cold War NATO vets, and now our Afghan vets. And I kind of lay them out that way because just a few years ago I was up in Sudbury, that great hard rock town, and I was walking the kilometre with Corporal Billy Kerr, who was severely injured in Afghanistan a few years ago. He is our only triple amputee from the Afghan campaign. And he was trying to walk that kilometre with thousands of great folks from Sudbury who were raising money for his house, and we're also partnering to pay for his house.

But I had a number of vets come up to me, saying thank you so much for doing this for Corporal Billy Kerr and for these great Afghan vets, but you know what? There are a lot of vets who are not those Korean vets but are those Blue Beret vets and those NATO vets, and they're left at home on their own. And in fact, the word that this great guy from the CAV, the Canadian Army Veterans, with their great, smart jackets on, says the line was we got a lot of vets who are in their basements watching Oprah and crying. Now, you think about that. And every time I go in to work in Ottawa and I drive in town, I pass by the mission and see folks under those bridges. I tell you what, folks. I'm responsible. We are responsible, working in partnership, to make sure that we don't leave any vets behind.

Every battlefield we've been on, whether it be on the high seas, up in the air, or anywhere around the world, we never let of our guys and gals behind on that battlefield. And what I'm telling you today is we need to work together in partnership with Veterans Affairs, the Legion, and the Canadian Forces so no vets are left behind. And that's what we need to do.

Now, that's my bottom line up front. So if you had a hard run ashore last night and you're feeling a little fatigued, you can go to sleep now, because now I'm going to just give you a little bit of an overview of the Canadian Forces operations modernization, and also care for our wounded and ill and injured. And I'll start first with operations. I was in Afghanistan last week with the Canadian Forces Chief, Mr. Bob Cleroux. And Mr. Cleroux, where are you? If Mr. Cleroux just stands up, if we're a good force, it's because of our senior NCOs. It's the most senior NCO in the Canadian Forces, Chief Petty Officer Bob Cleroux.

The Chief and I were in Afghanistan last week, and I tell you what, things are changing. I could remember wearing my flack jacket and helmet and being in a Herc or a back of a C-17, and we're doing corkscrews around Kandahar or around Kabul, landing into tight, tight corners, pulling all kinds of Gs, landing into those airfields. Last week when we flew in, we flew on a commercial airliner, wearing golf shirts, fed a great meal, a friendly staff. They didn't even lose my luggage when I got to Kabul airport. And we rolled through town, and the shops were full. People were out there shopping. And little boys and girls were going to school. We went to a cemetery in the middle of town called the British Cemetery and paid tribute to our fallen comrades there. We had the father of Nichola Goddard, Mr. Tim Goddard, there with us, and we laid a wreath for all those great soldiers and sailors and airmen and women who have sacrificed so much. But the fact is that we were able to do that, be in that cemetery without a flack jacket or helmet. And the situation there is changing dramatically. And at the same time, it's happened because of our great service of our men and women on the ground.

We visited with all the 920 men and women who are there now, and as always, working with determination and optimism, helping the Afghan Army and Afghan Police secure their own land. And I tell you, when I look at all of them, I see that we are a different force today, a different force today. And every time the Chief and I go out there, I ask him OK, how many on their second tour, third tour, fourth tour. And I have to keep on going: fifth tour. I handed out two coins about a year ago to two Special Forces operators who were on their eighth tour - because they wanted to be. We only ask folks to do two tours. Beyond that, they've got to manipulate and connive and exploit and do everything they can to get on another tour. And that's what they do, because they want to serve and they want to do a great job.

You know, we've rotated about 40,000 men and women through Afghanistan. And I say that, they are sailors, they are soldiers, they are airmen and women. And they are a proven, combat capable and confident force. Just to say that all of that experience goes on top of their Bosnia and their Kosovo experience. Let me tell you, they're making a huge difference, and they will continue to do that until the end of the mission in March of 2014.

On the high seas, HMCS Charlottetown is at this moment in time patrolling the waters of the Arabian Sea on a counterterrorism and counter-drug operations. And recently she had a very successful interception of a cargo dow loaded with drugs. And we know those drugs, the profits of those drugs go towards regional and global terrorism. Only last year the same ship, the Charlottetown out of this port right here, with a different crew, was patrolling the inshore waters off Misrata, Libya. And she was shelled from those shore batteries. And it's the first time that a Canadian ship has received hostile fire since the Korean War. And I talked to those sailors, and they were so proud. They were so proud they were shot at. Just think about that. Talking to them, they had about a few rounds of rocket fire land about a thousand yards astir, and I call that the pucker factor. And it's all good.

Today in Cold Lake we have Exercise Maple Flag. And as some of you will remember, Maple Flag has a bunch of folks from different countries coming together to exercise the very basics of complex combat operations in the air. Last year we had to cancel that exercise because we were too busy dropping bombs in Libya. And every one of our qualified fighter pilots rotated into the mix to gain combat experience, but in order to support the United Nations, in order to support NATO in protecting civilians where they live. And as well, our Airbus tanker crews, the Auroras, the Herc crews all rotated into that theatre, again building on the experience of the Canadian Forces.

And yet our presence continues in many of the peacekeeping missions that many of you in this room have served on. And I'm talking about UNSO, MFO, UNIFIL, UNFICYP. We even have one person still in Cypress. How many in this room have served at Cypress? Hands up. There you go. It was a tough tour. MUNUC and MANUSA in Haiti. But our training mission in Sierra Leone is going extremely well, and we have UN missions in both Sudan and South Sudan. And in every case, the Canadian presence, the Canadian effort is appreciated by all of our allies. And as many of you remember, Canadians fill key appointments on these missions, and they work hard. And whenever I meet with my colleagues from NATO, they always tell me they want another Canadian on their staff. Yet in only 1,300 people who at this moment are deployed internationally, it's our lowest level of international operational commitment than anyone can remember.

And the men and women of the Canadian Forces want to go somewhere, and they want to make a contribution for peace and security for Canada. And again, the defence of Canada starts 10,000 kilometres away. And so no matter where the Chief and I go, coast to coast to coast, or visiting any one of our ships deployed on any one of our missions, when we do a town hall, the first question we get - the first question we get - is, 'Sir, where are we going to go next?' Every time. And our response is don't know, but keep your kit packed up because it could come quick, just like Haiti did and just like Libya did.

So while the operational tempo has dropped the training tempo has not. In fact, we've got a lot of work to do to catch up on all the things that we didn't do while we were rotating all of those folks through Afghanistan. Many of the leadership courses were bypassed for people. People said hey, listen, I'm not going to do that 6A or 6B, that Sergeant's course, I want to go to Afghanistan. And we do have to catch up. Similarly, a lot of our training was focused on the Afghan mission, on counter-insurgency, and now we've got to change it so that we're working on peacekeeping, on humanitarian ops, and on hard combat operations. We need to rebuild all those vehicles, and indeed all the ships, that have been run so hard over the past while.

But we also need to modernize the force. And we've been doing pretty well in the Army with getting those Leopard tanks, getting the M-777 artillery pieces. We're thrilled to hear the announcement that Minister Fantino mentioned last week in Gaagetown that we'll buy the Tactical Army Patrol Vehicle, the TAPV, and we look forward to the infantry's close combat vehicles. In the Air Force, I think we've done really well with the purchase of the C-17, the C-130J Hercules. We got the last one just recently. And soon we'll be receiving the Chinook helicopters.

We'll also soon receive the maritime helicopter, the Cyclone, which is the Sea King replacement project. And I just talked to one vet pilot just last week who told me that next year we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sea King. Now, I gave a little lecture in a place called the Union Club in Victoria about a couple of years ago, and it was an august crew just like this, and I did questions and answers right afterwards. And one gentleman stood up and he said hey, now, listen. I got posted to Ottawa in 1972 to be on the Sea King replacement project. How's it going so far?

Maybe it's funny to you guys out there. But we still need to replace the F-18, the CF-18. We need to replace the Aurora. And right after this function, I'm going out to Greenwood to look at the modernization we've just put into the Aurora. And also, we need to get more UAVs. And it's great to see that we have used unmanned aerial vehicles in Afghanistan. And as we sit here today, in the Arabian Sea, on the HMCS Charlottetown, she has a UAV she's flying off her back deck. We need to get smarter and more of that business.

But at least in the Air Force and the Army we can buy the equipment. My greatest concern is the Navy, where we need to build ships. And I say that especially here in Halifax, a great Navy town. And the National Shipbuilding Strategy, in my view, is a huge leap in progress, but we need to start cutting steel. I used to say that we need to lay keels, and then the Chiefs would say, 'Sir, we don't do that anymore; we cut steel.' Roger. But we need to get the Arctic offshore patrol ships, and we need the joint support ship and those surface combatants because all of them are key to the future of Canada's maritime security. And I've told the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy to be user friendly with all of his requirements. I just told him, and I said OK now, Paul, make it simple. Pick a design, pick a colour, and get on with it. He hates that line.

But ladies and gentlemen, if we're a strong and professional force, it's because of our people. And I hold that, man for man and woman for woman, we are second to no other military in the world. And that - I agree.

And that's because of Canadians who are well educated, who represent and practice the best values, morals and ethics globally. And we combine these attributes with one of the best training systems amongst our allies, and we receive the extraordinary leaders who wear the uniform today. And I think we have a secret weapon, and that is a Canadian with a smile and a handshake. And we just crush the hearts of anybody else, and we can build relationships like nobody else. We are blessed because our voluntary attrition is at an all-time low of four percent. And we have folks lined up to get into the force. We're allowing component transfers between the regular and reserve component and back to retain the exceptional skills and experience and yet cater to the young folks' modern lifestyles.

But many of our people are wounded and injured, both physically and mentally. And we've made huge strides to change our culture to support those through recovery, rehabilitation and reintegration. It is tremendous to see that a young officer or a young soldier who has been wounded on the battlefield make the recovery, do the reintegration, and then see them back serving in Afghanistan, and in the case of a young Corporal, both Afghanistan and Haiti, because he wants to. And for the Chief and I to be out there and be able to promote that young Corporal to Master Corporal because he met all the requirements, even though he's got that prosthetic limb on, and he's doing the job. We have changed so much.

But many of our folks need indeed the support of a Joint Personnel Support Unit. We have created these units, which bring together all of our service providers, including Veterans Affairs. And in my view, it has been absolutely magic. Each case that walks in the front door is difficult, and the system is not perfect, but it's better than it was before. And the soldiers now know they can walk into that front door of the Joint Personnel Support Unit, get the support, and if they recover, get back to their battalions, their regiments, their squadrons, their ships. And we've been able to learn about the connection between post-traumatic stress and sleep disorder. To be able to be on the HMCS Fredericton, coming back home after an operational tour, being in the Petty Officers' mess, talking about that relationship, and a young PO says hey, sir, you're talking about me. I got the treatment, and I'm right back at it. Last week a Master Corporal walks up to the Chief and I in Kabul and says sir, you're talking about me. I had PTSD a couple of years ago. I got the treatment, and I'm back in the saddle.

We have learned so much, but we've got a long way to go. The sense of compassion that has started to permeate through the force is heart warming. We've got to change the old school piece. We've got to change the old school piece and we've got to be accepting of folks as they

walk in the door. And I made this point at the Armour Corps conference in Winnipeg a few weeks ago. Had an RSM and a Sergeant Major, both of whom have multiple tours and said sir, you keep pressing that button, because that's the right button. We need to change our whole attitude because we've got to deal with the stigma that is related to mental health cases.

The Chief and I were out in Edmonton, out in the Joint Personnel Support Unit, and with Minister MacKay we were talking to 30 soldiers, sailors and airmen and women with PTSD. And I asked them how many of you guys, how many of you guys walked in through that front door on your own volition, on your own stream, through that front door. Do you know what the answer was? Zero. Zero. It was their battle buddies, it was their loved one, it was their girlfriend, boyfriend, it was their parents telling them get in there and you get some help. How many of us, when we've got a wound, we won't go to the doctor? How many? About the same number that, when you get lost, you won't ask for directions.

You know what I'm talking about. And so we got to change that. Got to change that because we've realized that we are harder on ourselves than we are on others. And the sooner we get folks in to get help, the sooner they'll get the treatment, sooner they'll get back into the saddle again. So we've also removed the hurdles to get the mental health professionals to where the mentally wounded and their families, where they actually live.

You might have seen this little thing, I did it with Petawawa. Needed to do that because the soldiers didn't want to get on the bus and go to Ottawa. They called the bus the sicko bus. They wanted the docs up in Petawawa, where they live. And we've increased the number of mental health workers over the past ten years by more than double. We've also opened the Operational Stress Injury Treatment Facilities. Recently we were able to attract one of the world's foremost veterans' health researchers, Dr. Chernak. And she's up in Edmonton now, working at the University Hospital in the creation of the Canadian Military and Veterans Health Research Institute. And also, between Royal Military College in Kingston and Queen's University, we host the Military and Veterans Health Research Forum that's been very successful, and will be running again in November.

But we've also learned a lot that we need to support and treat our families. We need to treat the families who, in a second-order effect, feel all of that stress coming from their loved ones who have served. And if we support the families, they will support the serving member in their rehabilitation and reintegration. Our families have paid a huge toll, are essential to the identification and treatment of our folks. And we're also working with the provinces and their health organizations to indeed try to synchronize and coordinate the support for the families and the members in uniform.

Ladies and gentlemen, we've just completed an extraordinary period of operational tempo: combat operations in Afghanistan and Libya, humanitarian operations in Haiti, domestic operations in the Olympics, the G8 and the G20, floods in Portage La Prairie and St-Jean-sur-Richelieu, and forest fires across the country. And every day those brave men and women are launching search and rescue missions. But if we're a solid and capable force, it's because of you here in this room. You, the generation of leaders who trained us, showed us what right looks like, and had the extraordinary patience to teach and coach and mentor us.

The force of today is proud. They are the newest generation of veterans. And they deserve that title as much as anybody else who fought at Vimy Ridge, landed the Normandy Beaches, or stood their ground on Kapyong Hill in Korea. And many of them will wear the uniform for years to

come. But they need the services, the voice, and the camaraderie that you offer. You are across this country, from coast to coast to coast, in every one of those small towns, and you see those men and women who are from those hometowns, what they have done, and the pressures on them and their families. But also those young members are ready to take up the torch and carry forward the Legion's values and ethos. And they are the ones who will keep the traditions of remembrance alive. So I ask you to reach out to them in every one of your communities as part of that do not leave those veterans behind. Build the bridges to them early, and continue to show that you're there for them. They are the secret of the success of the Canadian Forces, and they will be the lifeblood of the Legion for generations to come.

And they know you care. They know you care. How many of them lined up in Kandahar at Tim Horton's and received the Tim Horton's double double, the taste of home that you sponsored with \$880,000, and also receiving the packages at Christmas. And I saw them opening them up, the Operation Santa Claus Day, absolutely loved it. And the widest ranging and, in many cases, the most personal was last year's Welcome Home and Thank the Troops campaign. All of these initiatives have built strong bridges between the Legion and the men and women of the Canadian Forces, and they're bringing new veterans to your ranks. And these new members will benefit from the membership of the Legion, and they will strengthen your ranks. And they will carry the tradition of remembrance in new and different ways.

And one of those great traditions is the inukshuk. And with Pat Varga and the leadership of Command, we were in Ottawa together when we rededicated an inukshuk that was built by the parents of Sergeant Mark Leger, a great Sergeant who died in Afghanistan in 2002. But Richard and Claire had built this inukshuk in honour of their son, and thought it would be better off if it was in front of your Command headquarters in Ottawa. This inukshuk serves as a fitting cross of sacrifice or cenotaph, just as inukshuks were at every one of Forward Operating bases in Afghanistan and those young soldiers who served over there looked at them and remembered their fallen comrades.

It's an Inuit tradition. An inukshuk is a point of reference. It shows us all the way. And standing there in front of the Legion hall, it is a true symbol of service, of sacrifice, and valour of a new generation. And it reminds us that we need to remember and reach out to all those veterans, both new and old and working together in partnership, the Legion, Veterans Affairs and the Canadian Forces together so that no veteran is left behind. I thank you for all that you do for the Canadian Forces. I thank you for what you do for Canada. I'm proud to be your Chief of Defence Staff. Thank you very much.

