

**MINUTES OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE**

8 November 2018

File 82-27

In Attendance:	Richard Blanche	-	Chairman
	Randy Price	-	Vice Chairman
	Wayne Martin	-	Member (via telecom)
	Bob Cl��roux	-	Member
	Carolyn Gasser	-	Secretary
	Mike Smith	-	A/Secretary

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting of the Defence and Security (D&S) Committee was convened at Legion House on 8 November 2018 at 0900 hours.

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. OPENING REMARKS - INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed Mr. Mike Smith, the new Assistant Secretary for the D&S Committee.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The 27 March 2018 D&S Committee minutes were provided for Committee review and approval.

MOTION: That the 27 March 2018 Dominion D&S Committee meeting minutes be approved.

CARRIED

5. DRAFT LOU WITH CDA/CDAI

The draft was reviewed and a couple additions and changes made. The Chair advised he would share the draft with Mathew Overton at the CDA / CDA Institute. A final version will be circulated and approved secretari ally for final committee approval prior to DEC.

The first subject of discussion will be retention and recruitment within the CAF and the RCMP as it is relevant and of concern for both CDA / CDA Institute.

ACTION: Chair/Secretary

6. WINNIPEG CONVENTION (25-29 AUGUST 2018) and RESOLUTIONS

The Committee discussed the two resolutions that had been non-concurred but brought back successfully to the floor. It was noted that one of them, the Voluntary Service Medal (VSM), had been sent, under a similar form, to the government in the past and to date, there has been no response to the resolutions submitted, including the one from Convention in 2016.

Given the high probability that the Government will not positively react to another similar resolution, a discussion took place on how to best handle the situation. It was suggested that a service pin, different than the current service pin, could be recommended to the Government. It might not satisfy the members who are keen to obtain a new VSM for those who honourably released after completing at least Basic Training, but it might be a more realistic middle way. It was discussed and well received. Perhaps would it be a reasonable Government recognition for service less than 12 years.

7. NIJMEGEN APPLICATIONS AND SECTION PROCESS

The call for applications and nominations will be sent out shortly in the December All-Branch with an additional email distribution to Provincial Commands.

This year, there will two additional paragraphs in the instructions.

One will confirm that the chosen representative understands and agrees to be available for media interviews and to provide short regular updates for Legion public use before, during and after the March with support from Legion staff.

The second will be a statement that should the representative be a still serving member of the Regular or Reserve Force, he or she will still be held accountable under the Code of Service Discipline while training and participating in the March.

ACTION: Chair/Secretary

8. VAC STAKEHOLDER'S SUMMIT AND RCL STAKEHOLDER'S MEETING

Comrades Bob and Carolyn attended the VAC Stakeholders' Summit on 29 and 30 October and the Chair and Comrades Bob and Carolyn attended the RCL Stakeholders, Meeting on 3 November 2018.

Many Veterans groups, VAC Advisory group members and other parties that support mental health, Service Dogs, Homeless, etc... attended the two day Summit.

Almost all senior staff from VAC attended, including the Minister and the DM. The main topics of discussions and presentations included Transition, Pension for Life, Processing Times and Backlogs, Suicide, the Military Veterans Family Program, Veterans Education and Training Benefits, Veteran Emergency Fund and Veteran and the Family Well-being fund, Homelessness, My VAC Account, and concluded with a Q&A period at the end of day two.

9. ADDENDUM TO DEC REPORT

It was discussed whether or not an Addendum was required to the Committee's report to DEC and agreed that a copy of the most updated LoU with CDA / CDA Institute should be included as well as a the changes to the Nijmegen Selection and Application process.

ACTION: Chair/Secretary

10. REVIEW OF NAVY, AIR FORCE, ARMY AND RCMP ACTIVITIES

RCN – Comrade Bob attended the CDA Roundtable on Cannabis in September, a Maritime Affairs Luncheon in October, and in November the VAC Stakeholder Summit and RCL Stakeholder Meeting, the Navy and Coast Guard Day reception, and the Annual Ceremony of Remembrance in the Senate.

He advised that the Government announced the construction of the 6th Arctic and offshore patrol Ship. The preferred bidder was identified and the due diligence process underway for Canadian Surface Combatant the team is BAE-Lockheed Martin

CA – The Chair advised that LGen Jean-Marc Lanthier has been appointed the new Army Commander.

The Chair reported that there is frustration in the ranks and that it could be linked to a dwindling number of operational opportunities for deployments, notwithstanding the operations in Mali, Latvia and Ukraine. Many lower ranks are leaving the CAF.

There were approximately 2000 Canadian troops participating in an exercise in Norway and the Baltic countries involving total participation of 40,000 NATO troops.

RCAF – Comrade Randy advised that **Lieutenant-General Al Meinzinger** is the new Commander of the Air Force.

He advised there are challenges regarding a shortfall in the number of Pilots and other Air Force trades, supply chain management and procurement, regarding spare parts.

An announcement was made by the Government to upgrade Search and Rescue Helicopters but with very few details. The expenditure is expected to be in the multi-billions as the fleet is reportedly being increased in numbers and upgraded to the point of being "new" aircraft.

RCMP - Comrade Wayne advised that retention of employees of the RCMP continues to be an issue. As a result, in order to fill organization wide vacancies, the RCMP has embarked on an ambitious social media campaign across multiple platforms with the message that the RCMP is hiring and directing interested persons to the appropriate information and application websites, recruiting open houses, and staffing offices.

He spoke of the recently elected Surrey BC Mayor, Douglas McCallum, who campaigned on this issue and recently led city council in passing a resolution to terminate the city's policing contract with the RCMP in order to form a municipal police service. A city feasibility study is currently underway as a result.

The RCMP detachment in Surrey is the country's largest with approximately 1,000 police officers on staff. He noted that terminating the RCMP contract requires 2 years official notice (not yet given) and that such negotiations involve the municipal, provincial, and federal governments, not the RCMP, who have the role as service provider. The RCMP has taken no position on this issue, saying only that they will continue to provide policing service to Surrey as long as a contract is in place.

Should Surrey ultimately proceed with this plan, it was his opinion that the impact on RCMP operations would not be significant. Of the 1,000 RCMP members staffing Surrey, approximately 60% may convert to the municipal police service and the rest could be absorbed elsewhere within the RCMP.

It is unknown if other urban centres in BC would follow suit if establishment of a Surrey municipal police service were to succeed.

11. NEW OR GENERAL BUSINESS

Meetings with new Commanders, the RCMP Commissioner, and the CDS will be set up in the near future. The Chair will attend all of these with each of the respective element representatives.

The Chair will also set up meetings with the new CAF Transition Group leadership, BGen Mark Meisner and Col Kevin Cameron.

12. FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held about one week prior to the CDA/CDAI Security Conference held from 12-13 February 2019. The exact date and time will be forwarded with an agenda; however, a tentative date of 7 February 2019 has been set.

ACTION: Secretary

13. CLOSING COMMENTS

The Chair affirmed that communication is important at all levels and with a LOU with the CDA/CDAI, hopes that the Committee will have a tangible effect on Defence and Security matters.

The Vice Chair expressed his appreciation for all the Secretary's hard work, organization, and dedication to the committee. His sentiments were complimented by the Chair and other Committee members.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1130 hours along with the proper closing ritual.



Richard Blanchette
Chairman



Carolyn Gasser
Secretary

Dated this day of 20 November 2018

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