

**Dominion Command
Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee
VIA ZOOM
6 October 2022, 1330 – 1530
Record of Discussion**

File: 65-1

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bruce Julian	-	Chairman
Owen Parkhouse	-	Vice-Chairman
Bill Chafe	-	Member
John Mahon	-	Member
Larry Murray	-	Ex-Officio
Dave Gordon	-	Homeless Veterans
George O'Dair	-	Seniors Advisor
Trevor Jenvenne	-	BSO Legion OSI Special Section

DOMINION COMMAND STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Carolyn Hughes	-	Coordinator
Alexa Pasha	-	Assistant Coordinator

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Comrade Bruce welcomed everyone and provided an update on the upcoming retirement of Comrade Ray McInnis. Comrade Bruce made special mention of the initiatives that Comrade Ray has been instrumental with support to the Veteran community.

Comrade Bruce updated the VSS group on Comrade Carolyn's, new role as the Acting Director for Veterans Services at Dominion Command and joining the Committee as the Coordinator vice her previous role as Observer.

Comrade Dean Young, a new Service Officer at Dominion Command, has taken over the Coordinator role for the Defence and Security Committee and is here as an Observer.

Comrade Bruce updated everyone on his meetings in London with the RCEL and the advocacy that was done for the widows benefits. Most specifically how those born after 1950 will now be eligible and provided support either through the Royal British Legion or another avenue of funding through the government.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from 26 May 2022 had no action items on this meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was brought forward.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that the members approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 26 May 2022.

CARRIED

3. UPDATES

a. Meeting with Acting Chief of Military Personnel

Meeting with MGen Lise Bourgon and the Command CWO for Military Personnel Command, CWO Martin Rousseau, occurred at Legion House. Comrades Bruce, Steven, Carolyn, and Andrea Siew, the Chair of the Defence and Security Committee, were in attendance.

Updates about the CAF Transition Group Pilot project in Petawawa and Borden were received with confirmation that Transition Groups will slowly be implemented across the country.

In the near future, a report will be completed regarding sexual misconduct matters and the CAF's response to Chief Justice Louise Arbour's report.

Housing affordability is of concern for CAF members. MGen Bourgon is aware that Post Living Differential (PLD) has not been reviewed since 2009 and stated they are reviewing it. Letters were sent to the Minister of National Defence (MDN) and the Minister of Public Safety for the RCMP last May regarding the rising costs of housing. There has been no word from the MND, however the response for the RCMP only indicated that members receive a Northern Allowance when posted to the northern communities.

Coordinator Update: A letter had been received from the MND in August, stating that PLD was currently being reviewed in design and calculation method.

MGen Bourgon indicated that the number of CAF personnel is a challenge and there is a large shortfall in the numbers needed. This could affect the CAF's capability to deploy overseas and perform disaster relief in Canada.

b. Income Replacement Benefit - Advocacy

Comrade Carolyn noted the IRB meeting was postponed, as such, no new updates on this matter. When further information is provided, Comrade Carolyn will update the VSS group. Comrade Carolyn is on the Policy Advisory Group and the Service Excellence and Transition Group and will continue to monitor for a meeting and report.

ACTION: Coordinator

c. TryCycle-Vac-Talking Stick App

There is an MOU from the Saskatchewan First Nation Veteran's Association (SFNVA) to consider. It is called The Burns Way Project and is a novel and innovative digital health approach, designed to rapidly connect human resources to the front lines of Veteran's Mental Health. Grand Chief David Gamble has already signed the document. Comrades Bruce and Steven will be attending a Spirit of our Nations Pow Wow held by the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations on October 21st in Saskatoon, where the MOU is expected to be signed in an official ceremony in front of more than 10,000 people. Comrade Carolyn will work with the (SFNVA) to monitor and to build a joint Statement of Work.

d. Concussion Legacy Foundation Veterans

Comrade Carolyn spoke with Ryan Cary, the Military/Veteran Liaison for the Foundation, future brain donor and leader for Project Enlist, which will bring awareness to head injuries in the military. He will be providing a report to demonstrate where and how the funds they received from us last year have been used. It is likely another request for funds will come in time for DEC. Comrade Carolyn is monitoring and will share with the Committee once received.

ACTION: Coordinator

e. Homeless Veterans

Please see report enclosed, provided by Comrade Dave.

Further note that the program is moving along and Toronto Police Service (TPS) is hoping to have everything up to date with the Canadian Police Information Centre (CPIC) network across the country. More details to come.

Comrade Dave brought forward that TPS has contacted Comrade Steven to do a presentation at DEC. Comrade Carolyn noted that a spot has been saved.

Comrade Dave brought forward the concern that the RCMP has been radio silent on the TPS initiative. Members collaborated on avenues of getting the program into the RCMP at a variety of levels. Comrade John is welcomed to contact Alberta division to promote the program.

f. Seniors

Please see report enclosed, provided by Comrade George.

Comrade George highlighted concerns on housing options for homeless Veterans/ seniors in the Cornwall community and the concern over seniors being moved from hospital beds outside of their immediate hometown. Discussion was had on how this new legislation could be impacting the senior Veteran population.

g. BSO Legion OSI Special Section

Comrade Trevor noted that he has been busy working with the TryCycle initiative. He noted the concern for mental health issues in the Indigenous communities and thanked Comrade Bruce and Comrade Steven for heading out to Saskatoon. He noted that Indigenous individuals who served, are dealing with mental health matters in relation to their service as well.

Buddy Check Coffee and Operation VetBuild are opening up and moving forward. Restructuring of how these services are being run is currently being looked at. Specifically, a Coordinator may be set up for both projects. More information to come. It was noted that on a small scale, he is looking at getting District Representation in Ontario.

Comrade Trevor noted he will be attending the Manitoba Northwestern Ontario PEC. It was noted that there may be a need for Dominion Command to get better representation for the BSO Legion OSI at the Provincial Legion and in some cases voting rights at the PEC level. There will be talk about how restructuring is done in Eastern Canada and potentially making all three commands into one regional area.

4. NEW ITEMS

a. PAN Canadian Project on Fall Prevention

Mr. Bruno Battistini, PhD professor at the University of Ottawa, and Professor Danielle Bouchard at the University of NB, requested our support for a project regarding Fall Prevention. The project is called the **AAIMS project: Understanding how to Atttract, Adapt, Implement and Sustain evidence-informed fall prevention exercise in community settings**. The granting agency is Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for a program

called Team Grant: Healthy Cities Implementation Science (HCIS) Team Grants. They have invited a representative for the National Advisory Committee and Comrade Bill has agreed to represent the Legion.

b. Service Officer Professional Development (SOPD)

SOPD was cancelled due to Hurricane Fiona and the significant damage and power outages that Charlottetown experienced. No new date has been set for SOPD at this moment in time. There is limited financial impact other than the cost of two flights and small incidentals. Comrade Carolyn is working with the hotel to reschedule in the near future and trying to obtain the same contractual agreement regarding costs.

ACTION: Coordinator

5. Canadian Institute for Military and Veterans Health Research (CIMVHR)

CIMVR is set for 17 October 2022 and Comrades Steven, Carolyn and Bruce will be attending. This is the first one that has been done in person in the last three years. Following the CIMVHR Forum, they will head to Charlottetown for the bilateral meeting with VAC on 20 October 2022.

The recipient has been chosen for the 2022 RCL Masters Scholarship and she is Ms. Martine Southall, BA Hons. Her research will focus on "Understanding the Relationship between Cannabis Use and Psychotherapeutic Treatment in Canadian Veterans: A Mixed-Methods Study".

Coordinator Update: Comrade Carolyn was unable to attend due to staff shortages in Veterans Services. The bilateral meeting with VAC on 20 October 2022 was also cancelled and Comrade Carolyn is working on rescheduling with the Minister's office.

6. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/ROUNDTABLE

Comrade Bill brought forward that there had been talks of acknowledging and showing respect for last the remaining WWII Veterans, specifically regarding getting information out to Branches to do something to show respect and recognition. He inquired into status of what is being done, and who/which committee is moving forward with this task. Comrade Carolyn said she would enquire and get the information back to everyone.

ACTION: Coordinator

Coordinator Update: Comrade Carolyn enquired and was advised that we recognize WWII Veterans through specific anniversaries such as D Day, Dieppe, Hong Kong, etc... and otherwise all Veterans are recognized without reference to a specific conflict.

Comrade Bill further noted that the question has been raised on the relevancy of the name of the VSS committee, in specific the Seniors title. Ontario Command has changed current status to Veterans Services committee, with a unanimous vote. Comrade Bill is bringing forward that this topic be put on the next agenda meeting.

Next meeting it will be discussed if the Seniors name in the title is still relevant to the Committee, does it still hold value, and would a change help to welcome in the younger Veteran generation. Comrade Bruce mentioned that this is worth bringing forward and Comrade Larry noted there should be further investigation into the matter and that in order to create meaningful discussion, we need to understand the demographics of Veterans in Canada. He further mentioned how the Legion has made a significant improvement in the lives of senior Veterans, and to look at this topic from a variety of perspectives/information.

ACTION: Coordinator

Comrade Owen brought forward the topic of Veteran death by suicide. More specifically, he is looking to see if any agency is reporting or providing data, to accurately depict how many Veterans die by suicide each year. Comrade Owen spoke of the importance of this issue, and that this should become a priority as it is a growing concern in the Veteran community. Larry mentioned that CIMVHR might have some numbers on this matter and suggested to inquire with VAC to see if they report on these numbers.

ACTION: Coordinator

Comrade Trevor noted a way in which to support verification in the RCMP. He noted that each member gets added to an RCMP graves registration, which could aid in verifying the individual as a Veteran. He noted this would be important for SO's to be aware of and has provided Comrades Carolyn and Alexa with the website.

Comrade Dave brought up the concern about Tiny Homes, as they are coming up across Canada. He has asked for reiteration from Dominion Command on the stance of Tiny Homes.

Comrade Bruce noted the stance of Dominion Command is that Tiny Homes were thanked for information and told that any Veteran in their home would be supported, but Dominion Command would not participate with Tiny Homes as an organization. This message was put in writing and Comrade Dave has asked for a copy of the letter.

ACTION: Coordinator

Coordinator Update: Comrade Carolyn enquired, and a letter could not be found. Dominion Command staff confirmed we would not associate with the organization directly, but we would support Veterans living in them.

Comrade Bruce noted when the time is correct, he would like to formally thank Comrade Ray McInnis for all his work and support in the VSS and Veteran community.

7. NEXT MEETING

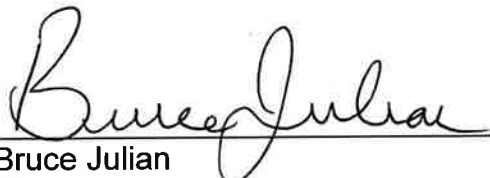
The next meeting for the VSS Committee is scheduled for **22 November 2022** via Zoom at 1330.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The Chair thanked all for their input, and the discussion.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1530.

CARRIED


Bruce Julian
CHAIRMAN


Carolyn Hughes
COORDINATOR

Dated this day of 15 November 2022