

Dominion Command Poppy & Remembrance Committee

Meeting Minutes

2 February 2022

*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.*



**DOMINION COMMAND POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE
2 FEBRUARY 2022, 1300 HRS EST – ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES**

File: 35-1

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**DOMINION COMMAND POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
2 FEBRUARY 2022**

ATTENDEES:

Berkley Lawrence	-	Chair
Derek Moore	-	Vice-Chair
Peter Merola	-	Member
Carol Pedersen	-	Member
Daryl Alward	-	Member
Ernie Tester	-	Member
Freeman Chute	-	Committee Coordinator
Lia Taha Cheng	-	A/Committee Coordinator

ANNEXES:

Annex "A"	-	P & R Committee Meeting Minutes – 27 Oct 2021 Amended
Annex "B"	-	Poppy and Remembrance Committee – Terms of Reference
Annex "C"	-	RCL Dominion Memorandum

1. OPENING RITUAL

The meeting commenced at 1300 hours on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 via Zoom video conferencing. The chair conducted the opening ritual.

2. POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR'S REMARKS

The chair welcomed the committee members and relayed his appreciation for their commitment to the Poppy and Remembrance Division.

3. NEW BUSINESS

The chair entertained requests to add new agenda items. The following items were added for discussion:

- a. Last Post Fund suggestion to collaborate with the Royal Canadian Legion to properly recognize Silver Cross Mothers
- b. Information collection/brainstorming sessions

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes Approval – The 27 October 2021 Poppy & Remembrance Committee Meeting minutes are attached at Annex "A".

MOTION: It was moved that the 27 October 2021 Poppy & Remembrance Committee Meeting minutes be approved with the following amendments:

Page 34 change wording of 614 to 614. "The Poppy fiscal year covers the period 1 January and ends 31 December of the reporting year and the report includes the most recent Poppy Campaign and the disbursements made up until 31 December. For example, let us assume that the report is being completed for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. The funds to be reported are the *opening* balance of the Poppy Trust Fund as of *1 January 2022*, the money collected during the November 2022 Poppy Campaign, the funds disbursed up to and including 31 December 2022 *and the closing balance of the Poppy Trust Fund as of 31 December 2022.*"

CARRIED

5. **POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW**

Terms of Reference Approval – The Poppy and Remembrance Committee - Terms of Reference are attached at Annex "B".

MOTION: It was moved that the Poppy and Remembrance Committee - Terms of Reference be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. **REVIEW OF RESOLUTION PASSED AT CONVENTION**

The below resolution was passed at convention.

POPPY FUNDS FOR EDUCATION 402 VI. A. (in glossary as well) ALTA-NWT 6

WHEREAS the granting of bursaries from Poppy funds is limited to students who are veterans, children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren, per Section 402 vi (a) of the Poppy Manual;

WHEREAS the Poppy Manual, Section 401, states that the basic purpose and obligation of the Poppy Trust funds are to assist a Veteran as defined in subsection 101.d of the General By-Laws, and their families; and

WHEREAS the spouse of a veteran is an integral part of a family:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the inclusion of "spouse" be added to Section 402 vi (a) to allow the granting of bursaries to a spouse of a veteran.

402 vi (a) has been revised as follows: "the granting of bursaries to students who are Veterans, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren or spouses of Veterans;

who are in need of financial assistance."

However, it has been brought forward that the intention of the resolution was to also include surviving spouses; therefore, the following recommendations are brought forward for DEC consideration and approval:

RECOMMENDATION: That section 402 vi (a) of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: "the granting of bursaries to students who are Veterans, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, spouses or *surviving spouses* of Veterans; who are in need of financial assistance."

RECOMMENDATION: That the definition of a bursary in the Poppy Manual glossary on page 54 be amended to read: "A bursary is a grant provided to further the education of Veterans, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, spouses or *surviving spouses* of Veterans; who are in need of financial assistance."

7. POPPY MANUAL REVIEW

The Poppy & Remembrance Committee is undergoing a comprehensive review of the Poppy Manual. At the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting, Provincial Command Poppy Chairs will be asked to review the Poppy Manual and bring forward points for consideration for the third meeting in 2022. In the meantime, the following items brought forward to the Dominion Command Poppy and Remembrance Committee were discussed:

a. Poppy Manual sections 101 and 705 f

101. "We, as members of The Royal Canadian Legion, strive to keep the memory alive of the 117,000 Canadian men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of Canada during war and on subsequent operations since Korea."

705 f. "Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the Legion's lapel Poppy each November, the little red flower has never died. The memories of Canadians for the 117,000 of their countrymen who died in battle remain strong."

The members discussed if 117,000 is an outdated statistic to represent the Canadians who have given their lives in the service of our country. The eight Books of Remembrance commemorate the more than 120,000 Canadians who gave their life while serving in uniform. Therefore, the following recommendations are brought forward for DEC consideration and approval:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that section 101 of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: "We, as members of The Royal Canadian Legion, strive to keep the memory alive of the *120,000 Canadians* who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of Canada during war and on

subsequent operations since Korea.”

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that section 705 f of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: “Thanks to the millions of Canadians who wear the Legion’s lapel Poppy each November, the little red flower has never died. *The Poppy remains a visual pledge to never forget the 120,000 Canadians who served and sacrificed.*”

b. Poppy Manual section 321

321. “It is not mandatory that wreaths and crosses collected from the Cenotaph be destroyed. They may be used in another manner to promote Remembrance, such as for display at community cemeteries or placement at Veterans’ gravesites. **The resale of used wreaths and crosses should be strongly discouraged.**”

The above states that the resale of used wreaths and crosses should be strongly discouraged; however, the page 15 information bubble states that “used wreaths and crosses SHOULD NOT be re-sold”. Therefore, the following recommendations are brought forward for DEC consideration and approval:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that section 321 of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: “It is not mandatory that wreaths and crosses collected from the Cenotaph be destroyed. They may be used in another manner to promote Remembrance, such as for display at community cemeteries or placement at Veterans’ gravesites. **The resale or rental of used wreaths and crosses is not permitted.**”

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the information bubble on page 15 of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: “It is not mandatory that wreaths and crosses collected from the Cenotaph be destroyed. They may be used in another manner to promote Remembrance, such as for display at community cemeteries or placement at Veterans’ gravesites. Used wreaths and crosses *WILL NOT* be re-sold *or rented.*”

c. Poppy Manual Definition of Families

Page 21 information bubble: “Families is defined as current or surviving spouse and dependant children”

Page 55 glossary: “Family is defined as current or surviving spouse and dependant children.”

The members discussed whether this definition should be sent to the Constitution and Laws Committee for consideration to be included in the General-By-Laws which currently only define a spouse. It was determined that the General By-Laws should dictate the proper definition for the Poppy Manual; therefore, the

Constitution and Laws Committee is requested to consider adding definitions for both family and surviving spouse.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

d. Poppy Manual section 402 viii

Poppy Trust Funds are approved to be used for Homeless Veterans provincial programs. However, there is no definition or description included in the manual for this use. Therefore, the members discussed if further information was necessary under this section and they determined that the title “Homeless Veterans provincial programs” is sufficiently descriptive so no changes are required.

e. Poppy Manual section 403 ii (a)

403 ii (a). “Housing Accommodation or Care Facilities: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 50 percent of the current balance, to purchase, construct, repair or furnish housing accommodation and care facilities, including hospital wards/rooms for Veterans.”

The members discussed that Poppy Funds historically have not been permitted to be used to purchase or construct housing accommodation and care facilities for Veterans. Therefore, the following recommendation is brought forward for DEC consideration and approval:

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that section 403 ii (a) of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: "Housing Accommodation or Care Facilities: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 50 percent of the current balance, to repair or furnish housing accommodation and care facilities, including hospital wards/rooms, for Veterans.”

f. Poppy Manual section 403 ii (I)

403 ii (I). “Transition Programs for Veterans: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 25 percent of the current balance for the purpose of funding transition programs related to the training, education and support needs of Veterans. Provincial Commands will be responsible to maintain a list of qualifying programs within their respective commands.”

The members discussed that they have not seen any Provincial Command Transition Programs for Veterans lists. Therefore, at the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting, Provincial Command Poppy Chairs will be requested to provide their list of qualifying programs within their respective commands.

8. NEW BUSINESS

As referenced at item 3: the following new business items were raised:

a. Last Post Fund suggestion to collaborate with the Royal Canadian Legion to properly recognize Silver Cross Mothers

The attached memorandum at Annex “C” proposes that, in collaboration with the Last Post Fund, all past National Silver Cross Mothers, as chosen by the Royal Canadian Legion over the years, be properly recognized on their grave markers with a Memorial Cross and brief description with the year that they performed their honorary function. The committee was asked to review this proposal and provided the following comments:

- Cemeteries maintain an established criterion for headstones and may not permit any attachments
- The proposal only recognizes National Silver Cross Mothers which would exclude other Silver Cross Mothers and recipients
- It is inappropriate to dictate to families what they should include on their loved ones’ grave markers
- Logistical challenge of how far back this would go

b. Information collection/brainstorming sessions

As the Poppy and Remembrance Division continues to focus on enhancing and modernizing Legion Poppy and Remembrance programs, brainstorming sessions to collect information and suggestions from the Provincial Commands and Branches through their Provincial Command Poppy Chairs are required. Therefore, Zoom calls will be scheduled with the preliminary sessions focusing on the poster and literary contest and new proposed video component, Poppy and Remembrance promotional material feedback, request form for the Pay Tribute boxes and corporate sponsor PoS and direct deposit expansion.

9. NEXT MEETING OF THE POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

The next Poppy & Remembrance Committee meeting will be a Committee of the Whole meeting where all Provincial Command Poppy Chairs will be invited. It will be scheduled for early April by Zoom video conferencing.

10. CLOSING RITUAL AND ADJOURNMENT

The chair concluded the meeting by thanking the committee members for their insight and valued input. The meeting adjourned 2 February 2022 at 14:20 hours EST and the chair conducted the closing ritual.



Berkley Lawrence
Chair



Freeman Chute
Committee Coordinator

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Dominion Poppy & Remembrance Committee

Provincial Command Executive Directors

Provincial Command Poppy Chairs

Dominion Command Committee Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators