

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

24-25 April 2021

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 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

24-25 APRIL 2021

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ATTENDEES

Tom Irvine	-	Dominion President
Bruce Julian	-	Dominion First Vice President
Dave Flannigan	-	Immediate Past Dominion President
Angus Stanfield	-	Dominion Vice President
Brian Weaver	-	Dominion Vice President
Owen Parkhouse	-	Dominion Vice President
Bill Chafe	-	Dominion Chairman
Mark Barham	-	Dominion Treasurer
Larry Murray	-	Dominion Grand President
Valerie MacGregor	-	BC/YT Command President
John Mahon	-	AB-NT Command President
Keith Andrews	-	SK Command President
Jerry Lava	-	MB & NWO Command President
Garry Pond	-	ON Command President
Kenneth Ouellet	-	QC Command President
Terry Campbell	-	NB Command President
Marion Fryday-Cook	-	NS/NU Command President
Duane MacEwen	-	PE Command President
Nathan Lehr	-	NL Command President
Kandys Merola	-	TVS Command President
Jill Carleton	-	OSI Special Section President
Ken Sorrenti	-	Chair R & A Committee
Jim Rycroft	-	Chair C & L Committee
Andrea Siew	-	Chair D & S Committee

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

Steven Clark	-	National Executive Director
Danny Martin	-	Director Corporate Service
Raymond McInnis	-	Director Veterans Services
Randy Hayley	-	Deputy Director, Member Services
Joan Elliott	-	Deputy Director Supply
Dion Edmonds	-	Deputy Director Marketing & Communications

- Oksana Gorelova - Comptroller
- Jennifer Morse - General Manager CANVET
- Eric Harris - Editor CANVET
- Sam Laprade - Director Development, Legion National Foundation
- Angela Keeling Colkitt - Executive Assistant

ANNEXES

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- Annex B - Dominion President's Remarks
- Annex C - Administrative Arrangements
- Annex D - Approval of Minutes/Electronic Decisions
- Annex E - National Executive Director's Report
- Annex F - Dominion Treasurer's Report
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- Annex H - Poppy & Remembrance Committee Report
- Annex I - Membership Committee Report
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- Annex N - RCEL Committee Report
- Annex O - Dominion Convention Committee Report
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- Annex Q - Veterans Consultation Assembly Report
- Annex R - Going Forward Committee Report
- Annex S - Governance Committee Report
- Annex T - Centenary Committee Report
- Annex U - CANVET Publications Report
- Annex V - Legion National Foundation Report
- Annex W - BC-YT Command Report
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- Annex Y - SK Provincial Command Report
- Annex ZZ - MB & NWO Command Report
- Annex AA - ON Provincial Command Report
- Annex BB - QC Provincial Command Report
- Annex CC - NB Provincial Command Report
- Annex DD - NS/NU Command Report
- Annex EE - PE Provincial Command Report
- Annex FF - NL Provincial Command Report
- Annex GG - TVS Special Section Report
- Annex HH - OSI Special Section Report
- Annex II - Covid-19 and the Impact on the Legion
- Annex JJ - Dominion Convention Resolutions
- Annex KK - Charters Issued and Cancelled
- Annex LL - Dominion Command Branches
- Annex MM - Meetings and Invitation List

- Annex NN - Correspondence
- Annex OO - Presidential Citation Award
- Annex PP - MemberPerks PowerPoint

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES 24-25 APRIL 2021

ITEM 1: OPENING

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council opened at 1200 hours on Saturday, 24 April 2021, by Zoom Video Conference.

ITEM 2: GRAND PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Grand President's remarks are at Annex A.

ITEM 3: DOMINION PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Dominion President's remarks are at Annex B.

ITEM 4: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The National Executive Director reviewed the administrative arrangements for the meeting. Presented as an information item only, attached at Annex C.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES / ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

The results of the electronic decisions taken place since the last DEC meeting are at Annex D.

MOTION: That the DEC minutes of 28-29 November 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

ITEM 6: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The National Executive Director presented his report and is at Annex E

ITEM 7: DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

The Dominion Treasurer presented his report and is at Annex F.

ITEM 8: COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee report was presented, attached at Annex G.

The report CARRIED

b. Poppy & Remembrance Committee

The Poppy & Remembrance Committee report was presented, attached at Annex H.

MOTION: That the number of Pay Tribute poppy boxes be increased to a maximum of 2000 for 2021.

CARRIED

MOTION: That an amount of \$599,700 be approved to support HiMARC, to be divided over a two-year period.

MOTION AS AMENDED: That an amount of \$599,700 be approved to support HiMARC, to be divided over a three-year period.

CARRIED

MOTION: That an amount of \$25,000 be approved to support Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada (HMFC).

CARRIED

MOTION: That an amount of \$15,000 be approved to support Ways to Wellbeing.

CARRIED

MOTION: That an amount of \$6,000 be approved to support of 11 Days of Remembrance.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the word "Post Traumatic Service Disorder" be removed, to read:

403.ii.m. Service Dogs: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 25 percent of the current balance, for the purposes of supporting costs associated with the initial purchase of service dogs.

MOTION AS AMENDED: Operational Stress Injury Service Dogs: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 25 percent of the current balance, for the purposes of supporting costs associated with the initial purchase of Operational Stress Injury Service Dogs.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the word “snow removal’ be removed. to read:

501. iv. c. home care, housekeeping services or grounds keeping, such as grass cutting, leaf raking etc. (Contact VAC regarding the use of the VIP program).

MOTION WITHDRAWN

MOTION: That the words “non-Legion administered Food Banks,” be removed to read:

501.IV.f. general or non-specific donations to charities, registered or non-registered, or not for profits that do not meet the criteria listed in Sections 401, 402 or 403 of this manual. Examples include, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, March of Dimes etc, or for administrative or operational expenses of any organization. When in doubt, contact your provincial command for direction.

CARRIED

ACTION ALL ITEMS: Committee Coordinator
The report CARRIED

c. Membership Committee

The Membership Committee report was presented, attached at Annex I.

MOTION: That Member Services create an electronic membership card, downloadable to mobile devices, to complement the current plastic membership card.

CARRIED

MOTION: That an additional \$150K be approved to fund Marketing and Membership initiatives to counter the membership decline resulting from the impact of COVID-19.

CARRIED

ACTION ALL ITEMS: Committee Coordinator
The report CARRIED

d. Sports Committee

The Sports Committee report was presented, attached at Annex J.

The report CARRIED

e. Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee report was presented, attached at Annex K.

The report CARRIED

f. Ritual & Awards Committee

The Ritual & Awards Committee report was presented, attached at Annex L.

The report CARRIED

g. Constitution & Laws Committee

The Constitution & Laws Committee report was presented, attached at Annex M.

MOTION: That GBL 202 be amended to read:

202. No person who advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be, or any person proven to advocate, encourage or participate in subversive action or subversive propaganda shall be permitted to become a member.

CARRIED

ACTION ITEMS: Committee Coordinator
The report CARRIED

h. RCEL Committee

The RCEL Committee report was presented, attached at Annex N.

The report CARRIED

i. Dominion Convention Committee

The Dominion Convention Committee report was presented, attached at Annex O.

The report CARRIED

j. Defence & Security Committee

The Defence & Security Committee report was presented, attached at Annex P.

The report CARRIED

- k. Veterans Consultation Assembly
The Veterans Consultation Assembly report was presented, attached at Annex Q.
The report CARRIED

- l. Going Forward Committee
The Going Forward Committee report was presented, attached at Annex R.
The report CARRIED

- m. Governance Committee
The Governance Committee report was presented, attached at Annex S.
The report CARRIED

- n. Centenary Committee
The Centenary Committee report was presented, attached Annex T.
The report CARRIED

ITEM 9: CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

The CANVET Publications report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex U.

ITEM 10: LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION

The Legion National Foundation report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex V.

ITEM 11: COMMAND / SECTION REPORTS

- a. BC/YT Command
The BC/YT Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex W.

- b. AB-NT Command
The AB-NT Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex X.

- c. SK Provincial Command
The SK Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex Y.

- d. MB & NWO Command
The MB & NWO Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex Z.

- e. ON Provincial Command
The ON Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex AA.
- f. QC Provincial Command
The QC Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex BB.
- g. NB Provincial Command
The NB Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex CC.
- h. NS/NU Command
The NS/NU Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex DD.
- i. PE Provincial Command
The PE Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex EE.
- j. NL Provincial Command
The NL Provincial Command report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex FF.
- k. Tuberculous Veterans Section
The Tuberculous Veterans Section report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex GG.
- l. OSI Special Section
The OSI Special Section report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex HH.

ITEM 12: COVID-19 AND IMPACT ON THE LEGION

The Covid-19 and Impact on the Legion report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex II, however; there has been an update to the VOESF Phase III funding. This will now be disbursed by EFT on 7th May 2021. Provincial Command offices are now also eligible for VOESF funding under Phase III, the deadline is Tuesday April 27, 2021. Provincial Commands have been notified of the quick turnaround.

ITEM 13: DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

There were two (2) resolutions that were presented for DEC consideration, attached at Annex JJ.

a. NS / NU 5/C: The Royal Canadian Legion Publications

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Royal Canadian Legion should cause all Royal Canadian Legion publications to have linking capabilities from index subjects to their articles as per the linking procedure in the Rules of Procedure Manual.

CONCURRED

b. SASK 1/C: Carbon Tax on Utilities

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial and Dominion Commands lobby the federal government to exempt Legion branches from the Carbon Tax on its utility bills.

NON-CONCURRED

ITEM 14: SENIOR OFFICER REPORTS

There were no senior officer reports presented.

ITEM 15: CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

The Charters Issued and Cancelled report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex KK.

ITEM 16: DOMINION COMMAND BRANCHES

The Dominion Command Branches report was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex LL.

ITEM 17: REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

There were no requests for support presented.

ITEM 18: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

The Meetings and Invitation list was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex MM.

ITEM 19: OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

1. Presidential Citation Award

The Dominion President, on Sunday 25 April 2021 at 1:00 pm, welcomed Comrade Michael Cook and Comrade David Sinclair to the Dominion Executive Council Virtual Meeting. Unfortunately, Comrade Gerry Vowles was unable to attend. The Dominion President honoured their commitment and outstanding service as Trustees of BC/YT Command from 2017-2019.

Remarks and a virtual awarding of a Presidential Citation was presented, attached at Annex OO; the physical Presidential Citations will be sent to the BC/YT President for presentation when pandemic restrictions permit.

2. CRA T1044 Form

Since its inception in 1992, not-for-profit organizations are required to submit the T1044 form on an annual basis if they meet certain conditions: if they own assets more than \$200,000 or if they receive revenue of more than \$10,000 in a given year. If a branch meets at least one of the two conditions they are required by law to file the T1044. It is a simple 2-page form.

CRA, through the Voluntary Disclosure Program, can forgive up to 10 years' worth of penalties. The annual penalty could be up to \$2,500. If branches have not submitted this form, since its inception in 1992, the branch(es) could potentially be subject to penalties up to \$25,000 if CRA penalized them to the full extent authorized.

Since this is a Canadian Government directive required by law, the Legion cannot instruct branches not to fill out this form.

Information will be relayed with the Provincial Executive Directors on the next Provincial Executive Director conference call.

3. Unknown Soldier – National War Memorial, St. John's, NL

A letter of support from Dominion Command was requested for the NL Command initiative to bring back the remains of an Unknown Soldier of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment from Beaumont-Hamel to be interred at the National War Memorial in St. John's, NL on 1 July 2024.

MOTION: That Dominion Command generate a letter of support for the NL Command Unknown Soldier repatriation initiative. There is no cost commitment to Dominion Command.

CARRIED

NOTE: Correspondence with some information was sent to National Executive Director, with additional information to be requested.

4. Poppy Fund Donation to RNZRSA

The RNZRSA National President, Comrade BJ Clark, reported that of the \$250K received from the Legion, 2/3 has been deposited to their National Poppy Trust Fund for direct support of Veterans in need. The remaining 1/3 will assist with their District Support Managers (similar to our Service Officers / Service Bureau). They are very appreciative of the Legion's

financial gift and will be sending an appropriate recognition to the Legion for presentation when conditions permit.

5. Licence Plates – Quebec

Quebec Command President Comrade Ken Ouellet requested the other Provincial Presidents advise him how many Veterans license plates were issued in their province and how many are active. This information will be used by Quebec Command for comparison.

6. Head Chaperones National Track & Field

Comrade Brian Weaver announced that the new Head Chaperones for the National Track & Field Championships, starting with the next championships in Sherbrook in August 2022, are Comrade Frank Chollete and Comrade Caroline Mayo. Frank and Caroline will be taking over from the previous Head Chaperones, Helen and John Ladouceur, who served in that role for 25 years. The Ladouceurs were presented with the President's Award in Sydney, NS 2020.

7. MemberPerks Program

Comrade Dion Edmonds updated DEC regarding the MemberPerks program; see Annex PP. Under the 5-year agreement negotiated with Venngo, there are 12,000 local and national retail locations where a Legion member can receive an offer/discount from various partners. As of 31 March 2021, 13,400 members have registered and have saved over \$230,000. When travel restrictions are lifted, Venngo plans to take some of their partners into Legion branches to talk about the value-added opportunities and to raise branch level awareness and local vender awareness. A MembersPerks program presentation will be given during the 2021 Dominion Convention.

8. Dominion Command vs National Headquarters

For clarification, reference to Dominion Command means the elected leadership of the organization (DEC) while reference to the National Headquarters is the physical building and staff working at 86 Aird Place in Ottawa.

9. Friday Night Zoom Meeting Caucuses at Dominion Convention

Dominion Command had previously supplied every Provincial Command and the OSI and TVS Special Sections with their own Zoom account. These accounts will be able to manage 1000 logins to accommodate the size of Provincial Caucus's during the virtual Dominion Convention.

More instructions about Provincial Caucus and Dominion Convention instructions will be provided in the near future.

10. Candidates for Dominion Convention
Members expressed their intent to run for various elected offices.

ITEM 20: CORRESPONDENCE

One item of correspondence was presented as an information item only, attached at Annex NN.

ITEM 21: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council was adjourned on Sunday April 25, 2021 at 1:45 pm

Dominion Chairman



National Executive Director

ITEM 2: GRAND PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

THANK YOU, COMRADE CHAIR.

GOOD AFTERNOON, COMRADES, THE PRIMARY FOCUS OF MY OPENING REMARKS TODAY WILL BE ON THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF DEC LEADERSHIP AS WE EMERGE FROM THE GRIP OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE COMING MONTHS.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY REVIEWING WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED DURING THE PAST VERY UNIQUE AND CHALLENGING YEAR.

I WAS REMINDED OF THIS WHILE WRITING AN EMAIL TO THE NATIONAL (IE GRAND) PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND A FEW WEEKS AGO. IN IT I STATED:

“THE TOP PRIORITIES OF THE RCL FOR MORE THAN A YEAR HAVE BEEN TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY DURING THE PANDEMIC AS WELL AS TO HELP ALL RESIDENTS IN NEED IN THE MANY COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN WHICH LEGION BRANCHES ARE LOCATED. DESPITE ALL BRANCHES BEING CLOSED FOR VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE PAST YEAR, THE RCL HAS ALSO STRIVED TO KEEP THE FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE BURNING BRIGHTLY WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THIS PAST 11 NOVEMBER, THE LEGION DID MANAGE TO ENSURE A SOMEWHAT MORE RESTRICTED BUT “LIVE” NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY IN OTTAWA, WHICH INCLUDED PARTICIPATION BY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE PRIME MINISTER.”

“A SUCCESSFUL POPPY CAMPAIGN WAS ALSO CONDUCTED ACROSS THE COUNTRY DESPITE MANY CHALLENGES. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT THE RCL SHARED POPPY FUNDS THIS YEAR WITH THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND LEGION WHICH HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONDUCT THEIR CAMPAIGN IN APRIL BECAUSE OF LOCK DOWNS THERE.”

“ANOTHER TOP PRIORITY OF THE RCL THIS PAST YEAR HAS BEEN TO HELP MANY BRANCHES IN SERIOUS FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY BECAUSE OF THE LOCK DOWNS, AVOID PERMANENT CLOSURE. THIS ENTAILED DOMINION COMMAND INITIALLY PROVIDING RELIEF USING NATIONAL RESERVES TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE AND THEN SUCCESSFULLY SEEKING ASSISTANCE FROM GOVERNMENT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE LEGION'S NEARLY 100 YEAR HISTORY, WITH THE SUPPORT PROVIDED FOCUSED STRICTLY ON BRANCH SURVIVAL.”

“DESPITE THESE CHALLENGES LEGION BRANCHES HAVE CONTINUED TO DO GREAT WORK SUPPORTING VETERANS AND OTHERS.”

“I EXPECT THE ABOVE PRIORITIES WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER AND INTO THE FALL. ALTHOUGH VACCINATIONS ARE STARTING TO RAMP UP ACROSS CANADA, SERIOUS CONCERNS REMAIN ABOUT A THIRD WAVE BECAUSE OF THE COVID VARIANTS NOW IN PLAY. VARIOUS RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE IN MOST OF THE COUNTRY AND MORE THAN 50% OF LEGION BRANCHES REMAINED CLOSED AT THIS TIME.” (MID-MARCH).

I REALIZED AFTER I READ WHAT I HAD WRITTEN THAT IT IS A MOVING STORY OF SELFLESS SERVICE BY THE RCL DURING TRYING TIMES. IT IS ALSO A STORY OF STRONG, ENGAGED LEADERSHIP AND EXCELLENT TEAMWORK BY ALL OF YOU THROUGHOUT THE FIRST PANDEMIC THAT CANADA HAS EXPERIENCED IN MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS.

YOU SHOULD ALL BE PROUD OF YOURSELVES.

HOWEVER, AND UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER THIS STORY NOR THE PANDEMIC ARE YET OVER.

INDEED WHEN WE LOOK BACK IN 10 YEARS, WE MAY WELL CONCLUDE THAT THE FIRST YEAR WAS THE EASY BIT BECAUSE THE CHALLENGES WERE CLEAR AND STRAIGHTFORWARD AND, ALTHOUGH DIFFICULT TO EXECUTE AT TIMES, THE SOLUTIONS WERE AT LEAST RELATIVELY SIMPLE TO DETERMINE.

THE BEST PATH FORWARD DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS AS WE GRADUALLY EMERGE FROM THE GRIP OF THE PANDEMIC, PROBABLY AT DIFFERING SPEED ACROSS THE COUNTRY, MAY BE LESS CLEAR.

CERTAINLY IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR THE WHOLE ORGANIZATION TO SHAKE OFF THE INERTIA INHERENT IN ‘ON AGAIN OFF AGAIN’ LOCK DOWNS AND CLOSURES AND TO RE-ESTABLISH THE MOMENTUM THAT WAS EVIDENT WHEN THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ARRIVED.

I WILL REMIND YOU THAT DECLINING MEMBERSHIP OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS WAS THE PRIMARY STRATEGIC PRIORITY AT THAT TIME AND AS NOTED IN RANDY HAYLEY’S ALWAYS EXCELLENT MEMBER SERVICES WEEKLY UPDATE OF A FEW WEEKS AGO, IN MID-MARCH 2020, PRE-PANDEMIC, LEGION MEMBERSHIP WAS GROWING 2.5 % YEAR OVER YEAR. IN OTHER WORDS THE RCL HAD SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING THE BLEEDING AND WAS STARTING TO HEAD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

UNFORTUNATELY, AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC, THOSE RESULTS COULD NOT BE SUSTAINED AND THE 2020 YEAR END RESULT WAS A YEAR OVER YEAR DECREASE OF 12%.

IN THE COMING MONTHS WE CLEARLY NEED TO RE-ESTABLISH MOMENTUM ACROSS THE RCL AND, AMONG OTHER THINGS, TO TURN THE MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS AROUND. YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS DOABLE.....YOU SIMPLY HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN.

A NORMAL "LIVE" DOMINION CONVENTION IN AUGUST WOULD BE AN IDEAL TOOL TO LAUNCH THE RCL OUT OF THE PANDEMIC INERTIA AND UNCERTAINTY IN A HIGHLY VISIBLE AND EFFECTIVE MANNER.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT PARTICULAR TOOL IS UNLIKELY TO BE POSSIBLE FOR SAFETY REASONS.....AND SAFETY MUST CONTINUE TO BE THE PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION EVEN AS WE STRIVE TO MOVE FORWARD.

THUS, OTHER MEANS INCLUDING MAXIMIZING THE ENGAGEMENT, COMMUNICATIONS AND LEADERSHIP IMPACTS OF A (MOSTLY OR COMPLETELY) VIRTUAL CONVENTION WILL BE NECESSARY TO HELP REDUCE INERTIA AND TO RESTORE MOMENTUM ACROSS THE LEGION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE GOING INTO THE FALL.

YOUR WISDOM, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THE LEGION THROUGHOUT THE PAST PARTICULARLY TRYING YEAR.

THOSE SAME ATTRIBUTES AND OTHERS LIKE INITIATIVE, INNOVATION AND VISIBLE ENTHUSIASM WILL BE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IN THE COMING MONTHS AS YOU WORK TOGETHER TO RETURN THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION TO SOME SEMBLANCE OF "NEW NORMAL" FROM COAST TO COAST.

CONTINUING TO REMIND OURSELVES OF THE WONDERFUL STORY OF LEGION OUTREACH TO VETERANS AND OTHERS IN NEED THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC AND, INDEED THROUGHOUT THE PAST NEARLY 100 YEARS SINCE THIS FINE ORGANIZATION WAS FIRST ESTABLISHED IS DEFINITELY AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE ANSWER TO SORTING OUT OUR PATH FORWARD IN MY VIEW.

FINALLY, COMRADES, I CANNOT OVERSTATE THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. THE DECISIONS YOU TAKE TOGETHER WILL BE CRITICAL TO ENSURING THAT THE LEGION CONTINUES TO MOVE FORWARD SAFELY AND SUCCESSFULLY AND EMERGES FROM THE NEXT DOMINION CONVENTION ENERGIZED AND READY TO CARRY ON ITS ESSENTIAL WORK.

THANKS VERY MUCH, COMRADES.

Bonjour, Good morning Comrades...

Welcome to another virtual DEC meeting. We're old pros at this now...and it's good practice for our upcoming virtual Convention in August!

As we start our meeting, I want to spend a couple minutes offering my sincere appreciation for all the work you've personally been doing and overseeing.

Let me remind you with a few timely examples.

- You've managed to quickly and efficiently ensure the Branches applying for federal support have received financial help;
- Your Branches stepped up to the plate to offer their spaces for vaccinations and testing;
- Branches have continued to innovate to offer services, invite and renew members and promote Remembrance;
- You've continued to attend our meetings to offer advice, ideas, and solutions - and our COVID-19 committee has helped us navigate this difficult time.

There's no way our organization could have maintained its level of service and support to Veterans and communities across our country, without your great work.

As far back as I can remember, from my military career to my time with the Legion, I've always believed that team work makes things happen. It's obvious you feel the same way and that's gratifying.

So, with this in mind... let's start our meeting remembering the important role we all play – maybe even a more crucial role during this pandemic.

ITEM 4: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

a. Schedule – Saturday 24 April 2021 and Sunday 25 April 2021

- i. 1200 hours – DEC convenes via Zoom Teleconference
- ii. 1600 hours – DEC adjourns for the day (Call of the Chairman)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87370169022?pwd=czRMdW5iTTIYMWs3SIFrcjh0djFlZz09>

Meeting ID: 873 7016 9022

Passcode: 624159

One tap mobile

+12042727920,,87370169022#,,,,*624159# Canada

+14388097799,,87370169022#,,,,*624159# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 873 7016 9022

Passcode: 624159

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kOiG9zPpi>

- b. Reports. **Only committee recommendations for DEC discussion and decision are to be verbally presented.** All other items in committee reports are for information and will not be read out loud during the meeting. All meeting material is provided electronically and will not be reproduced in paper format.
- c. Dress. Relaxed dress may be worn.
- d. Zoom Etiquette.
 - Once the Dominion Chairman calls the meeting to order, all meeting attendees are to mute their audio until they are called upon by the Dominion Chairman to participate in the discussion. This will eliminate ambient feedback and noise.
 - Avoid backlight from bright windows; if possible, please do not sit with a window in your background.
 - To raise your hand during the meeting

- If on a PC or Mac, click the icon labeled PARTICIPANTS at the bottom of your screen, then click the button labeled RAISE HAND. Your digital hand is now raised. You can lower it by clicking the same button, now labelled LOWER HAND.
- If on a tablet, click the MORE icon and then click RAISE HAND. You can lower it by clicking LOWER HAND.

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

a. Approval of Minutes

The DEC last met on 28-29 November 2020. The minutes were distributed electronically.

RECOMMENDATION: That the DEC minutes of 28-29 November 2020 be approved.

b. Review of Electronic Decisions/Email Voting

There were 12 Electronic Decisions / Email voting that took place since the last DEC meeting on 28-29 November 2020.

25 February 2021

That the 2021 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships be cancelled.

CARRIED

7 March 2021

That Centenary Logo Option 1 be adopted as the official logo of the Legion's centenary.

DEFEATED

7 March 2021

That Centenary Logo Option 2 be adopted as the official logo of the Legion's centenary.

CARRIED

7 March 2021

That the Legion pursue the granting of a coat of arms for the organization.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the 2021 Dominion Convention be conducted virtually.

CARRIED

ITEM 5: APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

a. Approval of Minutes

The DEC last met on 28-29 November 2020. The minutes were distributed electronically.

RECOMMENDATION: That the DEC minutes of 28-29 November 2020 be approved.

b. Review of Electronic Decisions/Email Voting

There were 12 Electronic Decisions / Email voting that took place since the last DEC meeting on 28-29 November 2020.

25 February 2021

That the 2021 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships be cancelled.

CARRIED

7 March 2021

That Centenary Logo Option 1 be adopted as the official logo of the Legion's centenary.

DEFEATED

7 March 2021

That Centenary Logo Option 2 be adopted as the official logo of the Legion's centenary.

CARRIED

7 March 2021

That the Legion pursue the granting of a coat of arms for the organization.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the 2021 Dominion Convention be conducted virtually.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the arrangements detailed in the Convention Notes document be implemented for the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention take place 13-15 August 2021

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the fees for participating in the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention be \$30 for delegates and \$10 for observers

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the 2028 Dominion Convention be offered to Saskatoon, SK in August 2028.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That an analysis by StrategyCorp of the organizational structure, staffing and operational service delivery review in support of the national Poppy Campaign be approved

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That the cost for the StrategyCorp review concerning the national Poppy Campaign be funded through the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund up to \$100,000.

CARRIED

26 March 2021

That \$5000 be allotted from the Request for Support budget to sponsor the 2021 Victory March.

CARRIED

ITEM 6: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. National Headquarters

a. COVID-19:

- Late last year, the ON government announced a province-wide lockdown starting 26 December. Legion House remained closed throughout January and February and re-opened 1 March
- In addition to the safety protocols already in place, all staff are required to wear face coverings at all times unless they are sitting at their desk or within their own individual workstation
- The HQ remains closed to external visitors; contract tracing protocol is in place for those needing access on an exceptional basis (i.e. auditors, building system maintenance personnel)

b. **Building Updates:** between December 2020 and March 2021, as well as upcoming projects:

- A motion detector and three additional plug-in electrical stations were installed in the warehouse in December.
- Penthouse was waterproofed and water contacts were installed to prevent water damage.
- Four dead trees were removed and three trees were planted before winter.
- Intake air screen was replaced in January.
- As per the City of Ottawa's backflow prevention program, a survey of all water entry services was completed and submitted. Awaiting direction from the City of Ottawa. Pressure reducing valve to possibly be installed subsequently.
- Four conduits under the front stairs to be repaired (estimate \$10,000 for repair; reconstruction costs unknown until excavation has been completed); awaiting contractor availability.
- Front entrance doors to remain locked following complete reopening of Legion House. Visitors to wait in vestibule; therefore, awaiting quotes to secure second entrance door and install card reader and intercom.
- Thermal scan of roof is recommended to identify all problem areas requiring immediate remedial work. Awaiting a second quote.
- Roof piping insulation to be replaced. Awaiting quotes.
- Following the foundation repair in 2018, the landscaping was never replaced; awaiting revised estimate for summer 2021.
- Exterior building perimeter foundation parging is required. Awaiting quotes.
- Exterior building metal flashing rusted; replacement required. Awaiting quotes.

- Releveling of interlock required due to heaving issues from the temperature changes. Awaiting quotes.
- Retorquing of electrical panels has never been done; therefore, an inspection is required. Awaiting quotes.
- Suspended ceiling installation in the women's washroom on the first floor is required. Awaiting quotes.
- **The government has fazed out Freon gas air conditioning units. Therefore, the 40-60 ton capacity AC unit on the roof must be replaced in the next year or two (estimate \$120,000-\$135,000).**

2. Staffing Update:

Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Permanent	40	36	37	35	37
Long Term Contract	10	12	12	7	7
Short Term Contract	0	0	0	0	0
Temp/Casual	2	1	1	1	0
Total Legion House	52	49	50	43	44

- a. We currently have 44 staff: 37 permanent staff and 7 long term contract staff. The break down is:
- 8 Permanent Staff in Corporate Services
 - 4 Permanent Staff in Marketing & Comms
 - 1 Permanent Staff in IT
 - 4 Permanent Staff and 3 long term contract in Member Services
 - 5 Permanent Staff and 2 long term contract in Financial Services
 - 8 Permanent Staff and 1 long term contract in Veterans Services
 - 7 Permanent Staff and 1 long term contract in Supply Department.

Note:

- One permanent staff on indefinite sick leave

- b. Significant Staff Anniversaries in 2021:

- 15 Years:
Josee Lachance, 25 April 2021
Raquel Burrell, 1 June 2021
- 10 Years:
Carolyn Gasser, 4 January 2021
Ray McInnis, 15 April 2021
Sandra Monaghan, 4 April 2021

- c. **Summer Hours:** Summer hours at Legion House start Monday, 3 May: core hours will be 8:30 am-4:00 pm. Summer hours will be in effect until Labour Day.

3. Supply Sales: Sales as of the end of March 2021 are:

	2018	2019	2020	2021
JANUARY	120,235	146,471	122,916	91,288
FEBRUARY	98,575	114,287	162,142	84,834
MARCH	137,210	138,717	123,693	114,830
YTD			408,751	290,952 (-29%)
APRIL	195,655	260,724	29,648	
MAY	200,697	253,798	78,473	
JUNE	148,375	169,456	161,327	
JULY	86,316	91,702	191,372	
AUGUST	199,301	165,988	175,208	
SEPTEMBER	*218,934	203,343	361,608	
OCTOBER	479,512	437,589	1,077,888	
NOVEMBER	366,381	429,069	1,301,189	
DECEMBER	110,992	155,716	227,360	
TOTAL	2,362,183 (-12%)	2,566,860 (+8%)	4,012,824 (+56%)	

* Includes August 2018 Convention Sales of \$40,011

- a. 2021 started off with the same challenges as last year with lockdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With the shuttering of Branches still ongoing, the revenue normally generated from these sources shows a significant decline. The same 3-month period January-March comparison:
 - 2020: 1915 orders generating \$263,069
 - 2021: 922 orders generating \$118,857 down **(-55%)**.
- b. Sales were very strong in the last quarter of 2020. Our online www.poppystore.ca has a significant increase in volume. In 2020, the store handled 47,247 online orders compared to 10,808 in 2019 generating \$2,101,251, an increase of **(+247%)** in sales from 2019 of \$604,079. Sales from this channel continue to be a major revenue generator.
- c. The new informal dress shirts and category pins have been ordered and delivery is expected by end of June.
- d. We are always working on new products and ideas to keep the revenue flowing from supply. Development for release in the summer-fall of 2021 include jewellery, clothing, backpack, umbrella and ballcaps.
- e. Supported committee activities continue to be a major focus for supply: promotional materials for the Poppy Campaign, the production of Poppies and wreaths, gifts for the Defence & Security Committee's support to

Operation Santa Claus, Canada Day and Marketing & Comms' promotions and initiatives.

4. Marketing: Marketing and Communications continue to work diligently to ensure The Royal Canadian Legion is in the hearts and minds of millions of Canadians across this country. Here are just a few highlights:

a. National TV and Radio spots – multiple National broadcasters are airing the Legion's TV and radio public service announcements. Many stations have aired the PSA's throughout the year nationally. **This equated to \$7.2M in free advertising** for the Legion over the course of the **2019/20** year. Updated versions of both radio and TV spots developed in 2020 are in market and run through spring 2021. Work has begun on developing new spots to air in Fall 2021.

b. **November 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 saw a 37% increase in visitors and 34% increase in pageviews to Legion.ca**, achieved through organic search, direct search and social media. **December 2020 through February 2021, visits to the site fell by 26% and pageviews fell by 27% over last year.** Unlike the previous year, December 2020 through February 2021 was a period of intense pandemic restrictions and uncertainty across the country. The reduction in visits was expected. **November 1 through November 12, 2020 saw enormous growth, with a 90% increase in visitors, and 96% increase in pageviews over the same period last year.** The pandemic brought significant media attention on the Legion between October and November, with stories on Branch financial struggles, Legionnaires supporting communities during the pandemic, and the impact of the pandemic on the Poppy Campaign and Remembrance ceremonies. This media attention, along with strong marketing tactics resulted in a massive increase in traffic over last year.



c. Social media posts promoting all aspects of Legion activity and programs are seen by hundreds of thousands monthly, and we have seen significant growth in positive, supportive commentary from those who engage on our social media platforms.

d. High level results (Nov 2020-Mar 2021)

Twitter:

- i. Impressions: 6,607,000
- ii. Engagements: 14,000 retweets & 42,800 likes (average 291.5 likes per day)
- iii. Followers: 32K (up 2.1K followers)

Facebook:

- iv. Impressions: 27,903,683
- v. Engagements: 802,534 engaged users (average 5,815 engaged per day)
- vi. Followers: 65,266 up from 61,401 (+3,865)

Poppy Store Web Traffic:

- vii. Social media and google ads bring in the most traffic to the Poppy Store with 56% (Social media brings in the most at 40% while google ads bring in 16%)

Legion.ca Web Traffic:

- viii. Social media and google ads bring in 32.6% of all website traffic (google ads bring in 22.2% while social brings in 10.4%)

- e. Other marketing elements such as email, direct mail, online banners, and print ads are increasing the exposure of the Legion and seen by hundreds of thousands of Canadians. We launched the first wave of our online advertising campaign in March (with a join the Legion message). We placed two ads in Legion magazine (Jan and Mar) promoting MemberPerks and the Refer a Friend promo. We dropped our annual Renewal mailer to 71,000 lapsed members in February in addition to several renewal email reminders.
- f. Launched 3 membership promotions: Free 100th anniversary of the Poppy watch, free flower bouquet and refer a friend Visa gift card all aimed at encouraging renewal and/or becoming a member.
- g. Email was sent in January to 115K Veterans on CFMWS email list encouraging Veterans to apply for the Veteran Welcome Program (free 1 year membership).
- h. Regular communications to our members and branches have continued through our monthly member newsletters, and monthly all-branch newsletters, keeping members up to date and apprised of Legion activities, initiatives, and advocacy efforts.

- i. Continue to promote MemberPerks program that offers Legion members in good standing thousands of discount offers. The program should be a significant member acquisition and retention tool and to date we have over 13K members registered with the program. Since launch in July 2020 members have saved well over \$150K.
5. IT: Current projects include:
- Completed the move from On-Premises e-mail to Office 365
 - Moving to a new internet provider that will provide better internet speeds for a much better price by approx. \$600. However this move was initiated by the closure of our previous internet provider (Netcelerate) for reasons unknown. Their unexpected closure left us without the coding for the firewall which may cost up to \$13K to recover. As well, Bell does not provide an internal firewall which Netcelerate did so there is a requirement to purchase a security appliance for a cost of approx. 7K.
 - Starting to look at reducing our server count. This will reduce complexity overall and reduce cost when it comes time to refresh server hardware.
6. Finance: Legion Headquarters will discontinue issuing cheques as of 1 September 2021 and implement payments by EFT only. This process was the only method of payment used for the VOESF disbursements to branches and proved highly efficient, EFTs reduce costs, requires less administrative processing, provide branches faster access to their funds, are more secure than cheques and reconciliation and accounting are simplified.

Legion Headquarters is continuing to experience significant payment delays for online and renewal memberships when paid by cheque. Looking forward, it may become necessary to not allow online payments by cheques, meaning that ALL online payments may only be made by debit or credit card. Electronic payments are fast, secure and trackable.

This shift will require technical, logistical and procedural changes. The implementation of online payment processes is expected to commence in early 2022.

ITEM 7: DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

I. OVERVIEW OF 2020 YEAR

REVENUES

The 2020 year ended with a surplus of \$1,310,917. Total revenue exceeded budget expectations by \$1.3M. Supplementary revenue was acquired through CEWS federal grant in the amount of \$471,860, adding to the in-budgeted revenue increase.

Membership revenue has been declining for years now. It should be to no one's surprise this year is down as well. The membership revenue was \$4,971,111, but below budget by 9.8% or almost \$490,000. The number of members in 2020 was 247,487 compared to 259,257 in 2019.

Interest and dividends earned on investments was \$403,195 in 2020. Market volatility played a large part in not making the target of \$541,702.

Please note, part of the change in investment returns was compounded by the drawing down of reserve funds of \$3,000,000.00 for the purpose of providing branch assistance due to COVID-19 in 2020.

As soon as the economy will be open and operating at a full capacity, there is an expectation that markets will bounce back and grow at 3-5% by the end of this year.

The Supply Department had a fantastic year and finished with \$4,007,152 in sales, surpassing the budget expectation with a total return on total sales of \$1,407,460.

Miscellaneous revenue (bequests) provided an additional boost of \$105,308.

II. EXPENSES

There were some significant COVID-19 expense savings. With committees unable to meet and function within the pandemic world, expenses for committees finished 90% below budget, or \$850,826.

Membership exceeded budget by 8.7% or \$60,240. With the emphasis on membership retention and growth as one of the core objectives of the organization, approved budget excess for the membership department exceeded budget due in large part to the increased cost of permanent card pack-outs, customer service standards improvements with longer hours of operation, credit card processing fee increases, and mail processing fee increases.

BY DEPARTMENT

- Member Services – increase of \$60,240: Major increases due to credit card processing fees of \$40,579, permanent membership cards \$18,127, telephone \$3,005 and temporally staff cost was over budget. There is an increase in those budgets due to over 66% of members being processed online last year. This digital shift creates more business online which increases credit card processing fees and phone costs.
- Supply – With the total sales exceeding budget by \$1.4M, the cost of goods sold was \$1,883,543.
- Personnel cost decreased as a result of the combination of a warehouse position remaining vacant and costs related to a staff departure: \$91,848. Due to higher volume of sales, postage fees increased by \$59,533. Catalog and advertising was under budget by \$10,233. To highlight the success of this year, the supply department was able to generate \$1.4M of surplus in 2020.
- Information Technology - \$83,142 over budget, main area of increase was Maintenance, Contracts and Support of \$213,095, however cost-savings on personnel stands at \$130,940. Additional support was subcontracted through Intega consulting company, which replaced Legion IT personnel.
- Other Program expenses – overall savings of \$83,554. Legal expenses were \$25,323 under budget. Translation expenses decreased by \$10,440.
- Marketing & Communications – over budget by \$96,933, primarily due social media cost increases of \$87,855. Free membership program cost amounted to \$24,090.
- Legion House expenses were up by \$63,360 primarily due to the repairs required as a result of previously reported hot water tank flooding in late 2019.

COMMITTEES

Committees have come under budget by \$850,826. Most savings were due to travel and event cancellations last year due to COVID-19. The significant savings are:

- Sports under budget by \$347,991, and Track and Field by \$259,099
- Elected Officers by \$13,381
- President's budget was under budget by \$75,000.

III. SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPACTS

Emergency Branch Fund \$3M– Distributed \$2,486,069 as of 2021, with the remaining funds on hold for future distribution.

Federal Fund of \$14M - Distributed \$7.2M in Phase I and \$2.9M in Phase 2. The remaining funds will flow in Phase 3.

CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy) – \$471,860 was received for 2020. This grant was extended until June 2021 and it is anticipated with the extension, it will be positive for the 2021 budget year end results.

The RCL received a Poppy Donation from VAC of \$1.2M in January 2021. Those funds were being placed into Poppy Reserved.

The RCL received a further Poppy Donation from VAC of \$488,000 in March 2021. Normally, those funds would be placed into the poppy reserve account, however, those funds will be held in Poppy Saving Bank account in anticipation of upcoming expenditures of 2021 Poppy season.

INVESTMENT RESERVES

As a snapshot taken at year-end, the investments by account were:

General Fund \$15,761,100

Poppy Fund \$9,572,935

RCEL Fund \$937,775

As an indicator of how the snap shots can vary, the investment totals for February 2021 saw total investment value increase of \$686,225; Market monthly rate of return increased from 0.89% to 2.42%.

We anticipate that a portion of the surplus for the year 2020 we will be placed back into the reserve fund upon completion of audit and rectification of upcoming expenses for this year.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 65-1

Tom Irvine	-	Chair
Bruce Julian	-	Vice-Chair
Ronn Anderson	-	Member
John Mahon	-	Member
Dave Gordon	-	Homeless Veterans
George O'Dair	-	Seniors Advisor
Jill Carleton	-	BSO Legion OSI Special Section
Larry Murray	-	Ex-Officio
Ray McInnis	-	Coordinator
Dwayne McCarthy	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 24 February 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19 May 2021

COMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. VETERAN SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

The Committee reviewed and supported applications from Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada, Ways to Wellbeing and HiMARC; supported recommendations were forwarded to the Poppy and Remembrance Committee for their concurrence and report to DEC.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2. LEGION ADVOCACY

We have been proactive in sending letters to the federal and provincial governments on the state of Long-Term care in Canada; we will continue to advocate for better quality of health care being delivered to Veterans and seniors in long-term residential care in Canada as well as with the poor conditions that exist in some of the institutions that provide it.

We recommended to the government that if they are committed to taking additional action to help seniors stay in their homes longer, they should implement a Seniors Independence Program, like the Veterans Independence Program that is being delivered under the Veterans Health Care Regulations by Veterans Affairs Canada.

We continue to request updates from the government on important issues affecting our veterans and their families; specifically, the promulgation of the National Homeless Veterans Strategy, the departmental guidelines for psychiatric service dogs, departmental policy on service dogs in general, departmental policy on equine therapy, transition services, Adjudication backlogs to name just a few.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. **RCL MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP**

CIMVHR Forum Halifax was postponed until 17-19 October 2022. The winner of the 2021 RCL Masters scholarship was announced on 27 January 2021 at an online event, the winner was Dr. Abdelhakim Khellaf of the University of Toronto and his research will focus on traumatic brain injury.

4. **VETERANS SERVICES - STATISTICS**

Veterans Services statistics in 2020 as expected are down from 2019 due to the pandemic:

	2019	2020	+ / -
First Applications	3478	2819	-659
Departmental Reviews	601	310	-291
Counselled Out/Withdrawn	1095	830	-265
Entitlement Reviews	161	219	+58
Entitlement Appeals/RfRs	143	99	-44
WI VIP/PME	1297	2718	+1421
SCAN/Field Visits	405	443	+38

VAC provided new printers/scanners/secure laptops to all Command Service Officers in 2020-2021.

Service Officer Professional Development training in Charlottetown scheduled for October 2021 has been postponed to September 2022. No financial penalties were incurred for postponing the training for a second straight year.

5. **OUTREACH AND VISITATION INITIATIVE (OVI)**

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) has extended the contract to 31 March 2022. There is sufficient funding remaining on the contract to complete taskings in 2021-2022 if LTCs allow visitors late 2021 or early 2022.

An update letter was sent to all OVI volunteers advising of the status of the program.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

T. Irvine	-	Chair
B. Julian	-	Vice- Chair
R. Anderson	-	Member
J. Mahon	-	Member
D. Gordon	-	Homeless Veterans
G. O'Dair	-	Seniors Advisor
L. Murray	-	Ex-Officio
J. Carleton	-	BSO Legion OSI Special Section
R. McInnis	-	Coordinator
D. McCarthy	-	A/Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

Since Dominion Convention in Winnipeg, MB in 2018, advocacy efforts have focussed on ensuring that all Veterans including members of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), RCMP, and their families are treated with fairness, dignity, and respect such that they are afforded the same benefits and services irrespective of when and where they served.

RESOLUTIONS

Due to ministerial changes in Veterans Affairs Canada and the federal election in 2015, the response to the resolutions from the 45th Dominion Convention 2014, the 46th Dominion Convention 2016, the 47th Dominion Convention 2018 resolutions will be incorporated with the 48th Dominion Convention 2021 resolutions and will be published in May 2022. They will be distributed to Legion Branches for the guidance of all Legion members.

MANDATE OF VSS COMMITTEE

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee continues to maintain an active advocacy stance while maintaining its focus on proving, day in and day out, to all Canada's Veterans, including serving CAF and RCMP members and their families that The Legion cares.

ADVOCACY

The Dominion President stressed the importance of continuing our advocacy efforts regarding the availability of mental health services to all Veterans and their families. We will continue to monitor this issue with the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada. It is also important that Legion Branches continue to welcome all Veterans; that Branch Service Officers receive their annual training such that they are knowledgeable on the ever-changing programs and services available for our Veterans and their families.

In addition, outreach to Reservists must continue to be a priority and ensuring that all Veterans who require assistance with their disability applications to VAC be informed and encouraged to contact a Legion Command Service Officer to assist them with their application. It is equally important that we continue to outreach to all Veterans who may have received unfavorable decisions in the past as policies change, Veterans should contact a Command Service Officer to review previous decisions. A reminder that Command Service Officers provide free representation and you do not have to be a Legion member to access services.

The following is a snapshot of the details of Legion advocacy efforts on behalf of all Veterans, their families, and seniors since 2018:

- a. 18 February 2018 – VAC released the partial entitlement policy change and a new hearing loss directive; however, did not advertise this important change in policy. The Legion published an article in Legion magazine and Command Service Officers were inundated with applications;
- b. 18 April 2018 – Dominion President sent a letter to MVA on the departmental standards for psychiatric service dogs. The MVA responded on 3 April 2019 discussing only the pilot study but not standards;
- c. 07 May 2018 – VAC announced they were partnering with the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group to establish the Centre of Excellence on PTSD and related Mental Health conditions;
- d. 04 September 2018 – The Participants Report is released on the Effectiveness of Psychiatric Service Dogs for Veterans with PTSD by the Universite Laval and CIRRUS;
- e. 18 September 2018 – The Dominion President sent a letter to the MVA with concern about the excess unspent dollars that could have been used to help our Veterans;
- f. 01 October 2018 – Comrade George O’Dair attended the Seniors Roundtable in Ottawa, it was hosted by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Senior and entitled “Discussion on Canada’s Aging Population”;
- g. 29 October 2018 – Veterans Services commenced a review of the Memorandum of Understanding with VAC for access to the Client Service Delivery Network;
- h. 29-30 October 2018 – VAC National Stakeholder Summit held in Ottawa, ON. Through the Summits, VAC engages with stakeholder organizations to discuss issues facing Canada’s Veterans and their families. The primary focus of this Stakeholder Summit was for VAC to brief on Pension for Life, new services and benefits;

- i. 24 November 2018 – Comrade Ray McInnis and Comrade Dave Gordon appeared before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs to brief on Homeless Veterans;
- j. 02 November 2018, 28 January 2020, 26 October 2020 – The President hosted the annual bilateral meeting with the DM VAC and the VAC Executive; agenda items included Pension for Life, updated mandate letter and budget, Homeless Veterans Strategy, Long-Term Care, Commemoration, Service Dogs/Pilot/Standard/Criteria, and Research;
- k. 14 November 2018 – MVA Seamus O’Regan announced the appointment of Craig Dalton as the next Veterans Ombudsman;
- l. 05 December 2018 – Comrade Ray McInnis appeared before the Senate Sub-Committee on Veterans Affairs on their study on Cannabis Use for Medical Purposes by Canadian Veterans;
- m. 03 January 2019 – new Monthly Homeless Veterans Report developed and forwarded to Commands for completion in 2019;
- n. 09 January 2019 – The Chair, VSS hosted the first VSS Committee of the Whole teleconference with provincial VSS representatives and the VSS Committee members;
- o. 14 January 2019 – Jody Wilson-Raybould announced as the new Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- p. 12 February 2019 – Ms. Raybould resigns and the Acting Minister of Veterans Affairs is Harjit Sajjan;
- q. 27 February 2019 – Comrades Tom Irvine and Steven Clark appear before the Senate Sub-Committee to speak on the revolving Minister of Veterans Affairs appointments;
- r. 01 March 2019 – Lawrence MacAulay announced as the new Minister of Veterans Affairs;
- s. 07 March 2019 – The Legion Position Paper – Election Issues was promulgated;
- t. 19 March 2019- The Dominion President responded to the 2019 Federal Budget. Regarding transition to post-service life, we were pleased to see a continued commitment, and resources dedicated to veterans’ transition services, but the details remain unclear. We were also supportive of the increased funding in research to CIMVHR, the creation of the Veterans Survivors Fund, the expansion of the Education and Training Benefit, the

- Commitment to seniors and the establishment of a second Centre of Excellence in Chronic Pain which is due to open in 2020. Priority areas in which the Legion is advocating, and for which immediate investment is needed include homelessness, long-term care, and lifelong financial security for ill and injured veterans;
- u. 01 April 2019 – The Minister of Veterans Affairs introduced the Pension for Life (PFL) that contains adjustments to the benefits available to Veterans. PFL includes three new benefits that will recognize and compensate Veterans for disability resulting from service-related injury and/or illness. No details on the Pain and Suffering Compensation, the Additional Pain and Suffering Compensation and the Income Replacement Benefits were released;
 - v. 14 April 2019 – DEC approved \$25K to support Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada; and \$25K to the Quinism Foundation to undertake a formal study of Somalia-era Veterans who believe they were affected by mefloquine poisoning;
 - w. 14 April 2019 – DEC approved \$300K to support Project Trauma Support in Perth, ON, \$100K each year for three years;
 - x. 14 April 2019 – DEC approved the Homeless Veterans Program Guidelines for distribution to Commands. The Guidelines are not mandatory, they were developed as a guide to either adopt or use to improve already existing Leave the Streets Behind Programs;
 - y. 22 May 2019 – The Dominion President sent a letter to Comrade Wolf Solkin, the Vice-President of Ste-Anne’s Hospital Veterans Committee recognizing the filing in the Superior Court of Quebec to improve the level of care to Veterans residing at the hospital. The issue of Long-Term Care is of great importance to all Veterans, their families and Canadians;
 - z. 11 June 2019 – Comrades Ray McInnis and Dave Gordon attended/presented at the media release on Parliament Hill in support of Bill M-225 on veteran homelessness;
 - aa. 20 June 2019 – The Dominion President sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Canada requesting that the position of Veterans Ombudsman become a permanent and independent one, enshrined in law and reporting directly to Parliament as opposed to Veterans Affairs;
 - bb. 17 July 2019 – The Dominion President visited Project Trauma Support in Perth, ON for a facility tour, meeting with Dr. Manuela Joannou and to present the first of three payments of \$100K to PTS;
 - cc. 12 August 2019 – The CAF implemented the production and distribution of the Veteran’s Service Card;

- dd. 15 November 2019 – The Dominion President met with the Commander, Military Personnel Command Vice-Admiral Edmundson and the Command CWO Dominique Geoffroy, discussion points included the CAF Transition Group, Mental Health Services, delivery of health care to serving members and veterans;
- ee. 23 November 2019 – The Homeless Veterans Monthly Report changed to a quarterly report for 2020 and a generic tri-fold Homeless Veterans pamphlet to be produced and forwarded to all Legion Commands for community distribution;
- ff. 24 November 2019 – DEC approved Legion participation in the MissionVAV program at McGill University. Their team of health professionals and researchers have developed a health promotion program for veterans;
- gg. 17 December 2019 – The Dominion President released a response to the new VAC mandate letter stating that we were pleased to see the refreshed government mandate letter which focuses on work we agree is necessary to effectively serve our Veterans and their families;
- hh. 12 March 2020 and 18 November 2020 – Comrades Ray McInnis and Steven Clark appeared as witnesses before the Parliamentary Committee Veterans Affairs on the Backlog of Disability Benefit Claims at the Department of Veterans Affairs and Clearing the Jam: Addressing the Backlog of Disability Benefit Claims at Veterans Affairs Canada;
- ii. 20 March 2020 – The Dominion President sent a message to all Comrades in regard to the COVID-19 Pandemic advising that we are taking a balanced and calm approach, and will remain ready to make changes as this fluid situation develops;
- jj. 23 March 2020 – The Legion's Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Veterans' Homelessness 2020-2025 was recommended by the Committee to send for DEC approval in June 2020, it was approved and distributed to Commands on 20 October 2020;
- kk. 03 April 2020 - The Minister of Veterans Affairs announced the official launch of the Chronic Pain Centre of Excellence for Canadian Veterans;
- ll. 17 April 2020 - A letter of support was sent to the Minister requesting financial support to Veterans House. Mandate letter to MVA states to build new, purpose-built accessible and affordable housing units, with a full range of health, social and employment supports for Veterans who need extra help;
- mm. 27 May 2020 – A letter of support was sent to the Minister requesting support to TryCycle Data Systems, for a pilot project with the OSI Clinic in

- Ottawa that would shorten wait-times for Veterans awaiting non-emergency mental health treatments and support; the Legion believes that this technological solution could be a game changer for managing Veteran Mental Health in Canada;
- nn. 27 May 2020 – The Dominion President sent a letter to the PM and copied the Minister of Veterans Affairs and the Provincial Premiers expressing our extreme shock over the ongoing poor conditions and lowered standards of health care received by many of our Veterans and Seniors in Long Term Residential Care in Canada;
- oo. 15 June 2020 – Comrades Ray McInnis and Jill Carleton visited Project Trauma Support in Perth, Ontario and presented the second instalment cheque of \$100,000.00 to PTS;
- pp. 20 October 2020 - The Legion's Action Plan to Prevent and Eradicate Veterans' Homelessness was distributed to Provincial Commands;
- qq. 22 October 2020 – The Dominion President sent a letter to the PM and copied the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Minister for Seniors and the Provincial Premiers urging all levels of government to work together to immediately review long-term care in the country and implement legislative and regulatory changes that provide quality, publicly resourced and enduring solutions to help our Canadian veterans and seniors. It was also recommended that the government institute a Seniors Independence Program to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are given the opportunity to remain independent and be safe in their own homes for as long as possible; and
- rr. 8 January 2021 – Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the final instalment of \$100,000.00 was received by Project Trauma Support via mail.

SENIORS INITIATIVE

The Legion continues to advocate to the federal Government that senior's home care should be part of a national strategy to include standardization, consistent service delivery and certification. The Government announced the new Aging in Place Challenge Program led by the National Research Council. It will partner with like-minded private, public, academic, and other research organizations in Canada and abroad to develop breakthroughs to help older adults and their caregivers to live safe, healthy and socially connected lives while remaining in their homes and communities of choice. We are hopeful that over time, aging Veterans will receive the support they need to remain at home.

HOMELESS VETERANS NATIONAL PROGRAM

The RCL Veterans Homelessness Advisory Committee, chaired by the Dominion President, is made up of a group of individuals who are stakeholders in the policy, programs and/or services in place for Veterans homelessness. Members understand the impact of Veterans homelessness on the community. The committee provides guidance and strategic recommendations to VAC and other government stakeholders for conducting purposeful policy and program development for homeless Veterans. This is accomplished through committee members sharing their expertise, knowledge, and experience.

The Committee is established to determine appropriate policy and program development around Veterans homelessness. To coordinate and align efforts of the various organizations who are working towards addressing homelessness among Veterans.

The Committee will schedule a meeting at Legion House in 2022.

In the summer of 2017, the government advised that they planned to release in the fall a long-awaited strategy to tackle veterans' homelessness. In one of its most recent versions, has placed a heavy focus on providing veterans in crisis with help in paying the rent or mortgage, including the idea of a housing fund that could provide rent vouchers for veterans to stop them from becoming homeless. As of 2 April 2021, the strategy has not been promulgated. We will continue to develop a coordinated advocacy approach to combat Veterans homelessness.

One homeless veteran in this country is one too many.

LEGION SCHOLARSHIP

The Dominion President presented the 2018 RCL Masters Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health Research to Mr. Massimo Cau from the University of British Columbia and his research is entitled: "Wearable Hemostatic Combat Protection to Prevent Mortality and Morbidity from Hemorrhage Treatment of Ballistic Injuries".

The Dominion President presented the 2019 RCL Legion Masters Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health Research to Ms. Kaitlin Sullivan from the Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, and her research is entitled "Identifying neuronal subpopulation participation across the stages of fear memory.

The Dominion President presented the 2020 RCL Legion Masters Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health Research virtually to Dr. Abdelhakim Khellaf of the University of Toronto and his research will focus on traumatic brain injury.

The Dominion Executive Council have approved the funding for this scholarship until 2022-2023.

The 2021 RCL Legion Masters Scholarship will also be presented virtually in October 2021.

The 2022 RCL Legion Masters Scholarship will be presented at the CIMVHR Forum in Halifax, NS, 17-19 October 2022.

SERVICE DOGS

On 17 April 2018, we were informed that the CGSB withdrew its intent to produce a National Standard of Canada for Service Dogs; this was extremely disappointing and frustrating news at this time. It is anticipated that the information collected during the past two plus years will be used to develop a Government of Canada standard for service dogs.

There are no GoC or VAC departmental standards for psychiatric service dogs.

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is seeking feedback on ISO's proposal for the development of a new standards committee on Assistance Dogs. The purpose of their inquiry is to consult with Canadian stakeholders to develop a national position on the proposal, the Legion has responded that we support the ISO's proposal to develop standards.

OUTREACH AND VISITATION INITIATIVE

Public Service and Procurement Canada (PSPC) approved an extension to 31 March 2022. There is sufficient funding remaining on the current contract to complete taskings in 2021-2022 if LTCs allow visitors late 2021 or early 2022.

The OVI volunteers have been kept updated on the status of the program.

When the restrictions are lifted, this initiative facilitates face-to-face visits with Veterans, providing them with an opportunity to have a conversation and social visit with a volunteer and to raise concerns or identify needs that might be addressed by VAC or the Legion. Presently, we have 124-trained Outreach and Visitation Initiative volunteers who have provided outstanding service to this initiative. Veterans Services will be conducting a training course in fall 2022.

The new OVI Coordinator at Dominion Command is Ms. Christine Racine.

SERVICE BUREAU PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT / REGIONAL COMMAND SERVICE OFFICER TRAINING

The Dominion Command Veterans Services sponsored by the respective Provincial Commands (AB-NT Command and QC Command, participated in the Western Region Professional Development session in Calgary from 12-13 March 2019 and the Eastern Region Professional Development session in Lachine, QC from 10-11 September 2019.

Command Service Officers will be attending a training / professional development session in Charlottetown from 27-29 September 2022. They will benefit from consultation with VAC officials responsible for service delivery with whom they deal on a regular basis while receiving updates on latest policies, business processes and new communications software.

Command Service Officers were busy in 2018, completing 3,119 first applications and 552 Departmental Reviews to VAC. This is a huge increase from 2017 when they completed 2,815 first applications and 151 Departmental Reviews.

They were extremely busy in 2019, completing 3,478 first applications, 601 Departmental Reviews and counselling out/withdrawing 1,095 applications. They also represented Veterans in 161 Entitlement Review hearings, 76 Entitlement Appeals and 67 Request for Reconsiderations before the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Canada.

Due to the pandemic, the statistics are down from 2019 but the Command Service Officers were just as busy adjusting to the restrictions, working remotely, and receiving new secure laptops, printers/scanners from VAC. The Command Service Officers completed 2,819 first applications, 310 Departmental Reviews, counselling out 830 applications. They also represented Veterans in 219 Entitlement Reviews and 99 Entitlement Appeals/Request for Reconsiderations before the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Canada.

BUDGET REPORT

For your information, a copy of the VSS Committee budget for the period 2020-2022 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

RESOLUTIONS

The VSS Committee reviewed five Resolutions; two have been concurred and three have been non-concurred. The Committee initiated one resolution for 2021.

CONCLUSION

During 2021-2024, the VSS Committee will continue their advocacy efforts focused on ensuring that all Veterans and their families are afforded the same benefits and services irrespective of when and where they served. We will pay particular focus on the Backlog of Disability Applications and all mandated priorities that have not come to fruition as of the date of this report.

We will continue to advocate strongly for homeless veterans, collaborating with federal/provincial/municipal police forces to establish a partnership to facilitate outreach to homeless veterans.

We will continue to advocate for changes to long-term care eligibility criteria and advocate to keep seniors in their own homes.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Committee and the coordinators support for their dedication throughout the past three years.

I move acceptance of this report as presented.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 35-1

Angus Stanfield	-	Chair
Berkley Lawrence	-	Vice-Chair
Glen Hodge	-	Member
John Ladouceur	-	Member
Kandys Merola	-	Member
Lorne Varga	-	Member
Freeman Chute	-	Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 5 March 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. PAY TO TRIBUTE – 2020 TRIAL

250 units all paid for by our Corporate Sponsor HSBC Bank Canada deployed by the 30 October 20, and were placed in all HSBC Banks locations and select Legion Branches in Ontario. Television and YouTube ads were completed by Wunderman Thomson in conjunction with the Legion Marketing team gaining the Legion 11,000,000 of media awareness.

There is currently a large demand for the new Pay Tribute poppy boxes to include all CAF Bases and Wings. For 2021 each poppy box will have a donation amount option and all of the minor details that needed to be corrected will be rectified and bench tested before deployment.

For 2021 we would like to increase the number to maximum of 2000 to meet the high demand at no costs to Legion Branches. All funds collected from the poppy boxes will be returned to Legion Branches.

Pay to Tribute poppy boxes have been nominated for an Industry Award.

RECOMMENDATION: That the number of Pay Tribute poppy boxes be increased to a maximum of 2000 for 2021.

2. HEROES in MIND ADVOCACY AND RESEARCH CONSORTIUM - HiMARC

Introduction: A new vision of resilience has been championed by the Canadian Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Canada for serving and retired Canadian

Veterans and their families. To facilitate operationalization of this forward-thinking vision and enhance the resilience of families who are the main supports of military members and Veterans, it would be beneficial for (1) Service Providers (SPs) working with families to receive training that enables them to both be, and support others in being, resilient, and (2) families to receive resilience training, and (3) community resilience hubs to be facilitated. Two complementary made-in-Canada, bilingual, evidence-based, resilience-training programs have shown evidence of enhancing individual, family and community resilience: Reaching In...Reaching Out (RIRO) for adults working with parents of young children, and Bounce Back and Thrive! (BBT) for parents of children aged 0-8 years of age).

RECOMMENDATION: That an amount of \$599,700 be approved to support HiMARC, to be divided over a two-year period.

3. **HEROES MENDING ON THE FLY CANADA.**

Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada (HMFC) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of ill and injured veterans and active military service personnel through fly-fishing and associated activities including education and outings. It is registered with the CRA under a non-profit organization.

The organization provides training and educational activities to help ignite and rekindle participants' appreciation for the outdoors, reconnecting with other veterans and serving members, and learning new hobbies and skills together.

The registered non-profit program provides basic fly fishing, fly casting and fly-tying classes and clinics for participants ranging from beginners to those with prior fly-fishing and fly-tying experience.

RECOMMENDATION: That an amount of \$25,000 be approved to support Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada (HMFC).

4. **WAYS TO WELLBEING**

A number of veterans have already participated in this project through sharing their story for a larger documentary project. The team is traveling around Ontario filming people sharing their experiences of trauma and what their journey has looked like. This project has a special focus on uniformed professionals and especially military members and veterans. In August the team will be traveling to Ottawa to have numerous conversations with veterans, military members and members of the Legion to better understand what trauma looks like, what barriers people face when trying to get help and what it takes to heal.

The Committee reviewed and received support from the President OSI Special Section for this application. Although the interviews (filming locations) will be conducted in Ontario, on review of the project, the intent is to show the

documentary in film festivals around Canada throughout 2023 and hopefully distributed worldwide by 2025.

RECOMMENDATION: That an amount of \$15,000 be approved to support Ways to Wellbeing.

5. **11 DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE – DR. PAUL KAVANAGH**

This is a proposal to complete a similar project to last year. However, it will be broken down into 11 components, making the videos more accessible to viewers.

This year they intend to honour the 100th anniversary of the poppy. There will be a “Passing on a Poppy,” to each presenter. They intend to involve more schools across Canada as they “Pass on a Poppy, from school to school. This year they will reach out much earlier so that the schools can build an educational roadway leading to Remembrance Day.

Day 1: Introduction and “Kettle Drum,” Day 2: “Pass the Poppy,” Day 3: The Black Battalion, 105th Anniversary,” Day 4: Korean War, Day 5: Berlin Airlift (1948-49) Canada and NATO (1949), Day 6: The Gulf War (30th Anniversary), Day 7: Afghanistan, Day 8: Canadian Military Police Corps, Day 9: Royal Canadian Navy, Day 10: Victoria Cross for Valour, Day 11: In Flanders Fields Freedom.

RECOMMENDATION: That an amount of \$6,000 be approved to support of 11 Days of Remembrance.

6. **AMENDMENT – 403.II. M.**

Discussion focused on the need to amend the poppy manual to better support veterans and their families.

RECOMMENDATION: That the word “Post Traumatic Service Disorder” be removed, to read:

403.ii.m. ~~Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Service Dogs:~~ (prior Provincial Command approval is required) 25 percent of the current balance, for the purposes of supporting costs associated with the initial purchase of service dogs.

7. **AMENDMENT – 501. iv.c and 501. iv. f**

Not all veterans and their families would qualify for VIP services for snow removal.

RECOMMENDATION: That the word “snow removal’ be removed. to read:

501. iv. c. home care, housekeeping services or grounds keeping, such as grass cutting, leaf raking, ~~snow removal~~, etc. (Contact VAC regarding the use of the VIP program)

It is important to have the ability to support any local recognized food bank where the funds can be wider spread.

RECOMMENDATION: That the words “non Legion administered Food Banks,” be removed to read:

501.IV.f. general or non-specific donations to charities, registered or non-registered, or not for profits that do not meet the criteria listed in Sections 401, 402 or 403 of this manual. Examples include, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, March of Dimes, ~~non-Legion administered Food Banks~~, etc or for administrative or operational expenses of any organization. When in doubt, contact your provincial command for direction.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND POPPY & REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE

File: 35-1

Angus Stanfield	-	Chair
Berkley Lawrence	-	Vice Chair
Glen Hodge	-	Member
John Ladouceur	-	Member
Kandy's Merola	-	Member
Lorne Varga	-	Member
Freeman Chute	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	A/Committee Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The Committee has the responsibility for the policy and procedures of the Poppy & Remembrance program of the Legion. As such, it has significant impact on the commemorative culture of the Legion in such areas as the National Remembrance Ceremonies, the Legion Pilgrimage of Remembrance and Youth Education programs. As well, the Committee has the responsibility to consider applications for unusual expenditures of Poppy Trust Funds to ensure adherence to policy and has the responsibility to review applications for the use of the Poppy trademark to ensure compliance with our trademark protection and if not, to consider the appropriate legal action.

COMMITTEE

During this period (2019, 2020, 2021), the Poppy and Remembrance Committee met face to face on five occasions, in February 2019, November 2019, March 2020, October 2020 and March 2021 via teleconference 2020 and 2021 and at Legion House in 2019.

POPPY CAMPAIGN

The annual Poppy Campaign continues to be the most important project of the Legion each year. The committee reviewed Poppy promotional items on a regular basis to ensure their appropriateness for the Poppy campaign.

The Corporate Partnerships for the Poppy campaign continues to expand with corporations pledged or renewed their support, including Tim Hortons, Bulk Barn, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, Shoppers Drug Mart, Walmart, Costco, Starbucks, BMO, TD Bank, Princess Auto, Hearing Life, Via Rail, North West Company, Pharmaprix, Rogers, London Drugs, Best Buy, Hudsons Bay, Telus, Air Canada, Home Equity Bank, American Express, Cavanagh, CNR, Dollorama, General Dynamics, Giant Tiger, Holiday Inn, Home Depot, HSBC, Canada Lands Company, Ontario Teachers Plan, Hudsons Bay, Lenovo, Loblaws, London Drugs, Maurices, Michaels, Mr. Lube, Nutrien, OnRoute, Peoples,

Shoppers, RBC, RGA, Rivera, Rogers, Scotiabank, United Rentals, Zale and Forestry Association Canada.

For both 2019 and 2020, Dominion Command was instrumental with the arrangements for the First Poppy Presentation to the Governor General which symbolizes the ceremonial launch of the campaign. Similar launches with the respective Lieutenant Governors in each of the Provincial Commands also took place.

NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Dominion Command was instrumental in the organization and conduct of the national ceremony on behalf of the People of Canada. In both 2019 an estimated 35,000 to 40,000 spectators attended the Ceremony and for 2020 a virtual ceremony was conducted.

THE NATIONAL SILVER CROSS MOTHER

The Silver Cross Mother for 2019 is Mrs. Reine Samson Dawe, South Frontenac, Ontario. Mrs. Dawe's son, Captain Matthew J. Dawe, was the Commander of 8 Platoon, C Company, 3 Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Battalion (3 PPCLI). His company was part of 2 Royal Canadian Regiment Battle Group (2 RCR BG) serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. He was killed in action in Afghanistan on July 4, 2007.

The Silver Cross mother for 2020 is Mrs. Debbie Sullivan. Mrs. Sullivan's son, Lt(N) Christopher Edward Saunders was a Naval Officer in the Royal Canadian Navy. Chris was killed during a tragic fire while serving aboard HMCS Chicoutimi on October 6, 2004.

Work is well underway for the 2021 Poppy Campaign. Production requirements for Poppies and Wreaths were set in December 2020. Their supporting production schedule is being adhered to and validated with monthly physical counts.

Promotional materials to support the Poppy Campaign were reviewed immediately following the 2019 and 2020 Campaigns. The 2021 Promotional Materials Catalogue, Poster and Literacy Contest Winners Booklet, and supporting order forms have been updated. Provincial Commands have been solicited for their 2021 material forecasts. Procurement for materials to support the 2021 Campaign are well underway with the goal of having all materials in stock by June 1st.

POPPY TRADEMARKS

The Poppy Trademark remains an active enforcement issue. As such Dominion Command is constantly monitoring the use and misuse of the image aided by many Legion branches or individual members who report infractions. Those that are violating the Poppy trademark are notified of the trademark requirements and are requested to cease. Those that fail to abide by this notification are turned over to the Legion's Trademark lawyer for follow up action.

CADET LEAGUES AND OUTSTANDING CADETS

We continue to maintain good relationship with the Cadet Leagues. Every year, Dominion Command has a meeting with the Executive Directors of the Leagues and the Commander of the National Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers Support Group. Items of mutual interest are discussed, and a good working relationship is maintained. The Committee is very positive about the Cadet program and the Legion support for it, from the Marksmanship program to the Cadet Medal of Excellence, the Outstanding Cadets of the Year to Ottawa for Remembrance and of course at the local branch level for cadet units.

YOUTH EDUCATION-POSTER AND LITERARY CONTESTS

In 2019 and 2020, the Poster and Literary Contests were well supported by branches and Commands with over 83,000 students submitting entries from across Canada. The deadline for each Provincial Command to submit their winning entries to Dominion Command has been 15 February for the past several years and this has enabled the national results to be released by early April annually.

We continue to work closely with the Canadian War Museum and an exhibit of the senior winners is on display every year. As well, the second place and honourable mention winners are placed on display at the Parliamentary Precinct every Remembrance period. (This was not possible for 2020 because of Covid-19)

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 veteran's 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 lifetime, but actually 11 am on the island.

Advertising for Remembrance Island in 2020 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. We were proud to have the Forest Products Association of Canada as the sponsor for 2020 and 2021 and we have included scenes from the Forestry Corps on the Island.

The one-day Remembrance Island brought in over '*14 million*' views and a large user demand for an extension of the Island (Remembrance Island II) for 2021.

Remembrance Island is currently up for a media award for the second year running.

PAY TRIBUTE – 2020 TRIAL

During the 2020 poppy campaign a Trial was conducted for the tap and pay option for Poppy boxes. Permitting electronic donations in a cashless society. This option also attracted the younger society where they only carry cells phones, prepaid charge cards and credit cards.

The 2020 trial was be conducted during the Remembrance period in 137 HSBC Bank Canada Branches across Canada and select Legion Branches in the province of Ontario for a total of 250 poppy boxes. The idea was 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 in isolated locations. Tap & Pay option will permit a donation using a card or phone and will have a 'que' for holding in remote areas with no WiFi. HSBC Banks Canada paid for the Pay Tribute" Poppy boxes at no cost to the Legion.

All funds from the Pay Tribute Poppy boxes go to the closest Poppy Fund account (no centralized national account). The 2021 Pay Tribute will be developed and ready for an expanded trial to include all CAF Bases and Wings in Canada. There will be no cost to the Royal Canadian Legion and all funds collected will go to the Local Legion Branch Poppy fund.

Pay Tribute Poppy box has been nominated for an industry award.

DIGITAL POPPY

The Royal Canadian Legion is embracing the digital age with a new virtual version of the symbolic poppy. We really need to go with the times, and we are trying to reach a younger audience. Fewer people are carrying around cash and change these days, opting to exclusively use cards or cellphones instead. This can be a barrier for people wanting to

buy a traditional poppy pin, which usually asks for a cash contribution.

Now, with the Legion's new nationwide program, Canadians can make a monetary contribution online until Nov 11. In return, a digital two-sided poppy will be sent to their email. The website walks you through the process and has an added element of personalization that traditional pins do not have. Your name is engraved on one side, and you can choose to create it in memory of someone else by adding their name on the other side.

The customization element allows you to share the soldier's story, memory, and sacrifice with your digital network on social media or to display the image on your device and is available until Nov. 11, Remembrance Day.

2021 will be the third year for the Digital Poppy which proved to be very successful in 2020. Home Equity Bank continues to be the Corporate Partner for the Digital Poppy program.

LEGION PILGRIMAGE OF REMEMBRANCE

From 6-20 July 2019, Comrade Bruce Julian led the 30 Pilgrims participating in the 2019 Pilgrim of Remembrance through France and Belgium where they toured battlefields, paid their respects in cemeteries, reflected at memorials and explored museums. Comrade John Goheen was again selected as the tour facilitator and provided the direction and historical perspective that makes this event so successful and poignant.

Paris was used as the arrival and departure point for the Pilgrimage once again. The delegation included representatives from all Provincial Commands along with paying pilgrims. The group participated in the Menin Gate Ceremony and other Legion ceremonies at various sites such as Beaumont Hamel and Vimy Ridge. Through the visits and experiences while at these significant WWI and WWII sites, the Pilgrims gained a unique perspective and an unprecedented level of understanding of Remembrance.

The Pilgrimage was cancelled for 2021 because of Covid-19.

The next Pilgrimage will be held in July 2022.

NATIONAL COLOUR PARTY

The Committee once again extends its appreciation and thanks to the Dominion Command Colour Party, which continues to represent the Legion at numerous local, national and high-profile events throughout the year. The commitment and dedication of each member is outstanding.

REMEMBRANCE EDUCATION MATERIAL

The Committee continues to work closely with Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC). One such partnership is the VAC package of Remembrance educational material, which includes our Youth Education Programs pamphlet on the Poster & Literary Contests and the Legion's Teaching Guide. One package is mailed to each Legion branch and school across Canada in August/September each year and the Legion greatly appreciates the cooperation of VAC in this matter.

The Committee continues to work closely with the Commemoration Division of Veterans Affairs Canada in support of various initiatives and receive regular updates on items of mutual interest such as commemorative events.

VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA MONUMENT RESTORATION WORKING GROUP

The Legion continues to be involved with and support Veterans Affairs Canada's Cenotaph/Monument Restoration and Construction Programs. These programs enable communities and organizations to apply for funding to conserve and restore existing cenotaphs and monuments and to construct new ones. The Government's program for construction of new cenotaphs and monuments expired at the end of March 2016 and we are awaiting any indication of a program or direction from the Government for new construction.

THE POPPY MANUAL

A current version of the Poppy Manual is available on-line. Since Legion Manuals are no longer available in a hard copy format, the Committee continues to review and update on a regular basis.

BUDGET

A copy of the Committee budget for the period 2020-2021 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions they may have at this time concerning Committee expenses, however, any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention business program.

CONCLUSION

The Legion Poppy and Remembrance Committee continues to focus on ensuring that the Remembrance initiatives and programs of the Legion achieve the objective of perpetuating the memory and deeds of the Fallen.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Committee for their support and dedication throughout the past two years.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File 23:1

Bruce Julian	Chair
Valerie MacGregor	Vice-Chair
Terry Campbell	Member
David Flannigan	Member
Marion Fryday Cook	Member
Duane MacEwen	Member
Garry Pond	Member
Randy Hayley	Coordinator
Amanda Black	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: March 30, 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

RECOMMENDATION:

That Member Services create an electronic membership card, downloadable to mobile devices, to complement the current plastic membership card.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. **Committee KPI Target Report**

The Committee has established the new goals for 2021 which are listed in the updated Committee Target Report below.

2021 Membership Committee Targets

Command	Renewals	Branch Rates	Member Emails	Branch Portal Processing	Auto Renewals
01 RCL BC/YUKON COMMAND	67.6%	100.0%	53.1%	81.9%	9.1%
02 RCL ALBERTA/NWT COMMAND	67.4%	97.0%	49.4%	65.9%	9.7%
03 RCL SASKATCHEWAN COMMAND	80.6%	98.8%	40.3%	51.2%	6.4%
04 RCL MANITOBA/NWDC COMMAND	66.2%	100.0%	38.4%	55.7%	8.4%
05 RCL ONTARIO COMMAND	72.4%	99.5%	45.8%	72.0%	8.2%
06 RCL QUEBEC COMMAND	68.1%	81.9%	48.9%	61.0%	7.6%
07 RCL NEW BRUNSWICK COMMAND	73.6%	100.0%	37.4%	54.9%	5.4%
08 RCL NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT COMMAND	71.4%	100.0%	38.7%	76.7%	6.1%
09 RCL PEI COMMAND	72.3%	94.7%	31.8%	63.2%	4.2%
10 RCL NFLD/LABRADOR COMMAND	71.2%	87.0%	51.1%	60.9%	8.8%
Total	70.4%	97.4%	46.1%	66.3%	8.2%
2021 Membership Committee Targets	89%	100%	50%	75%	10%

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

File 23:1

Bruce Julian	-	Chair
Valerie MacGregor	-	Vice-Chair
Terry Campbell	-	Member
David Flannigan	-	Member
Marion Fryday-Cook	-	Member
Duane MacEwen	-	Member
Garry Pond	-	Member
Randy Hayley	-	Committee Coordinator
Amanda Black	-	Asst. Committee Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Over the past year and a half Legion membership has not been exempt from the negative impact of the global pandemic resulting in numerous challenges for our organization. Despite these challenges, the Committee has remained committed to moving forward with implementing their strategic plan of modernizing the Legion membership experience for both branches and members, all focussed on turning our membership fortunes around.

Tremendous progress has been made since the 2018 Dominion Convention including greater branch online participation, the redevelopment of the member online renewal process and the introduction of allowing members to join local branches online. This has resulted in 76% of all 2020 membership being processed online by either the local branch or by the individual member.

Today almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of all branches are using the membership processing website to its full capabilities ultimately improving the membership experience for both our branches and members.

Pre-pandemic, business improvements were having positive impact as National membership was growing 2% year over year for the first quarter of 2020. Membership growth had not been experienced for decades and is the reason the Committee remains optimistic for the return to more normal times.

During the 2021 Convention Member Services will conduct an informative online membership workshop for all attendees focusing on recent membership improvements and key initiatives in place to help assist with a full post -pandemic recovery.

MEMBERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

Membership numbers continued to decline since our last Convention. For 2018 (down 2.1%), 2019 (down 2.1%) and in 2020 numbers were further impacted by the pandemic (down 3.5%) forcing temporary closures and gathering restrictions for most branches. At the time of submitting this report (March 2021) 2021 membership was down 15% year over year.

2020 YEAR-END RESULTS:

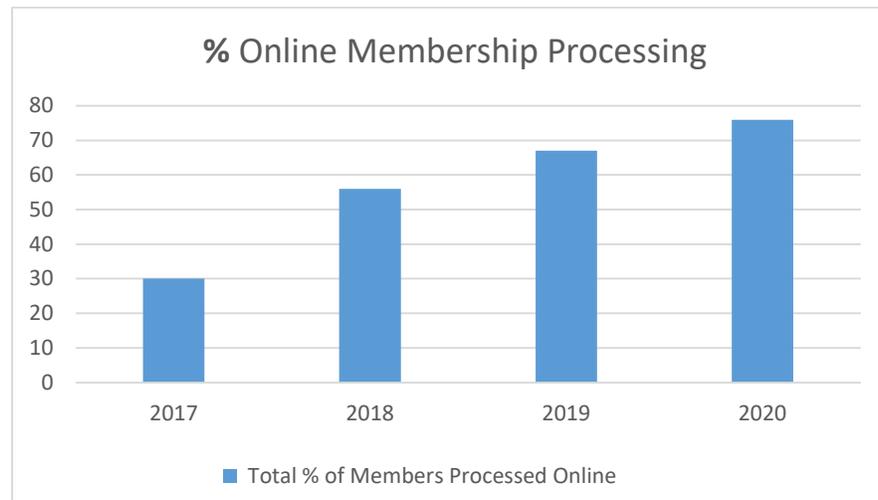
- 248,427 Total Paid Membership - down 8,877 members or 3.5% year over year
- Renewal rates were 84.27% compared to 85.61% in 2019.
- 29,877 New/Reinstated Members were enrolled during 2020 – down 334 members or 1.1% year over year. This included 2,319 new Veteran Welcome members.
- 3,892 members were recorded as deceased during 2020 compared to 4,446 the year before. A decrease of 12.0% year over year

Inside the Numbers:

- A total of 39,263 members who had paid for 2019 were not processed/did not renew for 2020.
- Of these 39,263 members, 4,641 could not be renewed (deceased, cancelled, expelled etc.) leaving a remaining 34,622 members who could have renewed.
- Of these 34,622 members, 9,818 (28.3%) were new members (1 year of service)
- An additional 4,325 (12.4%) had 2 years of service.
- In summary, a total of 14,143 (40.8%) were 'new' members who did not renew, consistent with the previous 2-years.

2020 POSITIVES:

- Almost 30,000 new members joined the Legion for the second consecutive year.
- 188,202 total memberships were processed online (by branches and individual members) representing 76% of all 2020 memberships (8% growth over 2019 – see chart below)
- 43,411 members renewed their memberships online during the year. Up 144% over 2019
- 6,454 members joined online compared to 1,456 in 2019. Up 443%
- Continued progress with branches using the membership portal. Up to 90% regular login.
- Collectively we have accumulated 100,000-member email addresses on file. Up 25% year over year.
- Over 13,000 members have signed up for auto renew. Up 121% year over year
- Continued improvement in 4 of our 5 key performance indicator areas (Branch Rates, Member Emails, Branch Portal Processing, Auto Renewals).



ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- 1) Launch of the Veterans Welcome Program – Over 5,000 Veterans have signed up for a free 1-year Legion membership with 45% renewing after their first year.
- 2) Launch of the MemberPerks program supported by Dominion Marketing.....15,000 members have registered and saved over \$150,000!
- 3) Introduction of allowing new members to join local branches online
- 4) Development of the National Branch Renewal Strategy (see below).
- 5) Development of the Membership Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) focusing on measurement of Renewals, Branch Rates, Member Emails, Auto Renewals, Branch Membership website participation.

Legion Branch Membership Renewal
STRATEGY

R **RENEWAL** reminders

- Personal phone calls yield best results
- Email reminders
- Direct mail reminders

40% of non renewing members did not remember receiving a renewal reminder

E **EMAIL** addresses

Collecting and entering member email addresses within the member services website allows both the Branch and Legion House the ability to send important reminder notices electronically.

N **NEVER** again ask members to renew. Sign your members up for Auto Renewal

Auto Renewal automatically renews members annually who have signed up online with a credit card. Branches save time and money. No processing or paperwork required from the Branch.

Please consider: Each time we ask a member to renew, we are asking them to reconsider if they still want to be a Legion member.

E **ELECTRONIC** renewal saves time and money for both Branches and Members

Ensure your Branch rate is entered in the member services website to allow your members the opportunity to renew online providing another option for renewal.

41% of non-renewing members would renew online

W **WELCOME** all with improved Branch hospitality

Review the Branch Hospitality Program

25% of non-renewing members found their Branch experience to be inhospitable

DID YOU KNOW: Direct contact with non-renewing members yields the best results. During 2020, 170,000 email reminders and over 100,000 direct mail pieces were sent soliciting the renewal of existing members.

The Committee encourages local branches to directly contact their non-renewing members annually.

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

The pandemic further demonstrated the importance of communications as our traditional Legion routines and processes either ceased or were greatly impacted. Membership success is 100% dependent on improved organizational communications.

Member Communications:

Please continue to collect and enter member contact information within the membership website. With this information, Dominion Command can cost effectively email renewal reminders on behalf of the branches encouraging members to renew their local memberships.

Branch Communications:

Each month Dominion Command emails the All-Branch Communication Newsletter (now called the Legion Dispatch) to the email address appearing on your branch profile page within the membership website and to your standardized legion.ca email address issued for the membership website.

This information piece contains important news, updates, and changes for all aspects of our Legion organization.

Please review your branch email address on your branch profile page within the membership website to ensure the correct email address is listed and if you do not have access to your standardized branch legion.ca account please contact Member Services.

BUDGET

Please find enclosed with this report a copy of the budgets for the Membership Committee. Any motion for changes to the budgets as relates to the Membership Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION:

The Membership Committee continues to lead the business transformations required to position ourselves for a stronger future for Legion membership. The administrative tools are now firmly in place, but local branches remain the key to improved results.

Please continue to welcome all newcomers who wish to support Veterans, promote remembrance, and want to help assist our communities. Review the branch hospitality program for some helpful tips on creating a more welcoming environment.

Most importantly, please ensure you are receiving, reading, and sharing the monthly Legion Dispatch email communications and that you continue to collect and share member email addresses within the membership website.

The Membership Committee thanks all members, branches, and provincial commands for their resiliency during the pandemic and for embracing and adapting to the changes required to improve and modernize the membership experience. By working together, we will ensure a stronger future for our organization.

I move the acceptance of this report as presented.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 42-2

Brian Weaver	-	Chair
Dave Flannigan	-	Vice-Chair
Jerry Lava	-	Member
Keith Andrews	-	Member
Melvin Crowe	-	Member
Serge Thibaudeau	-	Member
Lia Taha Cheng	-	Coordinator
Angela Keeling Colkitt	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 25 January 2021, 18 February 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14 April 2021

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The Sports Committee currently has no action items for DEC decision.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. **DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consequent event cancellations, the upcoming Dominion Member Sports Championships are scheduled to be held as follows:

2022 Dominion Member Sports Championships:

Cribbage: 22 to 25 April 2022

Host: Branch #02-015 Men of Vision

Darts: 29 April to 2 May 2022

Host: Branch #01-004 Chilliwack

Eight ball: 27 to 30 May 2022

Host: Branch #02-104 Innisfail

2023 Dominion Member Sports Championships:

Eight Ball: 26 to 29 May 2023

Host: Branch #10-051 Happy Valley-Goose Bay

The Dominion Command Sports Committee is seeking Branch applications to host the 2023 Dominion Cribbage and Darts Championships as follows:

Cribbage: Friday 21 April – Monday 24 April 2023

Darts: Friday 28 April – Monday 1 May 2023

The application deadline for individual Branches to Provincial Commands is 31 July 2021. Provincial Commands are asked to prioritize the applications they receive before submitting them to the Dominion Command Sports Committee by 31 August 2021 for consideration.

2. **LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

As a result of an enhanced bid process, increased promotions of the event, and an economic impact assessment report, the number of bids received to host Legion Nationals has significantly increased in recent years. Seven high-quality bid packages were submitted during the last bid period and numerous communities have expressed a high level of interest in hosting Legion Nationals. Following a competitive review of the proposals, the Sports Committee selected Calgary, Alberta to host the 2024 and 2025 Legion Nationals. Therefore, the upcoming schedule is as follows:

- 2022: Sherbrooke, QC, 3-9 August 2022 (competition dates: 5-7 Aug)
- 2023: Sherbrooke, QC, 9-15 August 2023 (competition dates: 11-13 Aug)
- 2024: Calgary, AB, 7-13 August 2024 (competition dates: 9-11 Aug)
- 2025: Calgary, AB, 6-12 August 2025 (competition dates: 8-10 Aug)

The Sports Committee recently approved a motion to include the Sport Tourism Canada annual \$500.00, plus hst, membership fee in all future Sports Committee budgets. The Sport Tourism Canada membership provides networking, business-to-business, and educational opportunities for host destinations, event organizers/rights holders, venues, and accommodations providers. It offers complimentary access to the STEAM2.0 model, an online and self-serve economic impact assessment tool. Through this membership, the call for 2023 and 2024 hosting applications was distributed, face-to-face networking with potential host cities was facilitated, and the 2019 Legion Nationals was nominated and selected as a finalist for a PRESTIGE award (STC Canadian Sport Event Of The Year Award: Group B: event budget less than \$1 million).

3. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Sports Committee continues to maintain close liaison with Provincial Command sports representatives by encouraging a reciprocal flow of information and requesting feedback to enhance the Legion's Member Sports and Track and Field programs. The next committee of the whole meeting is scheduled for 14 April 2021.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

File: 42-2

Brian Weaver	-	Chair
Dave Flannigan	-	Vice Chair
Jerry Lava	-	Member
Keith Andrews	-	Member
Serge Thibaudeau	-	Member
Melvin Crowe	-	Member
Lia Taha Cheng	-	Committee Coordinator
Angela Keeling Colkitt	-	Assistant Committee Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Dominion Command Sports Committee is to maintain close liaison with Provincial Command sports representatives, and to provide leadership and seek cost effective measures to execute all Legion sports programs. The Committee continues to organize, manage, and deliver the Dominion Cribbage, Darts and Eight Ball Championships and the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships.

The Dominion Command Sports Committee has met nine times since the 2018 Dominion Convention – twice in Ottawa and seven times by teleconference. This report summarizes the Committee’s activities over that period.

MEMBER SPORTS GENERAL

Member Sports continue to promote Legion comradeship and sportsmanship by bringing together members from every branch of the Legion. The sporting events help keep members physically active and add to the social aspect of the branch. This helps attract new members and retain current members, which in turn brings in needed revenue, acts as a member incentive and helps engage members through activities and camaraderie.

2018 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results of the three Dominion Member Sports Championships hosted in 2018 are as follows:

- a. **Dominion Cribbage**
Hosted by: Branch #01-091 Victoria, BC, 27-30 April 2018
Single: Gary Moore, Branch #08-160 Centennial-Dartmouth, NS/NU
Doubles: Barry Dillon, Richard Falle, Branch #01-091 Prince Edward, BC/YT
Team: Sandra Routledge, Catherine Bryan, Elaine Dubeau, Veronica White, Branch #06-198 Montcalm Memorial, QC

- b. **Dominion Darts**
Hosted by: Branch #06-120 Mascouche, QC, 4-7 May 2018
Single: Darren MacNevin, Branch #09-001 Charlottetown, PE
Doubles: Chester MacKenzie, Glen MacKenzie, Branch #08-156 MacDonald Memorial, NS/NU
Team: Coady Burke, Scott Shea, Jason Smith, Jeffrey Boutilier, Branch #08-156 Macdonald Memorial, NS/NU

- c. **Dominion Eight Ball**
Hosted by: Branch #03-060 Estevan, SK, 25-28 May 2018
Single: Kim Bohnet, Branch #02-017 Robertson Memorial, AB-NT
Doubles: Dave Snoddy, Kevin Houle, Branch #05-060 Burlington, ON
Team: Kim Bohnet, Ron Meier, Cy Boersma, Kenneth Hicks, Branch #02-017 Robertson Memorial & 02-238 Bowness, AB-NT

2019 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The results of the three Dominion Member Sports Championships hosted in 2019 are as follows:

- a. **Dominion Cribbage**
Hosted by: Branch #05-480 Westboro, ON, 26-29 April 2019
Single: Bill Nelligen, Branch #01-024 Cranbrook, BC/YT
Doubles: Anne Dubuc, Dennis Fewer, Branch #10-012 Grand Falls, NL
Team: Jim McCaffery, Ron Sherwood, Ed McFadzen, Kathy Sullivan, Branch #07-004 Fredericton, NB

- b. **Dominion Darts**
Hosted by: Branch #08-078 Dominion, NS, 3-6 May 2019
Single: Nick Smith, Branch #08-112 Lawrencetown, NS/NU
Doubles: Bryce Book, Connor Book, Branch #01-052 Kamloops, BC/YT
Team: Coady Burke, Jason Smith, Willie MacIsaac, Sheldon Fudge, Branch #08-156 Macdonald Memorial, NS/NU

- c. **Dominion Eight Ball**
Hosted by: Branch #07-004 Fredericton, 24-27 May 2019
Single: Greg Gauthier, Branch #07-010 Miramichi Branch, NB
Doubles: Curtis Beadoin, Richard Urbanik, Branch #04-043 Norwood & St Boniface, MB&NWO
Team: Curtis Beadoin, Richard Urbanik, Richard Martinson, Neil Shore, Branch #04-043 Norwood & St Boniface, MB&NWO

2020 and 2021 DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 Dominion Member Sports (Cribbage, Darts and Eight Ball) Championships were cancelled.

MEMBER SPORTS – POINTS OF INTEREST

The Sports Committee has continued to work toward improving the Member Sports program. The following points outline this effort:

a. Sports Guide Amendments: The Sports Committee continues to review the sport programs' policies and procedures and use feedback from the provincial sports representatives to update the Sports Guide as required. The following amendments have been approved by the Dominion Executive Council:

Subsection 208.d

Amended subsection 208.d to read:

208.d *Additional exceptions may apply based on extenuating circumstances which must be approved by the Dominion Sports Committee.*

Subsection 302.b

Amended subsection 302.b to read:

302.b Providing up to \$700 towards *transportation and mileage* for four competitors per member sport event from *their place of residence* to the national airport nearest the site of the Championship and return. For Provincial Command team members choosing to travel by car to Dominion Member Sport Championships, each member whose vehicle is utilized for this purpose is provided the equivalent of the lowest available fare-saver airfare *and mileage* up to \$700 (from *their place of residence* to the national airport nearest the site of the Championship and return) OR the distance in kilometers as calculated by Dominion Command, whichever is less.

Subsection 303.d

Amended subsection 303.d to read:

303.d. Arranging for and regulating Legion Cribbage, Darts and Eight Ball within its jurisdiction and ensuring that Provincial Championships are completed at least *four weeks* prior to the Dominion Championships.

b. Eight Ball Participation: In 2018, there were three Provincial Commands that did not participate in the Dominion Eight Ball Championships. BC/YT did not have a Provincial Championships, as they did not have 50% of their zones participating in eight ball. MB&NWO cancelled their Provincial Championships, as they did not have a host for the event. QC only had 11 teams interested; therefore, decided not to run a Provincial Eight Ball Championships. Following positive discussions throughout the past two years, both BC/YT and MB&NWO had scheduled Provincial Eight Ball Championships for 2020.

Therefore, all Provincial Commands, except for QC, had planned on sending a team to the 2020 Dominion Eight Ball Championships until they were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. QC Command identified that they only had 5 teams interested in participating in eight ball in 2020 and that there are only 3 branches in their Command that have sufficient eight ball tables to host.

LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS GENERAL

The Championships continue to bring together nearly 1,000 athletes from across the country annually to compete in Canada's only U16 and U18 National Track and Field Championships. This national championship, supported by the efforts of thousands of Legion volunteers, gives young Canadians 17 and under a chance to compete against the best, develop confidence and better understand the diversity of other sports-minded youth across Canada. In 2019, the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships were selected as a top three finalist for the Canadian Sport Tourism Alliance's Sport Event of the Year Award in Group B (budget less than \$1 million).

The Committee continues to pursue avenues of savings through independent travel bookings with airlines, providing revenue sharing activities with host committees, and proactively seeking sponsorship partners. National sponsorship partners over the past three years included Home Hardware, Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc., MBNA, and BMO. In addition to the sponsorship initiatives, revenue is also generated by the collection of registration fees which, when combined with sponsorship funds, exceeded \$74,000 in 2019.

2018 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 42nd Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 8-14 August 2018 in Brandon, Manitoba. The total attendance was 650 athletes, including 317 Legion sponsored athletes, representing all 10 Provincial Commands, and 333 open category athletes. The athletes were supported by 37 Legion sponsored chaperones and 27 Legion sponsored coaches, as well as 97 open category coaches. There were approximately 2,000 spectators, officials, and volunteers from all parts of Canada in attendance which included Veterans, both retired and serving, covering all branches of service.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, instructional clinics, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2018, a remembrance theme of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War was prominent throughout. As well, the 42nd anniversary of these games was acknowledged.

The President of the Legion, Comrade Dave Flannigan, attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest of honour. In attendance as well was Mr. Angus Stanfield, Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Vice President and Sports Committee Chair; Ronn Anderson, Royal Canadian Legion MB/NWO President; Larry Maguire, MP Brandon-Souris; Reg Helwer, MLA Brandon West; His Worship Rick Chrest, Mayor City of Brandon; Major Howard Nelson, Acting Base Commander CFB Shilo; and Master Warrant Officer Sean

David, Acting Base Chief Warrant Officer CFB Shilo. Immediately following the ceremony, Dominion Command hosted a reception on-site at the Brandon Sportsplex. Further receptions were held at Branch #3 Brandon for the chaperones and coaches on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at Brandon University in the main dining hall on Monday evening.

From the opening ceremony through to the closing banquet, Canada's contributions to freedom and the sacrifices of our Veterans formed the cornerstone of this event. This was projected through the content of speeches, event publications, local and national media outlets, event paraphernalia sporting the 100th anniversary logo (i.e., volunteer t-shirts, event bags, hats, bibs, event booklets, etc.), and formal recognition of Veterans who were invited guests to the championships, acted as chaperones, volunteered their services, and formed part of the event medal presenters. Other areas of remembrance were the medals presented which used the Brooding Soldier, the central feature of the Saint Julien Memorial, as the basis for the design, the laying of a wreath by the Dominion Sports Chair, and the two minutes of silence during the opening ceremonies. During the final banquet, the playing of the Battle of the Somme, the Heights of Dargai (both written by pipers that fought in those two battles) and Amazing Grace by the Dominion Sports Chair on his grandfather's (a First World War Veteran) bagpipes which were present at the Battle of Vimy Ridge, were especially poignant moments.

The meet was held from 10-12 August under very warm weather temperatures. The facility at the Brandon Sportsplex was in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three-day period under the excellent organization of the meet director, Jim Murray. Seven meet records and two national records were broken. The top Legion female athlete, receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy, was Savannah Sutherland from Saskatchewan and the top male athlete, receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy, was Emanuel Désilets from Quebec. Logistically, the caterer provided good meals on site with a nutritionally designed menu developed in concert with a nutritional sport expert. The quarters used to house the Legion teams were in good condition at Brandon University. Transportation for staff and Legion teams was excellent.

For 2018, an extensive social media campaign was conducted which included Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Additional promotion prior to the event was provided through advertisements at the OFSAA Track and Field Championships, in CFB Shilo's base newspaper, and during TV spots on the PBS Station Prairie Public. Extensive coverage of the event was provided by the Brandon Sun prior to, during, and post event. During the championships, the event was broadcast via live streaming on AthleticsCanada.TV by ColossoVision. Overall, the live feeds were very well received by the audience with a total of 17,666 views of the track feed and 7,382 views of the field feed.

The Brandon community led by the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chair, Barb Andrews, of Branch #3, and the Vice-LAC Chair, Jackie Nichol, of Brandon University, were instrumental in organizing the event on the ground. The entire Brandon community rallied around the program providing a volunteer base of over 300. CFB Shilo was a

strong supporter as well, providing logistical support in the form of modular tenting. The City of Brandon, the Province of Manitoba, Athletics Canada, Athletics Manitoba, and Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc. (PIB) were additional gold level sponsors, along side 32 other local sponsors, who made the event possible.

2019 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 43rd Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 7-13 August 2019 in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. The total attendance was 721 athletes, including 314 Legion sponsored athletes, representing all 10 Provincial Commands, and 407 open category athletes. The athletes were supported by 38 Legion sponsored chaperones and 28 Legion sponsored coaches, as well as 120 open category coaches. There were approximately 2,000 spectators, officials, and volunteers from all parts of Canada in attendance which included Veterans, both retired and serving, covering all branches of service.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, instructional clinics, practice sessions, social activities and the actual meet. For 2019, a remembrance theme of the 75th anniversary of D-Day was prominent throughout. Legion Provincial Command athletes visited the Fortress of Louisbourg where two lucky athletes were given the opportunity to fire a ground-shaking canon at the top of the fortress.

The President of the Legion, Comrade Thomas D. Irvine, attended the opening ceremonies and was the official guest of honour. In attendance as well was Brian Weaver, Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Vice-President and Sports Committee Chair; Marion Fryday-Cook, Royal Canadian Legion NS/NU President; Jeff Ward, band member of Membertou Mi'kmaw community; Derek Mombourquette, MLA Sydney Whitney Pier - Provincial Minister of Nova Scotia; and Eldon MacDonald, Cape Breton Regional Municipality Councillor. The opening ceremony began with a parade led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Dave Piercy, and his Color Party, followed by the CBU Pipe and Drum Band. Legion teams representing all Provincial Commands, followed by a group of open athletes, made for a wonderful opening. Immediately following the ceremony, Dominion Command hosted a reception on-site at Cape Breton University. Further receptions were held at Branch #138 Ashby for the chaperones and at Cape Breton University for the coaches on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at Cape Breton University in the Canada Games Complex on Monday evening. During the closing banquet, the President's Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, support and service to the Legion Nationals program, was presented to Helen and John Ladouceur.

From the opening ceremony through to the closing banquet, Canada's contributions to freedom and the sacrifices of our Veterans formed the cornerstone of this event. This was projected through the content of speeches, event publications, local and national media outlets and event paraphernalia sporting the 75th anniversary of D-Day logo (i.e. on volunteer t-shirts, event bags, hats, bibs, event booklets, etc.). The program also included formal recognition of Veterans who were invited guests to the championships,

acted as chaperones, volunteered their services, and formed part of the event medal presenters. Other areas of remembrance were the medals presented which featured silhouettes that paid tribute to a battle waged by sea, land and air, the laying of a wreath by the Dominion President, and the two minutes of silence during the opening ceremonies.

The meet was held from 9-11 August under perfect weather conditions. The facility at Cape Breton University was in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three-day period under the excellent organization of the meet director, Jonathan Doucette, the director of officials, Anitra Stevens, and the technical advisor, Serge Thibaudeau. Eight meet records and one national record were broken. The top Legion female athlete, receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy, was Jaeland Cummings from British Columbia and the top male athlete, receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy, was Ryan Jacklin from Ontario.

Logistically, the caterer provided excellent meals on site with a nutritionally designed menu developed in concert with a nutritional sport expert. The quarters used to house the Legion teams were in great condition at Cape Breton University. Transportation for staff and Legion teams was great.

For 2019, an extensive digital media campaign was conducted which included Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and Google Ads. The digital media campaign was successful in reaching a large audience and bringing awareness to the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. Live coverage of the championships was also posted on social media, including a Facebook Live video broadcast of the field events.

The following shows results from the 2019 digital media efforts:

2019 follower growth across channels:

Facebook following grew +432 followers
Instagram following grew +1,000 followers
Twitter following grew +100 followers

Facebook post results between April & August 30, 2019:

Facebook impressions (amount of times people saw a post enter their screen): 692,051
Facebook engaged users (number of unique Facebook users who engaged with a post): 20,650
Facebook live video watchers (number of unique Facebook users who watched): 20,082
Facebook live video views (number of total views): 24,581

Facebook awareness paid ad results (leading up to event)

493,916 impressions
1,509 landing page views on website
\$0.99 per landing page view

Snapchat ad results:

419,854 impressions
7,122 swipe ups to the website

Google ad results:

18,092 impressions
1,993 clicks (11.02% click through rate) at \$0.99 a click

Additional promotion prior to the event was provided through advertisements at high school track and field championships, radio spots on Cape Breton Stingray radio and billboards throughout the Cape Breton Regional Municipality. Extensive coverage of the event was provided by the Cape Breton Post prior to, during and post event. During the championships, the track events were broadcasted via live streaming on AthleticsCanada.TV. Athletics Canada switched to a subscription-based model this year and 2,027 viewers signed up for the paid account.

The Cape Breton community led by the LAC Chair, Thomas Young, of Branch #138, went above and beyond to provide the best possible experience for the athletes, coaches, chaperones and guests. The entire Cape Breton community rallied around the program providing a volunteer base of over 300. CFB Halifax was a strong supporter as well, along with the Cape Breton Highlanders, providing logistical support in the form of setting up modular tents and providing communication radios. In addition to hosting a fantastic meet, Cape Breton University displayed their outstanding hospitality and amazing campus through live music, games, recreational sports, an Amazing Race scavenger hunt and an epic paint battle. The Cape Breton Regional Municipality, the Province of Nova Scotia, Athletics Canada, Athletics Nova Scotia, Seaboard Transport, Professional Institute Public Service Canada and Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc. were additional gold level sponsors, along side 50 other local sponsors, who made the event possible.

Legion athlete, Mikayla Boucher, summed up the message of Remembrance during her speech at the closing banquet. "The mission of the Royal Canadian Legion is to support Veterans, promote Remembrance and strengthen communities. We wear our poppies tonight to acknowledge the importance of remembrance," said Boucher. "Countless Canadian lives have been dedicated to serving our nation, and it is crucial that we always remember and honour the Fallen. We are asking each athlete to show their respect by visiting their local Legion to share their experiences at Legion Nationals and sincerely thank them for this amazing opportunity and their dedication to our country."

2020 and 2021 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 and 2021 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships were cancelled.

TRACK & FIELD – POINTS OF INTEREST

The Sports Committee has continued to work toward improving the Track and Field

program while reducing costs. The following points outline this effort:

a. Sports Guide Amendments: The Sports Committee continues to review the Legion Nationals' policies and procedures and use feedback from the provincial sports representatives to update the Sports Guide as required. The following amendments have been approved by the Dominion Executive Council:

Subsection 707.b

Amended subsection 707.b to read:

707.b Each Provincial Command must name one coach as the Head Coach and that *person has to be a fully certified National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) club coach. All other team coaches require NCCP club coach trained certification.* There may be exceptions to this rule.

Subsection 707.c

Amended subsection 707.c to read:

707.c Each provincial athletic association is permitted to designate no more than two additional *NCCP club or sport trained coaches* to accompany their team *for professional development purposes.* All associated expenses are to be paid by the provincial athletic association or the coach, not by Dominion Command.

b. National Dominion Head Chaperones: A call for applications was distributed to the Provincial Command executive directors and Provincial Command sports representatives seeking one male and one female head chaperone for the 2020, now 2022, and future Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. Helen and John Ladouceur, current Dominion Head Chaperones, will also be attending the 2022 Legion Nationals in order to provide training, support, and a thorough transfer of knowledge to the successors. At the 2019 Legion Nationals, Helen and John Ladouceur were presented with the President's Award for their selfless dedication in support of the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships for the past 20 years.

c. Athletics Canada Partnership: The partnership between The Royal Canadian Legion and Athletics Canada has been re-established and at their 2018 Annual General Meeting, Athletics Canada recognized the Legion Nationals as the only official U16 and U18 national outdoor track and field championships. Athletics Canada has also provided budget relieving in-kind sponsorships over the past two years including merchandise, webcast support, a technical representative, and high performance athlete guest speakers for the Legion athletes' clinics. They also offered a coaches' clinic at the 2019 Legion Nationals.

d. **Legion Nationals Bids to Host:** As a result of an enhanced bid process, increased promotions of the event and an economic impact assessment report, the number of bids received to host Legion Nationals has significantly increased in the past three years. Multiple high-quality bid packages were submitted during the last two bid periods and numerous communities have expressed a high level of interest in hosting Legion Nationals. Following a competitive review of the proposals, the Sports Committee selected Sherbrooke, Quebec, and Calgary, Alberta to host the upcoming Legion Nationals as follows:

- 2022: Sherbrooke, QC, 3-9 August 2022 (competition dates: 5-7 Aug)
- 2023: Sherbrooke, QC, 9-15 August 2023 (competition dates: 11-13 Aug)
- 2024: Calgary, AB, 7-13 August 2024 (competition dates: 9-11 Aug)
- 2025: Calgary, AB, 6-12 August 2025 (competition dates: 8-10 Aug)

DOMINION COMMAND NATIONAL SPORTS TELECONFERENCES

Since 2017, the Sports Committee has organized annual National Sports teleconferences in order to provide provincial sports representatives with the opportunity to share best practices, discuss issues, questions and concerns, and collaborate in order to enhance the Legion's Member Sports and Track and Field programs. The sharing of information in regards to the positives and negatives within each provincial program has provided a base of realistic expectations on a national scale. It has also served to gain consensus in many areas, which will help the Sports Committee to focus its efforts. A Dropbox folder was also created for the provincial sports representatives to exchange best practices and templates and improve the overall Legion Nationals athletes' and Dominion Member Sports Championships participants' experiences.

2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has not received any resolutions for the 2021 Convention.

BUDGET

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the 2021 and 2022 budgets for Member Sports, the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships, and the Sports Committee. Delegates may raise any questions they may have concerning the budgets at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budgets as related to the Sports Committee will be deferred until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer in the Convention proceedings.

CONCLUSION

The Dominion Command Sports Committee continues to focus on the development and advancement of the Legion sports programs with an emphasis on improving the events and participants' experiences, while reducing costs, promoting the Legion, and enhancing membership.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their support and dedication throughout the past three years.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

Owen Parkhouse	-	Chair
Sharon McKeown	-	Vice-Chair
Stephen Gallant	-	Member
Nathan Lehr	-	Member
Kenneth Ouellet	-	Member
Chris Strong	-	Member
Nujma Bond	-	Coordinator
Leah O'Neill	-	Assistant Coordinator
Dion Edmonds	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): May 26, 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR *DISCUSSION & IMPLEMENTATION*

No committee discussions since last meeting.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

No committee discussions since last meeting.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

File: 44-1

Owen Parkhouse	-	Chair
Sharon McKeown	-	Vice-Chair
Stephen Gallant	-	Member, PE
Nathan Lehr	-	Member, NL
Ken Ouellet	-	Member, QC
Chris Strong	-	Member, AB
Nujma Bond	-	Coordinator
Leah O'Neill	-	Assistant Coordinator
Dion Edmonds	-	Assistant Coordinator

OVERVIEW

Our Public Relations Committee (established December 2017) has been active for over three years. During that time, we have guided responses to emerging issues, and provided feedback to members and colleagues, helping the national Public Relations team complete critical and supportive projects. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 did not curtail our work but eliminated participation in in-person meetings and PR events outside of the Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day activities.

Committee actions from 2018 into 2021, aligned with the organization's current strategic marketing and communications plan.

The work of the committee is complemented by bi-monthly Provincial/Territorial Public Relations Officer meetings, which includes representation from across the country.

This report will share a range of highlights from Legion PR projects and initiatives, and present planned actions going forward.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued regular bi-monthly meetings with our Public Relations Officers to share information and update our colleagues across the country with useful and timely information and tools.
- Advised on important issues over the months including:
 - COVID-19 response and related communications to Branches, members and the public through media.
 - 2019 Legion anti-hate policy.
 - Holding political meetings.
- Shared significant profiles (articles, videos, newsletters, social media) with the public, including:

- Legion and COVID-19 help – national response stories
 - Dominion President COVID messages - Legion and member update (videos)
 - Production of the Poppy – how it’s made, what donations mean (video)
 - Operation Vet Build – model building program for Veterans (video)
 - Stolen Valour – Legion’s strong stance (video)
 - Members on The Fly – fly fishing program for Veterans
 - Nijmegen March - Dominion Command representative
 - Buddy Check Coffee – OSI Special Section program
 - Legion Nationals – promotional tool for championships (video)
 - Support of Project Trauma Support program
 - Navy Run introductory remarks by Legion Grand President (video)
 - Presentation of the First Poppy to the Governor-General of Canada (video)
 - Legion support of homelessness projects
 - New Legion poppy mask created for the pandemic.
- Completed work on public relations activities related to the 75th anniversary of D-Day, of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the commemoration of the Liberation of the Netherlands, and the 100th anniversary of the Poppy symbol.
 - Also, refreshed radio and TV PSA initiatives to actively invite membership and show what we do. *e.g. Join for 5 years to receive a Poppy 100 anniversary watch; Join for at least a year to receive a Poppy 100 anniversary bouquet; A Veteran may join and receive a free year.*
 - In 2020, began new partnerships with major “landmarks” across Canada to help promote Remembrance (e.g. CN Tower, Niagara Falls).
- Supported the National Silver Cross Mothers, an integral part our Remembrance Period activities. Included on-site support, extensive media relations, advising and coaching.
- Created/updated tools to help us effectively complete our public relations activities:
 - COVID-19 Legion.ca section including current information from across the country and a new Legion Q and A section.
 - Branch checklist tool to help determine if bookings align with Legion standards.
 - Online “Why I joined” initiative to share member stories and invite new members.
 - Regular social media programs to align with Legion and public events and commemorations or partner achievements.
 - Legion PowerPoint overview in French and English for use in general presentations our members may make.

- Fact sheets on areas of significance e.g. Veterans Services and Membership.
- PR Manuals in English and French, they are a guideline for staff and volunteers who handle public relations activities.
- Speaking notes for Commands and Branches to use during the Remembrance Period.
- Communications and tools for Branches related to new online privacy regulations.
- Our team crafted/helped craft a range of important advocacy and policy communiqués over the months such as:
 - Updated statement on Stolen Valour.
 - 2019 anti-hate policy related to outlaw and hate groups.
 - Welcome remarks for new minister of Veterans Affairs.
 - Reaction to VAC 2019 mandate letter.
 - National Federal Budget reaction.
 - National Position paper on advocacy issues.
 - Reaction to Office of the Veterans Ombudsman report.
 - Thoughts on medicinal cannabis, and mefloquine research.
 - Dominion President's presentation to Senate sub-committee on Veterans Affairs.
 - Legion suggestion about the amalgamation of VAC and DND.
 - Legion demand for immediate action to fix long term care issues in Canada.
 - Families left out of new Afghanistan memorial ceremony.
 - Article published in the Ottawa Citizen in 2019 related to Veterans and operational stress injuries.
 - An overview of National Headquarters' activities in Legion magazine in early 2019, 2020, 2021.
 - Recipient of Royal Canadian Legion Scholarship in Veteran Health Research
 - The struggle of Legion Branches to fund their work and the eventual receipt of federal support dollars via the Veterans Organization Emergency Support Fund.
- National Headquarters assisted with national and regional media topics and support where needed. Timely and proactive handling helped accurately share the Legion's point of view with accuracy. Here are some topic examples:
 - COVID-19 questions about closures, actions, and plans.
 - New 2019 anti-hate policy.
 - New rules about the legalization of cannabis.
 - Commenting on Canadian soldiers who suffered frostbite while training.
 - Sudden resignation of VAC minister, and ongoing leadership changes.

- New Legion initiatives including the Digital Poppy, Remembrance Island-related video games, digital and online donations.
 - Don Cherry remarks about wearing a poppy.
 - Poppy trademark violations. In 2019 we made a request to have Canada Border Services Agency monitor for counterfeit items: this request was accepted.
 - Poppy Box theft.
 - A public – not criminal - case of discrimination involving a member in Atlantic Canada.
 - A grocery chain's decision not to allow the wearing of poppies.
 - The Remembrance Period and Poppy Campaign in the context of COVID-19.
- We continued proactively handling complaints via our social media channels; and noted an ongoing decrease in the number of complaints. We also saw additional growth in our social media audiences and began a new national Legion presence on Instagram and LinkedIn.
 - Our team handled the production of monthly member Debrief and All Branch updates containing crucial information about campaigns and contests to attract new membership.
 - We continued producing our well-received monthly Public Relations Officer report full of media highlights, National Headquarters updates, public/member feedback examples and upcoming calendar events.
 - We worked with colleagues and partners to help plan for annual key events and some new ones, examples include:
 - Fostering the Legion's partnership in the Canadian Tulip Festival, which included a campaign with Branches to help plant Liberation 75 tulips in the fall of 2019, to bloom in the spring of 2020. The Festival also donated a dollar from each bag of bulbs sold, to the Legion – increasing brand awareness.
 - The 2019 National Youth Track and Field competition – advertising, pitching stories, creating a new promotional video, and fielding inquiries. Alerting the public to cancelled event in 2020, 2021.
 - Helping with the dissemination of VAC's Veterans Service Card and Service Medal information updates.
 - Facilitating VIA Rail Canada's invitation to have Branches hand out poppies in their train stations during the Remembrance period.
 - The Legion's Virtual Poppy Drop on Parliament Hill – each year we reached hundreds of thousands of viewers with Facebook Live alone.

- Participating in and supporting the Canada Army Run and “Remembrance Row” – which includes roadside photos of Veterans.
- Participation in the Navy Bike Ride.
- Support and sponsorship of the new CAF Victory March.
- Ongoing support of The Legion National Foundation as needed.

MOVING FORWARD

Along with yearly projects, future public relations efforts include, but are not limited to:

- The production of additional video/audio stories that tell the story of the Legion.
 - The visual/audio representation of our work will be a powerful tool that can be used in all regions to share the importance of what we do.
- Revamped Legion.ca website
 - Providing enhanced navigation and simplified content.
- Further focus on ensuring that key information is effectively communicated and pushed down to the Branch level.
 - We need to all make an ongoing commitment to share material where useful, and it is our individual responsibility to read and incorporate this information as best possible.
- Ongoing PR training and tools for those who interact regularly with the media or public.
 - We know that the consistent and regular training of our spokespeople across the country will result in better communication of our common messages.
 - New booklet to outline what we do, and our areas of expertise, targeted at media.

RESOLUTIONS

No resolutions for voting were submitted between 2018 and early 2021, however we submitted recommendations for consideration and discussion at DEC meetings over that period.

RECOMMENDATION: That The Royal Canadian Legion adopt an immediate consequence to anyone found guilty of Stolen Valour. The PR Committee could draft a policy for consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: That The Royal Canadian Legion formulate a short yet explicit set of guidelines to outline when and where Legion representatives can and cannot appear in uniform.

RECOMMENDATION: That the PR Committee help develop a template to report back on where the federal funding goes; and help develop a joint communication strategy so that local government officials can share in the announcements.

RECOMMENDATION: That the provincial/territorial Public Relations Officers or their designates gather Remembrance Period ideas from their region and send them to the PR committee for compilation and sharing.

RECOMMENDATION: Create an understanding with new and existing employees and PR representatives: they must read and remain current on the Legion's current PR issues and activities by staying up to date locally and by reading National Headquarters publications (PRO report, All-Branch, Legion Debrief).

RECOMMENDATION: That the provincial/territorial Public Relations Officers who currently attend bi-monthly meetings nationally, also bring with them key stories of interest in their communities that could have national appeal.

BUDGET

The Committee spending to date remained minimal, falling well within the allocated budget. Spending on Public Relations activities also remained within budget.

CONCLUSION

Despite the pandemic, we have actively maintained our Public Relations (Marketing/Communications) efforts, in a way that has kept members and the public well-informed about our programs and initiatives. Sustaining and growing these efforts will help ensure a healthy Legion future ahead.

Through our timely and increasingly proactive interaction with people by phone, in person, through email and social media, we have been able to strengthen the solid foundation we built at the beginning of our committee's work. As a result, we continue to protect and enhance the organization's reputation and thereby help move its agenda forward.

Ongoing public relations tools serve our members and Branches well, and offer a full range of important updates to help with operations and to keep our various audiences well informed. Through creative stories, pictures, videos, and other interactions, we have offered even more vehicles by which Canadians can understand how vital our collective work is – and entice them to help us with our mission, by joining our organization.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
RITUAL AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

Ken Sorrenti	-	Chair
Blaine Kiley	-	Vice-Chair
Mary-Ann Latimer	-	Member
John Cher	-	Member
Joel Van Snick	-	Member
Charls Gendron	-	Coordinator
Rich Jones	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 25 February 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 25 March 2021

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

Nothing to report

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. **MANUAL UPDATES**

The Ritual and Awards Manual is up to date as of 1 March 2021 with no updates pending.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

K. Sorrenti	-	Chair
B. Kiley	-	Vice-Chair
M. Latimer	-	Member
J. Van Snick	-	Member
J. Cher	-	Member
C. Gendron	-	Coordinator
R. Jones	-	Assistant Coordinator

STATISTICS- MAJOR AWARDS

Statistics shown below represent figures for the last three-year period ending 31 December 2020.

Year	Received	Approved
2018	61	43
2019	73	56
2020	69	60

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Joel Van Snick and John Cher joined the Committee as Members. Denis Hotte retired and Charls Gendron assumed the role of Coordinator. Rich Jones joined the Committee as Assistant Coordinator.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The Committee continues to meet monthly either in person (prior to Covid), electronically or by Zoom and processes applications for the MSM, MSA and the Palm Leaf in a timely manner. There is no backlog of applications.

A procedure was implemented to fast-track re-submissions of applications if there are missing documents such as minutes etc., where otherwise the application would have been approved rather than wait for the next Committee meeting.

Applications for the MSM and MSA's have decreased dramatically. Prior to Covid, on average, seven applications were received monthly. Prior to this decline, it was common to receive fifteen plus applications per month.

The Committee determined that the prerequisite of having a Life Membership on applying for MSM/MSA award had an impact on the number of applications received. It was felt that the paying of the per capita upfront for several years was difficult for Branches given their tenuous financial situation.

With the full support of the Provincial Command Ritual and Awards Chair, it was agreed that to strengthen membership retention by recognizing the work put forth by members and an incentive for younger members to strive for, the following recommendation was made and approved at the November 2019 D.E.C. meeting that the Life Membership criteria for a MSM and MSA Award be removed. An applicant must be a member of the Royal Canadian Legion for a minimum of 15 years. All other criteria for the MSM and MSA as outlined in the Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual. Will remain in effect.

COMMITTEE MANUAL

Since the last convention, Committee members undertook the task of reviewing the manual, section by section, to ensure that all concurred resolutions were included, check for spelling, grammar, and presentation. The manual will be reviewed annually, and any changes will be made in September of the current year.

It is disappointing when we must return an application because of missing information or a weak citation. To help overcome this, we developed a flow chart as to what is required to obtain an application approval. Recent submissions are missing vital information. The Flowchart should be provided by all Commands to each Branch. It is important that each Command review their current websites and update the Ritual and Awards section with this flowchart and any significant changes to our manual. This flow chart is included with application online. Also, there is an example of a citation to aid members in completing a strong citation.

COMMEMORATIVE LAPEL PINS

Through the approval of D.E.C. at their April 2019 meeting, authorization for the wearing of the D-Day 75th Anniversary Pin was given to be worn on Legion and L.A. Dress along with the We Support Our Troops lapel pin from April to December 31, 2019. As of December 31, 2019, the D-Day 75th Anniversary Pin was no longer authorized for wear on Legion and L.A. Dress.

At the November 2020 D.E.C. meeting, approval was given for the wearing of the 100th Anniversary of the Poppy Pin on Legion and L.A. Formal Dress from January to 31 December 2021. In keeping with the tradition of wearing the Poppy on the left side near one's heart, the pin will be worn on the left side below the Legion lapel pin and CAF Service pin.

WEARING OF L.A. MEDALS ON LEGION DRESS

At the November 2018 D.E.C. meeting, a motion was approved that a new subsection 133 be added to Chapter 1. If a L.A. member becomes a Legion member for extenuating circumstances such as their L.A. is surrendering their charter OR they transfer to a Branch that does not have a L.A., medals awarded by the Ladies Auxiliary may also be worn on Legion uniforms. The existing subsection 133 will be renumbered to 134.

TVS MEDALS

At the June 2020 D.E.C. meeting, a motion was approved that a TVS Special Section Past Officer medal be created using the same colour ribbon as the TVS Past President medal, Robin Egg Blue as the primary colour with gold stripes and a “TVS Representative” Bar be created. Existing Provincial bars such as 1st Vice-President will be used. The cost of the ribbon and the new bar will be borne by the TVS Special Section.

OSI MEDALS

At the June 2020 D.E.C. meeting, a motion was approved that an OSI Special Section Past President Medal be created in line with the TVS Special Section Past President medal using green for the primary ribbon colour. Also, a Bar for the Past President Medal be created that reads “BSO OSI” and a Past Officer Medal be create again using green as the primary ribbon colour and gold stripes along with a new bar that reads, “Special Projects”. Existing Provincial bars such as 1st Vice-President will be used. The cost to create and stock the medals, bars and ribbon will be borne by the OSI Special Section.

INFORMAL LEGION DRESS

At the June 2020 D.E.C. meeting, a motion was approved that a Legion Informal Dress consisting of a short sleeve polo shirt be adopted to be worn at various Legion events such as convention business sessions, excluding the opening ceremonies, various Legion meetings i.e., Executive, General and Special, informal Branch events, hospital visitations to Veterans. The informal dress also includes black shoes, black socks, grey trousers for males and black shoes, dark grey hose, grey knee length skirts or slacks for females.

At the November 2020 D.E.C. meeting, a motion was approved to amend the style of shirt to be worn as Informal Legion Dress. The initial discussion focused on a polo shirt, however, the amount of embroidery required for the crest and the bunching of material that would result around the crest would not look good. In addition, a short-sleeved shirt is much more functional as it is more business casual in appearance, making it a better choice.

Every French Blue shirt will be embroidered with the Legion crest. Pinned below the crest will be the member designation, Veteran, Associate, Affiliate or Life Member. The pin will be included with each shirt. The Ritual and Award manual has been amended to reflect the regulations of this dress.

BUDGET

This report and specifics were included in the budget that was previously brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer in his report.

RESOLUTIONS

The Committee reviewed three resolutions submitted for consideration at this Convention. All three resolutions were Non-Concurred by the Committee.

CONCLUSION

The Ritual, Awards and Protocol Committee is committed to maintain the highest standards for Legion Awards and for the protocol, ritual and ceremonies practiced by members, Branches and Commands of the Legion. The Committee is an active partner in the process of change and renewal currently taking place throughout the Legion. This Committee remains committed to these goals.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 17-2

J. Rycroft	-	Chair
D. Eaton	-	Vice-Chair
B. Chafe	-	Member
G. O'Dair	-	Member
D. Martin	-	Coordinator
F. Chute	-	Assistant Coordinator

GENERAL

Members continue to review and respond to Constitution and Laws questions by email and telephone as necessary.

PROVINCIAL COMMAND BY-LAW AMENDMENTS

Since the last meeting, the committee reviewed amendments to the By-Laws for two Provincial Commands and the OSI Section.

GBL 111.D. - ADMIN PROCEDURE TO APPEAL TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

As per GBL 111.d. - ... "Appointees may appeal their removal for cause in accordance with the administrative instructions developed specifically for such an appeal."

The proposed administrative instruction to GBL 111.d. was reviewed and approved and was posted on-line in concert with the General By-Laws.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO GBL 202

At present GBL 202 reads as follows:

"202. No person who advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be, or any person proven to advocate, encourage or participate in subversive action or subversive propaganda or who has previously been expelled from the Legion shall be permitted to become a member."

The C&L Committee noted that while the administrative process to revoke membership (which is an extraordinary remedy exclusively vested in the Dominion President under GBL 418 a.) and expulsion (which is a disposition that may be imposed by a complaint committee), both result in a Legion member no longer belonging to the Legion, there is an unintended difference between the two. Expulsion is irrevocable and revocation is not.

To put both on the same footing in terms of consequence, the majority of the committee members endorse amending GBL 202 to eliminate the difference in result between expulsion and revocation.

For example, there are circumstances where a lifetime ban may not be appropriate. One C&L committee member indicated that he knew of a case where a member had his membership revoked for smoking marijuana on branch premises years ago. It's legal now and socially acceptable in many circles so is it right that he can never again be a member? GBLs 204 and 205 would apply if the lifetime ban was not lifted.

The result of the proposed wording change below would be that an expelled member or one whose membership has been revoked, could reapply for membership. However, only if they satisfied the branch members at the branch which is considering the membership application to reapply, with the passage of time that they have overcome their past deficiencies or there is a change in circumstance (as illustrated above) that resulted in their losing Legion membership and they merit a second chance.

On the membership application form, the applicant must declare the fact that they were previously expelled or had their membership revoked, if such is the case. The branch members have sole discretion when voting on the application whether to approve or disapprove the application.

A voting member of DEC is asked to propose the following:

RECOMMENDATION: That GBL 202 be amended to read:

202. No person who advocates the destruction by force of the duly constituted government of the country where the branch may be, or any person proven to advocate, encourage or participate in subversive action or subversive propaganda shall be permitted to become a member.

I would ask a voting member of DEC to move approval of this report.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE

J. Rycroft	- Chair
D. Eaton	- Vice-Chair
B. Chafe	- Member
G. O'Dair	- Member
D. Martin	- Coordinator
F. Chute	- Assistant Coordinator

GENERAL

The purpose of this Committee is to advise the Legion on constitutional matters arising from interpretation of the Act of Incorporation and The General By-Laws which occurred between Conventions. All requests for rulings are to be directed to the Coordinator of the Committee at Dominion Command; committee consideration is then coordinated via electronic means only – email or teleconference.

THE GENERAL BY-LAWS MANUAL

Since July 2016 the General By-Laws manual is only made available on-line. Since the 2018 convention amendments have been circulated (November 2018, April 2019, January 2020 and June 2020) and the on-line manual kept current.

AMENDMENTS TO PROVINCIAL COMMAND BY-LAWS

In 2018-2021, the Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the Provincial Command By-Laws for seven commands and two special sections.

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL BY-LAWS

Since the last Convention held in Winnipeg, MB in August 2018, the Dominion Executive Council approved four By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 99,100,101,102,103,104, 105 and 106 are presented with this report and are submitted to this convention for ratification under Section 6(2) of the Legion's Act to Incorporate. If not ratified, they will cease to have effect at the end of this convention.

BY - LAW NO. 99

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 28th day of April 2018 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Sub-subsection 418.a.i.

Amend reference to “Senior Executive Officers” to read “Senior Elected Officers”.

Section 1205.

Amend section 1205. to read:

1205. Each branch shall:

- a. remit at least monthly to Dominion Command a per capita tax payment of all tax collected during the preceding month; and,
- b. supply forthwith such information relating to the affairs of the branch as may from time to time be required by its Provincial Command, Special Section, or by Dominion Command.

In the case of a Special Section, their respective President has authority to demand and receive such information from their individual members or any branch of which their Special Section member is also a member, as it relates to the affairs of the Special Section.

BY - LAW NO. 100

**A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 25th day of August 2018 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Various sections and subsections

Amend all references to “Dominion Secretary” to read “National Executive Director.”

Amend all references to “Provincial Secretary” to read “Provincial Executive Director.”

Subsection 101.c.

Amend subsection 101.c. to read:

101.c. MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING means a member who is not under suspension or is not in arrears in payment of dues. However, a member’s rights and privileges may be limited or restricted in circumstances described herein.

Subsection 617.i.

Amend subsection 617.i.:

617.i. The welcoming ceremony for members of special branches may be deferred until such time as they transfer to a regular branch.

Subsection 708.b.

Amend subsection 708.b. to read:

708.b. An International Zone Commander may, within his territory, after enquiry and for cause clearly stated, suspend the charter or powers of any branch/post or auxiliary, or suspend any officer or take any other action not inconsistent with these By-Laws that is necessary or advisable for the good of the Legion, and shall report to Dominion Command upon the action taken.

BY - LAW NO. 101

**A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Convention in session this 28th day of August 2018 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

(Note: By-Law amendments No. 96 and No. 97, wherein reference to “Life” as a membership category was removed, were not ratified by delegates attending the 2018 Dominion Convention, hence all such amendments cease to be valid. The following amendments return the noted sections and subsections to their original wording.)

Subsection 111.a.

Amend subsection 111.a. to add reference to “life”. to read:

111.a. Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws, only ordinary, life, associate and affiliate-voting members in good standing (see 101.c) shall have the right to vote or hold office at any level of the Legion.

Subsection 122.b.

Amend subsection 122.b. to remove reference to obtaining approval of Dominion Command, to read:

122.b. A Provincial Command, or with the approval of the Provincial Command, a branch or group of branches may become incorporated or cause a corporation to be formed for the purpose of undertaking a housing and/or domiciliary care

Program. In all cases, the approval of Dominion Command must be obtained for the use of the name 'Legion' in connection with the program.

Subsection 201.b.

Amend subsection 201.b. to add reference to "life", read:

201.b The approved categories of membership are: Life, Ordinary, Associate, Affiliate Voting and Affiliate Non-Voting.

Section 220

Amend section 220 to add reference to "life", to read:

220 No branch shall permit any type of membership other than life, ordinary, associate, affiliate and meritorious life (prior to June 2000 only).

Section 224.a.

Amend subsection 224.a. to add reference to "life", to read:

224.a. Life, ordinary and associate membership in the Tuberculous Veterans Section is open only to a person who is:

Sub-subsection 224.a.ii.

Amend sub-subsection 224.a.ii. read:

224.a.ii. the child, adopted child, stepchild, grandchild, sibling, niece, nephew, widow/er, parent or spouse of a tuberculous or respiratory disabled life or ordinary member; or

Subsection 225.a.

Amend subsection 225.a. to add reference to "life", to read:

225.a. Any life, ordinary, associate or affiliate member of a Tuberculous Veterans Section branch may become a life, ordinary, associate or affiliate member of any branch of the Legion upon presentation of his membership card and payment of branch dues less per capita tax.

Subsection 225.b.

Amend subsection 225.b. to add reference to "life", to read:

225.b. Any life, ordinary, associate or affiliate member of any branch of the Legion may become a life, ordinary, associate or affiliate member of any branch of the

Tuberculous Veterans Section if he meets the membership criteria, upon the presentation of his membership card and the payment of branch dues less per capita tax.

Subsection 304.a.

Add as sub-subsection 304.a.vii.:

304.a.vii. harassment or sexual harassment.

Sub-subsection 304.c.ii.

Insert as sub-subsection 304.c.ii.:

304.c.ii. Where a complaint alleges harassment or sexual harassment, it must be lodged within 90 days from the time the alleged incident occurred to constitute a valid complaint.

Re-number the existing sub-subsection 304.c.ii. to 304.c.iii.

BY - LAW NO. 102

**A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 25th day of November 2018 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Subsection 111.d.

Amend subsection 111.d. to read:

111.d. Unless otherwise provided at the time of appointment or in branch or command by-laws, the duration of an appointment is for a term as specified by the appointing authority for that position. Termination before the end of the term may be done only for cause and only by the appointing authority.
Appointees may appeal their removal for cause in accordance with the administrative instructions developed specifically for such an appeal. The appeal committee may either confirm the removal or direct reinstatement.

Subsection 137.g.

Insert as subsection 137.g.:

137.g. The National President of a Special Section may, after enquiry and for cause clearly stated, suspend the charter or powers of any Special Section branch or

auxiliary, or suspend any officer thereof or take any other action not inconsistent with these By- Laws that is necessary or advisable for the good of the Legion, and shall report to Dominion Command upon the action taken.

Sub-subsection 304.b.v.

Amend sub-subsection 304.b.v. to read:

304.b.v. address it to and lodge it with the Secretary of the branch or Executive Director of the Command within the time limits prescribed herein from the date of occurrence alleged by the complainant, or in good faith, the date that the complainant first had knowledge of sufficient facts of the alleged offence to constitute a valid complaint.

Subsection 304.e.

Amend subsection 304.e. to read:

304.e. Where the complaint is against a current or former Branch President, Zone, District or Provincial Command officer, and where it relates to an alleged offence arising out of their duties while serving or having served in this position, it must be lodged with the Provincial Executive Director. For complaints against a current or former officer of a Special Section, and where it relates to an alleged offence arising out of their duties while serving or having served in this position, it must be lodged with the National President of the respective Special Section.

Subsection 304.f.

Amend subsection 304.f. to read:

304.f. Where the complaint is against a current or former Provincial President, President of a Special Section or a Dominion Command Officer, and where it relates to an alleged offence arising out of their duties while serving or having served in this position, it must be lodged with the National Executive Director.

Sub-subsection 314.j.ii.

The current sub-subsection 314.j.ii. is re-numbered to 314.j.iii. and amended to read:

314.j.iii. where the appeal is against a dismissal of the complaint:
(1) confirm a dismissal; or
(2) reverse a dismissal and return the matter to the original level for a new hearing.

The former sub-subsection 314.j.iii. is re-numbered to 314.j.ii.

Subsection 919.c.

Amend subsection 919.c. to read:

- 919.c. All resolutions that have been concurred by the applicable Provincial Command and that are national in scope shall be forwarded to Dominion Command so as to be received at its head office at least one hundred and twelve (112) days prior to the opening date of the convention.

Section 921.

Amend section 921 to read:

921. All changes of Legion policy and administrative procedures resulting from resolutions passed or by-law amendments enacted by conventions shall, unless otherwise specified, take effect on the first day of the fifth month following convention or 1 January, whichever comes first.

BY - LAW NO. 103

**A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 14th day of April 2019 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 226

Add a preamble to subsection 226 to read:

226. Provided there are no Article III proceedings pending:

Sub-subsection 311.a.i.

Amend sub-subsection 311.a.i. to read:

- 311.a.i. issue a reprimand that may also require a letter of apology to the Branch and/or if applicable, to the individual or individuals that may have been aggrieved.

Sub-subsection 311.a.iv.

Amend sub-subsection 311.a.iv. to read:

- 311.a.iv. suspension, which includes removal from office (where applicable), for a period up to 12 months; and/or

BY - LAW NO. 104

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 17th day of January 2020 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 203

Amend Section 203 to read:

203. Any member convicted in Canada of an offence under section 419 of the Criminal Code of Canada (Stolen Valour), or theft, fraud or misappropriation of Poppy funds, Legion funds or Legion property, shall be summarily expelled from the Legion.

BY - LAW NO. 105

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 20th day of March 2020 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Note: Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and the resulting closures of branches and the need to self-isolate the following temporary changes to the General By-Laws have been approved.

Section 129

Amended Section 129 to read:

Section 129 of the GBLs is rescinded in its entirety effective immediately and until further notice.

Sub-Section 308.d.

Amended Sub-Section 308.d. to read:

Effective immediately, all current and new complaints will be held in abeyance and GBL 308.d is amended to remove the 45 day requirement.

BY - LAW NO. 106

A By-Law to Amend The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 6th day of June 2020 that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Section 1001

Amend Section 1001 to read:

1001. A provincial convention for each Provincial Command shall be held annually or biennially as determined by the Provincial Command, at such time and place as the Provincial Command may decide. However, in exceptional circumstances with the consent of Dominion Command, the interval between provincial conventions may be extended as appropriate.

BUDGET

For your information, a copy of the Constitution and Laws Committee budget for the period 2020-2022 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will be deferred until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

I would now ask a member of the Dominion Executive Council to move adoption of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
RCEL COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 26-2-4

T. Irvine	-	Chair
D. Flannigan	-	Vice Chair
B. Julian	-	Member
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
R. McInnis	-	Assistant Coordinator
C. Racine	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 26 November 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC (Fall 2021)

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

No action items for decision

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. The RCEL centenary conference, rescheduled from 2020 to September 2021 in London, UK, has been postponed once again because of potential travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic. It will now be held September 2022 in London, UK.
2. The last evaluation, monitoring and welfare visit to Caribbean Veterans and widows took place in 2019. The planned 2021 visit was postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19 and remains dependant on any continuing travel restrictions.
3. RCEL HQ has formed a Future Roles Working Group to look at what role the organization could play in the Commonwealth and who would fund their work. Canada's representative on this committee is Libby Watkins. This will be a discussion point at the 2022 RCEL centenary conference, with major decisions about the future of the RCEL to be made in 2025.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

T. Irvine	-	Chair
D. Flannigan	-	Vice Chair
B. Julian	-	Member
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
R. McInnis	-	Assistant Coordinator
C. Racine	-	Assistant Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League was founded in 1921 at the Empire Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. The League's aim is to ensure that no independence Commonwealth ex-service personnel shall be without help if in need. The Founding Member countries of the League are Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Kingdom.

Worldwide, the RCEL supports 6189 beneficiaries - 2313 Veterans, 3876 widows – providing approximately \$7,000,000.00 annually. All those supported are resident in their country of origin and living in poverty.

In 2020, HRH The Duke of York stepped down from his role as the RCEL Grand President and General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux, the former Chief of the UK Defence Staff and Deputy Grand President, was appointed to succeed him in that role. The new Deputy Grand President is Major-General Mitch Mitchell.

The Legion was saddened to learn of the passing on 23 August 2020 of Brian Watkins, Canada's Council Member on the RCEL Executive Committee. His widow, Libby Watkins, will continue as Canada's representative and efforts will get underway soon with the RCEL to recommend a second, supporting member.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION COMMITMENT

The commitment of The Royal Canadian Legion's RCEL Committee continues to be the support of Veterans and widows in the Caribbean countries whose organizations and governments are unable to provide full care for their needs. The Legion is responsible for 3 countries in the Caribbean region and the provision of individual assistance can fluctuate as Veterans and widows in need are identified:

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Veterans	79	51	57	77	91
Widows	80	89	99	110	107

(Note: Through the work of the Caribbean Project Officer Joanna Lewin, additional Veterans were identified in Jamaica and Antigua in 2020)

The Legion's ability to meet the needs of these Veterans and widows is directly attributable to the donations contributed by branches each year. The donations received in 2020 are less than in previous years, due to the restrictions and limited branch activities because of the pandemic. Annual donations in recent years have been:

2020	\$74,940.00
2019	\$87,202.35
2018	\$215,934.96
2017	\$179,036.40
2016	\$269,758.50

Branch donations are essential to enable the committee to provide benevolent support to those Caribbean Veterans and widows living in poverty. They also fund the annual gifts of Poppy material, as well as provide for medical and administrative grants to help the member organizations in the Caribbean.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The total amount spent on support activities in the Caribbean has been:

2020	\$215,089.96
2019	\$262,615.35
2018	\$291,694.79
2017	\$284,730.81
2016	\$284,227.22

Included in these totals is the annual donation of \$5500.00 to the Jamaica Legion to support expenses of the Curphey Home.

A further \$205,000.00 has been committed for 2021, leaving a remaining balance of \$850,525.06 in the Legion's RCEL account

POPPY MATERIAL

Poppy material is provided free of charge on request to assist the local Legions in the Caribbean to raise funds for themselves. Shipping costs are considerable.

	Poppy Supplies	Shipping Cost
2020	\$26,000.92	\$18,622.07
2019	\$15,298.06	\$14,409.00
2018	\$25,350.30	\$22,534.00
2017	\$18,363.86	\$16,507.00
2016	\$23,595.22	\$18,309.00

FCDO (DFID) PROGRAM

The UK's Department for International Development (now merged with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) made a total financial commitment of £11.8 to the RCEL. These funds will provide all supported Veterans and widows worldwide with two meals a day for a five-year period, April 2019 – March 2024.

Caribbean countries funded through the FCDO (DFID) program are Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The Legion will continue to fund directly to the non-DIFD countries: Bahamas, Tobago, and Trinidad & Tobago. Shared support by both the Legion and RCEL help beneficiaries in Antigua and Jamaica.

This FCDO contribution does not reduce our need for donations from branches, however, as Canada must now provide an increased level of financial assistance to beneficiaries in the Bahamas, Tobago and Trinidad & Tobago, and now Antigua and Jamaica.

EVALUATION, MONITORING AND WELFARE VISITS

The Legion plans to visit the Caribbean every two years and will alternate countries visited. These visits last took place in 2019; the planned visits in 2021 were postponed to 2022 due to COVID-19 and remain dependant on any continuing travel restrictions.

2020 CENTENARY CONFERENCE

The RCEL centenary conference was planned for Cape Town, South Africa for February 2020. Due to the pandemic, this milestone conference was rescheduled to September 2021 in London, UK but has since been further postponed because of potential travel restrictions resulting from the pandemic. It will now be held September 2022 in London, UK.

CONCLUSION

The Royal Canadian Legion remains committed to helping the ex-service Veterans and widows residing in poverty in the Caribbean. This is accomplished thanks to the generosity of branches that graciously donate the funds necessary to carry out this important work. Without your assistance, this would not be possible. Your kindness changes lives.

I move acceptance of this report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DOMINION CONVENTION COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 19-1

T. Irvine	-	Chair
B. Julian	-	Member
B. Chafe	-	Member
D. Martin	-	Coordinator
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
F. Chute	-	Assistant Coordinator

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

None

2021 DOMINION CONVENTION – DEC DECISIONS 30 MAR 21

On 31 Mar 21 DEC met via video conference to discuss the effects of COVID-19 and its perceived impact on the 2021 Dominion Convention. While it was hoped to conduct a regular convention this August, the onset of a third wave, discovery of variant strains and increasing case counts make a gathering in Saskatoon unlikely. Documents attached for this discussion were:

- Virtual Platform for the 2021 Legion Dominion Convention
- Convention Notes
- Daily Schedule 2021 (DRAFT)
- Impact AV_RCL_Quote

These attachments outlined the rationale and requirements for a virtual convention and the system required to allow the broadcast to happen as per the daily schedule. The Convention Notes document was considered by the DC C&L Committee and there were no concerns in regard to how the proposed convention was to proceed, i.e. no conflicts with the General By-Laws. The specific issues were:

- Establishing a quorum electronically;
- Nominations for elections confirmed before the convention begins;
- Voting electronically;
- Yellow Book published electronically only;
- Questions on resolutions done beforehand. Modifications/amendments;
- Questions on reports done beforehand;
- Brought back resolutions done beforehand; and
- Ending question/discussion from the floor.

Cancellation costs for the two main contracted providers were also considered as these were set to increase on 16 April 2021:

	CANCELLATION COST BEFORE 16 APR 2021	CANCELLATION COST AFTER 16 APR 2021	DEPOSIT PAID
TCU Place	\$12,892	\$21,487	\$40,000
DELTA BESSBOROUGH	\$134,258	\$209,051	\$25,000

Force Majeure Policy: The Force Majeure clause is believed to allow the Legion to cancel the contractual agreements and have the deposits returned. However as was noted with the Aviva insurance policies it may not prove to be so simple. Regardless it was felt to be prudent to cancel before or on the 16 Apr 21 to ensure that Legion is left owing the minimum.

The recommendations presented to DEC for approval were:

Recommendation #1: That the 2021 Dominion Convention be conducted virtually.

Recommendation #2: That the arrangements detailed in the Convention Notes document be implemented for the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention.

Recommendation #3: That the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention take place 13-15 August 2021.

Recommendation #4: That the fees for participating in the virtual 2021 Dominion Convention be \$30 for delegates and \$10 for observers.

Recommendation #5: That the 2028 Dominion Convention be offered to Saskatoon, SK scheduled for August 2028.

All of the above recommendations were put in the form of motions and were passed by DEC.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

Future Dominion Conventions: The disruption in scheduling of the 2020 and 2022 Conventions had also disrupted the long term planning. Currently the Dominion Convention calendar is confirmed as follows:

- 2024 – St. John, NB
- 2026 – Winnipeg, MB
- 2028 – ?

I move acceptance of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 82-27

Andrea Siew	-	Chair
Brendan Heffernan	-	Member
Carolyn Gasser	-	Coordinator
Michael Smith	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 23 March 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 6 May 2021

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The D&S Committee has no action items.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. CANADIAN ARMED FORCES (CAF)

The Committee will continue to monitor the Defence Policy of Strong, Secure, and Engaged (SSE) in several key areas, including the procurement of Surface Combatant Ships, Fighter Jets, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Committee is also watching closely the continuing allegations of sexual misconduct, the impact this has on morale, trust in leadership, operational effectiveness and action to address this issue.

The Committee will seek meetings with the Acting CDS, Lieutenant General Wayne Eyre and other senior military leadership in the future.

2. THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE (RCMP)

The Committee will continue to monitor contract negotiations with the National Police Federation (NPF) Bargaining Unit. The NPF is the sole Bargaining Agent that represents the Non-Commissioned members of the Force and was certified just over a year ago. The NPF will be commencing formal contract negotiations with the Employer (Treasury Board) on 25 June. The NPF will be seeking salary and benefit packages to closer align the RCMP with other police services within the Canadian Police Universe (a comparative composition of various sized Canadian police services).

The RCMP has not been without their own difficult times with the Merlo-Davidson Settlement regarding gender-based discrimination, harassment and assault and the outcry regarding "Defunding the Police" and systemic racism concerns.

Regarding the Defunding outcry, there is a need to have a “right sizing” of supporting associated organizations and service providers particularly in the field of mental health and to provide them with the right funding as well. More public education is required as it is a multi-faceted problem with more than the policing aspect.

The RCMP will have its 150th anniversary in 2023 and D&S will seek opportunities with Dominion Command and other Committees for possible coordination and promotion opportunities.

Following the pandemic, the Committee will seek to meet with Commissioner Brenda Lucki and the Chief HR Officer, Gail Johnson.

3. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Committee will look to strengthen its membership with subject matter experts. We must maintain awareness and be involved with the strategies that involve, or are directed at, the CAF, the RCMP, and their serving personnel and be involved with formulation of The Legion’s position on national security, defence policy and other such topics.

4. CDA/CDAI

The Committee Chair and Coordinator will work with the National Executive Director to ensure the RCL’s positions are highlighted and will collaborate on an as needed basis.

5. COLLABORATION

The Committee will also collaborate with Dominion Command and other Committees when necessary.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

Andrea Siew	-	Chair
Vacant	-	Vice Chair
Brendan Heffernan	-	Member
Carolyn Gasser	-	Coordinator
Michael Smith	-	A/Coordinator

INTRODUCTION

The Dominion Command D&S Committee has met via in person, by teleconference, and by videoconference 5 times in total since the last convention. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period.

GENERAL

The Committee continues to monitor defence and security issues as they arise. The following are updates on various issues, without providing the level of detail available in the Committee minutes that were distributed to DEC.

The Committee continues to maintain a presence at the Veteran's Consultation Assembly, the Conference of Defence Associations and the Conference of Defence Associations Institute (CDA/CDAI) AGM and VSS meetings (through Coordinator) to ensure coordinated understanding and efforts.

There has been a significant change of members in the D&S Committee since last Convention. The Chair, Comrade Richard Blanchette, and his replacement, Comrade Jay Milne, resigned from the Committee. Comrade Andrea Siew has recently come onboard as the new Chair.

Comrades Randy Price, Deputy Chair and Bob Cleroux have also resigned. Comrade Brendan Heffernan was welcomed as the RCMP liaison in 2019 following the resignation of Comrade Wayne Martin.

Through a conscientious effort, the Committee will continue to establish and foster direct links with the CDS, VCDS, CMP, Service Commanders and RCMP Commanders. This has been hindered due to the pandemic and the resignation of many of the D&S members. This line of communication continues to serve the Legion as a conduit to express pressing concerns and coordinate efforts in the areas that affect the efficiency of the CAF and RCMP alike.

CANADIAN ARMED FORCES

Defence Policy

The Committee will continue to monitor the Defence Policy of Strong, Secure, and Engaged (SSE) in several key areas, including the procurement of Surface Combatant Ships, Fighter Jets, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). Given the large federal deficit from the pandemic, we are concerned about the defence budget and whether it will be sufficient for the ongoing and future procurement projects.

Sexual Misconduct Allegations

The Committee has deep concerns over the allegations of sexual misconduct at the upper echelon of the CAF leadership.

The Legion, as a member of the CDA, recently supported a CDA/CDAI statement regarding allegations of sexual misconduct in the CAF. The statement advocated for thorough and independent investigations to be held, that there must be a safe, secure, and supportive environment for victims to report, and that those who are found to have committed the misconduct to be held accountable to the Code of Service Discipline and/or the law as may be applicable.

We are concerned about the lack of confidence and trust CAF members may experience towards their leadership. The allegations could negatively affect morale and challenge the effort to recruit new military members and may impact operational effectiveness. We will continue to monitor the evolving events.

RCMP

Similar to the CAF, recruiting and retention is also a challenge for the RCMP putting them in a constant hiring state. A significant hiring blitz has been underway.

The National Police Federation (NPF) has been certified as the bargaining agent to represent non-commissioned RCMP members and negotiations for a Collective Agreement since 2020 and formal contract negotiations with the employer (Treasury Board) will commence on 25 June 2021, focusing on pay, resource levels and benefits.

In September 2019, Ms. Gail Johnson was appointed as the RCMP's Chief Human Resources Officer (CHRO). She will be responsible for all matters related to the well-being, safety and compensation of RCMP employees.

The RCMP has not been without their own difficult times with the Merlo-Davidson Settlement regarding gender-based discrimination, harassment and assault and the outcry regarding "Defunding the Police" and systemic racism concerns. Regarding the Defunding outcry, there is a need to have a "right sizing" of supporting associated organizations and service providers particularly in the field of mental health and to

provide them with the right funding as well. More public education is required as it is a multi-faceted problem with more than the policing aspect.

The RCMP will have its 150th anniversary in 2023 and D&S will seek opportunities with Dominion Command and other Committees for possible coordination and promotion opportunities.

Following the pandemic, the Committee will seek to meet with Commissioner Brenda Lucki and the Chief HR Officer, Gail Johnson.

CDA AGM AND CDA – CDAI CONFERENCE

LGen (ret) Guy Thibault was name President of the CDA and Chair of the CDAI in August 2019. Since the last Convention, the CDA also named a new Executive Director, Dr. Youri Cormier.

The CDA AGM was held on 3 March 2020 and the 2021 AGM is scheduled for 27 April 2021. In 2020, the Coordinator briefed the various member associations at the AGM about the current activities and advocacy efforts of the Legion in 2020. The Legion's Grand President, Comrade Larry Murray, will be an honoured guest speaker at this years AGM. The AGM will be attended by the Chair and the Coordinator.

The annual Ottawa Security Conference was held in person in 2020 shortly before the pandemic was announced and significant shutdowns occurred. The Conference in 2021 occurred via videoconference from 10-12 March 2021 and topics included were extremely relevant to the current world situation regarding threats from cyber attacks, disinformation, China, the two Canadian's being held captive in China, Russia, Iran, impacts on the economy, and sexual misconduct allegations in the CAF.

CF SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The Committee responsibilities of support to the CAF as previously reported at the 2018 Convention has continued despite the pandemic. Specific responsibilities are:

- Operation Santa Claus - distribution of a Christmas gift to deployed CAF and RCMP personnel;
- Operation Canada Day - distribution of a Canada Day gift to deployed CAF and RCMP personnel;
- Nijmegen Joint Task Force March representation; and
- Comradeship Awards.

Since the assumption of the above listed activities, the Committee has worked in conjunction with the Dominion Supply Department to deliver what has turned out to be well received gifts for both Canada Day and Christmas. The Dominion Supply Department and all Dominion Command staff who assisted in preparing the packages are to be congratulated for the effort put forward to make these programs an ongoing success.

NIJMEGEN and VICTORY MARCH

A Legion participant is part of the CAF contingent to the Netherlands for these marches every year. In 2020, 23 nominations were reviewed, up from 12 in 2019, from eight Provincial Commands selecting Comrade Joan Cook, from Legion Branch 212 in Kemptville, Ontario, as the 2020 RCL Nijmegen representative. Comrade Yvan Corriveau from Branch #43 Norwood St. Boniface in Manitoba had been selected as alternate.

As the marches were cancelled in 2020, Comrade Joan participated with marches in Canada on her own while visiting sites of remembrance and sending pictures for Marketing and Communications to post on the Legion's main website. The Committee invited her to attend the 2021 marches in the Netherlands but unfortunately the 2021 marches have also been cancelled. We will know later this year if she is willing to represent the Legion in 2022 and if she is unable, will request applications in late 2021.

This year there is a new challenge in lieu of the Nijmegen marches. The Joint Task Force Nijmegen Canadian Contingent invites all Canadians to march virtually in their own locations for two days between 1 to 9 May 2021 with members of the CAF.

The goal is to support the CAF team's preparation for the Nijmegen Marches and to highlight the symbolic and unifying relationship between Canada and the Netherlands.

Dominion Command is providing \$5000 to sponsor this event.

D&S TERMS of REFERENCE and COMMAND REPRESENTATIVES (CR)

The TORs were updated as approved at DEC and incorporated into Annex N to Chapter 2 of the OP&P Manual.

From 2017-2019, the Committee's past Chair, Richard Blanchette, appealed to Provincial Commands for a representative. This proved for the most part, unsuccessful.

Rather than appointing Provincial Command representatives, DEC agreed the Committee would benefit greatly from the contribution from CAF and RCMP veterans from across Canada who have experience in a specific area of focus, such as military personnel policy and administration, defence policy development, procurement etc...

The Committee plans to continue to liaise with these subject matter experts and CAF and RCMP leaders as required after the pandemic.

2021 CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has not received any resolutions to date.

BUDGET

The budget for the D&S Committee has been generated by the Comptroller and will be brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings. Any motion for changes to the budget related to the D&S Committee are to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer.

CONCLUSION

I move acceptance of this report as presented.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 10-2

L. Murray	-	Chair
T. Irvine	-	Member
B. Julian	-	Member
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
R. McInnis	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 16 November 2019

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The committee has no action items.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY

L. Murray	-	Chair
T. Irvine	-	Member
B. Julian	-	Member
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
R. McInnis	-	Assistant Coordinator

GENERAL

The objective of the Veterans Consultation Assembly and the Forum of organizations is to bring together the various Veterans' groups to discuss issues and to find common ground on which to advocate to the government for the betterment of all Veterans and serving members of the Canadian Armed Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and their families. Previous meetings have proven useful in identifying urgent issues and for finding common themes upon which to advocate to the Government and Veterans Affairs Canada. The Government is very conscious of the Forum and takes seriously the recommendations provided from the Forum.

Meeting frequency is normally one meeting per year: the Assembly met in November 2018 and November 2019, however, the 2020 meeting was postponed due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions.

ISSUES

Multifaith Housing Initiative: This 40-unit Veterans' House is now open in Ottawa and will assist homeless and near homeless Veterans, providing them with affordable housing and support services as they strive to recover from their physical and mental health issues. ON Command provided significant financial support to the project.

Veterans Ombudsman: The OVO works for the fair treatment of Veterans and their families while ensuring they have access to programs and services that contribute to their well-being. While efforts will continue to improve these programs, there was a particular focus by the OVO in 2019-2020 on:

- Families: evaluating the impact of VAC programs and services on families of Veterans
- Women Veterans: evaluating the impact of, and identifying gaps in, VAC programs and services delivered to women Veterans

The input by the Legion on these and continuing issues is vital as part of the ongoing liaison with the OVO.

Correspondence to the Minister, Veterans Affairs: The Assembly sent letters to the Minister VAC concerning:

- The treatment received by Veterans at Ste. Anne's Hospital in Quebec following its transition from VAC to the Quebec government. The Assembly reminded the Minister of VAC's legacy responsibility for those Veterans and the care that they are receiving given the recent legal action by a member of the hospital's Veteran Committee.
- Issues appropriate to VAC activity with its program announcements for Veterans, including:
 - The Pension for Life implementation
 - The future construct and use of Advisory Groups given that these groups were not actively engaged in recent years, particularly while VAC developed the Pension for Life program.
 - The increased delays in service delivery and the adjudication process.
 - The Minister's mandate letter and its usefulness to Veterans organizations to hold the government to account and VAC to achieving stated objectives.

Comrades, the Veterans' Consultation Assembly continues to be a valuable forum for open and honest discussion without government participation. All organizations have voiced appreciation to the Legion for hosting the forum and all readily accept the concept of a joint letter going forward to government expressing a collective view of Veterans care and support.

RESOLUTIONS

There were no resolutions submitted to this Committee for consideration, as all resolutions concerning Veterans are considered by the VSS and Defence and Security Committees.

CONCLUSION

The Veterans Consultation Assembly strengthens the Legion position and builds strong relationships with the various Veterans' organizations. It is an important outreach and consensus undertaking.

I would ask a member of the Senior Elected Officers to move adoption of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
GOING FORWARD COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File: 10-1-1

B. Julian	-	Chair
T. Irvine	-	Vice Chair
J. Carleton	-	Member
L. Murray	-	Member
K. Scott	-	Member
R. Zettler	-	Member
M. Barham	-	Advisor
J. Rycroft	-	Advisor
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
D. Martin	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 29 March 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. The committee launched *Op Harmony: An Organization of Inclusiveness, Diversity and Equality* to develop the organization's strategy as it relates to Legion membership and elected leadership. Members are developing their procedural approach to engage the entire organization in this important discussion. Ensuring inclusivity in messaging and language through all communications is essential.

While a policy is many months away from presentation for DEC decision, DEC will be engaged in discussion on this topic during the meeting.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2. Future work will focus on updating the Legion's strategic plan and addressing the recommendations in the 2017 StrategyCorp report.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND GOING FORWARD COMMITTEE

B. Julian	-	Chair
T. Irvine	-	Vice Chair
J. Carleton	-	Member
L. Murray	-	Member
K. Scott	-	Member
R. Zettler	-	Member
M. Barham	-	Advisor
J. Rycroft	-	Advisor
S. Clark	-	Coordinator
D. Martin	-	Assistant Coordinator

STRATEGIC PLAN

The 2018 Dominion Convention approved the Legion's Strategic Plan covering all areas of operation, with governance, infrastructure, modernization and membership being primary areas of focus. The plan enabled the organization to take a proactive approach to operations as this roadmap to the future defined the direction the Legion must travel to meet its goals to achieve growth and continuing success.

COVID-19 was a curve to the road ahead as we directed attention to branch viability, but the pandemic was no roadblock. It was essential that the organization be positioned to proactively provide information and guidance to Provincial Commands and branches, thus enabling the leadership to effectively position the organization for success once we return to a semblance of normal operations. To achieve this, we gained an appreciation of individual branch viability and the financial, operational and human problems they would face once they re-opened. We still achieved growth in our strategic plan because of the focus and foresight it provided. We looked at new ways to do business and introduced new ideas to progress and modernize the organization:

Governance Sub-Committee: This committee's recommendation to form a Governance sub-committee to review the governance role of the Senior Elected Officers was supported. The review looked at potential increased oversight for Senior Elected Officers beyond just the budget as specified in GBL 415. A separate report will detail results.

Stolen Valour: Stolen Valour is not a new phenomenon and this committee recommended the organization adopt a national policy to take action against any Legionnaire who commits this denigration to the honour and sacrifice of those who have earned the right to wear medals and decorations. The national policy was adopted from the policy developed by BC/YT Command and the committee thanks the Command for their consent to making it national in scope.

Op Harmony: The committee launched *Op Harmony: An Organization of Inclusiveness, Diversity and Equality* to develop the organization's strategy as it relates to Legion

membership and elected leadership. The committee continues to refine the procedural approach to engaging the entire organization in this important discussion. Ensuring inclusivity in messaging and language through all communications is essential. The policy is in development with further detail to follow.

MemberPerks: a new, bilingual MemberPerks rewards program was proposed by this committee and launched in June 2020. It offers thousands of national and local discounts (print coupons and online promo codes) to members through a members-only log-in webpage. These geo-targeted discounts are an important initiative to promote the value of a Legion membership.

Legion Informal Dress: The committee's proposal for a new informal dress was supported and will be detailed in the Ritual and Awards Committee report.

CONCLUSION

Comrades, this committee will continue to actively engage in how we do business to be best-positioned for ongoing success. Now is not the time for a u-turn to the advancements the organization has implemented to the way ahead or to the initiatives adopted to bypass the restrictions the pandemic has caused. We need to be leaders in organizational evolution and operational ingenuity and continue to adopt innovative new measures in overcoming any gaps in how we do business, now and into the future.

I move acceptance of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

File 23:1

Brad White	Chair
Mary Ann Misfeldt	Member
Bill Chafe	Member
Marion Fryday-Cook	Member
Dave Gordon	Member
Bruce Julian	Member
Mark Barham	Advisor
Jim Rycroft	Advisor
Randy Hayley	Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: October 05, 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

There are no actions for decision at this time as the Committee has not met since the last DEC meetings.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

The Committee awaits the direction of the Dominion President to determine if the Committee concludes or expands its scope with Legion Governance.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Brad White	Chair
Mary Ann Misfeldt	Member
Bill Chafe	Member
Marion Fryday-Cook	Member
Dave Gordon	Member
Bruce Julian	Member
Mark Barham	Advisor
Jim Rycroft	Advisor
Randy Hayley	Coordinator

OVERVIEW

At the request of the Dominion President the Governance Committee was formed in 2020 as part of executing the National Legion Strategic Plan approved by delegates attending the 2018 Dominion Convention.

Legion Governance is one of the six pillars of the Strategic Plan and calls to improve governance effectiveness and performance measurement.

The Committee met twice during 2020 and presented an initial recommendation below to DEC at the November 2020 meetings.

The recommendation was passed by DEC.

DEC RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that GBL415 which currently reads:

“The Senior Elected Officers shall meet at the call of the Dominion President for specific purposes only to include the budget and matters of Dominion Command staffing. A majority of members of the Senior Elected Officers shall form a quorum.”

Be amended to read as follows:

415.

- a. The Senior Elected Officers shall be authorized to meet at the call of the Dominion President, the Dominion Executive Council, or the majority of the Senior Elected Officers.

b. The Senior Elected Officers:

i. are granted delegated authority to establish the budget and to deal with matters of Dominion Command staffing, and

ii. may meet when authorized, to discuss any issues that are of interest to The Royal Canadian Legion and make recommendations to the Dominion Executive Council for implementation.

c. A majority of members of the Senior Elected Officers shall form a quorum.”

MOVING FORWARD:

The Committee awaits further direction from the Dominion President.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CENTENARY COMMITTEE
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
28-29 NOVEMBER 2020**

“The Legion is a living tradition which keeps alive the form of service and patriotism and in doing so adds new worth and meaning to all it touches.”

General Georges Vanier, Canada's 19th Governor General, First World War Veteran

The celebrations planned to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion will be from June 2025 to July 2026. This will be a time to remind all Canadians of the Legion's integral place in the fabric of Canadian society. It will also be a time to remind all Canadians that the Legion is a democratic, non-partisan, member based organization whose mission is to serve Veterans, which includes serving Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP members and their families; to be the guardians of Remembrance; and to serve our communities and our country.

A RCL Centenary Committee has been struck and is looking for a few good men and women to join us as we put together a celebration programme which will begin in June of 2025. The Committee Members are now being recruited from Coast-to-Coast-to Coast and the plan is to have one Committee Member from each Command. Committee Members who have volunteered thus far are:

Comrade Owen Parkhouse – Committee Chair
Comrade Brad White – Committee Vice-Chair
Comrade Val MacGregor – Committee Member BC/Yukon Command
Comrade John Mahon – Committee Member Alberta/NWT Command
Comrade Marion Fryday-Cook – Committee Member Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command

In our centenary year, we will be bringing to life our members personal stories, memories and charitable work so that we can tell the story of the RCL's last 100 years. Plans are already underway and the following has begun:

- Centenary Logo designed and approved by DEC;
- RCL Centenary Book to be written by Comrade Nujma Bond – Manager Communications;
- Canadian Heraldic Authority contacted for granting of RCL Coat of Arms;
- Royal Canadian Mint contacted for RCL Centenary General Circulation Coin;
- Canada Post Chairperson of the Stamp Advisory Committee contacted for RCL Centenary Commemorative Stamp;
- Centenary Products are being discussed at the Poppy Store with Comrade Joan Elliott;
- National Film Board of Canada contacted for making a film/documentary on 100 years of the Legion

As we reflect on our achievements over the last century we will recognize our members, volunteers, fundraisers, and corporate partners who share our passion for bringing people together to support, commemorate and celebrate our Veterans community and the importance of Remembrance.

To mark 100 years of service in 2025/2026 we're asking you to join us in celebrating our rich history, the difference we've made, and looking forward to the next 100 years.

Once the full committee has been struck, we will be having regular meetings and progress reports will be disseminated on a regular basis.



ITEM 9: CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

B. Julian	-	Board Chairman
T. Irvine	-	Board Vice-Chairman
D. Flannigan	-	Secretary
T. Bursey	-	Director
B. Chafe	-	Director
S. Clark	-	Director
O. Parkhouse	-	Director
A. Stanfield	-	Director
L. Tardif	-	Director
B. Weaver	-	Director
I. Weiser	-	Director

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 27 November 2020

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 23 April 2021

INTRODUCTION

Across the globe, the status quo has evaporated and every industry, including publishing has had to adjust to survive. Canvet has faced new opportunities and risks but continues to show a positive bottom line. The staff has remained flexible, working remotely for the first two months of 2021, and now, back in the office.

SUBSIDY AND ONTARIO CREATES FUNDING

Canvet has applied to the Department of Canadian Heritage for subsidies for Legion Magazine and Canada's Ultimate Story (CUS) quarterly. Last year, Canvet was awarded a total of \$940,500 from the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) Aid to Publishers. We should know by this summer if our applications for 2021/2022 have been successful.

Canvet will also receive the final payment of \$25,000 for funding from Ontario Creates, a program at the provincial level to support a direct mail campaign to increase subscriptions to CUS. Canvet received \$50,000 towards this effort in 2020.

All of Canvet's budgets are predicated on the receipt of the CPF. The corporation is careful to abide by all rules and guidelines regarding content.

EDITORIAL

The May/June 2021 issue includes the Battle of Mont Sorrel; medical advances that reduced battlefield deaths in WW II; and a photo-essay on the victory parade in London on June 8, 1946.

Subsequent issues will include stories on the Battle of the Somme; the Canadian Women's Auxiliary Air Force; the repatriation of Canadian remains in the two world wars; and the Battle of Hong Kong.

Again, four SIPs are being produced in 2021 (the first two have been completed): Canada's Great Naval Battles; Battle of the Somme; Liberation 1918; and O Canada Volume 4.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

The partners in The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Member Benefits Package (MBP) include Belair Insurance Company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, IRIS Eyewear, Rogers SimplyConnect, Medipac Travel Insurance, Revera Inc., Arbor Memorial Services Inc., Canadian Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co., HomeEquity Bank, HearingLife Canada and MBNA Canada Inc.

AWARDS

Early February, Canvet was awarded gold and the silver in the national Canadian Online Publishing Awards in the Best Interactive/Infographic Story category. The interactive website on Canada and the Liberation of Netherlands won gold and the October Crises won silver.

The magazine has racked up 31 national and international awards and nominations.

CONCLUSION

This report is for information only.

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

B. Julian	-	Board Chairman
T. Irvine	-	Board Vice-Chairman
D. Flannigan	-	Secretary
T. Bursey	-	Director
B. Chafe	-	Director
S. Clark	-	Director
O. Parkhouse	-	Director
A. Stanfield	-	Director
L. Tardif	-	Director
B. Weaver	-	Director
I. Weiser	-	Director

INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus has affected every part of society—including Canada’s military and veterans communities. The publishing industry has been hammered, yet in spite of the challenges, Canvet continues to show a positive bottom line. The staff has remained flexible, working remotely for the first two months of 2021. There will certainly be a reduction to the bottom line, but Canvet will recover.

Through it all, *Legion Magazine* continues to deliver stories of our veterans and Canada’s military history to the mailboxes of subscribers. The magazine has a print and online reach of over 650,000 Canadians and remains one of this country’s largest and most respected publications.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Canvet began 2020 with high expectations. The goal was to build on the momentum created from posting the two best years in the magazine’s history.

Since the last convention the magazine has seen increased revenue in four areas: subsidy, advertising, design/production services and online sales. Design/production and the online store are new revenue streams created in the last five years. Every dollar is directed to the production of the magazine and maintaining a low subscription price. Historically, non-subscription revenue averaged 19 per cent or approximately \$500,000. Over the last five years, non-subscription revenue has increased to 48 per cent of total revenue.

With the onset of COVID-19, many Canadian businesses have faced serious economic downturn. Canvet has also seen a slowdown in performance and particularly in the new revenue streams that have been built up over the last years. In spite of this, Canvet finished 2020 in the black and is now positioned to get through 2021 with a small surplus.

At the 2012 Convention, Canvet committed to continue publishing without an increase in the cost of an annual subscription before 2020. There is considerable uncertainty as we work our way through the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, if the magazine remains eligible for the Department of Canadian Heritage Canada Periodical Fund (CPF), then Canvet should be able to extend its commitment to continue operations under the existing subscription fee of \$9.49 by two years. This is the lowest subscription price for a magazine of this size in Canada.

CANADA PERIODICAL FUND

Canvet has been applying for subsidies from the Canadian government since it began publishing. The CPF is crucial to our bottom line. In 2020, Canvet not only received a subsidy for *Legion Magazine*, but also for the *Canada's Ultimate Story (CUS)* quarterly. Combined, this was the highest amount of subsidy in the history of Canvet and a welcome influx of capital. These two CPF grants represented \$940,437. We should know by this summer if our most recent applications for 2021/2022 have been successful.

Eligibility is decided annually and we are entering a period of uncertainty. The government has decided to change the criteria for calculating the amount of subsidy received by Canadian periodicals in the next application. These changes will be implemented over four years, with the new formula fully in place by 2024. There is no way to gauge how these changes will affect the amount of subsidy we receive, since the government does not share its formulas or methodology.

Over the last three decades, federal subsidies have saved Canvet over 13 million dollars. The CPF is essential for our survival. All of Canvet's budgets are predicated on the continuing receipt of the government subsidy. The subsidy comes with clear rules and the government must continue to be confident that *Legion Magazine* and *CUS* are independent publications and that Canvet is an independent publisher. They have listed as ineligible any periodicals "that primarily report on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization."

ENGLISH CONTENT AND FRENCH INSERT

Since our last convention, Canvet has covered a wide range of military history and current affairs, including articles on the demobilization of the First World War; the Canadian Siberian Expeditionary Force; moral injury; what soldiers wore, ate and said in the Second World War; the 75th anniversary of D-Day; the Battle of Mont Sorrel; the Battle of the Somme; the repatriation of Canadian remains in the two world wars; the Battle of Hong Kong; and much more.

In 2020, Canvet added five epubs (199 pages) to its standard publishing schedule of six issues of *Legion Magazine* (624 pages), four Special Interest Publications (SIPs) (400 pages) and six French inserts (160 pages). In 2021, we will add four epubs (191 pages) to that standard publishing line-up.

Since the last convention, some of the SIP topics have included D-Day, John McCrae and the Battles of Flanders, Canada's Great Naval Battles and the Battle of the Somme. Later this year we will release O Canada Volume 4. This year's epubs are Veterans Benefits Guide (English and French), The Great Response, D-Day Remembered and Paratroopers.

The full-colour French section of *Legion Magazine* includes translations of those stories of most interest to our French readers along with original history articles. It is available to any member at no extra charge. Please contact *Legion Magazine* if you wish to receive a French section and are not currently receiving one.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Member Benefits Package (MBP) offers discounts for members through Belair Insurance Company, Carlson Wagonlit Travel, IRIS Eyewear, Rogers SimplyConnect, Medipac Travel Insurance, Revera Inc., Arbor Memorial Services Inc., Canadian Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co., HomeEquity Bank, HearingLife Canada and MBNA Canada Inc.

Canvet offers the partners exclusive advertising rates and they reach an exclusive market as an endorsed partner. Every partner contributes financially to the programs of the Legion.

AWARDS

Last winter, Canvet was awarded gold and the silver in the Canadian Online Publishing Awards. It was a sweep, in the Best Interactive/Infographic Story category. The interactive website on Canada and the Liberation of Netherlands won gold and the website on the October Crisis won silver. The team has racked up 31 national and international awards and nominations.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The full audited Canvet financial statements are provided separately.

CONCLUSION

Thank you to all the Directors and the team at Canvet for their support during my term.

ITEM 10: LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION

File: 10-18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

D. Flannigan	-	Chair
G. O'Dair	-	Vice-Chair
B. Burnham	-	Director
L. Murray	-	Director
P. Kavanagh	-	Director
S. Clark	-	Executive Director
S. Laprade	-	Director of Development
D. Martin	-	Secretary

GENERAL

This report is provided for the information of the Dominion Executive Council. The Foundation's Board of Directors last met on 28 January 2021.

FUNDING DISBURSEMENTS IMPACTING VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Legion National Foundation Board of Directors agreed to disburse over \$350k to various charitable organizations impacting Veterans and their families.

Veterans' House by Multi-Faith Housing will receive \$200k and \$100k will be given to the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation for Cockrell House.

The Perley Rideau Veterans' Health Centre will receive \$25k for a program focussed on Frailty-Informed Care. An additional \$30k will be disbursed to three other charities focussed on Veterans.

An article for Legion Magazine featuring the disbursements above is planned for the July edition. Donors and Legion Members alike will be inspired by the impact of the fundraising on Veterans in Canada.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS 2021

The LNF Board has approved a fundraising plan for 2021. A direct mail campaign, online appeals and monthly giving are all key for the Foundation. The corporate campaign will also be expanded to attract businesses both national and local to support the Foundation. A focus on legacy giving will take place in 2021 as we share this giving option through our website and social media.

The important work for the Digital Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Island are underway as the campaign will run from October 29 to November 11, 2021. A strong social media campaign will be implemented too during this time.

The Legion Magazine will also include a Legion National Foundation appeal card for the May and November editions. These cards attract new donors to the Foundation to help Veterans with financial support, mental health and housing initiatives.

The Legion National Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in April 2021.

This report is provided for the information of the Dominion Executive Council.

**REPORT OF BC/YT PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

BC/Yukon Command continues to work in support of our branches, members, and communities as we navigate the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our branches are extremely grateful for the financial support they received from Dominion Command and the federal government relief package for veterans service organizations.

Branch Advisory

In the past year requests for assistance have been extremely high with many branches suffering financial difficulties due to the pandemic. Approximately 50% of our branches remain closed, and those who are open are operating with reduced hours and under provincial health restrictions. Members are reluctant to visit branches due to the pandemic, and as “in house” sports, entertainment, and events are restricted, the future of some of our branches is in question. Our Branch Operations Advisory department, staff and provincial advisors are highly experienced in the lounge operations and business planning and are focused on aiding branches who request help as we move into the pandemic recovery phase.

Branch Advisory continues to assist branches as they investigate redevelopment options to ensure unscrupulous developers do not take advantage of them.

We have had several branches approached to partner with a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity (Habitat for Humanity Kamloops). To date, BC/ Yukon Command has not approved any projects with this group, however our staff have been working to learn more about this not-for-profit.

We currently have 16 branches in, or seriously considering redevelopment. Our Branch Advisory Development Committee is working with each of these branches to ensure that they are getting into solid deals where their interests are being looked after and their not-for-profit status is protected. The committee has recently updated our Property Development Manual which is a solid framework with step-by-step guidance for branches to follow when considering redevelopment.

Legion Veteran’s Village

We broke ground for Legion Veteran’s Village May 2019 and the project is moving along on schedule, with Phase I on track for completion in late 2022.

Led by the Whalley Legion Branch 229, together with BC/Yukon Command and Lark Group in Surrey B.C., this project is the first of its kind in Canada and we are excited about the services and supports we will be able to bring to our veterans in BC. This unique \$312-million, two-phase, multi-purpose social infrastructure project is envisioned

to be the first of many such projects across Canada. Phase I includes 91 affordable housing units and an additional 171 market housing units. This will be complimented in Phase II by 325 market housing units, which will provide housing, healthcare and Legion facilities dedicated to serving the needs of Canadian veterans and first responders.

Phase I will include Canada's first Centre of Excellence for veterans and first responders focusing on PTSD and mental health, and an Innovative Centre for Rehabilitation, offering clinical rehabilitation services, research and the delivery of health care programs, services and trauma counseling for PTSD and mental health. It will also feature a new 10,500 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility for the Whalley Legion Branch 229, that will include a cadet assembly hall, banquet facilities, an industrial kitchen, coffee shop, bar/restaurant area, and underground parking.

Government Relations

Although the pandemic has limited our ability to directly lobby the provincial government for support on behalf of our branches, we continue to be committed to seeking property tax exemptions for all our branches and we remain hopeful the Attorney General will consider allowing our provincial branches to retain a larger portion of our gaming funds.

We reached out to the governments of BC and the Yukon to offer our branch halls to be used as vaccination centres. Our offer was well received, and a number of our local Legion halls are now participating in the vaccination program.

We continue to seek the support and guidance of Dr. Bonny Henry, our Provincial Health Officer, and her team regarding the ever-changing guidelines and restrictions which are impacting the day-to-day operations of our branches.

Marketing and Communications

In January of this year, our PR and Marketing Committee, launched our new provincial newsletter, "The Blazer". This is a new innovative newsletter with links to training opportunities, shares "good news" stories from our branches and embraces and acknowledges our volunteers, members and our communities.

Our Provincial PR committee is committed to a higher level of support for our Provincial Membership Committee and are focusing on increasing member retention and renewals, along with training in the use of the membership portal.

Veterans & Senior Services

Our Homeless Veterans Subcommittee are actively working to develop a Command wide program to identify and support our homeless veterans to get housed and/or the supports they need to become housed in the near future.

We welcomed veteran member Terri Orser as our Provincial OSI representative. Terri brings with her a high level of experience and knowledge of veteran's needs and is an active member of our Provincial VSS Committee and the Homeless Veterans Subcommittee.

Going Forward

Our Going Forward Committee recently completed our new strategic plan for BC/Yukon Command. Our plan projects one to five years into the future and embraces the needs of our provincial branches and incorporates the goals and objectives of the Dominion Command 2018 Strategic Plan. The plan is being actioned in three phases based on priority and we are confident that our goals are achievable.

COVID-19 Crisis

Provincially our normal business operations continue to be on hold. Levels of stress are at an unprecedented high. We have seen an increase in aggression among our members and volunteers. Many are experiencing health concerns and general frustration relating to the limitations imposed on them by pandemic restrictions. Our officers and staff continue to offer support on all aspects of the challenges being faced and we are hopeful that recovery is on the horizon. I must share that I am extremely impressed with the ingenuity and perseverance of our branches as they find innovative ways to support their members and communities.

As we look at re-opening our branches in the near future we are focusing on how operations will need to change to successfully survive the new regulations and new way of doing business. We are encouraging our branch executives to begin planning what their operations will look like moving forward.

Conclusion

Our officers and staff continue to work together and in the best interests of our branches and the Legion. We are encouraging a calm and kind approach to recovery from the pandemic and are hopeful that given time, the majority of our branches will be able to reopen and regain their pre-pandemic stability.

BC/Yukon Command's Admin/Finance officers, our Provincial Executive Council and staff have come together to face these the pandemic challenges collaboratively, and I commend them for their dedication. We look forward to a bright and successful future.

**REPORT OF AB-NT PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

INTRODUCTION

Never in my wildest dreams would I have anticipated the challenges that we have experienced over the past year. Public Health Measures necessarily imposed upon the Branches in Alberta-Northwest Territories Command have severely impacted our operations. Due to the veracity and diligence of our all 166 Branches, I am proud to inform you that no Branches in our Command have been forced to surrender their charters; a true testament to the membership's commitment to our Mission Statement of serving our veterans. At various levels, our members have thought "outside the box" to ensure the needs of all veterans were unequivocally met.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

At the time of writing, most Branches in Alberta-Northwest Command have re-opened but must comply with very severe public health measures which limits their capacity for revenue generation. They will continue to experience financial difficulties; thus it will be incumbent upon DEC and PECs to develop policies and practices that will ensure we exit this pandemic stronger than we entered it.

The 1st Tranche of the Branch Emergency Fund (BEF) Grant of \$166K provided by DEC was well received. We were able to financially support 31 Branches with varying amounts.

Although certainly not enough to support the full extent of our Branches' needs, the Voluntary Organizations Emergency Support Fund (VOESF) of \$14M was similarly welcomed. During the 1st tranche, 51 Branches received funding up to \$10,849. During the 2nd tranche, 53 Branches received the same. To date, no Branches have applied for the 3rd tranche, so we eagerly anticipate additional funding being provided to those Branches with the most urgent needs.

Once the entire VOESF is expended, we will draw the 2nd tranche of the BEF of \$166K. However, this time around, rather than having Branches apply for funding, it is my intent that the Fin & Ops committee will determine the distribution of the funds based on previously received applications (BEF & VOESF). Those Branches identified as being in the greatest need will receive funding.

AB-NWT Command has delayed our next Provincial Convention until 2022, with the following convention scheduled for 2025. Elections for new DDCs will be conducted later in 2021 while all current DCs will remain in position until the 2022 Convention. We have also temporarily frozen all Branch Executive Committee elections pending the easing of the current public health restrictions.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

I am deeply concerned with Alberta-Northwest Territories Command's membership renewal rates for 2021. Although the pandemic can be easily blamed for our poor showing, our Branches must explore ways to entice our members to renew. Our Membership Chair is working diligently with District Commanders and Branch Executives to reverse these trends.

THE WAY AHEAD

To ensure we are well prepared for the exit from COVID-19 public health measures, I have initiated the following Working Groups:

- a. **The 2021 Poppy Campaign Working Group** consists of the Poppy Committee Chair, the Executive Director and five volunteers from across the Command. Its role is to:
 - Develop a Command-wide Poppy Campaign;
 - Develop a Command wide advertising/promotional plan for the campaign with short and long term goals;
 - Develop a ceremonial plan for the 100th Anniversary of the adoption of the Poppy as Canada's Symbol of Remembrance;
 - Identify funding sources to support the Provincial Poppy Campaign and advertising/promotional plan; and
 - Develop a long-term plan for centralized Remembrance Day ceremonies in Edmonton, Calgary, and other major centres within the Command.

- b. **The Military Service Recognition Book Working Group** consists of four volunteers from across the Command. Its role is to:
 - Collect the submissions and or write stories for the MSRB;
 - Encourage history buffs to assist in increasing the information in the MSRB to highlight Veterans and their contribution in the service to our country;
 - Review all submissions from Branches and families;
 - Help create an interesting and informative presentation;
 - Prepare communication letters to Branches encouraging submissions;
 - Choose and design a book cover; and
 - Adhere to deadlines.

- c. **The Moving Forward Working Group** consists of the Command 1st VP, 2 VPs & the Executive Director and is looking at ways to move the organization forward, by increasing awareness of what the Legion does and how it affects the Veterans, their families and our communities. Its duties include:
 - Focusing on Service and what it means to members by increasing awareness through Social media and a new AB-NWT Command Website keeping the focus on Service;

- Acknowledging, in a digital information piece, Branches and Members of Alberta- NWT Command how they serve our Veterans, Communities and The Legion;
- Highlighting the NWT Branches to improve their inclusiveness;
- Using of video clips of NWT and AB Branches so members can virtually visit;
- Highlighting accomplishments, Poppy donations and service awards;
- Encouraging others into Service with The Legion; and
- Acknowledging Branches and members by the Command President through Social Media and via a “column” in the digital piece.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

On the advice of the Alberta Government’s Occupational Health & Safety Staff, AB-NWT Command is currently producing a Health & Safety Policy (to include Occupational Health, Prevention of Workplace Violence and Harassment & Resolution Policy). The initial policy will apply to the Command employees and members of the PEC. Once it has been approved by the PEC, Branches will then be directed to develop a similar Branch policy for their employees and members.

**REPORT OF SK PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

It is with great pleasure that I present to you a report on Saskatchewan over the past year.

As with everyone the COVID pandemic created a different working atmosphere within our Command but we were able to work through it without too many issues. When the first lock down occurred, we immediately were able to set our Command staff up at home for roughly 3 months. We did have to buy some new computers, but this was inevitable as we were due for new equipment anyway. This just made us do it a bit sooner and probably more effective as we went with laptops. We were able to reopen our office in the early part of June in line with the Provincial guidelines and restrictions. Although it was operational, we limited access by locking the doors and doing more of our work over the phone or email.

During this time, we also made use of Zoom. Initially we went and got our own account, but with the generous offer from Dominion Command we were able to switch over to the group account. Our council as well as our committees have been able to meet several times this way. Although we do prefer the in-person deliberations and comradery that comes with it, it definitely allowed us to continue business with ease.

Many of our branches are still closed and are awaiting a full reopen plan. Most of these are branches that do not have an active lounge. The bigger branches with active lounges are working within the capacities that are afforded to them. Some maintained operations throughout by shifting business models to pick up orders. One particular branch actually has seen an increase to their wing night orders compared to pre-pandemic business.

We had a number of events cancelled due to the pandemic. In 2020 and 2021 all sports with the exception of golf were cancelled. Golf was still something we allowed as the government restrictions and the ability to social distance permitted us to do so. There was no banquet, but it was a fun time and many of our members were able to attend last year. This year we anticipate the same thing.

Our provincial Track and Field Camp was cancelled in 2020, and our Youth Committee will be deliberating shortly to determine the course of action this year.

Currently, we do not have intentions on moving our Provincial Convention from October. This year it will be held in Melfort. A beautiful small community that has a tonne of charm. It is still possible that it does get moved out but will depend on vaccines and restrictions.

Many of our branches were able to make use of the number of Covid relief grants that came out. We would like to extend our appreciation to Dominion Command for reaching into the reserves and providing the initial supports to branches. For Saskatchewan we made the process very easy as we already administer a grant for the Provincial Government so we mimicked that process which saved a great amount of time. To

expedite it we created a small committee that included myself, our command accountant Desirae and our Executive Director Chad. Money came in and went out very smoothly.

For the Federal funding we were obviously held to a different practice, but to be honest it wasn't much different than what we had already come up with. Our branches understood the process and for the most part we found it went quite well. A couple of minor hiccups that we worked out quickly. The funds were greatly appreciated, and it helped the branches tremendously. Anything we were unsure of or had recommendations for were taken directly to the staff at Dominion Command and was worked out quickly. There was a great amount of work in a short period of time. This truly was a team effort and could not have been accomplished without it. Everyone involved deserves our appreciation.

Although Covid did put some dampers on many aspects of our organization we were able to be productive in many aspects of the Command. The everyday grind and hustle slowed down and allowed us to get creative or focus on projects for expansion.

I'll start with a Provincial Government grant that was created 2 years ago. The purpose was to provide funding to Veterans Service Clubs like the Legion and Anavets. The funding was mainly for capital upgrades, repairs, and maintenance. From new paint, to furnaces, to roof repairs. Our government felt that these clubs are the cornerstone of many communities and play a vital role in serving veterans and community events. We started with \$100,000. Our Command office manages the administration, and the process was developed and executed as well as we could have hoped. To ensure fairness and equality the adjudication committee includes one person from the Ministry of Parks and Culture, a member from Anavets, and a member from our Command. Before the Election last year our Premier announced that this amount will be increased to \$1.5 million. Fortunately, they were re-elected and he is making true on his promise. The past couple months our team has been working on adapting the program to meet the needs of the increased amount and we are now accepting application. A formal press release will occur in April once the Budget is released. This incredible step up in funding will be utilized quite well. They have also allowed a portion of a branches application to be used on Covid relief.

A new endeavor for us just started this year but has been in the planning for a few months. Saskatchewan Command has partnered with FP Genetics, who is a cereal grain producer. Each year they have roughly a half dozen new varieties of seeds that are bred. The naming of these varieties has been a challenge as there are many rules governing them. Traditionally they use a random name or a number. However, FP Genetics came across one of our Military Service Recognition Books and wanted to name these varieties after Veterans. They approached us and we worked out a relationship from there. The first name that was named was a feed Barley, named after Harold Hague. AC Hague is currently being produced now and will hit farmer's fields in roughly 2 years providing the necessary feed for cattle that essentially will feed people from around the world. Just like Harold, always looking after others. We are rolling our application form shortly and expect this to be a great project and a very unique way to honour Veterans. We will be accepting individuals and family names for submission. The selection process is a bit complicated,

so I won't go into details on it. But if this takes off, we do expect to make it available to other provinces where FP Genetics sells their product.

A significant project that we completed shortly after last April's DEC meeting was the move into our new building. After months of discussions, planning, shopping, and renovations we were able to open our doors on a very busy road in June last year. We did plan for a grand opening, but that is put on hold until we can actually have one. We have taken into account a greener operation with more efficient lighting and heating. Reduced the amount of space we were using and overall made the new place more comfortable for staff, members and most importantly Veterans. Colours were chosen to be neutral and calming. Overall a very nice new home that includes a room that will be dedicated to Veterans comforts.

Along with this was the sale of our previous building. Late in the year we were able to sell our home of nearly 40 years to a local non-profit that helps children and families in need. They teach life skills such as cooking and parenting to those that need the help. Really it couldn't have been a better buyer.

Last year I reported on our Leadership committee. Although we are not really able to travel and provide these seminars, our staff have been working on creating a digital version. The first one will be on Poppy, and hopefully we can do one for each aspect of what we do. Our goal is to make it available on Youtube. We are very close to having this in production. My goal when taking this role on, was to ensure we are providing adequate training for our branches and our command officers. This will allow us to have something into the future that can be modified to the ever changing needs.

We recently ran a membership drive to generate a mindset on renewals and recruiting. We offered up a prize incentive for branches obtaining 100% renewal. We drew one branches name from a hat and they received the \$500 prize. We also encouraged our Zone Commanders by providing an incentive for the highest renewal rate. From the beginning to the end of the campaign, we have seen an increase of over 12% over 4 weeks. We are going to keep pushing membership all the way through. The staff in the marketing department in Ottawa were fantastic to work with as they helped with some of the propaganda. A big thank you to them.

We continued our work on supporting Veterans and their families. Nobody went without. Although we have been down a service officer for a few months, we were able to bring someone on board for a little bit to help out. This situation has now cleared itself up and we are back at full capacity with room to maybe even add a part time person. The work our Service Officers do across this country is flat out amazing. Even under difficult situations they seem to perform. This is our main objective.

Our provincial VSS committee has been meeting more often. They are a fully engaged group and are committed to doing what it takes to provide a hand up. They have taken on more responsibilities with our programs and this has allowed us to executive them more effectively. So much so that we have developed a Wellness program last year that

has been proving its worth. Many Veterans are accessing it. The goal is to encourage all forms of wellness with a higher emphasis on physical activity. Soon we plan on announcing Yoga for Veterans. Our plan is to run two different types of yoga programs. One for physically disabled veterans, mainly seniors. This will be done in a chair and promotes mind and body movement without having to do a whole lot physically. We have engaged with a number of long term care facilities and we will offer this program to Veterans and Spouses. Any expenses related to Veterans and Spouses will be covered through the Wellness program. The other form of Yoga will be for able bodies Veterans. Hoping to break down some barriers and promote overall wellness. Our yoga instructor recently retired from the armed forces after 27 years. She is from Saskatchewan but lives in Alberta. The sessions will be done virtually through Zoom as well as some prerecorded videos on Youtube.

It's an exciting time in Saskatchewan. I would like to take this time to thank our entire team to make this happen. From our members, Provincial Council, Command Staff and everyone one DEC and at Dominion Command for working together and creating the atmosphere to bring all of this together.

**REPORT OF MB & NWO PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

Comrade Chair, Comrades,

I bring you greetings from Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Command and its executive Council Members.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a major impact on our membership renewals. Most of our Branches closed from November and are still currently closed. Membership/Branches: The Command total for 2021, of 130 Branches reporting is a total of 12,897 paid up members.

This shutdown created problems getting information out to our Branches in the traditional way. We would update our District commanders by email and Zoom meetings. Then the District commanders would phone each Branch President to provide updates. Manitoba Branches slowly started to open and put in place the PPEs that were required by their Regional Health Unit. Northwestern Ontario Branches began to open in the last week of August.

The vote to release 3 million dollars from Dominion Reserves helped alleviate the Financial burden on some of our Branches. We developed an application process for Branches to request Financial assistance. This Committee reviews Branch Financial statements and Bank Statements to determine the amount of funds to release.

Some of the Branches were successful to receive the Government loan (CEBA). But many were turned down because they did not qualify under the Government requirements.

The campaign to request a grant from the Government for all Branches was a long process. The teamwork of our Legion House Staff and elected officers made this a success story. Thank you to all for your hard work and dedication.

The Branches that have opened are finding that sales have dropped, and their halls are still not in use due to Covid restrictions. But that said they continue to support the Veterans and the Community, throughout this difficult time.

We have been working with the Ontario Command and the OPP/Toronto Police to educate Police members on how to identify and respectfully engage a homeless Veteran.

Most of the Branches held a virtual Remembrance Day Service or a scaled down version to comply with Covid restrictions in their areas. The Poppy Campaign seen very little donations to better than previous year revenues.

The distribution of Federal Funds is almost complete. The feed back from those who applied have been positive and thankful for the funds they received.

Unfortunately, at the writing of this report, shows majority of our Branches are closed. Hopefully, we can open in the near future.

The Command office received a call from Princess Auto home office in Winnipeg, looking to partner to potentially provide needed assistance and awareness of Canadian Heroes gravesite, we sent this request out to our Branches. Transcona was chosen and they worked together to repair their Cenotaph. In addition to Cenotaph repair they donated \$5,000.00 to the Branch. Princess Auto then called the Command office stating they decided to donate \$20,000.00 to our Command. We were extremely surprised and thankful for their generous donation.

**REPORT OF ON PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

It is my pleasure to provide a brief summary of happenings in Ontario Command, since our last report.

PROVINCIAL CONVENTION

We are happy to announce that North Bay will be the host of 2022 and London will be the host of 2025 Conventions. (Conventions have been moved to 2022 and 2025. See COVID-19 Update below). We are encouraged and very happy with the plans for both of these Conventions

VETERANS SERVICES/OPERATION LEAVE THE STREETS BEHIND

The Ontario Command Homeless Veterans Program as of end Feb 2021 has assisted 917 clients, including 92 females, in 174 different communities, expending over 2.5 million dollars. Our VSS/Homeless Chair has met with many Police services across the Province as well as the Ontario Chiefs of Police Association, to help us identify Homeless Veterans sooner, to potentially get them to 'Leave the Streets Behind'. As well, we have initiated partnership with Manitoba/Northwest Ontario Command to support the Leave the Streets Behind Program for all Ontario Veterans. Dental Program for Homeless Veterans partnering with George Brown Dental College in Toronto, Algonquin College in Ottawa and also at St Joseph's Healthcare Facility in London continues under the health guidelines. Multi-faith Housing "Veterans House" has opened and currently there are 15 Veterans housed within the Andy Carswell Centre. The complex will eventually provide housing for 40 Veterans in the city of Ottawa at the site of the former RCAF Station Rockcliff. The plan includes welcoming 5 Veterans per week until fully occupied. Ontario Command and Ladies Auxiliaries have provided bedding and apartment kits for all 40 units.

MSRB

The success of our Military Service Recognition Book has provided the opportunity to support additional programs for Veterans, to those currently supported thru Poppy Trust Funds. We have just reached the milestone of one million dollars which proceeds will be used to benefit Veteran's Transition programs such as Operation Vet-build, Hero's Mending on the Fly, Warriors Adventure Canada, Veterans Transition Network, Project Trauma Support, OSIS Family Retreat, and Operational Stress Injury Spouses Retreat.

OPERATION SERVICE DOG

We continue to partner with Wounded Warriors Canada to help provide Service Dogs to Veterans in Ontario. Branches in Ontario Command have donated \$350,000 to this very worthwhile program for year three, making a total of \$900,000 donated to date.

ONTARIO COMMAND STATUS OF BRANCHES

The Ontario Command membership with COVID-19 continues to decline despite all our efforts to turn this tide. We have done reasonably well during these trying times and look

forward to normal or new normal and growth that we expect to come with it. We now have 395 Legion Branches and predict that we will lose a couple to amalgamation or closure in the near future. Currently there are 7 Branches with Boards of Trustees in place in Ontario, at the time of this report. We thank all involved with helping get our Branches healthy and back on track.

Ontario Command and Victory Branch 317, as the lead Branch, has been involved with the Class Action lawsuit against Aviva with Lerner's Law. There has been much legal activity and from my layman's perspective, it appears to be progressing quite well.

ARTICLE III

The current situation with the bottleneck of Article 3 situations is quite stressful especially to those who have proceedings hanging over their future. Most are personality conflicts between members of Branches, and often these members are members of the same Executive committees.

SPORTS/TRACK & FIELD

We very much look forward to sports events getting back on track as it is a very big reason new members come into our Branches and an incentive that keeps them here! Unfortunately due to COVID-19 most Provincial events were cancelled this year. Again, unfortunately due to COVID-19 our Provincial Track and Field meet has been cancelled this year.

PROPERTY

Our Property Committee has been very busy and many Branches have been in contact with developers. There are some Branches looking to go forward with the concept of Legion clubhouses combined with housing developments.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ontario Command has dealt with Legion business during the crisis period caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The financial assistance graciously given from Dominion Command resources has been distributed accordingly by need to Branches who applied throughout our Command. Most of our Branches have applied for Federal funding and were grateful for assistance, Ontario government also had a program to assist and many Branches applied and received assistance. Provincial Executive Committee decided and passed that Ontario Command would again return the Ontario Command portion of per capita tax to ALL Branches in Ontario Command and this has also been distributed. This per capita portion for both years translates to almost 2 million dollars. Ontario Command web page has updates on the COVID-19 situation and how it is effecting our Branches. Also included on the site is information on what is available in assistance. Great information! Link below <https://www.on.legion.ca/>

There were a few other items we dealt with early in the crisis to help Branches, Zones and Districts to deal with so that they would be able to operate including Executive meetings held by electronic means and the ability to make decisions on behalf of the general membership so that financial matters and the business of the Branch could be

dealt with. Branch elections are on hold and we are monitoring this situation until health protocols will allow us to proceed.

In March of last year we initiated a Veterans Assistance hotline which has been monitored 24/7 by Ontario Command Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director. It has proven to be very successful

I want to personally thank our Provincial HQ staff who are all doing a fantastic job! They have gone "above and beyond" on so many levels! I also wish to thank all members of our Provincial Executive Council who have done incredible work during these difficult times.

In closing, Comrades, Ontario Command is still alive and well during this pandemic and we are striving to meet the goals of the Royal Canadian Legion. Our Veterans are being assisted!

**REPORT OF QC PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

1. **Foreword** - Because of the coronavirus we did not have a lot of activity in the branches and districts, but the provincial executive sub-committee has been terribly busy.
2. **Management of the coronavirus within provincial command and the branches** - The crisis management committee chaired by the 1st vice-president continued to coordinate our response to the various instructions issued by the various levels of government.
3. **Provide financial support to branches** - With the money from the national committee, we had to help branches threatened with closure due to lack of liquidity. For the moment, no branch in Quebec has been closed because of the virus but several are on the point if the crisis persists;
 - a. In November 2020, **53/103** branches applied for and received financial assistance for **\$545k**;
 - b. In February 2021 there were **15** additional **branches** for **\$136k**;
 - c. In April 2021, **two** new branches applied and the provincial committee for the emergency fund recommended to the national the redistribution of the balance of the remaining amount to the branches that need it most;
 - d. Now, we are talking about **70/103** branches that have applied for financial assistance. There is **still a need of \$ 600k** to help the branches survive;
 - e. Because of the reduction in memberships by a third due to the coronavirus, **provincial command is facing a severe financial crisis** and must find funds to survive in the future.
4. **Offices** - Kept the provincial office and welfare offices open.
5. **Veteran License Plate** - Late **January 2021** - More than **22,500** veterans license plates are issued. As of **April 2019**, we had **11,118** plates issued. In two years, we have more than doubled the plates for veterans in Quebec. Great effort of the Veterans License Plate Committee to visit military units and other agencies like the police to get their members to apply for a veteran's license plate. Thank you to the committee.

6. Districts –

- a. **District 02, Bas-Saint-Laurent** - Still under the management of Vice-president Christian Lord. Need volunteers to be on the district executive committee;
- b. **District 07, Hochelaga** – Still under management of the provincial subcommittee, commander deceased, and vice-commander resigned. When the situation permits it, we will hold elections for anew committee;
- c. **District 15 - Saint-Maurice Valley** - Acceptance by the provincial president of the resignation of the district commander. He later vomited on the Legion and the provincial president on social media. The executive committee was briefly suspended after being called to order.

7. Branches - Not an in-depth report only a few points:

- a. **General overview** - Due to COVID-19 several branches are on the verge of closing due to lack of liquidity. I am afraid for the big branches with high monthly expenses, they have used their funds a lot to pay the bills. At risk, the following branches but may have more:
 - i. **Branch 004, Verdun** - Lack of funds, high monthly expenses. Will lose their rented local at the end of the contract because the owner has new, higher paying tenants;
 - ii. **Branch 024/106, Notre-Dame-de-Grace** - Lack of funds, high monthly expenses. In the process of selling their property;
 - iii. **Branch 190, Saint-Jérôme** - Reimbursed funds from a federal renovation program used pay monthly bills. Currently doing a fundraising campaign but I think it will have to sell it's building;
 - iv. **Branch 212, Lasalle** - Lack of funds, high monthly expenses;
 - v. **Branch 245, Dorval Air Services** - Lack of funds, high monthly expenses including rent.
- b. **Branch 062, Valleyfield** – Under trusteeship. Appointed an administrator who is tasked get the administrative and financial management in good order;
- c. **Branch 083, Lanaudière** – Court suit for damages of \$ 100,000. At interviews stage. Court case delayed because of health issues of the plaintiff attorney;

- d. **Branch 121, Auclair (Otterburn Park)** - Still under trusteeship with Past-President President Norm Shelton in charge. Everything looks fine;
 - e. **Branch 173, Montréal-Est** - Major repairs to be carried out: walls falling, floor, ventilation, ceiling. No liquidity;
 - f. **Branch 205, Petite Nation (Chénéville)** – In a better situation but major repairs need to be carried out due to a water break;
 - g. **Branch 219, Mohawks** - Still in process of resolution, major financial crisis.
8. **Leadership:** Course ready. Will soon proceed with a virtual course with a district. Dates to come.
9. **Provincial Service Officers Bureaux:** Remains open for the moment.
10. **Webmaster** - Must have someone to help him. Must maintain **NEWSLETTER**.
11. **Summary:** Keeping everybody informed. "Buddy Check" system. Help our members in need.

RAPPORT DU PRÉSIDENT – DIRECTION DU QUÉBEC
LÉGION ROYALE CANADIENNE
Le 24-26 avril 2021

1. **Avant-propos** - À cause du coronavirus, nous n'avons pas beaucoup d'activité dans les directions générales et les districts, mais le sous-comité exécutif provincial a été très occupé.
2. **Gestion du coronavirus au sein De la direction provinciale et des filiales** - Le comité de gestion de crise présidé par le 1er vice-président a continué de coordonner notre réponse aux diverses instructions émises par les différents niveaux de gouvernement.
3. **Fournir un soutien financier aux filiales** - Avec l'argent d'Anciens Combattants, nous avons aidé les filiales menacées de fermeture en raison du manque de liquidités. Pour l'instant, aucune filiale au Québec n'a été fermée à cause du virus, mais plusieurs sont sur le point si la crise persiste :
 - a. En novembre 2020, **53/103** filiales ont demandé et reçues de l'aide financière pour un montant de **545k \$** ;
 - b. En février 2021 se fut **15** filiales additionnelles pour un montant de **136k \$** ;
 - c. En avril 2021, **2** nouvelles filiales ont fait une demande et le comité provincial pour le fonds d'urgence a recommandé au national la redistribution de la balance du montant restant aux filiales qui en a le plus besoin ;
 - d. Pour le moment, nous parlons de **70/103** filiales qui ont fait une demande d'aide financière; Il y a un **manque à gagné de plus de 600k \$** pour aider les filiales a survivre ;
 - e. En raison de la réduction d'un tiers **du nombre de** membres attribuable au coronavirus, le **commandement provincial fait face à une grave crise financière** et doit trouver pour survivre à l'avenir.
4. **Bureaux** - Tenue ouverte du bureau provincial et des bureaux d'aide sociale.
5. **Plaque d'immatriculation des anciens combattants** - Fin **janvier 2021** - Plus de **22,500 plaques d'immatriculation** pour anciens combattants sont délivrées. En **avril 2019**, nous avons **11,118** plaques d'émis. En deux ans, nous avons plus que doublé les plaques pour les vétérans au Québec. Grand effort du Comité des plaques d'immatriculation des anciens combattants pour visiter les unités militaires et d'autres organismes comme la police pour obtenir de leurs membres de demander une plaque d'immatriculation des anciens combattants. Merci au comité.

6. Districts :

- a. **District 02, Bas-Saint-Laurent** - Toujours sous la direction du vice-président Christian Lord. Besoin de bénévoles pour faire partie du comité exécutif du district ;
- b. **District 07, Hochelaga** – Toujours sous la direction du sous-comité provincial, le commandant décédé et le vice-commandant démissionnent. Va avoir des élections pour un nouveau comité quand la situation le permettra ;
- c. **District 15 - Vallée du Saint-Maurice** – Acceptation par le président provincial de la démission du commandant du district. Il a par la suite vomé sur la Légion et le président provincial dans les médias sociaux. Le comité exécutif fut suspendu brièvement après d’être appelé à l’ordre.

7. Filiales - Pas un rapport approfondi, seulement quelques points

- a. **Vue d’ensemble générale** - En raison de COVID-19, plusieurs filiales sont sur le point de fermer en raison du manque de liquidités. Je crains que pour les grandes filiales qui ont des dépenses mensuelles élevées. Elles ont beaucoup utilisé leurs fonds pour payer les factures. À risque, les filiales suivantes, mais peut en avoir plus :
 - i. **Filiale 004, Verdun** - Manque de fonds, dépenses mensuelles élevées. Perdra leur local loué à la fin du contrat parce que le propriétaire a de nouveaux locataires mieux rémunérés ;
 - ii. **Filiale 024/106, Notre-Dame-de-Grâce** - Manque de fonds, dépenses mensuelles élevées. Dans le processus de vendre leur propriété ;
 - iii. **Filiale 190, Saint-Jérôme** - Remboursé les fonds d’un programme fédéral de rénovation utilisés pour payer les factures mensuelles. Actuellement, fait une campagne de financement, mais je pense qu’ils devront vendre leur bâtiment ;
 - iv. **Filiale 212, Lasalle** - Manque de fonds, dépenses mensuelles élevées ;
 - v. **Filiale 245, Dorval Air Services** - Manque de fonds, dépenses mensuelles élevées incluant le loyer.
- b. **Filiale 062, Valleyfield** – Sous tutelle. Appointé un administrateur pour mettre de l’ordre dans la gestion administrative et les finances ;

- c. **Filiale 083, Lanaudière** – Poursuite judiciaire pour dommages-intérêts de 100 000 \$. À l'étape des entrevues. Procès retardé parce que l'avocat du plaignant a des problèmes de santé grave ;
 - d. **Filiale 121, Auclair (Otterburn Park)** - Toujours sous tutelle avec l'ancien président-président Norm Shelton en charge. Tout semble bien ;
 - e. **Filiale 173, Montréal-Est** - Réparations majeures à effectuer : murs tombants, plancher, ventilation, plafond. Pas de liquidité ;
 - f. **Filiale 205, Petite Nation (Chénéville)** – En meilleure posture mais des réparations majeures à effectuer en raison d'un bris d'eau. Pas de liquidité ;
 - g. **Filiale 219, Mohawks** - Toujours en cours de résolution, crise financière majeure ;
- 8. Leadership** - Prêt pour le cours. Va avoir des cours virtuels dans un avenir rapproché. Dates à venir.
- 9. Bureaux des agents des services provinciaux** : Demeure ouvert pour le moment.
- 10. Webmaster** - Doit avoir quelqu'un pour l'aider. Doit maintenir l'**INFOLETTRE**.
- 11. Résumé** - Tenir tout le monde informé, Système « Buddy Check ». Aidez nos membres dans le besoin.

**REPORT OF NB PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

I wish to start this report off by commenting on the **Veterans Organization Emergency Support Funding (VOESF)** two applications were issued. 60 Branches applied, all 60 were approved. Kudos to Dominion Executive Director (DED) Clark and his staff for a job well done. A life line for many of NB Command Branches.

The Pandemic was a reality check on the financial capabilities and viability of most Branches. Most do not have a stable financial plan and/or a working business plan.

Virtual meetings, with Zoom capabilities. NB Command holds Senior Executive (SEO) meetings and depending on Provincial Colour level the PEC will be carried out by Zoom. In many ways more convenient and cost effective.

Dominion Convention path forward will be a trigger for our Provincial Convention Sep 17-19 Go/No Go or if it can be conducted virtual.

Wellness Checks, District and Branches have been encouraged to reach out to members and persons in your area that are at risk.

ART III still in abeyance, **Branch Elections** depending on zone colour and comfort level of Branch.

Transparency, hopefully we as NB Command (PEC) are getting the information out to all Branches and Branches feel comfortable contacting NB Command for assistance when required, (make sure your District Commander is in the loop).

8 New Veterans Apartments a dream come true through the hard work and perseverance of Comrade Leo Doiron and his team at Shediac Br #33.

Areas for Improvement (AFI) on how NB Command is doing are solicited from all members.

COVID-19 can not be gone soon enough.

Thank-you to all you our Legion Volunteers, without them we could not support our Veterans/Dependents, Remembrance, Youth and Communities.

Change is a must not an option.

**REPORT OF NS/NU PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

It's hard to believe that we are over a year into this pandemic. The branches in Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command are faring as well as can be expected since we were able to reopen our branches in June of 2020. To date we have not lost a branch to Covid-19 but many are struggling to remain open. Our Provincial/Territorial governments have laid down stringent and strict rules with regards to capacity in branches and this has hurt every branch's bottom line. The lack of the ability to fundraise has certainly put pressure on our branches but I'm proud to say they are carrying on, finding new ways to fundraise with take out dinners, ticket sales, raffle draws etc. to support our veterans and branches.

Approximately 75% of our branches have applied for the Veterans Affairs Grant, which has been a great boost to keep them opened. The NS government has also offered opening and closing grants up to \$5,000 each which many of our branches took advantage of. The first tranche of money from DEC was shared among the branches and there has been an ad hoc committee appointed to look into the expenditure of the second tranche to support the branches in high risk of closure.

The November 11th ceremonies across the command were subdued but branches held small socially distanced or virtual ceremonies to honour our veterans. Poppy sales across the command remain the same as 2019 and many branches reported the donations were up due to the generous members of the public. We had lots of great coverage during the 2020 Poppy Campaign, and the extra media coverage also provided further opportunity to promote mission and goals which created more education and awareness and we received larger donations to the Command's benevolent fund.

The Veterans' Service Recognition book was a huge success again this year. This initiative began more than 16 years ago in our Command and it has been a great financial boon for our Command. The money is used to support many of our programs. It is certainly a wonderful way to recognize our veterans for their service and take the time to share their stories.

The Veterans Farm Project was up and running for the 2020 season. They more than doubled the food baskets for veterans' families last season. Approximately 30 families received bi-weekly food baskets and an extra 30 boxes of preserves, frozen vegetables and other goods for food-insecure veterans and their families were distributed during the Thanksgiving season as well. In 2020, they delivered flowers at Easter to the veterans at the Camp Hill Hospital and bouquets of tulips were delivered to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation to the Netherlands. The Veterans Farm project leaders were able to present virtually to the government about what they do, and received some good PR as a result, which also promoted Legion goals.

We are so proud to support this group of women veterans who offer other veterans and their family a much-needed boost.

Nova Scotia /Nunavut Command had 15 branches that applied for the Legion Capital Assistance Program for 2020. This program is available through our provincial government whereby branches can apply for capital projects. This grant is a 50/50 share with the government up to a maximum of \$10,000.

Command has been approached by Public Health to have its Branches set up as sites, and there have been pop up testing sites in many locations. This is such a good way for our branches to help support the Public Health Authority in eradicating this virus.

NS-NU will have its Convention in October, in person at this point. We will be looking to Dominion Command for ideas in terms of holding it virtually as an alternative plan. Our command has spent more than three years formulating a Standardized by-laws and this report will be presented at the October, 2021 convention.

Some good news around the Command is by mid 2021, we will hope to have at least 4 more Op VetBuild programs up and running in addition to the 3 current locations. Our Heroes Mending on the Fly may expand to 3 locations. We once again funded enrichment workshops for families dealing with OSI through the OSISS family program and our work continues in support of Paws Fur Thought. NS/NU Command has committed support of all of these programs again in 2021 and providing further support for painting workshops and yoga for trauma programs.

**REPORT OF PE PROVINCIAL COMMAND
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

Comrades,

I must start on a sad note and that is the passing of Comrade Stewart Dewar, our Honourary President of PEI Provincial Command in March 2021. He was a WWII Veteran, a quiet gentleman, deeply involved in his Legion over many years and had a fantastic interest and knowledge of the Royal Canadian Legion. It was an honour to have appointed him to this position. Thankfully, we were able to hold a Legion tribute for Stewart. We will miss him.

The Zoom meetings we have had over this past year are a great asset to communications between Dominion Command and Provincial counterparts, especially during the COVID pandemic. I believe these meetings fill the void between our quarterly meetings and serve to keep Provincial Commands well informed.

Leadership and Development training was held for the first time in years in mid-August and again in mid-September with a great attendance from all branches. More training is planned for this year, but scheduling is dependant upon Covid restrictions.

I am very please to note that our Service Officer, Comrade Marilyn Letts, has assisted more Veterans since she took this position than any other Service Officer that we have had for many years. Outstanding work!

I recently presented a beautiful flower arrangement to a WWII RCAF female Veteran for is turning 101. She was so pleased to be recognized as the Legion has been especially important to her over many years. A Picture was sent to the Legion magazine. We will be marking more special Veteran's birthdays like this during my time in office.

COVID-19 pandemic:

- I personally spoke with all Branch Presidents about every 2 weeks to see how the branches wee coping during the different open phases and lockdowns. I received many calls from branches who were having trouble deciphering the Covid restrictions put in place by the Chief Medical doctor.
- I contacted both the Premiers and Chief Health officer's office offering all Legion premises for vaccination sites.
- I contacted the Dept. of Health and Wellness asking for a single contact that can decipher the Covid restrictions dos and don'ts during the various recovery phases here on PEI. Branches were trying to stay within the changing guidelines and decipher how to apply the rules to their situations. This worked well as it also cleared up discrepancies between the Dept. of Health and Wellness and the liquor and health inspectors who often contradicted each other.

- Dominion Command \$1,000 grant and the VOESF grant was well received and greatly appreciated by each recipient. Without this funding I know that we would have lost several branches.
- PEC and sub-committee meetings were held using Accutel's teleconferencing during the pandemic. This was so beneficial for monthly meetings with our sub-committee. Several face-to-face meetings did take place over the past year.
- My Finance Officer and committee and I reviewed the branch finances on a regular basis.
- Attended all teleconferences/video conferences for DEC and DEC Membership.

On behalf of Command, I attended many celebrations and events during this last year, some of which were:

- Took part in our regular Dominion Membership Committee teleconferences.
- I sold wreaths and set up poppy displays at a local business for my own branch.
- Held regular Council meetings either in person or through teleconference.
- Visited Legion branches to review their financial situations.
- In August, I presented two hospital donations from our Provincial Command.
- Set up a meeting with the PEI Teachers Federation requesting help reaching students to enter the 2020 Poster and Essay contest.
- Attended the Battle of Britain ceremony.
- Attended the pinning of the first poppy on Lt. Governor the Honourable Antoinette Perry.
- Nov. 11th, an absolutely beautiful day, I attended Summerside outdoor service which heeded all the Covid-19 restrictions. This was well attended by many Veterans and some public.
- I ran branch Elections and Installed officers at several annual Branch meetings.
- Sadly, over the last year, we were unable to attend several funerals for some of our Veterans.
- Applied for a Federal Summer student.
- Applied for and received a CEBA grant for Provincial Command In January 2021.
- Presented a plaque to Chris Murphy a UPEI student who took it upon himself to do the equivalent of the Nijmegen march here in Charlottetown raising well over \$1,000 for the Poppy fund.
- Prepare resolutions for Dominion Command convention.
- Membership renewals here are down for some branches and will be given high priority this year to correct this problem.
- Bursary applications to date are slow this year.
- Extremely disappointed that the OSI satellite office, promised by Veterans Affairs minister Lawrence over a year and one half ago, (prior to COVID-19), has never come to life. The minister has made many other promises throughout the past number of weeks but has failed to honour and aid our Veterans with this facility.

We have lots of challenges and work yet to do in our Province.

REPORT OF NL PROVINCIAL COMMAND TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 24-25 APRIL 2021

General

Newfoundland Labrador Command has had a very interesting 2020. Our challenges started early in the year with an unprecedented snow storm, referred to as “Snowmageddon”. This put the City of St. John’s and surrounding areas in a state of emergency and closed the Provincial Command office for eight days. It wasn’t long after getting through that when COVID-19 broke out and had us working remotely for some time. Even though we did manage to get one face to face PEC meeting in the Fall of 2020, the PEC members got familiar with ZOOM and we were able to have several meetings to conduct business for NL Command throughout the year. Through it all we have learned to adapt and maintain the functionality of Provincial Command and continued to assist all Branches as required.

Branches

We have 45 Branches in our Command and approximately 4,000 members. Branches have struggled through the pandemic for the most part, utilizing emergency funding and coming up with new creative ways to fund raise. We are pleased to report that no Branches in NL have closed due to the pandemic.

Provincial Convention

The Provincial Convention scheduled for 2021 is postponed due to the pandemic and a new date will be decided in late April.

Membership

Like many other Provinces across Canada, NL Command continues to seek ways to improve membership. All Branches within this Command are striving to increase their membership numbers by trying to recruit while strongly encouraging present members to renew. We will continue to move forward and try to find better ways to improve our membership by targeting experienced active and retired military personnel and others regardless of background, age or profession.

VSS (Support to Veterans)

A Legion Action Committee is operating effectively at all three VAC Long Term Care contracted facilities within the province, St John’s, Botwood and Corner Brook. The well-being of Veterans is of the utmost importance. A very competent and caring staff ensures all requirements are met for each Veteran.

All Branches continue to support the Pavilion in their area by attending Remembrance ceremonies and visiting the Veterans throughout the year. They also serve on committees at the respective Pavilions to assist the staff with the planning and coordination of events for the Veterans.

Provincial Command Service Officer Data for 2020:

1. First Applications completed (10)
2. Departmental Reviews (0)
3. VRAB Reviews (0)
4. VRAB Appeals and RFRs (Dominion Command) (1)
5. Number of Veterans counselled out/claims withdrawn (3)
6. Information and SCAN Seminars conducted (0)
7. Field visits to Branches (number of branches) (0)
8. VIP Applications submitted or WI for VIP (2)
9. The Central Poppy Trust Fund held by NL Command provided assistance in 2020 to the sum of \$30,580.

Branch Service Officer training has been a huge success over the past 5 years, however the training did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19.

2020 Provincial Command Pilgrimage to Europe

Planning for the July 2020 Pilgrimage / Tour of the Trail of the Caribou was underway, however with the safety of the participants at the forefront, had to be canceled when COVID-19 made it risky and dangerous to travel safely. For the same reasons, the 2021 Pilgrimage is also canceled.

Youth Track & Field

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the Provincial and National Track & Field events were canceled.

Poppy and Remembrance Committee Report

The Poppy Campaign was started again this year with the presentation of the first poppy to Lieutenant Governor, Judy Foote at Government House. We then proceeded to Confederation Building and presented the Poppy Banner to the Premier which was flown at Confederation Building during the Poppy Campaign. The traditional Fly the Flag of Remembrance ceremony at Confederation Building did not take place due to COVID-19.

Poster and Literary Contest We met in January to screen all the poster and literary contest submissions. All entries were then passed to the applicable judges and once the judging was completed, the first place entries were mailed to Dominion Command for further judging. There were very little problems with the contest this year. The number of rejected entries was very low and this made the members of the committee very pleased.

Education Committee

This committee consists of Berkley Lawrence and Leslie Forward. The Committee is responsible for reviewing all applications for the Provincial Bursaries (16) and to select the recipients in each category. Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Command gives 1 bursary of \$1000 to first year students and 1 bursary of \$1000 to second and subsequent year students. The criteria for each bursary is basically the same, the student must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter or great grandson/great granddaughter of a Veteran. They must be enrolled in a university or college program and they must provide their last year's marks, letter of acceptance in a program and financial status.

The Bursary winners for 2020 are:

- **Provincial Bursary First year student - \$1000.00:**
Jessie Connolly, Granddaughter of a WWII Army Veteran
- **Provincial Bursary Second year student - \$1000.00:**
Katie Thistle, Branch 13, Great Granddaughter of a Royal Navy Veteran and Daughter Current Day Army Veteran

Remembrance Day

Although with minimal attendance, the province took the time to honour our fallen with a Remembrance Ceremony at the National War memorial in St. John's. All ceremonies were reduced with minimal participation due to public health measures that were placed upon us this year during the pandemic.

Lest We Forget - Veterans Service Recognition Book

We have published Volume 20 in our series of Veterans Service Recognition books. This project was once again successful from both a financial and community perspective. We continue to get support from Veterans and their families regarding the submissions of photos and information to go with them. We are currently seeking photos to be published in the next edition.

Conclusion – President NL Command

The past year has been a challenging year due to the pandemic and the public health measures placed on the Province. Branches have struggled and we have done everything we can to assist them as much as possible. Despite the struggles I feel good about The Royal Canadian Legion NL Command and am confident that we will get through these difficult times. We have a professional team that make up our PEC, Provincial Chairs, Command Staff, and the 45 Branches throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. These are changing times and I feel confident with the people and support around me in Newfoundland and Labrador Command.

REPORT OF TVS SPECIAL SECTION TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 24-25 APRIL 2021

This will be my last report to DEC and it has been an honour serving with this dedicated group of Comrades.

TVS Executive Officer Medal

TVS now have their own Section Past Officer medals. Thank you to the Ritual and Awards committee for approving the medals and to the Supply store for providing the medals and ribbons for our immediate use.

Membership

As with all areas of the Legion and Country, membership remains our primary focus. Through the pandemic year membership has declined however we have initiated the following activities to help grow and maintain our membership.

TVS may soon have a new Branch in BC as a Branch converts its membership to a TVS Branch.

A National Awards committee was formed to assist TVS members with their applications for Life and MSM awards. We discovered that many long serving and deserving members have not been nominated and this is a way to help them with their applications. Only 2 Executive members have the MSM award, and 3 members do not have their Life member award.

Community Involvement

TVS Branches continue to volunteer in the community and sponsor the following programs:

- Supporting Veterans and seniors in the community, especially those needing assistance with respiratory issues.
- World renowned Tuberculous and Respiratory researchers
- Fund Respiratory equipment for Hospital and First Responders
- Provide Education Awards for students studying Respiratory Therapy
- Supporting Cadets, seniors and youth in the community

Special projects

In 2020 TVS donated money for 1800 Canadian flags for Canadian Veteran war graves Plymouth England. One of Branch 44 members lives in the Jersey Isles and is a member of the Jersey Military Vehicle Club. Each year the club attends a Canada day service for the war dead in Plymouth, England and they place Canadian flags on the graves of Canadian's. Due to COVID the club was not able to attend the ceremony in Plymouth and have saved the flags for a time when it is safe to place the flags.

TVS was able to acquire a \$5,000 donation from a colleague of Kandys' for RCEL veterans and wives in Antigua. The grant will provide two meals a day for 15 Veterans and wives and we know this grant will make a significant difference in their comfort and lives.

This grant is significant as there was no money raised in 2020 for the RCEL in the traditional way of "passing the hat" at conventions.

TVS launched a successful membership initiative and purchased Legion watches to help promote the 5 year membership drive and encourage members to continue with their membership. Branches received 6 watches each and all of the watches plus more are on order to be given to members.

Conventions

As the Dominion Convention has been diverted to a virtual format, TVS will follow this method and hold our National convention at the same time as originally planned.

**REPORT OF OSI SPECIAL SECTION
TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
24-25 APRIL 2021**

Update to Dominion Executive Council April 2022

I submit the following report for information purposes. Queries may be directed to the undersigned or to Provincial OSI Representatives for each respective Command.

Training

MHFA Veterans training has restarted in a new all-virtual format of pre-reading followed by two half days on zoom. Class size is limited to 15 participants. Currently the course is available in English only. The MHCC hopes to have French instructors and French curriculum available during the summer at which point the French serials will also be available.

There are two planned serials ready for registration. Registration may be completed by contacting Glynne.Hines@bsovetsoi.com with participant details including phone number, email address and full name:

- Jun 8/9 1300 to 1700 PT each day
- Jun 15/16 1300 to 1700 AT each day

Funding

The Section is grateful to those Branches and Commands that have provided funding to support peer activities. Donations were just over \$5K in 2020 and a single Branch donation of \$3k was recently received. Thank you. That said, plans to expand activities including development of a bilingual web portal/ online store and information sharing portal on OSI's are currently on hold. The Section did not receive COVID funding and a grant request to the Family and Well-Being Fund, although it met the parameters of the fund, was not approved due to volume of requests. The Minister VAC office has advised that they are hopeful there will be a second call for proposals this fiscal year.

Peer-Activities

Activities have been hampered due to COVID restrictions. Some branches have been able to restart Vetbuild and Buddy Check Coffee, however others remain closed. A full return to activities will happen once COVID restrictions ease. Collaboration with Project Trauma Support on establishing a Peer-Support network continues. More information about this last project will become available in early summer.

ITEM 12: COVID-19 AND IMPACT ON THE LEGION

a. Veterans Organization Emergency Support Fund (VOESF)

Of the \$20 million VOESF financial aid package announced by Veterans Affairs Canada on 10 November, \$14 million was allocated to Legion branches struggling with operational costs as a direct result of COVID-19.

Disbursements were made in three phases:

Phase I:

Application deadline: 7 December 2020

Funds disbursed by EFT: 21 December 2020

Result: 701 branches applied and approved, receiving a total of \$7.2M

Media coverage: branches were asked to liaise with their local MP to release a joint news article. All articles in online and print media had a reach of 50,318,369 people.

Phase II:

Application deadline: 8 February 2021

Funds disbursed by EFT: 1 March 2021

Result: 282 branches applied and approved, receiving a total of \$2.8M

Phase III:

Application deadline: 5 April 2021

Funds to be disbursed by EFT: 30 April 2021

Result: All remaining funds will be disbursed

b. Branch Status

As of 22 March 2021:

- 53.6% of branches are closed
- 38.9% of branches are open with limited hours
- 7.5% of branches are open with regular hours

A number of Commands experienced provincial lockdown or closure orders subsequent to this survey, which could result in a higher closure percentage.

ITEM 13: DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

Two resolutions follow for DEC consideration:

- a. NS / NU 5/C: The Royal Canadian Legion Publications
- b. SASK 1/C: Carbon Tax on Utilities

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION

2021

COMMAND	BRANCH
NOVA SCOTIA/ NUNAVUT	Branch #1

SUBJECT: The Royal Canadian Legion Publications
DOMINION COMMAND NO: NS/NU 5/C

WHEREAS All Royal Canadian Legion publications should have a linking procedure from index subjects to their articles; and

WHEREAS by establishing this linking it will save time when required to check on a certain article expeditiously.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Royal Canadian Legion should cause all Royal Canadian Legion publications to have linking capabilities from index subjects to their articles as per the linking procedure in the Rules of Procedure Manual.

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION

2021

COMMAND	BRANCH
SASKATCHEWAN	

SUBJECT: Carbon Tax on Utilities
DOMINION COMMAND NO: SASK 1/C

WHEREAS the carbon tax adds additional expenses to the cost of utilities to Legion branches across the country:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Provincial and Dominion Commands lobby the federal government to exempt Legion branches from the Carbon Tax on it's utility bills.

ITEM 15: CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

The tables below represent the number of branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries which surrendered their charter in 2020.

The Royal Canadian Legion Cancelled Charters 2020				
Command	Closed Branch #	Destination Branch	Date of Cancellation	Surrendered or Revoked
Saskatchewan	151		15 Jun. 2020	S
	348		15 Jun. 2020	S
Ontario	640		2 Oct. 2020	S
Quebec	229		17 Feb. 2020	S
	34		2 Oct. 2020	S
Western Zone	182		15 Dec. 2020	R

The Royal Canadian Legion New Charters 2020		
Command	Branch Number	DATE
01	294	14 Jul. 2020

For comparison to 2019:

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Reinstated
2019	6 (5)	0	0	1
2020	5	1	0	

The Royal Canadian Legion Amalgamated Charters 2020		
Command	Branch Number	DATE
Ontario	263 & 317	Dec. 2019

Ladies' Auxiliary Cancelled Charters 2020				
Command	Closed Branch #	Destination Branch #	Date of Cancellation	Surrendered or Revoked
BC/Yukon	291		5 Feb. 2020	S
	139		3 Jul. 2020	S
	257		3 Jul. 2020	S
	20		4 Aug. 2020	S
	254		2 Oct. 2020	S
ALTA-NWT	104		11 Mar. 2020	S
	183		12 Mar. 2020	S
Manitoba & NWO	208		23 Jan. 2020	S
Ontario	73		2 Dec. 2019	S
	263		Dec. 2017	S

For comparison to 2019:

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Reinstated
2019	15 (14)	0	0	0
2020	10	0	0	0

ITEM 16: DOMINION COMMAND BRANCHES

The following is the membership status of the Dominion Command branches as of 31, January 2021. The year 2020 witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic but despite this unprecedented challenge, growth continued to be experienced in these online branches that now account for over 10,000 Legion members.

a. Dominion Ottawa Branch 13-013

Category	2019	2020
Life	9	8
Ordinary	1048	1853
Associate	1505	2276
Affiliate Voting	387	585
Affiliate Non-Voting	73	116
Total	3022	4838

Branch 13-013 remains the largest Legion branch in terms of membership as online membership grew 60% year over year and continues to expand thanks to the added awareness of the Legion, increased cost-effective retention efforts (email reminders) and the continued growth of our auto renewal program.

b. Veterans Welcome Program – One-year Free Membership Branch 16-015

	2019	2020
Total Members	1232	2179
New Members	1974	2176

Our Veterans Welcome Program continued to grow during 2020 as our Marketing 3-step direct email campaign to encourage these new members to transfer and participate at the local branch level continued. The success of this program has contributed to 45% of these members renewing their membership for their renewal year.

c. Veterans Welcome Program – Online Paying Membership – 15-015

	2019	2020
Total Members	1459	2987

This new online Dominion branch was created in 2019 to allow a member who had joined as part of the Veterans Welcome Program and received a one-year free membership (Branch 16-015) and who had not transferred to a local branch the opportunity to convert to a paying member and remain a Dominion branch member. These members are offered a limited one-time discounted rate of \$34.99 for their renewing membership year. To date, 35% of these members have already renewed for 2021, this despite the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

All Dominion Command branch members receive a minimum 3 renewal email reminders and one direct mail piece between November and April to encourage the continuance of their membership. Last year a second direct email piece was distributed during late October to compensate for branch closures. All members are encouraged to transfer their memberships to a traditional branch to improve member organizational participation and retention rates.

NEW IN 2020: Since the Fall of 2020, new members can now join any local branch online.

ITEM 18: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

<u>2021</u>	
27 April	PED, Special Section/Zone Commanders Zoom Teleconference (12 pm – 2 pm ET)
5 May	PED Zoom Teleconference (12 pm – 2 pm ET)
15-16 May	RBL Virtual Annual Conference
19 May	VSS Committee Zoom Teleconference (1:30 pm – 5:30 pm ET)
12-19 August	48 th Dominion Convention Saskatoon, SK
14 August	TVS Command Convention
27 Aug – 2 Sep	American Legion Convention, Phoenix, AZ
17-19 Sept	NB Command Convention, Miramichi, NC
1 Oct (TBD)	Pay Committee Meeting
2 Oct (TBD)	SEO/Budget Committee Meeting
9-11 October	NS/NU Command Convention, Truro, NS
15-18 October	SK Command Convention, Melfort, SK
<u>2022</u>	
22-25 April	Dominion Cribbage, BR 02-015, Cochrane, AB
29 Apr – 2 May	Dominion Darts, BR 01-004, Chilliwack, BC
27 – 30 May	Dominion Eight Ball, BR 02-104, Innisfail, AB
17-19 June	MB & NWO Command Convention, Thunder Bay, ON
May TBD	AB-NT Command Convention, Stony Plain, AB
May TBD	ON Command Convention, North Bay, ON
21-22 May	QC Command Convention, Quebec City, QC
June TBD	BC-YT Command Convention, TBD
TBD	PE Command Convention, TBD
3-9 August	2022 Legion National Track & Field, Sherbrooke, QC (Competition dates: 5-7 Aug)
Sept TBD	RCEL Centenary Conference, London, UK
26 Sept	RCL-VAC Bilateral Meeting, Charlottetown, PE
27-29 Sept	Service Officer Professional Development (SOPD), Charlottetown, PE
17-19 October	CIMVHR Forum 2022, Halifax, NS

RECEIVED
DOMINION COMMAND
MAR 08 2021



February 24, 2021

Royal Canadian Legion
Attn: Mr Steven Clark
National Executive Director
86 Aird Pl
Kanata, ON K2L 0A1

Jane Philpott, MD, CCFP, MPH, PC
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
CEO, Southeastern Ontario Academic
Medical Organization

Macklem House, 18 Barrie Street
Kingston, Ontario, Canada K7L 3N6
Tel 613-533-6000 ext. 74064
Jane.Philpott@queensu.ca

Dear Mr Clark,

It is a great honour to be writing to you as the new Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. Since starting, I have been impressed by the commitment of the faculty's donors. On behalf of the students, staff, and faculty at Queen's University - our sincerest thanks for your recent donation.

Your gift to Royal Canadian Legion Masters Scholarship in Veteran Health Research will have an impact on the research we do, the students we teach, and the scholars we recruit.

As a Faculty, we have a mission to deliver outstanding healthcare, foster excellence in research and education, with the goal of improving health outcomes for all. This can only be accomplished with philanthropy like yours.

If you would like to stay informed on what the faculty has been up to lately, please connect with us online, or follow us on any of our social media platforms. And as always, if you have any immediate questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Hoogenraad in the Faculty of Health Sciences Office of Advancement at (613) 533-6000 ext. 79412 or fhsadv@queensu.ca.

Once again, we deeply appreciate your generosity.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Philpott".

Jane Philpott, MD

A few years ago, as most of you are aware, My predecessor appointed 3 trustees to run BC/Yukon Command during a difficult time and this was to be for a short term.

Comrades Mike Cook, Dave Sinclair and Gerry Vowles, 3 past presidents, were appointed.

Well, their terms lasted for 2 years and the amount of time and effort was staggering... thank you

Near the end of their mandate, some of the members health was affected which was concerning to me.

These 3 comrades did an exceptional job under a very stressful situation.

They pulled it off, they got the Command back on its feet and the Command has been running smoothly.

Today I have the honor to publicly thank comrades Cook, Sinclair and Vowles in front of their peers.

That being said, Comrades, I would like to present you all with the first ever Dominion Command President's citation for outstanding commitment to their Provincial Command and the RCL.

The awards will be mailed shortly to my representative in BC/Yukon Command and will be presented to each recipient personally.

Thank you for your dedication to our great organization.... Well Done!

Thomas D Irvine CD

Dominion President

April 25, 2021



MemberPerks Program Update

[Legion.ca](https://legion.ca)

2021-04-25

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MemberPerks Program

- MemberPerks® gives Legion members access to thousands of offers and deals at stores and restaurants across Canada, including national chains, local businesses and online stores.
- MemberPerks® is included free with membership. It can save you \$1000s every year — so your membership could pay for itself many times over!

See how MemberPerks® can work for you



Get savings at thousands of stores, services and restaurants



Receive discounts at national chains and local businesses



Use the app, print out coupons or shop online

Invite local businesses

- It's also a tool Branches can use to promote membership. Plus, you can partner with local businesses in your community to offer exclusive discounts for your members. (via Suggest-a-Perk feature).



Member Registration

- It is easy to register for MemberPerks® at <https://legion.vennao.com/register>

memberperks - Legion Français

Create your account
Create your WorkPerks account today and start saving \$100s as you shop, eat and play!

Legion
RANDY HAYLEY
MEMBER SINCE | MEMBRE DEPUIS 2015

Command Direction 13	Branch Filière 013	Member No. N° de membre 12345678	Status Statut Associate
----------------------------	--------------------------	--	------------------------------

Member Number
Member Number
Legion Member Number

First Name
First Name

Last Name
Last Name

Email address
Email address

Create your Username
Create your Username

Password (minimum 9 characters)
Password (minimum 9 characters)

Re-enter password
Re-enter password

Tools to Promote at the branch

- Branches can order posters to promote the program to members – free through supply.

Order online through Legion Supply at supply@legion.ca or by calling 1-888-301-2257.



#800725 English



#800726 French

Progress to Date

- Signed 5 year partnership agreement for total of \$90K (significantly reduced pricing) in Feb of 2020. (Due to pandemic – we did not launch program to members until July 2020)
- To Date over 13,400 members have registered – saving over 213K by taking advantage of offers - with savings growing each month
- 90% of members are actively using – far superior to other partners
- Post Pandemic expectation is that program registration can grow to upwards of 50K members

What members are purchasing

Most Popular Categories		Page Views	
1	 Apparel	3,940	
		 3,455	 485
2	 Dining & Food	956	
		 307	 649
3	 Home & Living	648	
		 176	 472
4	 Computers & Electronics	570	
		 200	 370
5	 Health & Wellness	384	
		 85	 299



Honouring Veterans is our duty

Legion.ca