

**DOMINION COMMAND P&R COMMITTEE MEETING
23 NOVEMBER 2019, LEGION HOUSE OTTAWA
MEETING MINUTES**

File: 35-1

In Attendance:

Angus Stanfield	-	Chairman
Berkley Lawrence	-	Vice Chairman
Glen Hodge (phone)-		Member
Kandys Merola	-	Member
Lorne Varga	-	Member
Freeman Chute	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	A/Committee Coordinator

Absent: John Ladouceur - Member

1. OPENING RITUAL AND CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The meeting commenced at 1235 hrs. The Chairman conducted the opening ritual and welcomed all committee members.

2. ADMINISTRATION

There were no administrative points at this time.

3. REQUEST FOR OTHER BUSINESS AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests for other business agenda items.

4. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF THE POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF 13 FEBRUARY 2019

a. Minutes Approval - The 13 February 2019 Dominion Poppy and Committee minutes were attached for committee review and approval. The members we asked to bring forward and items for discussion at this time.

MOTION: That the 13 February 2019 Dominion Poppy & Remembrance Committee minutes be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5. UPDATE REMEMBRANCE ISLAND

Every year on Remembrance Day, the world shares a moment of silence at 11 am to pay respect to the fallen. But 100 years on, the purpose

behind this day is becoming a little lost on the younger generations. This year, we wanted to get their attention on a platform they are passionate about by creating a Remembrance Day memorial uniquely geared to the gaming community.

Sponsored by Twitch where millions of people come together live every day to chat, interact, and make their own entertainment together, and like YouTube, it is dominated by a select group of influencers with a massive following.

Fortnite is an online video game where up to 100 players are dropped onto an island where they fight to be the last player standing. This is what provides us the canvas we need to build Remembrance Island.

Remembrance Island is an educational based game using archival information from World War I, World War II, Korea and Afghanistan. There is *no fighting or weapons*, the goal is for the streamers/gamers to explore the land in actual three dimensional scenes from the World Wars, Korea and Afghanistan; such as Normandy Beach, the trenches and see first-hand what it looked like from the veterans point of view then, and now.

The players follow a path of poppy's interacting with each other and gathering information until they reach the Vimy memorial where exploration stops and they pay their respects with two minutes of silence at the Memorial at 11 pm in real life time, but actually 11 am on the island.

Advertising for Remembrance Island was the 9 & 10 Nov, and the Island went live on the 11 Nov for the one Day only. The Island was a media success and reports from media stated the island was '*phenomenal*' and the Royal Canadian Legion should be congratulated.

The one day Remembrance Island brought in over '*15 million*' views and a large user demand for an extension of the Island for 2020.

The company that helps us design the Island is currently up for a number of media awards for the creation of Remembrance Island with the Legion

2020 there will also be a donation feature that will permit players to donate to the Legion Poppy fund.

RECOMMENDATION: That Remembrance Island be introduced once again for Remembrance 2020.

CARRIED

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

6. POPPY CAMPAIGN - UPDATE

Poppy sales report from the Legion Poppy Branch catalogue was attached.

7. DIGITAL POPPY – UPDATE

Poppy sales from the Digital Poppy was attached

8. TAP AND PAY – 2020 TRIAL

2020 Deck:

- 2020 is a proposal for the tap and pay option for all Poppy boxes. Permitting electronic donations in a cashless society.
- This option also attracts the younger society where they only carry cells phones, prepaid charge cards and credit cards.
- 2020 Deck – would be ready to trial during the Remembrance period of 2020. The idea is to have a tap and pay option on our Poppy boxes and still maintain the cash option. The tap and pay is beneficial where there are unattended Poppy boxes.
- Each Branch would be given their own Tap and Pay Poppy boxes at no expense.
- All funds from the Tap and Pay go to that Branches Poppy Fund account (no centralized national account)
- The 2020 Deck would be developed over the next year and an initial trial set for Remembrance 2020 period in Ottawa and Toronto at no cost to the Royal Canadian Legion.
- Tap & Pay option with card or phone and will have a 'que' for holding in remote areas with no WiFi.
- Three corporate sponsors
- All tap and pay poppy boxes, software and hardware supplied, no cost to Legion.
- No cost to user for tap and pay.
- Ottawa and Toronto equipped for 2020 trial.
- 2021, supply remaining Legion branches
- Each Branch would be supplied with poppy boxes ready to deploy, no cost.
- Once supplied to Branches (poppy boxes, batteries and chargers) branches would maintain.
- Corporate partners will provide 150k of free advertising for Legion Tap and Pay for public knowledge.
- During trail period Corporate partner(s) will donate to local Legion Poppy fund for every Poppy box that receives tap and pay donations over a set amount. To be determined by Dominion Command and Corporate Partner.

RECOMMENDATION: That the tap and pay trial be initiated for Remembrance **2020.**

CARRIED

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

9. RECOGNIZING ANIMALS OF WAR

There were discussions on whether the Legion should adopt a Purple Poppy in Recognition of animals of war.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Legion not get involved with the purple poppy.

CARRIED

10. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – SUPPORT OUR TROOPS (SoT)

a. Support Our Troops is asking the Royal Canadian Legion Poppy Trust Fund committee **to consider a gift of \$100,000** directed toward one or both of the following **Family First** programs: **Special Needs** and/or **National Youth Camps**

b. **Military Families: Sacrifice**

Families who have a child with special needs are especially vulnerable - and eight percent of Canadian Armed Forces families have a child with physical, intellectual or emotional condition requiring special supports or adaptations in order to be able to experience a good quality of life and participate fully in the community.

Often, when relocating, military families who have a child with special needs lose access to critical specialized healthcare services, such as occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, or mental health counselors. As a new resident, often they find themselves on wait lists for medical care and therefore have to spend their own money for private care. Those in remote postings routinely have to travel long distances, which is costly, to gain access to specialized care.

This means that military families routinely face additional costs associated with specialized care and services. The cost to raise a child with special needs is significant, so military families often take on heavy financial burdens in order to support a child with special needs.

c. Family First: Special Needs Program

The Special Needs Program provides grants for assessments, assistive-devices, respite care, therapy, medical travel, and prescriptions. Families who relocate are often the most in need for funding, but any member is eligible to receive funds. Many of the requests we receive are from those who have exhausted their savings and their public healthcare plans. Support Our Troops provides grants of between \$500 and \$2,000 per family, based on the healthcare need.

d. Family First: National Youth Camp Program

The Youth Camp program provides funding for military children to attend a weeklong, accredited camp of their choice. Any serving member is eligible to apply for a grant to offset the cost of sending their child to camp. Grants range from \$400 to \$1,100 depending on the need of the child and family.

e. Benefits of your gift

A \$100,000 gift toward the **Special Need Program** and/or **Youth Camp Program** will help increase the number of members and families supported across the country, providing military families with access to programs that will have an immediate impact on their health and well-being including:

- Ensuring children with special needs receive timely and appropriate care
- Increasing the number of children attending a summer camp, providing a respite from the stress of military life and a chance to make new friends.

The **Royal Canadian Legion** will also benefit. Your gift will be recognized in Support Our Troops' publications and announced on social media sites and to the CAF community. A gift from the Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund to Support Our Troops will increase the Canadian public's awareness of the impact of your donations when they don the Poppy each year.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Support Out Troops (SoT) request for funding include more detail towards exactly where the funds are to be spent and not generalized in the attached pamphlets.

CARRIED

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

11. OP Faus – Request for funding

a. **Educational Video**

The purpose is to create, and develop, original storylines pertaining to various operations during the liberation of Holland, by Canadian Forces. The success of OP FAUST, MANNA, CHOWHOUND, and the support provided to the Dutch citizens, by the men and women, of the Canadian Armed Forces. Canadian Logisticians serving in the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Will be the feature focus, with additional stories platforming the diversity of the Canadian Service personnel, involved in these Operations.

Operation Faust, is the main storyline. The history of RCASC, RCOC, RCPC, with a focus on their role in World War Two. Archival footage, first person stories, testimonials, and factual documentation, will outline the courage, and impact of OP FAUST on both Canada, and Holland.

The winter of 1944-45 in Europe was a desperate time. In Holland it came to be known as the “hunger winter,” the Nazi occupiers purposely exported all food stuffs to Germany, and flooded the polders – leaving no way for the population to feed itself. Op MANNA was the emergency food drop operation by the RAF/RCAF, while Op CHOWHOUND was the USAF version; and neither proved satisfactory. Op FAUST was the Allied Army surface delivery of humanitarian aid into Nazi occupied Holland during the waning days of the Second World War.

DISCUSSION:

We have been receiving a number of requests for funding on specific events and methods of portraying these events. Some of these requests include on line maps depicting different battle fronts allowing the users to follow on line. On an educational perspective we should be covering a more global aspect such as World War I, World War II and Afghanistan similar to the teachers guide we currently have in place, but upgraded.

RECOMMENDATION: That Legion support should not be for specific events in war and we concentrate on a more all inclusive educational approach for the same funding.

CARRIED

12. RESOLUTIONS

- a. **QUE-1-C_e** - committee does not concur.

- b. AB-NWT-1-C_e
AB-NWT-2-C - committee concurs.
- c. MB-NWO-3-C_e
MB-NWO-4-C_e - committee does not concur
- d. NFLD-LAB-1_e - committee does not concur.

13. NEW BUSINES (AS INTRODUCED AT AGENDA ITEM 3)

- a. We are finding the color of the wreaths are not as vibrant as in previous years. They appear to have been used straight out of the box when they are in fact new. The committee asked if this could be looked into as to why and also ask if they are biodegradable.

ACTION: Committee Coordinator

14. NEXT MEETING OF THE DOMINION COMMAND P&R COMMITTEE – TBC

The next meeting will be scheduled for February 2020 at a date and time TBD.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1400 hrs.



Angus Stanfield
Chairman



Freeman Chute
Committee Coordinator

Attachments: 2

DISTRIBUTION LIST

DEC
Dominion Past Presidents
Dominion Poppy & Remembrance Committee
Provincial Command Secretaries
Provincial Command Poppy & Remembrance Representatives
(Thru Provincial Secretaries)