

**DOMINION COMMAND  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE  
VIDEOCONFERENCE – 10 June 2021  
MEETING MINUTES**

File 82-27

|                       |                          |   |                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------|
| <b>In Attendance:</b> | <b>Andrea Siew</b>       | - | <b>Chairman</b>      |
|                       | <b>Brendan Heffernan</b> | - | <b>Member</b>        |
|                       | <b>Carolyn Gasser</b>    | - | <b>Coordinator</b>   |
|                       | <b>Mike Smith</b>        | - | <b>A/Coordinator</b> |

**1. OPENING**

The videoconference of the Defence and Security (D&S) Committee commenced at 1000 hours.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. ADMINISTRATION POINTS**

- a. New Members** – The Chair is reaching out potential members who could make a valuable contribution to the Committee. Comrade Carolyn has reached out to another former CWO who is interested in becoming a member. The Chair will speak with her in the near future. Comrade Carolyn will also investigate if the Committee could have an additional member representing the RCMP and will confer with the National Executive Director.

**ACTION: Chair and Coordinator**

- b. Convention Presentation via Zoom** – The Chair has drafted speaking notes for her presentation to Convention and shared them with the Committee for feedback. It will be recorded on 17 June.

- c. Pre-Convention Report** – Comrade Carolyn will begin to draft the report following these minutes.

**ACTION: Coordinator**

**3. UPDATES**

- a. Victory March** – Despite the relatively short period of time the organizers had to arrange a national event and communicate it, the Victory March was a tremendous success. Over \$90K was raised to support Boomers Legacy, a charitable fund that supports humanitarian initiatives, such as helping a family, a school, a hospital or an area, to providing opportunities for women and improving health care or education conditions.

- b. CDA/CAI Statement regarding Sexual Misconduct and Culture Change in the CAF** – A second statement regarding this subject was released on 10 May 2021 and speaks to the necessity of the priority for cultural change at all levels of the CAF. The entire statement can be reviewed at <https://cdainstitute.ca/statement-on-sexual-misconduct-and-culture-change-in-the-canadian-armed-forces/>.
- c. CAF – DND Sexual Misconduct Class Action Settlement** - The Chair and Comrade Carolyn updated the Committee.

In the Class Action Lawsuit, the Federal Court certified the lawsuits as class proceedings and approved a settlement agreement that provides compensation to current and former members of the CAF and employees of the DND/SNPF who experienced Sexual Misconduct.

The claims period will run until 4 November 2021 and involves various levels of financial compensation and Restorative Engagement, Restorative Engagement provides an opportunity for class members to share their sexual misconduct experiences with a Senior Defence Representative through dialogue facilitated by specially trained Restorative Practitioners.

Comrade Carolyn, as the Deputy Director of Veterans Services, advised she will be assisting survivors with the settlement application in rare circumstances where someone may require additional support to that provided at the website for the settlement at <https://www.caf-dndsexualmisconductclassaction.ca/>.

**d. RCMP**

Comrade Brendan briefed the committee and advised that the RCMP is launching an independent body this month to investigate sexual misconduct and harassment complaints in a timely manner with external investigators who will have dedicated resources. Former Supreme Court Justice Michel Bastarache described the RCMP work culture as “toxic” and tolerant of misogyny and homophobia in a November 2020 report. The Commissioner is in current discussions with the Minister.

There has been an emphasis to complete two and three hour, mandatory virtual training courses for all staff regarding cultural awareness and the 2SLGBTQ2+ community. The new course will help members understand our 2SLGBTQ2+ communities. It addresses the marginalization issues and will help to develop positive interactions with the 2SLGBTQ2+ people. The course builds on the individual members capacity to understand, to demonstrate empathy, to show respect and to provide equitable service to people in the various communities serviced by the RCMP. Cross-walk lines have now been permanently painted in colours of the rainbow in honour of

Pride and to promote diversity and inclusion within the RCMP and in the communities they serve.

The Cultural Awareness and Humility Course introduces the concept of cultural humility and the fact that learning about different cultures and values can be a life-long undertaking. The course modules address terminology, diversity, aspects of history and contexts for understanding social disparities and inequities. Cultures and diversity, stereotyping and myths, as well as indigenous considerations are examined from the Canadian multicultural perspective.

The newly certified National Police Federation (NPF) is the sole Bargaining Agent that represents the Non-Commissioned members of the Force and they have commenced formal contract negotiations with the Employer (Treasury Board). The NPF will be seeking salary and benefit packages to closer align them with other police services with a comparative composition of various sized Canadian police services in municipalities and provinces.

The RCMP Veterans Association AGM was held during the weekend of 5 June virtually. The AGM for 2023 will be held in Ottawa on 25-28 May to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

#### 4. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- a. **Nijmegen 2022** – The invitation to represent the Legion was extended to Comrade Joan Cook but she has not yet confirmed as to whether she is able to participate in 2022.

If for any reason she is unable to participate, we will consider the alternate candidate but may have to begin our call-out for applications later in the fall 2021 should either not wish to proceed.

- b. **Reports** – Comrade Carolyn will draft the Pre-Convention report for review by the Chair and Committee member.
- c. **Vimy Gala** – The Vimy Gala is a black-tie gala event held annually since 1991 in Ottawa to honour Canada's fallen heroes in the context of the Remembrance Day and will occur in person on 5 November 2021.

#### 5. POTENTIAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

The Committee has identified several areas of potential activities for the future:

- a. **Upcoming Meetings** – Meetings with the RCMP Commissioner, Brenda Lucki, and Chief HR Officer, Gail Johnson, and the Acting CDS, LGen Wayne Eyre will be revisited once we are able to meet in person. The Committee is hopeful face to face meetings will again resume in the fall and

will seek to coordinate them with the National Executive Director as required.

- b. **Resolutions** - No resolutions have been received to date. After Convention, the Committee will look at potential Resolutions for consideration.
- c. **Promotion of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCMP** - Coordination between the RCMP and Legion Corporate Services and Communications is ongoing in this regard.

**ACTION: Coordinator**

- d. The Committee will continue to monitor the defence policy of SSE and the Naval Surface Combatants project as well as optional other areas we may advocate on behalf of the CAF and RCMP.
- e. The Committee will examine if a top student award at the RCMP Depot can be provided, similar to what is provided to CAF Recruit School top student graduates.

**6. FUTURE MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 15 July 2021 via videoconference at 1000 hrs.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours.

  
for. **Andrea Siew**  
**Chair**

  
**Carolyn Gasser**  
**Coordinator**

Dated this day of 27 June 2021

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