

**DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
VIDEOCONFERENCE – 15 July 2021
MEETING MINUTES**

File 82-27

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

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** – Comrade Mindy Pearson will be joining the Committee in August following her release from military service and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that will contribute to the Committee’s overall mandate in the Terms of Reference.

The Chair is actively working on fulfilling the remainder of the positions available for the Committee, including one more CAF veteran and another RCMP veteran. Comrade Brendan is assisting her with the search for an RCMP member.

ACTION: Chair and Comrade Brendan

- b. Pre-Convention Report** – Comrade Carolyn will begin to draft the report following these minutes and will send to the Chair and members secretarially for approval.

ACTION: Coordinator

3. UPDATES

- a. Resolution** – The Committee reviewed the resolution regarding the need for meaningful change to address the issues of leadership and sexual misconduct with a fully independent Office of the Inspector General for the CAF. It will be included in the Pre-Convention DEC report. Comrade Carolyn will follow up with the appropriate procedure.

ACTION: Coordinator

- b. CDA Executive Meeting** – The Chair attended the first meeting of the newly elected Member Executive. The conversation evolved around the CDA’s federal election platform. A draft document was circulated to the CDA Executive members for comment and it is being revised. The Executive also

discussed the issue about the Afghan interpreters, drivers, etc...and their families whose lives are at risk because they supported the CAF efforts during the NATO deployment in Afghanistan and to grant protection and asylum to them in Canada.

The Dominion President supported a joint statement calling for the government to act swiftly and decisively, which was released on 16 July 2021 and shared through various media methods, such as Legion Facebook and Twitter. For more information, the complete CDA statement can be reviewed at <https://cdainstitute.ca/statement-of-the-conference-of-defence-associations-on-rescuing-and-granting-asylum-to-afghan-interpreters/>.

The Chair commented that the CDA could benefit from the participation of other security associations as the RCMP, CSIS, the Canadian Border Security Agency and several others.

c. RCMP –

Comrade Brendan provided an update on the Independent Centre for Harassment Resolution (ICHR), a centralized, independent unit responsible for matters relating to the resolution of harassment and violence occurrences for RCMP employees. It will ensure ongoing compliance with the new Canada Labour Code regulations that came into force earlier this year. This includes implementing the new Workplace Harassment and Violence Prevention, Investigation and Resolution policy at the RCMP.

Ms. Céline Larabie has been appointed as the Executive Director, holds a degree in Psychology from the University of Ottawa, and was most recently the Vice-President of Human Resources at the National Capital Commission. Prior to that, she held a variety of senior executive positions including as Executive Director of People, Workplace Management and Planning at the Office of the Secretary to the Governor General, and Executive Director of Leadership Development and Senior Leaders Programs at the Canada School of Public Service.

Comrade Brendan provided a brief overview of the RCMP Employee Well-Being Strategy 2021-2024. The strategy's 3 Strategic priorities and initiatives include:

1. Develop a strong governance model that supports and integrates the framework and guidelines of the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety in the Workplace into policies, programs and work practices;
2. Deliver programs and tools designed to protect and support employee well-being and enable early recognition and intervention at the onset of mental health issues and illnesses; and

3. Enhance the RCMP's promotion and protection of employee well-being.

The strategy also draws attention to 13 Psychosocial Risk Factors. English and French copies of the strategy placemat are attached to the minutes.

The new National Police Federation (NPF) advised its members that a tentative agreement has been reached on behalf of non-commissioned regular members and reservists. The first agreement is a tentative set of terms and conditions of employment that will be subject to a ratification vote before the end of the July.

d. NIJMEGEN 2022

Comrade Joan Cook was the candidate selected for the march in 2020 however due to the pandemic the march was conducted virtually. She was offered the opportunity to participate in the Netherlands in 2022 but regrettably has had to decline.

Comrades Carolyn and Mike will update the application form and share with the Committee for review prior to the call for applications to Provincial Commands.

ACTION: Coordinator

e. RCL Meetings with RCMP Commissioner and A/CDS

It was suggested that the meeting invitations be extended to tie in with the annual Christmas luncheon at Legion House.

Comrade Carolyn will speak with the National Executive Director regarding protocol.

ACTION: Coordinator

Comrade Brendan shared a PowerPoint slide presentation that the previous Chair had adapted from an existing Veterans Services one. Comrade Carolyn mentioned that one had recently been updated and she would compare/update the presentation.

ACTION: Coordinator

4. UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Reports, presentation and meetings as noted above.

5. FUTURE MEETING

The next meeting will be held on 16 September 2021 in person if possible and if not, via videoconference at 1000 hrs.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1115 hours.



Andrea Siew
Chair



Carolyn Gasser
Coordinator

Dated this day of 22 July 2021

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