

**DOMINION COMMAND  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
16 June 2022  
MEETING MINUTES**

File 82-27

<b>In Attendance:</b>	<b>Andrea Siew</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
	<b>Mindy Pearson</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
	<b>Brian Sauvé</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
	<b>Carolyn Hughes</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
	<b>Dean Young</b>	-	<b>A/Coordinator</b>
<b>Absent:</b>	<b>Brendan Heffernan</b>	-	<b>Deputy Chair</b>
	<b>Mike Smith</b>	-	<b>A/Coordinator</b>

### 1. OPENING REMARKS

The Chair introduced and welcomed Comrade Dean Young as a new Assistant Coordinator for the Committee. Comrade Ray McInnis is on extended leave and Comrade Carolyn will take over as Coordinator for the Veterans, Services and Seniors (VSS) Committee and will be handing the Defence and Security (D&S) Committee to Comrade Dean. She will remain as an Observer and to assist as needed.

### 2. ADMINISTRATION POINTS

The previous minutes were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

### 3. UPDATES

- a. **RCMP** – Comrade Brendan was unable to attend due to work commitments but provided an update.

The RCMP renewed Core Values, as outlined in their new organizational values statement, are Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Responsibility and Serve with Excellence.

On 9 June 2022, Commissioner Lucki released a statement on the Release of the Final Report on the Tiller/Copland/Roach RCMP Class Action. This relates to the sexual harassment and discrimination experienced with the RCMP between 1974 and 2019. The Commissioner's statement can be found at <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2022/commissioners-statement-release-the-final-report-tillercoplandroach-rcmp-class-action>.

- b. **Budget 2022 – Defence Policy Renewal** – The Chair noted the government announced in the 2022 Budget that there will be a defence

policy renewal to update the current policy - Strong, Secure and Engaged. However, there was no time-frame given as to when it will be conducted or when it will be completed. The 2016 Strong, Secure and Engaged focused primarily on the counter-insurgency threat following Afghanistan and does not include reference to the global threats and challenges from China, Russia or climate change. The Committee will monitor for possible engagement with stakeholders.

- c. **CDA AGM** – Comrades Andrea, Carolyn and Dean attended the meeting. Comrade Andrea provided a well-received briefing about the Legion, including some key statistics regarding total number of Veterans assisted by Service Officers, numbers of homeless Veterans, recent supports from the Poppy Fund, membership programs and current advocacy items from this Committee and Dominion Command as a whole.
- d. **DEC** – Comrade Andrea attended the end of April DEC meeting at Legion House. All D&S recommendations were passed including changing the definition of a Veteran for commemorative purposes to include the RCMP (in time for their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023) and calling for affordable housing and financial security for the CAF and RCMP when they are posted to new locations.
- e. **Implementation of Emergency Act Parliamentary Inquiries** – The Committee discussed the two ongoing Emergency Act inquiries and will continue to follow and monitor the recommendations in the final reports.
- f. **Mass Shooting Inquiry in Nova Scotia** – The Committee discussed the inquiry about the mass shooting in Portapique, Nova Scotia. The first phase of the inquiry will be completed by the end of June and involved the gathering of foundational information. Phase two is expected to be completed sometime in August and will investigate how actions can be improved to avoid any similar future events. Finally, phase three will be the submission on what changes they would like to see and should be finished in September.

Comrade Brian advised that two members of the National Police Federation will be testifying later this summer and that this inquiry and process is unique across the world. There was only one similar inquiry related to a mass shooting in Norway so many countries are watching the outcome with interest. The Committee will continue to monitor with regards to implications for the RCMP.

- g. **Victoria Cross Initiative** – MP Erin O’Toole put forth a motion in Parliament for an independent panel to review the awarding of Canada’s military medals shortly after the D&S Committee’s June meeting. It was defeated in Parliament on 22 June citing the need for a closer review. The

motion requested the establishment of an independent committee to review the awarding the Victoria Cross related to all conflicts. A recent article in the National Post mentions the Royal Canada Legion's advocacy efforts at <https://nationalpost.com/news/politics/liberals-reject-erin-otooles-proposal-for-a-system-to-review-military-medals>. The Committee will continue to monitor for any progress.

- h. **Op Harmony** – Comrades Dean and Carolyn have reached out to the RCMP and the CAF regarding our wishes to provide a plaque or a gift to the top candidate in their summer Indigenous Programs. We are close to finalizing something with the RCMP program but have heard little from the CAF. Comrades Carolyn and Dean will engage with the CMP staff.

**ACTION: Comrades Carolyn and Dean**

**i. Meetings -**

- i. **RCMP Commissioner** – The Commissioner came to Legion House with the RCMP Corps Sergeant Major, Al McCambridge, and met with President Bruce Julien, Steven Clark, the National Executive Director and Comrade's Ray and Carolyn.

Commissioner Lucki was installed as an Honourary Dominion Vice-President and mention was made of the work on the Committee by Comrade's Brendan and Brian and also Trevor Jenvenne, a former RCMP member, who is President of the BSO Legion's OSI Special Section and participates on the VSS Committee.

Discussion points included the need for Peer Support for RCMP Members and Veterans who have experienced service-related sexual trauma, a national initiative called Lived Experience with Mental Health, the Legion's advocacy and representation for the RCMP, the impact of high-cost area postings, the Legion's Homeless Veterans program "Leave the Streets Behind", the definition of Veteran to include the RCMP, the Op Harmony Initiative, and cross-promotion opportunities, including membership and their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Overall, it was a productive meeting and she agreed to provide key OPI contact information from her staff to liaise with regarding various issues.

- ii. **Chief of Military Personnel** - A meeting on 7 June 2022 with the CAF Chief of Military Personnel, MGen Lise Bourgon, was postponed due to unforeseen events. Comrade Carolyn will reschedule with the CMP's Executive Assistant.

**ACTION: Comrade Carolyn**

- iii. **Chief of Defence Staff** - The National Executive Director is still trying to coordinate a meeting with the CAF Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Wayne Eyre. Comrade Carolyn will follow up.

**ACTION: Comrade Carolyn**

#### 4. NEW ITEMS

- a. **VAC Clawback from the Merlo Davidson Class Action Lawsuit** – The Committee discussed the current VAC clawback from disability benefits for RCMP members who received compensation under the Merlo Davidson class action lawsuit. The National Association of Federal Retirees (NAFR) and the National Police Federation have also raised this issue with the Minister of VAC. The Committee will continue to research the issue.

**ACTION: Comrades Andrea and Brian**

- b. **Chief Justice Louise Arbour Report on Sexual Misconduct in the CAF** – The Minister of National Defence, Anita Anand, has accepted all 48 of the recommendations in a report by former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour. She announced that work to implement 17 of them will begin immediately and they will quickly analyze and provide the way forward for the remaining. They have until the end of 2022 to indicate which ones they will not be implementing. Central to the report is that all sexual assault cases would be transferred to civilian police and come under the criminal code. However, to date, about half of the files that the Military Police transferred to civilian police forces since the interim recommendation was made last fall, 62 sexual assault cases, have been declined and sent back to the CAF. The reasons for the most part were related to workload by the civilian police forces. None of the cases sent to the RCMP were referred back to the CAF.

One of the key recommendations is to “immediately appoint an external monitor, mandated to oversee the implementation of the recommendations in this Report and other external recommendations that she accepts.” This has not yet been actioned. The Committee will monitor the implementation of this recommendation as it is essential to the implementation of all the recommendations. The report can be found in its entirety at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/report-of-the-independent-external-comprehensive-review.html>

- c. **CAF - Systemic Racism Report** - A report from the Minister of National Defence Advisory Panel on Systemic Racism and Discrimination was recently published in January 2022. It is a document that provides recommendations to eliminate systemic racism and discrimination from the

department and the CAF, including anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism, gender bias, prejudice against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited people and others (LGBTQ2+), and white supremacy. The full report can be reviewed at <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/mnd-advisory-panel-systemic-racism-discrimination-final-report-jan-2022.html>

- d. **CAF - DND/CAF Ombudsman Report on Employment Equity and Diversity** - This report examines the history of employment equity from 1997 to 2021 regarding what worked in the past, what did not work, and where the organizations can improve employment equity and diversity in their workforces. It describes key historical successes and challenges that the DND and the CAF have faced in implementing employment equity and discusses key areas of success and areas of concern. The complete report can be reviewed at <https://www.canada.ca/en/ombudsman-national-defence-forces/reports-news-statistics/investigative-reports/employment-equity-diversity/employment-equity-diversity-report.html>
- e. **Contingency Cost Moves Report** – This joint report from the CAF - DND/CAF Ombudsman makes three recommendations to the Minister of National Defence, seven findings and one observation grouped under three themes: policy and process, communication, and mental health and support services.

It found that current policy and administration of compassionate postings, compassionate status and contingency cost moves fails to consider the modern-day realities of CAF members and their families sufficiently, thus impacting career advancement, the well-being and mental health of CAF members and their families and creating long-term retention issues. Of note, there is no standardized definition, or guidelines on what constitutes 'family', within the compassionate posting policy which may discourage members from applying as some feel the policy only applies to those listed in their administration documents.

If implemented, these recommendations will improve the compassionate posting process for members and their families and lead to a long-lasting, positive impact for the CAF.

The Committee will continue to monitor.

The complete report can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/ombudsman-national-defence-forces/reports-news-statistics/investigative-reports/compassionate-postings-service-versus-self/service-versus-self-report.html>

- f. **CAF Support to Cadets** – The Committee was recently made aware that the CAF funding to support the CAF Cadet program has been the same for the last ten years. The Chair will continue to research and update at the next meeting.

## 5. OTHER ITEMS

- a. **CAF Ethos: Trusted to Serve Report** – The CAF launched their new ethics and values doctrine. For the first time both character and competence are at the core of the doctrine. The doctrine reflects Canadian values and guides CAF member's conduct and performance at all times, both on and off-duty. Formal training and discussion will occur throughout a member's career for all rank levels starting at recruit training. This doctrine will help to internalize all its elements and highlights a leader's responsibility to consistently reinforce these values and principles through action. This is a key foundation block on the cultural transformation of the CAF. To read the complete document go to <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/canadian-armed-forces-ethos-trusted-to-serve.html>.

## 6. FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held the third week of September. Exact date and time have yet to be determined.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 hours.



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**Andrea Siew**  
**Chair**



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**Carolyn Hughes**  
**Coordinator**

Dated this day of 5 July 2022

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