

# DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

**25 November 2023**

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.



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**25 NOVEMBER 2023**

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**ATTENDEES:**

Bruce Julian	-	Dominion President
Owen Parkhouse	-	Dominion First Vice President
Berkley Lawrence	-	Dominion Vice President
Sharon McKeown	-	Dominion Vice President
Brian Weaver	-	Dominion Vice President
Bill Chafe	-	Dominion Chair
Donna McRury	-	Dominion Treasurer
Larry Murray	-	Dominion Grand President
Craig Thomson	-	BC/YT Command President
Rosalind LaRose	-	AB-NT Command President
Carol Pedersen	-	SK Command President
Ernie Tester	-	MB & NWO Command President
Derek Moore	-	ON Command President
Luc Fortier	-	QC Command First Vice President
Tony Chevalier	-	NB Command President
Don McCumber	-	NS/NU Command President
Jack MacIsaac	-	PE Command President
Gerald Budden	-	NL Command President
Peter Merola	-	TVS Special Section President
Trevor Jenvenne	-	OSI Special Section President
Blaine Kiley	-	Chair R & A Committee
Dave Gordon	-	Chair C & L Committee
Andrea Siew	-	Chair Defence & Security

**ABSENT**

Tom Irvine	-	Immediate Past President
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**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

Steven Clark	-	National Executive Director
Randy Hayley	-	Director Corporate Services & Strategic Planning
Lia Taha Cheng	-	Director Poppy & Remembrance
Carolyn Hughes	-	Director Veterans Services
Joan Elliott	-	Director Supply
Dion Edmonds	-	Director Marketing & Communications
Oksana Gorelova	-	Director Financial Services
Jason Duprau	-	General Manager Canvet
Kelly Therien	-	Executive Assistant

**ANNEXES:**

- Annex A - Grand President's Remarks
- Annex B - Dominion President's Remarks
- Annex C - Administrative Arrangements
- Annex D - Approval of Minutes/Electronic Decisions
- Annex E - 2024 Budget/Dominion Treasurer's Report
- Annex F - Senior Officer's Reports
- Annex G - National Executive Director's Report
- Annex H - Veterans, Service & Seniors Committee Report
- Annex I - Poppy & Remembrance Committee Report
- Annex J - Membership Committee Report
- Annex K - Sports Committee Report
- Annex L - Ritual & Awards Committee Report
- Annex M - Constitution & Laws Committee Report
- Annex N - RCEL Committee Report
- Annex O - Dominion Convention Committee Report
- Annex P - Defence & Security Committee Report
- Annex Q - Veterans Consultation Assembly Report
- Annex R - Public Relations Committee Report
- Annex S - Going Forward Committee Report
- Annex T - OP Harmony Committee Report
- Annex U - Centenary Committee Report
- Annex V - Canvet Publications Ltd.
- Annex W - Legion National Foundation
- Annex X - Correspondence
- Annex Y - Meetings and Invitations
- Annex Z - RCEL Presentation

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**ITEM 1: OPENING / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council opened at 0830 hours on Saturday, 25 November 2023.

**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: INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS**

The Dominion Grand President and the Dominion President installed the incoming members of DEC.

**ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

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

**ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ELECTRONIC DECISIONS**

The DEC last met on 29 – 30 April 2023. The minutes were distributed electronically.

**MOTION:** That the DEC minutes of 29 – 30 April 2023 be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

**ITEM 7: 2024 BUDGET**

The Dominion Treasurer presented the 2024 Budget, at Annex E.

**MOTION:** That a drawdown of \$100,000 from the Centennial Fund, with allocation to the Track and Field Program for 2024, be approved.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That the proposed 2024 budget be approved.

**CARRIED**

**ITEM 8: SENIOR OFFICER'S REPORTS**

Information Item only at Annex F.

**ITEM 9: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The National Executive Director presented his report, at Annex G.

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**ITEM 10: PRESENTATION: ROYAL COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE**  
The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League presentation is at Annex Z.

**ITEM 11: COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS**

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

**POPPY & REMEMBRANCE**

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

**MOTION** That section 403.ii.a. be amended to the read:  
“Housing Accommodation or Care Facilities: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 50 percent of the current balance, *to assist in minor repairs* or furnish housing accommodation and care facilities, including hospice facilities and hospital wards/rooms for Veterans.”

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That section 403.ii.f. be amended to read:  
“Monuments: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 25 percent of the current balance, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or preserving local monuments to Veterans. The 25 percent must not exceed one-half of the total funds (50 percent) required to construct, maintain or preserve local monuments for which funds are allocated. For Legion-owned monuments, 50 percent of the current balance may be used for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or preserving the monument. *The use of Poppy Funds to maintain or preserve local monuments, cenotaphs and war memorials is limited to the statue or structure itself and does not include landscaping or other grounds maintenance.*”

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That section 403.ii.g. of the Poppy Manual be amended to the read: “Support of Cadet Units: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) *Once a year, up to 20 percent of the balance on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September*, to support and encourage Cadet Units that have assisted the Branch with the Poppy Campaign or other Remembrance activities. Cadet units are defined as

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Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Navy League Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers. An allotment would be for assistance to Cadet units, not reimbursements for individual expenses. See “Example” in Subsection 403.i.e.”

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

**MOTION:** That section 403.ii.k. be amended to read: “*Money Sorting Machine: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 10 percent of the cost or maintenance cost of a coin or bill machine designed to count/sort/wrap coins or bills collected during the annual Poppy Campaign. Group funds or larger Branches may make application under this Section for a greater percentage, the approving authority will be the Provincial Command.*”

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That funding in the amount of \$175,000 for the marketing of the 2024 Poppy Campaign and promotion of Remembrance be approved.

**CARRIED**

**MEMBERSHIP**

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

**SPORTS**

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

**RITUAL, AWARDS & PROTOCOL**

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

**CONSTITUTION & LAWS**

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

**RCEL**

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

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**DOMINION CONVENTION**

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

**MOTION:** That for the 2024 Dominion Convention, electronic delegate voting be implemented for the elected officials voting process.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That for the 2024 Dominion Convention, electronic registration be implemented for all attending delegates.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That for the 2024 Dominion Convention, Pre-Convention Book (Committee Reports and Resolutions Book) be issued only in an electronic format.

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** That the 2030 Dominion Convention be held in London, Ontario.

**CARRIED**

**DEFENCE & SECURITY**

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

**MOTION:** That the Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada establish a monument to honour Canadian Women Veterans, to recognize their significant contribution and sacrifice to Canada, and inspire future generations to understand the role women have played in Canada's military history.

**CARRIED**

**VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY**

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

**PUBLIC RELATIONS**

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

**GOING FORWARD**

The Going Forward Committee report was presented, attached at Annex S.



**OP HARMONY**

The OP Harmony Committee report was presented, attached at Annex T.

**MOTION:** That the draft Action Plan for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion implementation within the Legion be approved.

**CARRIED**

**CENTENARY**

The Centenary Committee report was presented, attached at Annex U.

**PAY**

The Pay Committee report was presented as an in-camera discussion.

**MOTION:** That the Pay Committee report be approved as briefed.

**CARRIED**

**ITEM 12: PRESENTATION: THE PEPPER POD**

Cathy Priestman, Executive Director of The Pepper Pod, made a presentation.

**ITEM 13: CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.**

Canvet Publications Ltd. report was presented as information only, attached at Annex V.

**ITEM 14: LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION**

The Legion National Foundation report was presented as information only, attached at Annex W.

**ITEM 15: CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence is attached at Annex X.

**ITEM 16: REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT**

There are not requests at this time.

**ITEM 17: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS**

The Meetings and Invitations list is attached at Annex Y.

**ITEM 18: OTHER/NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Calgary Grey Cup Committee: After a successful 2023 event at a branch in Hamilton, the Legion will pursue future opportunities with the CGCC in locations wherever the Grey Cup Championship is held.
- b. Saluting to the Ode to Newfoundland. The Ritual and Awards Committee will investigate.

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c. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of RCAF in 2024: An open invitation is extended to all to attend the air show in Bagotville, QC.

d. Invitation to Provincial Executive Directors to attend the April 2024 DEC meeting:

**MOTION:** That \$36,000.00 be protected from the surplus from the 2023 budget to fund the participation of the Provincial Executive Directors at the April 2024 DEC meeting.

**CARRIED**

e. Long-Term Care:

**MOTION:** That DEC support the endeavours of NS/NU Command in attempting to arrange for a Memorandum of Understanding for the admission of Veterans into the Veterans units at long-term care facilities when those beds become available.

**CARRIED**

f. MSM:

**MOTION:** That the award of the MSM be approved as proposed during an in-camera discussion.

**CARRIED**

g. A report on the LNF 2023 Pilgrimage of Remembrance was presented as information.

**ITEM 19: IN-CAMERA DISCUSSION**

**ITEM 20: ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council was adjourned at 1732 hours.

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Dominion Chair

  
National Executive Director

GRAND PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS TO DEC 25 NOVEMBER, 2023

THANK YOU, COMRADE CHAIR AND GOOD MORNING COMRADES,

I KNOW THAT WE HAVE A FULL AGENDA TODAY SO I WILL KEEP MY COMMENTS BRIEF.

BEFORE I BEGIN I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I KNOW THAT ALL OF US WERE VERY CONCERNED TO LEARN OF COMRADE TOM'S RECENT HEART ATTACK, JUST AFTER BEING RELEASED FROM A LENGTHY STAY IN HOSPITAL. I KNOW THAT OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH HIM AND HIS FAMILY. AND THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO HIS RETURN TO DEC AS SOON AS THAT IS POSSIBLE.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY INSTALLED MEMBERS OF THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE LEGION AND THAT YOU EACH BRING A GREAT DEAL OF EXPERIENCE, WISDOM AND INSIGHT TO THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP COUNCIL OF THIS GREAT NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICULARLY THANK COMRADE DONNA FOR RETURNING TO DEC AT SHORT NOTICE TO TAKE ON THE CHALLENGING ROLE OF DOMINION TREASURER.

WELCOME BACK DONNA AND THANKS FOR YOUR DEDICATION.

I VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE THREE NEW MEMBERS OF DEC..

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND A BIG BRAVO ZULU TO YOUR PREDECESSORS TOO. IT WAS A PRIVILEGE TO WORK WITH THEM AT A CHALLENGING TIME AS WE EMERGED FROM THE PANDEMIC.

IT REMAINS A CHALLENGING TIME FOR THE LEGION BUT ALSO ONE OF SIGNIFICANT OPPORTUNITY IN MANY AREAS INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP, WHICH THIS WEEK WAS REPORTED BY COMRADE RANDY AS 252,000 AND CONTINUING TO GROW AT THE BRANCH LEVEL.

RECENT PROGRESS IN THIS VITAL AREA IS TRULY NOTEWORTHY AND HIGHLY COMMENDABLE BUT CONTINUED SENIOR LEADERSHIP ATTENTION TO THE GROWTH PATH THAT THE LEGION IS CURRENTLY ON IS ESSENTIAL TO MAINTAIN AND, IF POSSIBLE, TO ACCELERATE THE MOMENTUM AS WE HEAD TOWARDS THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION..

YOUR PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT IN THAT REGARD AND IN MANY OTHER AREAS..

SINCE DEC LAST MET IN APRIL I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING COMRADE BRUCE AND THE LEGION AT A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS INCLUDING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE ON 25 JUNE AND THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF UN PEACEKEEPING ON 13 AUGUST.

ANOTHER MEMORABLE EVENT WAS THE DOMINION PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST POPPY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON 20 OCTOBER.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND HER HUSBAND ONCE AGAIN DID A GREAT JOB OF MAKING THIS CEREMONY AND THE RECEPTION WHICH FOLLOWED VERY SPECIAL AND VERY ENJOYABLE FOR ALL THE VETERANS AND OTHER GUESTS THAT WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THEY WERE ALSO AMONG THE LAST TO LEAVE THE RECEPTION.

THEIR EXCEPTIONAL WARMTH AND KINDNESS WERE SIMILARLY EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE LUNCHEON THEY HOSTED IN HONOUR OF THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER ON REMEMBRANCE DAY FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY.

SPEAKING OF WHICH, VETERANS WEEK EVENTS IN OTTAWA THIS YEAR, WHICH BEGAN WITH AN OUTSTANDING CEREMONY AT THE SENATE ON 3 NOVEMBER, WERE ADMIRABLY SUPPORTED AND/OR LED BY THE LEGION AND CULMINATED IN AN OUTSTANDING AND WELL ATTENDED NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL ON 11 NOVEMBER. THIS WAS A SUPERB TEAM EFFORT, IMPRESSIVELY ORGANIZED AND LED BY DOMINION COMMAND WITH STELLAR SUPPORT FROM THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES, LOCAL LEGION VOLUNTEERS AND VARIOUS POLICE AND OTHER KEY PARTNERS.

SPECIAL THANKS AND A BIG BRAVO ZULU TO COMRADES STEVEN CLARKE, STEVEN VAN MUYEN, NUJMA BOND, CHARLS GENDRON, NICOLE THOMAS AND LIA TAHA-CHEN FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN PARTICULARLY KEY ROLES IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL CEREMONY, THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER AND HER DAUGHTER AND THE LEGION YOUTH AND CADET DELEGATION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND AND TO THANK THE ENTIRE LEGION HOUSE TEAM FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXCELLENT EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY, WHICH REALLY WARMED UP A COLD MORNING FOR MANY VETERANS AND OTHER ATTENDEES. I MUST HIGHLIGHT AS WELL THAT A NUMBER OF KEY PARTICIPANTS FROM LEGION HOUSE WERE

PERFORMING THEIR IMPORTANT REMEMBRANCE DAY DUTIES FOR THE FIRST TIME AND THE TRANSITION WAS TRULY SEAMLESS.

CANADA WAS BLESSED THIS YEAR TO HAVE A VERY SPECIAL WOMAN, GLORIA HOOPER, FROM MANITOBA AS SILVER CROSS MOTHER, ABLY SUPPORTED BY HER WONDERFUL DAUGHTER, ASHLEY.

GLORIA SPOKE FROM THE HEART AND LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION WITH ALL WHO HEARD HER SPEAKING ABOUT HER SON, SAPPER CHRIS HOLOPINA, A PROUD COMBAT ENGINEER WHO WAS KILLED IN BOSNIA DURING A UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATION WHEN HIS VEHICLE ROLLED OVER WHILE ON THE WAY TO RESCUE BRITISH TROOPS TRAPPED IN A MINEFIELD.

FINALLY WELL DONE , CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY THANKS TO EACH OF YOU, TO YOUR COMMANDS AND TO YOUR BRANCHES FOR YOUR HIGHLY DEDICATED AND OUTSTANDING EFFORTS IN HELPING CANADA AND CANADIANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY "TO REMEMBER" IN A FITTING WAY ON REMEMBRANCE DAY.

THANKS TO AN EXCELLENT INITIATIVE BY LEGION HOUSE WITH THEIR REMEMBRANCE DAY LOCATOR WE KNOW THAT AT LEAST 825 BRANCHES CONDUCTED REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONIES AND THAT THE LOCATOR HAD 1.3 MILLION VIEWS BY CANADIANS.

THAT CONCLUDES MY COMMENTS. THANKS VERY MUCH, COMRADES.

## **DOMINION PRESIDENTS OPENING REMARKS**

Good morning Comrades, and welcome to this DEC. It is a real pleasure to see and meet with you again. We also welcome two new members to Council, Tony Chevalier of New Brunswick Command and Don McCumber of Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command. I have had the pleasure of working with both these comrades on various committees in the past and I am positive they will be an invaluable addition to this Dominion Executive Council.

I would also welcome our newly elected and appointed Dominion Treasurer, Donna McRury. I am sure I speak for us all when I say that we have the greatest confidence in her abilities and look forward to her tenure in this vital position at Dominion Command.

We also have a special guest joining us this week, David Thompson, the current comptroller and Director General Designate of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League...In just a few minutes David will bring us up to date on the current situation of the RCEL and the proposed changes for the next few years as this organization completes its mandate.

As is included in today's agenda we will have the pleasure of having two external presentations an update on the RCEL and overview of the activities of the "pepper pod" an organization which is doing amazing rehabilitative work within our female veteran population.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank a number of individuals, starting with our Grand President, Comrade Larry. Within the halls of government, the military and those with influence in the Capital Region... he is an "icon", His membership on DEC gives us instant credibility. Also because of his residence in the capital region I have leaned on him on numerous occasions on short notice to represent the Royal Canadian Legion at ceremonial events. His personal counsel and support have been invaluable to me during this term.

You've heard it many times this week, but we do have an amazing stall here at Legion House from National Executive Director Steven Clark through our Directors to the newest person on staff, they are exceptional at what they do. I have had the advantage of being here to see them in action conducting and coordinating the National Remembrance Ceremony, responding almost instantly to government pronouncements and policy, enhancing our member services, implementing new marketing and communications initiatives and a hundred other things behind the scenes.

And finally, the support and participation of everyone around this table has been crucial as we move forward, from our Senior Elected Officers, our committee Chairs and their members to our Provincial Command representatives ...we do not always agree on everything except for our dedication to our veterans, to our communities and our country...and in the end that's all that is necessary that we all do agree on.

We have much to do today with a very full agenda, lets get on with it...comrade chairman I turn the meeting back to you.

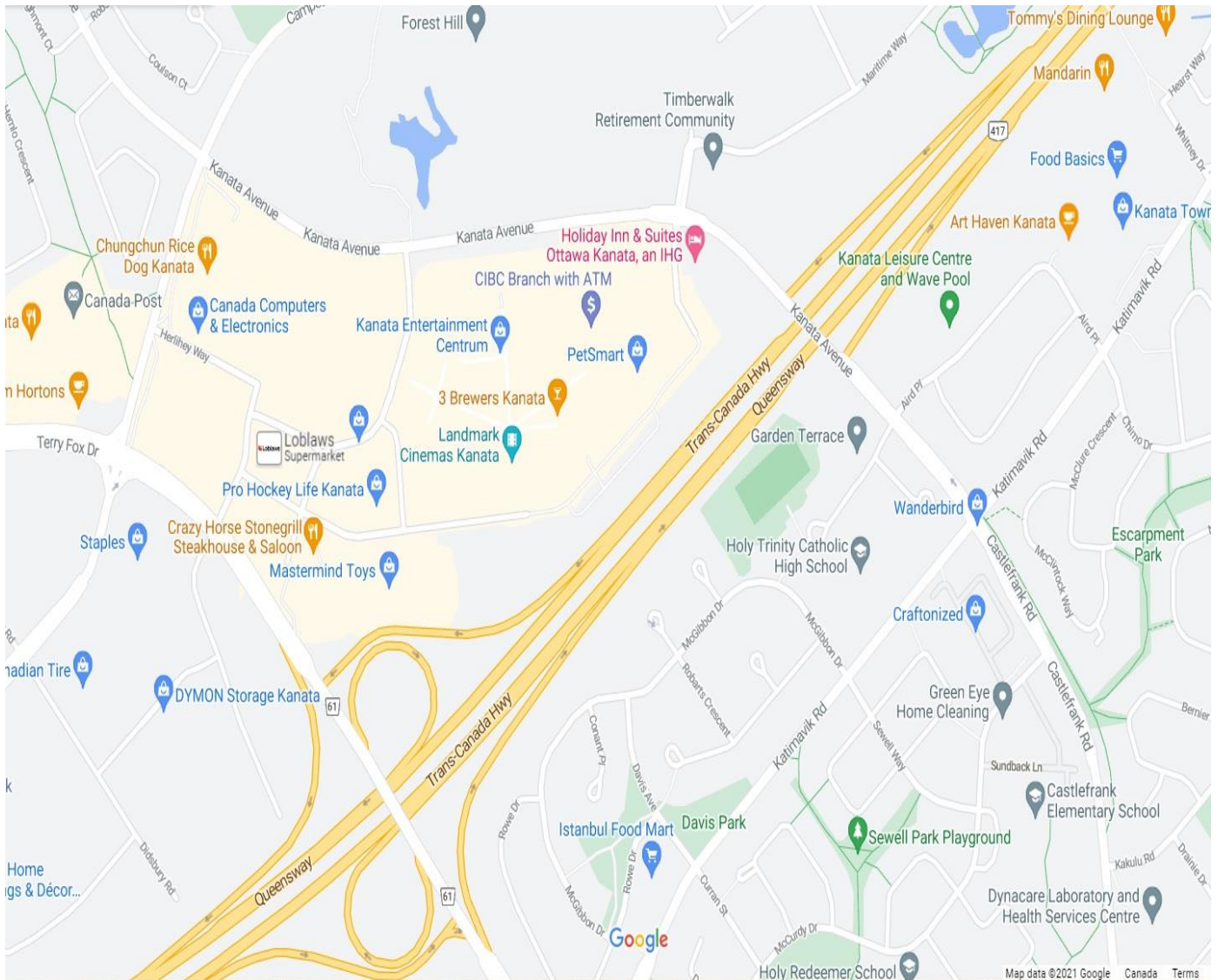
**ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS**

a. Schedule – Saturday 25 November 2023

- i. 0830 hours – DEC convenes
- ii. 1200 hours – Lunch at Legion House (Call of the Chair)
- iii. 1255 hours – DEC convenes
- iv. 1700 hours – DEC adjourns (Call of the Chair)

Note: there are two presentations to be given, as detailed in the Agenda

- b. Meals. Lunch will be provided by ByTown Catering. Members' per diem claim will be adjusted by \$10.
- c. Local Map. A map of the local area is attached for your convenience.
- d. Hotel Reservations. Your reservation has been made according to the DEC and Committee meeting schedule. If you intend to check out earlier, please advise the hotel as soon as possible. Please take note that DEC members are responsible to pay their hotel bill at check out and then claim on their expense claim forms.
- e. 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.
- f. Smoking. Ottawa City By-Laws do not permit smoking in any office building including bars and restaurants. However, the Director Corporate Services will provide one of the smokers with a door pass to enable smokers to use the rear entrance to permit smoking outside during the break periods. Smoking is only permitted at the rear of the building.
- g. Dress. Legion informal dress shirt (exception: those involved in the Installation Ceremony).



### Centrum Area

- Numerous Restaurants
- Shopping Facilities
- Movie Theatre
- Grocery Store
- LCBO



**ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ELECTRONIC DECISIONS**

a. Approval of Minutes

The DEC last met on 29 - 30 April 2023. The minutes were distributed electronically.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT the DEC minutes of 29 - 30 April 2023 be approved.

b. Review of Electronic Decisions/Email Voting

There were 3 Electronic Decisions / Email/Zoom votes that took place since the last DEC meeting on 29 - 30 April 2023.

1 October 2023

THAT DEC accept the 2022 audited Financial Statements for Dominion Command as presented.

**CARRIED**

1 October 2023

THAT DEC appoint Deloitte as the firm to provide external financial audit services to Dominion Command for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2023.

**CARRIED**

30 October 2023

FILLING VACANCY – OFFICE OF DOMINION TREASURER  
Donna McRury was voted in as Dominion Treasurer for the remaining term of DEC.

**CARRIED**

## **ITEM 7: 2024 BUDGET**

### **OVERVIEW**

The 2024 budget target was set at a break-even point of \$31,685. The current position of revenue (as of 30 September) is positive at \$360,070, however, due to seasonal revenue and cost fluctuation, typically approximately 90% of revenue is collected at this time where expenses may not reflect all expenditures recorded that were planned for this year. Projected numbers for 2023 at this point can be distorted.

### **REVENUES**

The 2023 membership revenue is up 5.7% compared to the same time last year. Assuming that all branches are operating at the normal pace and with a targeted marketing campaign this year, the Legion surpassed projected revenue of 240,664 members. As of 26 October, membership revenue for 2023 is 101% or 247,370 members processed for the year. Legion Membership is now guaranteed to grow for the second consecutive year and will surpass 250,000 for the first time since 2019. The projection for the 2024 based on 243,071 members which is 2.6 % percent growth from the prior year. There are 37,400 new/reinstated members who have been processed to date (as of 26 October) which is a 26% increase from the previous year. In addition, 52,263 members have been processed for 2024. As always, focus continues to be on the membership development and the importance of it to all levels of the Legion.

Investment income estimated for 2024 as per our portfolio is approx.. \$554K. The draw down of \$3M for emergency distribution to the branches during the pandemic reduced the level of reserves and impacted revenues for the future years.

Economic growth is often correlated with stock market performance. If the economy continues to grow, corporate earnings could also increase, potentially driving stock prices higher. However, economic phases can vary, and unexpected events can impact growth. The US and Canadian economy's trajectory over the next five years involves factors like GDP growth, unemployment rates, and inflation. While uncertainties are inevitable, experts foresee slow but steady economic growth, supported by factors such as increased immigration, a decentralized economy, and technological advancements. However, the potential debt crisis and political changes can significantly impact these projections. Bank of Canada actions, especially changes in interest rates, can significantly influence the stock market. Rising interest rates could lead to higher borrowing costs for companies and consumers, affecting spending and investment.

External risks, combined with economic indicators, contribute to the overall uncertainty surrounding the market's future.

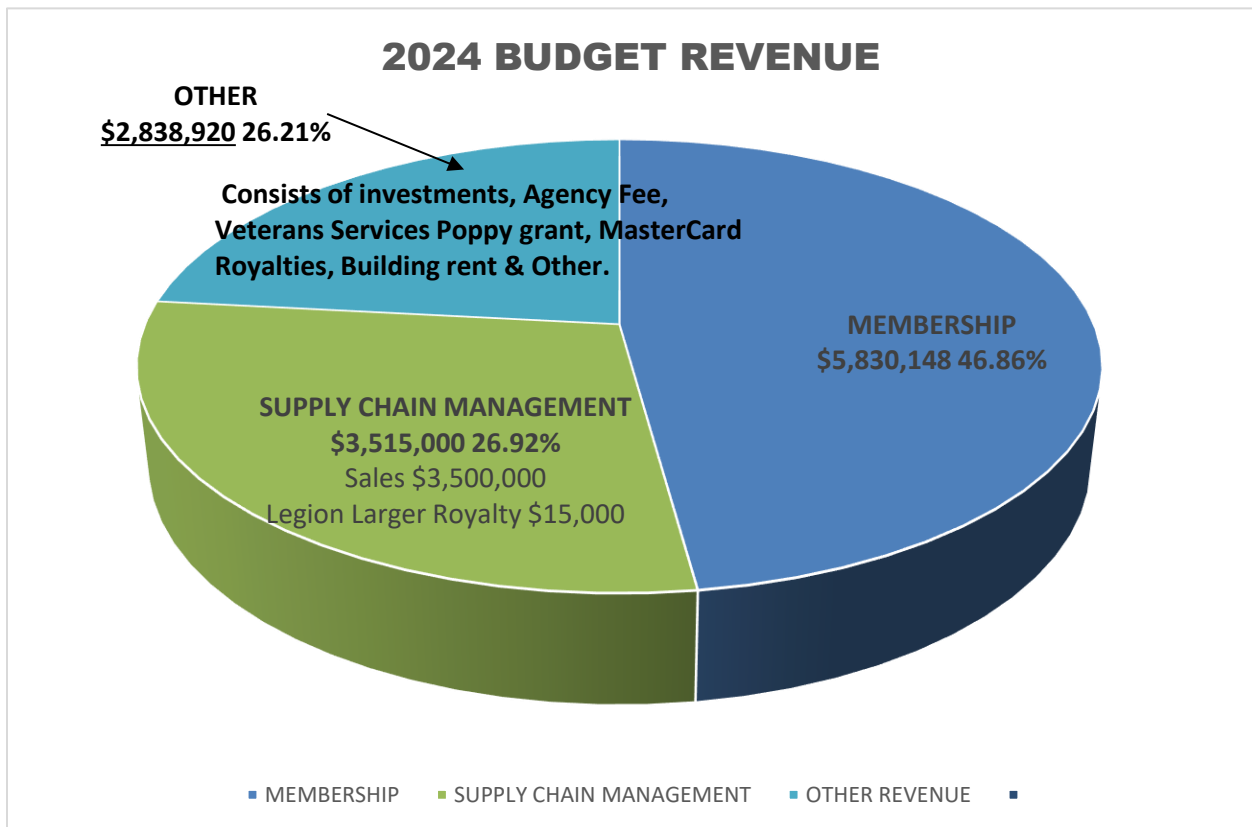
The composition of Legion portfolios is low risk, a mix of equity and fixed income, which

aimed to generate long-term returns. During a recession, dividends are especially important because they provide a cushion even if the stock price falls. The year 2024 could be another challenging year with the moderate impact on our investment portfolio. For information, the investment revenues earned in the operating budget are retained in the investment fund and not transferred to the General Fund bank account at year end. By doing this we receive a greater rate of return on the money. When cash is needed for operating expenses or expenses that are charged to Reserves it is withdrawn at that time. This gives us the highest possible return on investments. Current general investment portfolio balance as of 26 October, is \$15,939,382.

The Supply Department is forecasting sales of \$3,500,000 (an increase of 7.7% from last year) and royalty payments from Legion Lager of \$15,000. For a total of \$3,515,000. Last year, revenue was driven by successful sales of new stock items which maintained sales of approx. \$2.8M.

As previously approved, the chargebacks to the Poppy Fund for the noted departments are:

- Veterans Services: 95% of the personnel budget and 100% of admin expense
- Financial Services and Accounting fees: 20%
- Marketing and Communications Department: 12%
- Marketing, Advertising and Promotion: 12%



**\*Makeup of the Other Revenue:**

Royalties - Member benefits program  
Administrative fees  
Building rental  
Royalties – Legion Lager  
MasterCard Royalties  
Estate bequests  
Other corporate contributions

**EXPENSES**

Some revenue streams are showing a slight uptick towards the end of this year, however, the outlook is clouded by a number of uncertainties: there is an assumption that this trend will continue into the 2024. Expenses were analysed and adjusted according to the projected revenue for 2024.

**Department / Section Budgets:**

- Labour across departments - There is a marginal increase in payroll expenses because of a modernization of pay levels derived as a result of an independent assessment of pay equity of Legion Headquarters and similar organizations in the country. These are non-avoidable expenses necessary to attract and retain qualified, excellent people of substance.
- Member Services – Besides the change to salary expenses, there are additional costs to credit card processing fees of \$25,000 due to the increase of online portal activities. Miscellaneous costs are under budget this year, which consists of cost of the free pins for the free memberships given to retiring members of the CAF as an incentive to have them join and renew as members of the Legion.
- Marketing – An increase of \$51,040, to enrich the strategy of membership and supply growth. However, as a result of departmental analysis, there is a charge back of \$125,760 to PTF for the work the department delivers.
- Financial Services – An overall increase of \$4,934, due mostly to salary fluctuations and two maternity leaves. As a result of departmental analysis, it was determined that the Finance Team spends 10% of their time supporting Veteran’s services and 20% spending supporting the Poppy campaign throughout the year. As a result, there is a PTF charge back of \$ 178,815.
- Supply – An overall increase of \$178,979 compared to last year. Shipping costs and wrapping materials are the major factor in this outcome. Postage has increased by \$100,000. The PTF charge back for this department is \$407,430 for services delivered.

- Veterans Services - this department works exclusively for Veterans. In the past, as approved by DEC, 95% of the labor incurred by the department was recoverable from PTF. There is a minor increase in various accounts of \$13,171.
- Corporate Services – An overall increase of \$25,421, mostly due to marginal annual payroll COLA indexation. Office supplies and telephone costs decreased by \$12K.
- Information Technology Section – There is a projected increase of \$212,045. There is a plan to upgrade Legion HQ IT structure in 2024, which is necessary to continue to be operational. Programming and technical support costs increased by \$39,000, due to CRM and GP upgrades in 2023. Maintenance/contracts are reduced by \$54,000.

**General changes:**

- Larger reductions in expenses estimated for:

Financial Services	5.0%
Employer Pension contribution	22.4%
- Increases are expected for:

Information Technology	42.6%
Committees	20.2%
Other Program Expenses	6.8%

The majority of all departmental expenses are underbudget, as projected.

**Committee Budgets**

Committee expenses are projected to upsurge by \$124,803. The major changes are:

- Public Relations reduced by \$25,080 due to the removal of the travel and per diem for in-person committee meetings and certain expenses related to media monitoring and PR support.
- National T&F is \$50,817 less than last year budget. It is due to lower transportation and accommodation costs. The outcome of this budget will vary depending on the location.
- Elected officers reduced by \$11,000 due to less travel required in 2024.
- DEC/Senior Elected Officers' overall cost is increased by \$25,000 to reflect the actual cost for in-person meeting and allowance for LHQ annual reception.

The Centennial Fund grant for the Legion National Youth Track & Field

Championships, with necessary approvals, should be renewed for \$100,000 for the 2024 year. Please note, the location plays a significant contribution toward increased costs for the year and for 2024 as well. This is shown in the Recoveries section of the Track & Field budget.

## **FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

Proposed Increase of per capita tax fees for 2025.

As per our national strategic plan passed at the 2018 Dominion Convention, we have begun to grow membership, modernize our infrastructure and improve our organizational communications and overall public awareness. Investments have been required to accomplish these goals which are yielding some of the most positive results we have experienced in over three decades. Since our last per capita increase passed at the 2016 Dominion Convention, our operating costs, like any business, have increased over the past 8 years. To maintain the level of investment in the services Legion members are accustomed to, and to ensure we continue our momentum to execute our strategic plan moving towards our centenary, we will be presenting a resolution to DEC in Spring 2024 for a modest Dominion per capita increase for 2025. If approved by DEC, this resolution would be voted on by attending delegates at the 2024 Dominion Convention in Saint John, NB.

This information is provided to ensure full transparency with our membership.

## **CONCLUSION**

The draft budget follows for review and discussion.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That a drawdown of \$100,000 from the Centennial Fund, with allocation to the Track and Field Program for 2024, be approved.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the proposed budget be approved.

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>REVENUE</b>									
Membership revenue	6,007,665	5,339,611	5,668,132	5,279,437	5,516,105	5,683,237	5,830,148	146,911	2.6%
Canvet									
- Agency Fee & Support	400,000	400,000	400,000	200,000	200,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%
Investment Income	403,195	452,625	432,996	209,002	177,171	440,000	554,585	114,585	26.0%
Veterans Services Poppy Fund Grant	1,143,978	1,143,978	1,174,990	587,495	570,112	1,140,224	1,152,415	12,191	1.1%
Supply Chain Management	4,007,152	3,015,505	2,825,852	904,633	1,144,544	3,265,000	3,515,000	250,000	7.7%
Legion House									
- Tenants			82,920	41,460	41,460	92,920	92,920	0	0.0%
- Internal	82,920	82,920	331,000	165,500	165,500	331,000	331,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	316,000	316,000							
- TD Royalties			82,963	48,043	53,139	60,000	104,000	44,000	73.3%
Corporate Donations	56,641	5,531	50,000	0	0	400,000	200,000	(200,000)	-50.0%
- Other	702,168	381,325	325,332	206,846	169,700	315,000	335,000	20,000	6.3%
Estate Bequest	37,366		33,293	31,293	226,672	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>13,157,085</b>	<b>11,137,495</b>	<b>11,407,478</b>	<b>7,673,709</b>	<b>8,264,403</b>	<b>12,127,381</b>	<b>12,515,068</b>	<b>387,687</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
Legion Magazine Subscriptions	2,532,185	2,407,476	2,541,272	2,266,311	2,367,706	2,546,045	2,596,564	50,519	2.0%
Corporate Services	3,324,984	1,039,935	831,109	401,508	434,527	898,128	923,549	25,421	2.8%
Information Technology	481,550	440,340	382,881	197,772	266,963	497,717	709,762	212,045	42.6%
Membership	746,683	793,911	874,783	391,698	374,310	894,830	937,378	42,548	4.8%
Marketing & Communications	398,060	422,845	436,904	230,565	188,829	432,910	380,133	(52,777)	-12.2%
Marketing, Advertising, Promotion	759,952	791,977	736,332	403,735	451,770	871,200	922,240	51,040	5.9%
Financial Services	265,426	285,796	227,319	107,045	154,593	280,512	266,446	(14,066)	-5.0%
Veterans Services	1,037,666	1,074,336	1,200,867	588,469	567,054	1,191,372	1,204,543	13,171	1.1%
Supply Chain Management	2,599,692	2,169,429	2,197,168	818,915	876,250	2,317,373	2,411,861	94,488	4.1%
Committees	127,289	415,202	557,351	162,891	293,137	732,631	860,384	127,753	17.4%
Other Program Expenses	88,946	98,223	176,959	79,932	106,604	93,750	100,100	6,350	6.8%
Amortization	103,847	84,599	75,858	38,274	33,354	84,500	66,708	(17,792)	-21.1%
Employer Pension Contribution	436,444	540,864	655,053	282,713	308,834	787,820	611,100	(176,720)	-22.4%
Legion House	412,353	337,614	685,302	209,733	213,418	479,063	492,616	13,553	2.8%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>13,315,077</b>	<b>10,902,547</b>	<b>11,579,158</b>	<b>6,179,561</b>	<b>6,637,349</b>	<b>12,107,851</b>	<b>12,483,384</b>	<b>375,533</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS</b>	<b>(157,992)</b>	<b>234,948</b>	<b>(171,680)</b>	<b>1,494,148</b>	<b>1,627,054</b>	<b>19,530</b>	<b>31,685</b>		

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS

Poppy Division

EXPENSE	2021	2022	2022	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
Salaries	87,939	318,683	377,339	381,048	439,465	58,417	15%	
Retirement Allowance	1,120	6,702	7,480	7,118	8,636	1,518	21%	
Other Benefits	4,591	28,142	24,050	34,291	33,911	(380)	-1%	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>		353,528	408,869	422,457	482,012	59,555	14%	
Office Supplies		171	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0%	
Telephone		2,095	2,000	2,000	2,200	200	10%	Fixed cost set by finance
Postage,Freight Express		200	10,500	12,400	1,000	(11,400)	-92%	
Printing, Stationery		52	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	0%	
Staff Travel		47	150	2,000	1,000	(1,000)	-50%	Estimated attending 12 ceremonies plus some meetings
Rent (CR to Building)		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	0%	Fixed cost set by finance
Computer Network Support		2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	-	0%	<b>Fixed cost set by finance</b>
Admin Support			-	2,500	2,500	-	0%	Fixed cost set by finance
Miscellaneous		4,201	1,000	1,000	1,500	500	50%	Poppy Manual revisions by Carvet, datashred and miscellaneous expenses
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>		372,795	437,019	459,357	507,212	47,855	10%	
<b>Poppy Fund</b>		372,795	437,019	459,357	507,212	47,855	10%	
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>			-	-		-	-	



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Centenary Committee

			Jun				BUDGET VARIANCE		
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	\$	%
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET		
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing & Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

DEC committed \$100,000 from Centennial investment fund.  
Required funds will be released in 2026.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Corporate Services**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun 2022	Jun 2023	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUA L	ACTUA L	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
Salaries	699,380	736,946	754,387	356,039	380,059	802,503	840,005	37,502	4.7%
Retirement Allowance	14,525	14,558	15,148	7,121	7,601	15,733	16,473	740	4.7%
Other Benefits	65,185	62,439	64,018	38,714	41,551	71,592	70,771	(821)	-1.1%
Temporary & Contract Staff	47,975	463	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>827,065</b>	<b>814,406</b>	<b>833,553</b>	<b>401,874</b>	<b>429,211</b>	<b>889,828</b>	<b>927,249</b>	<b>37,421</b>	<b>4.2%</b>
Office Supplies	54,888	42,912	43,471	24,964	15,430	45,000	35,000	(10,000)	-22.2%
Telephone	11,519	9,080	9,591	4,333	4,269	12,000	10,000	(2,000)	-16.7%
Postage, Express	9,016	9,928	8,374	3,951	3,602	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Printing, Stationery	5,755	3,119	686	(413)	5,288	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Staff Travel	392	608	1,739	470	465	800	800	0	0.0%
Insurance	17,214	16,856	19,133	9,403	12,295	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	108,000	108,000	108,000	54,000	54,000	108,000	108,000	0	0.0%
Staff Recruitment	0	1,379	2,052	1,133	4,674	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	3,500	3,500	3,500	1,750	1,750	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
COVID-19 Relief	2,486,069	231,879	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	7,909	5,315	6,931	964	3,282	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
Training	3,656	2,953	4,081	4,081	5,260	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>3,534,983</b>	<b>1,249,935</b>	<b>1,041,111</b>	<b>506,510</b>	<b>539,526</b>	<b>1,108,128</b>	<b>1,133,549</b>	<b>25,421</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Less: charged to:									
Membership Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	7,500	7,500	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Marketing and Communications	15,000	15,000	15,000	7,500	7,500	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Veterans Services	30,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
Poppy Fund	150,000	150,000	150,000	75,000	75,000	150,000	150,000		
	210,000	210,000	210,000	105,000	105,000	210,000	210,000	0	0.0%
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>3,324,983</b>	<b>1,039,935</b>	<b>831,111</b>	<b>401,510</b>	<b>434,526</b>	<b>898,128</b>	<b>923,549</b>	<b>25,421</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION**

EXPENSE	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022 ACTUAL	2023 ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	141,948	75,724	81,849	40,036	81,873	164,416	177,149	12,733	7.7%
Retirement Allowance	2,899	1,641	1,682	801	1,637	3,253	3,466	213	6.5%
Other Benefits	8,021	9,548	10,154	5,557	11,482	17,948	23,147	5,199	29.0%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>152,868</b>	<b>86,913</b>	<b>93,685</b>	<b>46,394</b>	<b>94,992</b>	<b>185,617</b>	<b>203,762</b>	<b>18,145</b>	<b>9.8%</b>
Office Supplies	-	63	0	0	5	0	0	0	0.0%
Telephone	4,537	1,834	5,481	535	1,790	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	-	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Printing, Stationery	-	601	743	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	1,700	932	116	29	128	100	0	(100)	-100.0%
<b>Network &amp; PC</b>									
Upgrade of IT system							215,000.00		
- Maintenance									
Contracts/Leases	169,339	100,806	153,039	82,170	90,182	172,000	118,000	(54,000)	-31.4%
- Programming & Support	163,756	255,519	154,378	82,035	89,251	140,000	179,000	39,000	27.9%
- Supplies & Other	3,052	11,627	2,146	1,555	3,896	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- Website & Internet								0	
connectivity & support	12,337	11,530	7,793	2,304	5,219	25,000	19,000	(6,000)	-24.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>517,589</b>	<b>479,840</b>	<b>427,381</b>	<b>220,022</b>	<b>290,463</b>	<b>544,717</b>	<b>756,762</b>	<b>212,045</b>	<b>39%</b>
Less: charged to:									
Corporate Services	3,500	3,500	3,500	1,750	1,750	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
Finance	4,039	7,500	7,500	3,750	3,750	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Membership	7,500	7,500	7,500	3,750	3,750	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Marketing	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,250	1,250	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Veterans Services	4,500	4,500	4,500	2,250	2,250	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Supply	7,000	7,000	7,000	3,500	3,500	7,000	7,000	0	0.0%
Canvet	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
IT	2,000	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
LNF			2,500	1,250	1,250	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
P&R Division	-	-	2,500	1,250	2,500	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
	-	-							
	36,039	39,500	44,500	22,250	23,500	47,000	47,000	0	0
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>481,550</b>	<b>440,340</b>	<b>382,881</b>	<b>197,772</b>	<b>266,963</b>	<b>497,717</b>	<b>709,762</b>	<b>212,045</b>	<b>43%</b>

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Membership Section**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE		COMMENTS & BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
<b>REVENUE</b>										
Agency Fee	400,000	400,000	400,000	200,000	200,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>200,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	
<b>EXPENSE</b>										
Salaries	269,316	286,682	477,453	227,159	226,380	546,902	540,729	(6,173)	-1.1%	Keeping coordinator position in budget
Retirement Allowance	5,610	6,206	9,861	4,543	4,528	10,692	10,546	(146)	-1.4%	
Other Benefits	46,419	46,978	51,472	27,920	25,713	58,136	61,503	3,367	5.8%	
Temporary & Contract Staff	135,039	153,179	20,400	20,400	714	0	0	0	0.0%	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>456,384</b>	<b>493,045</b>	<b>559,186</b>	<b>280,022</b>	<b>257,335</b>	<b>615,730</b>	<b>612,778</b>	<b>(2,952)</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	
Office Supplies	84	146	109	9	151	600	600	0	0.0%	
Telephone	13,005	10,530	11,119	5,648	5,877	10,500	11,000	500	4.8%	
Postage, Express	49,056	52,751	64,739	21,112	20,921	47,500	47,500	0	0.0%	
Printing, Stationery	5,740	6,124	5,722	2,086	3,341	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%	
Rent (CR to Building)	54,000	54,000	54,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	0	0.0%	
Miscellaneous	8,436	2,911	2,293	1,839	1,778	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%	
Computer Network Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	3,750	3,750	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%	
Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	7,500	7,500	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%	
Permanent membership cards	33,127	15,794	16,872	8,521	9,379	18,000	38,000	20,000	111.1%	
Membership cards, forms and paper	1,840	3,785	2,793	2,793	10,680	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%	
Membership Pack out	31,931	30,251	36,201	0	191	37,500	37,500	0	0.0%	
Credit Card Processing Fees	70,579	102,075	99,250	31,419	26,408	75,000	100,000	25,000	94.7%	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>746,682</b>	<b>793,912</b>	<b>874,784</b>	<b>391,699</b>	<b>374,311</b>	<b>894,830</b>	<b>937,378</b>	<b>42,548</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Marketing Section**

EXPENSE	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	359,531	381,957	398,016	202,636	177,994	413,543	360,332	(53,211)	-12.9%
Retirement Allowance	7,490	8,881	8,082	4,053	3,560	8,130	7,091	(1,039)	-12.8%
Other Benefits	31,003	31,654	35,624	23,170	20,408	36,120	30,446	(5,674)	-15.7%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>398,024</b>	<b>422,492</b>	<b>441,722</b>	<b>229,859</b>	<b>201,962</b>	<b>457,793</b>	<b>397,869</b>	<b>(59,924)</b>	<b>-13.1%</b>
Office Supplies	1,927	976	221	204	25	200	200	0	0.0%
Telephone	3,793	4,001	3,354	1,803	1,364	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	16	53	352	335	23	250	300	50	20.0%
Printing, Stationery	137	797	22	22	54	200	200	0	0.0%
Staff Travel	14	259	333	333	0	500	400	(100)	-20.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	219	338	1,110	3,112	1,168	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	2,500	2,500	2,500	1,250	1,250	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	7,500	7,500	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>431,630</b>	<b>456,416</b>	<b>474,614</b>	<b>249,418</b>	<b>218,346</b>	<b>491,943</b>	<b>431,969</b>	<b>(59,974)</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>
Less: Poppy Fund Chargback @12%	34,530	36,513	37,709	18,855	29,517	59,033	51,836	(7,197)	-12.2%
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>397,100</b>	<b>419,903</b>	<b>436,905</b>	<b>230,563</b>	<b>188,829</b>	<b>432,910</b>	<b>380,133</b>	<b>(52,777)</b>	<b>-12.2%</b>

Change from 8 to12%

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Marketing**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b><u>Media - Print</u></b>									
Canvet Ads	14,948	31,743	25,890	9,714	7,586	24,000	24,000	0	0.0%
<b><u>Media - Video &amp; Photography</u></b>									
Photography Services	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Promotional Videos	70,625	82,603	0	0	75,145	70,000	0	(70,000)	-100.0%
<b><u>Media - Internet</u></b>									
Legion.ca website admin	95,448	95,862	85,799	33,627	71,367	125,000	125,000	0	0.0%
<b><u>Media - Public Relations &amp; Events</u></b>									
Media Coverage & P.R. (T &F)	12,573	6,932	8,682	5,449	1,794	12,000	10,000	(2,000)	-16.7%
CAF Support	70,590	61,900	85,133	61,676	60,850	128,250	128,250	0	0.0%
<b><u>Programs and Campaigns</u></b>									
Free Membership for CF retirees	59,090	40,244	32,720	13,520	15,036	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
Non Renewal Mailers	43,281	67,919	156,068	71,291	31,663	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%
MemberPerks	-	8,475	29,663	15,538	14,125	28,250	28,250	0	0.0%
Telesales	-	-	33,024	33,024	3,390	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Branch Incentive Program	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Canvet Design Program	2,180	1,721	7,080	2,286	574	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%

videos were produced this year and will have a 2 year self life so will not be required in 2024

Promotions and Donations	17,348	47,439	68,795	58,963	42,423	70,000	70,000	0	0.0%	
Social Media Campaign	137,855	49,755	142,160	99,678	63,455	175,000	225,000	50,000	28.6%	simply reallocating funds from videos to social - highest ROI of any marketing channel
Online Banner Campaign	44,259	85,110	41,959	0	29,367	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%	
Member/Branch Enewsletters	72,659	67,800	58,421	32,092	31,079	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%	
Triggered e-mail campaign	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Marketing 2020 Grant	140,000	155,844	104	83	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Social Media - Agency	1,028	345	0	0	58,647	0	85,000	85,000	0.0%	
Travel			1,101	0	1,960	2,500	7,500			84.3K was approved budget for 2023 - transfer of salary to marketing budget - keeping it consistent with that + 5% increase reflective of actual travel
<b><u>Other Printed Material</u></b>										
	-	-								
Early Bird Poster	23,549	35,601	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
Branch Collateral Marketing materials	-	-	38,913	6,385	2,708	50,000	40,000	(10,000)	0.0%	
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>805,433</b>	<b>839,293</b>	<b>815,512</b>	<b>443,326</b>	<b>511,169</b>	<b>990,000</b>	<b>1,048,000</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback@ 12%	45,480	47,316	79,180	39,590	59,400	118,800	125,760			
<b>Net Expense</b>	<b>759,953</b>	<b>791,977</b>	<b>736,332</b>	<b>403,736</b>	<b>451,769</b>	<b>871,200</b>	<b>922,240</b>	<b>51,040</b>	<b>5.9%</b>	

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Financial Services**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
Salaries	331,741	391,868	362,052	178,973	217,235	462,693	413,425	(49,268)	-10.6%
Retirement Allowance	6,971	8,493	7,672	3,579	4,345	9,043	8,000	(1,043)	-11.5%
Other Benefits	34,634	41,340	41,910	23,129	26,720	38,930	45,698	6,768	17.4%
Contract	92,959	101,396	115,755	57,981	59,146	68,254	109,354	41,100	60.2%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>466,305</b>	<b>543,097</b>	<b>527,389</b>	<b>263,662</b>	<b>307,446</b>	<b>578,920</b>	<b>576,477</b>	<b>(2,443)</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
Office Supplies	945	(6)	352	170	635	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Telephone	5,405	3,516	2,959	1,607	1,482	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	8,406	3,795	2,434	867	1,101	5,000	2,500	(2,500)	-50.0%
Printing, Stationery	66	1,064	22	13	92	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Staff Travel	42	27	0	0	19	100	100	0	0.0%
Audit Fees	76,000	80,234	79,000	39,500	37,336	65,000	65,000	0	0.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	29,000	14,500	14,500	29,000	29,000	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	3,750	3,750	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous/Foundation Startup	5,723	6,222	8,838	6,084	3,517	7,000	7,500	500	7.1%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>599,392</b>	<b>674,449</b>	<b>657,494</b>	<b>330,153</b>	<b>369,878</b>	<b>698,520</b>	<b>694,077</b>	<b>(4,443)</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Less: charged to:									
Supply - 10%	54,225	55,681	69,852	42,947	32,656	71,752	69,408	(2,344)	-3.3%
Veterans Services - 10%	46,580	60,991	70,075	35,038	35,876	71,752	69,408	(2,344)	-3.3%
Poppy Services - 20%	93,161	121,981	140,250	70,125	71,752	143,504	138,815	(4,689)	-3.3%
National Legion Foundation	30,000	40,000	40,000	20,000	20,000	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
Canvet	110,000	110,000	110,000	55,000	55,000	110,000	110,000	0	0.0%
	333,966	388,653	430,177	223,110	215,284	437,008	427,631	(9,377)	-2.1%
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>265,426</b>	<b>285,796</b>	<b>227,317</b>	<b>107,043</b>	<b>154,594</b>	<b>261,512</b>	<b>266,446</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>1.9%</b>

Y Deng & new hire



**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Veterans Services**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>REVENUE</b>									
Poppy Fund Grant	1,143,978	1,143,978	1,174,990	587,495	570,112	1,140,224	1,152,415	12,192	1.1%
								0	
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
Salaries	808,188	833,266	917,448	449,253	391,385	926,098	942,060	15,962	1.7%
Retirement Allowance	13,041	16,552	16,845	7,879	7,828	17,808	18,496	688	3.9%
Other Benefits	72,736	71,918	83,857	48,850	45,151	79,064	81,996	2,932	3.7%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>893,965</b>	<b>921,736</b>	<b>1,018,150</b>	<b>505,982</b>	<b>444,364</b>	<b>1,022,970</b>	<b>1,042,552</b>	<b>19,582</b>	<b>1.9%</b>
Office Supplies Expense	5,276	4,214	5,889	3,566	1,062	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Telephone	8,060	5,016	6,009	2,559	2,750	6,750	7,000	250	3.7%
Postage	2,657	2,122	2,170	1,101	1,468	3,400	3,500	100	2.9%
Staff Travel	717	0	70	0	2,113	1,000	4,000	3,000	300.0%
Rent ( Cr to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	22,500	22,500	45,000	45,000	0	0.0%
Service Officers Conference	0	0	16,203	0	39,295	0	0	0	0.0%
Advocacy and Representation	90	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	0.0%
Administrative Support	30,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	4,500	4,500	4,500	2,250	2,250	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Finance Dept Fees/Chargeback	46,580	60,991	70,075	35,038	35,876	71,752	60,991	(10,761)	0.0%
Miscellaneous	821	757	2,802	473	376	1,000	1,500	500	0.5
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>1,037,666</b>	<b>1,074,336</b>	<b>1,200,868</b>	<b>588,469</b>	<b>567,054</b>	<b>1,191,372</b>	<b>1,204,543</b>	<b>13,171</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

For SAV to Provincial Commands

Reduced by \$70K Every 2 years

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Supply Chain Management**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET	VARIANCE	COMMENTS & BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
<b>REVENUE</b>										
Sales of Supplies	3,996,709	3,001,664	2,811,833	900,358	1,136,281	3,250,000	3,500,000	250,000	7.7%	20% up from last year
Less Cost of Goods	1,883,543	1,338,182	1,218,980	400,920	537,938	1,500,000	1,505,000	5,000	0.3%	
<b>GROSS MARGIN</b>	2,113,166	1,663,482	1,592,853	499,438	598,343	1,750,000	1,995,000	245,000	<b>14.0%</b>	
Legion Lager Royalty	10,443	13,841	14,018	4,276	8,263	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%	
Provincial Commands @ 5.0% of Gross Margin	0	106,180	164,277	83,866	30,330	87,500	100,500	13,000	14.9%	1,765,000 88250 606,606 30330.3 2,010,000 100500
<b>EXPENSE</b>										
Salaries	410,626	443,681	533,947	260,929	273,312	573,222	599,733	26,511	4.6%	
Retirement Allowance	8,569	9,604	10,974	5,219	5,466	11,183	11,649	466	4.2%	
Other Benefits	62,943	59,971	64,928	33,202	34,022	57,715	57,141	(574)	-1.0%	
Temporary & Contract Staff	91,848	61,046	3,645	0	0	5,040	13,860	8,820	0.0%	
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	573,986	574,302	613,494	299,350	312,800	647,160	682,383	35,223	<b>5.4%</b>	
Telephone	7,128	4,377	6,244	2,535	2,769	6,000	7,000	1,000	16.7%	
Postage, Express	149,533	170,118	212,308	62,838	63,667	100,000	200,000	100,000	100.0%	cost of postage
Printing, Stationery	1,057	637	743	226	245	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%	
Staff Travel	426	0	0	0	0	1,500	1,000	(500)	-33.3%	cost of travel
Insurance	1,559	1,818	2,091	1,046	1,706	1,900	2,500	600	31.6%	
Rent (CR to Building)	60,000	60,000	60,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%	
Web Store - connectivity	15,045	12,462	15,072	8,841	7,982	16,000	18,000	2,000	12.5%	annual increase
Advertising/Catalogue Distribution	69,767	66,851	68,589	13,227	11,918	70,000	90,000	20,000	28.6%	cost of doing business
Wrapping Material	53,500	57,829	52,034	16,060	27,860	60,000	70,000	10,000	16.7%	cost increases
Finance/Administration Support	54,225	55,681	69,852	42,947	32,656	71,752	69,408	(2,344)	-3.3%	
Office Supplies	5,607	2,004	1,083	754	546	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%	
Computer Network Support	7,000	7,000	7,000	3,500	3,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%	
Miscellaneous	3,160	1,434	637	423	1,634	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%	
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL</b>	<b>1,001,993</b>	<b>1,120,693</b>	<b>1,273,424</b>	<b>565,613</b>	<b>527,613</b>	<b>1,135,312</b>	<b>1,314,291</b>	<b>178,979</b>	<b>15.8%</b>	
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback	(285,844)	(289,446)	(295,235)	(147,618)	(158,970)	(317,939)	(407,430)	(89,491)	28.1%	Inflation rate in Ontario 3.1%
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>716,149</b>	<b>831,247</b>	<b>978,189</b>	<b>417,995</b>	<b>368,643</b>	<b>817,373</b>	<b>906,861</b>	<b>89,488</b>	<b>10.9%</b>	

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Other Program Expenses**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
				2022	2023			\$	%
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET		
<b>RCEL</b>									
Conference	5,000	5,000	5,144	2,500	18,807	0	0	0	0.0%
SCOWP	-	-	0	0	0	1,000	0	(1,000)	100.0%
<b>RCEL TOTAL</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>5,144</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>18,807</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>OTHER</b>									
Request for Support	-	-	2,500	2,500	5,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Annual General Meeting	-	-	0	0	0	2,500	0	(2,500)	100.0%
Legion Representation on Local Boards	98	-	99	28	0	250	100	(150)	-60.0%
Legal & Other	44,677	58,092	87,262	62,723	72,514	50,000	60,000	10,000	20.0%
EDI Assessment	-	-	58,897	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Charitable Foundation Start Up	19,611	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MBP Ads	19,560	35,131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Translation			23,058	12,181	10,283	25,000	25,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>88,946</b>	<b>98,223</b>	<b>176,960</b>	<b>79,932</b>	<b>106,604</b>	<b>93,750</b>	<b>100,100</b>	<b>6,350</b>	<b>6.8%</b>

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Legion House**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>REVENUE</b>									
Rent - Tenants	82,920	82,920	82,920	41,460	41,460	92,920	92,920	0	0.0%
Rent - charged to Departments									
- Corporate Servies	108,000	108,000	108,000	54,000	54,000	108,000	108,000	0	0.0%
- Membership	54,000	54,000	54,000	27,000	27,000	54,000	54,000	0	0.0%
- Marketing	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- Veterans Services	45,000	45,000	45,000	22,500	22,500	45,000	45,000	0	0.0%
- Supply Dept	60,000	60,000	60,000	30,000	30,000	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%
- Finance	29,000	29,000	29,000	14,500	14,500	29,000	29,000	0	0.0%
- IT Section	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- P&R Division	-	-	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- LNF	-	-	5,000	2,500	2,500	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>398,920</b>	<b>398,920</b>	<b>413,920</b>	<b>206,960</b>	<b>206,960</b>	<b>423,920</b>	<b>423,920</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
Salaries	29,902	29,701	30,793	15,136	15,651	31,778	32,969	1,191	3.7%
Retirement Allowance	621	644	633	303	313	618	641	23	3.6%
Other Benefits	5,090	4,915	5,241	2,498	2,591	4,667	5,073	406	8.0%
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL</b>	<b>35,613</b>	<b>35,260</b>	<b>36,667</b>	<b>17,937</b>	<b>18,555</b>	<b>37,063</b>	<b>38,683</b>	<b>1,620</b>	<b>4.4%</b>
Elevator Maintenance	5,001	4,715	4,022	1,787	2,923	7,000	6,000	(1,000)	-14.3%
A/C, Electrical, Plumbing	55,983	23,645	38,794	9,011	27,350	42,000	42,000	0	0.0%
Interior & Exterior	110,204	96,914	75,492	36,518	40,351	92,000	90,000	(2,000)	-2.2%
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	46,458	49,581	50,602	25,312	24,460	52,000	54,733	2,733	5.3%
Fuel	10,961	9,555	18,398	11,539	10,955	15,000	20,000	5,000	33.3%
Light & Power	55,999	44,141	51,429	23,644	15,079	62,000	62,000	0	0.0%
Water and Sewage	6,439	6,989	7,771	3,849	4,215	6,000	7,000	1,000	16.7%
Taxes	59,925	61,626	63,191	63,191	64,556	60,000	66,200	6,200	10.3%
Insurance	4,423	5,160	5,933	2,967	4,949	6,000	6,000	0	0.0%
Reserve Fund	21,321	-	8,438	8,438	0	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%
Other	25	29	29	5,540	28	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>412,352</b>	<b>337,615</b>	<b>360,766</b>	<b>209,733</b>	<b>213,421</b>	<b>479,063</b>	<b>492,616</b>	<b>13,553</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

does not include IT infrastructure refresh

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND  
GENERAL FUNDS**

**Committees & Elected Officers Expense**

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>COMMITTEES</b>									
Veterans, Service and Seniors	4,255	191	13,821	2,527	15,430	24,150	16,850	(7,300)	-30.2%
Poppy & Remembrance	4,191	6,127	15,920	674	1,143	2,950	500	(2,450)	-83.1%
Membership	1,977	3,747	3,087	0	3,216	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Public Relations	82,904	115,689	62,311	32,464	58,129	105,776	80,696	(25,080)	-23.7%
RCEL	767	1,249	14,023	23	58	400	400	0	0.0%
Sports	(974)	(6,773)	236,045	49,549	74,750	399,905	354,938	(44,967)	-11.2%
Ritual & Awards	370	763	24,625	548	96	270	270	0	0.0%
Convention Committee	1,596	5,357	0	0	0	100	10,500	10,400	10400.0%
Constitution & Laws	569	537	1,138	717	699	1,200	1,350	150	12.5%
Defence & Security	16,955	14,867	1,885	484	11,683	13,030	12,730	(300)	-2.3%
Veterans Consultation	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	2,000	1,200	(800)	-40.0%
(FOF) Going Forward	0	5,733	693	0	3,624	6,100	750	(5,350)	-87.7%
Centenary Committee	0	0	5,916	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
<b>COMMITTEE TOTAL</b>	<b>112,610</b>	<b>147,487</b>	<b>380,464</b>	<b>87,986</b>	<b>168,828</b>	<b>558,881</b>	<b>483,184</b>	<b>(75,697)</b>	<b>-13.5%</b>
Elected Officers	13,381	49,140	83,556	36,173	37,362	96,500	85,500	(11,000)	-11.4%
DEC/Senior Elected Officers	2,948	41,622	85,298	36,466	82,282	67,200	92,200	25,000	37.2%
Dominion Convention	(1,648)	176,953	8,032	2,267	4,665	13,000	199,500	186,500	1434.6%
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>14,681</b>	<b>267,715</b>	<b>176,886</b>	<b>74,906</b>	<b>124,309</b>	<b>176,700</b>	<b>377,200</b>	<b>200,500</b>	<b>113.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>127,291</b>	<b>415,202</b>	<b>557,350</b>	<b>162,892</b>	<b>293,137</b>	<b>735,581</b>	<b>860,384</b>	<b>124,803</b>	<b>17.0%</b>

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIOIN-DOMINION COMMAND

Veterans, Service & Seniors

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>		
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	
Travel	1,776	0	71	0	283	0	200	200	0.0%	Travel for VSS related meetings (Homeless, ACVA)
Per Diem	0	0	801	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
CIMVHR Forum	0	0	12,603	2,243	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%	To incorporate PHd and SPEC event)
Printing, Stationery	0	0	0	0	134	1,500	500	(1,000)	-66.7%	
Telephone & Fax	284	50	0	0	0	200	200	0	0.0%	
Postage	107	125	217	155	13	450	450	0	0.0%	
Business Transformation Initiatives	0	0	0	0	0	1,500	0	(1,500)	-100.0%	
Homeless Veterans Summit	1,460	0	0	0	0	5,000	0	(5,000)	-100.0%	Reduced by 2K: Not Planned for 2024
Miscellaneous	628	15	130	129	0	500	500	0	0.0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,255</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>13,822</b>	<b>2,527</b>	<b>15,430</b>	<b>24,150</b>	<b>16,850</b>	<b>(7,300)</b>	<b>-30.2%</b>	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Poppy & Remembrance Committee

			Jun	Jun			BUDGET		
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	VARIANCE	
	ACTUA	ACTUA	ACTUA	ACTUA	ACTUA	BUDGE	BUDGE		
	L	L	L	L	L	T	T	\$ %	
<b><u>COMMITTEE</u></b>									
Miscellaneous	0	0	197	197	44	500	500	0	0.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,156</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b><u>NATIONAL CEREMONIES</u></b>									
Travel			5,248	309	67	0	5,500	5,500	100.0%
Per Diem	990	2,743	1,490	52	0	0	8,500	8,500	100.0%
Printing, Stationery	(2,141)	1,811	529	0	0	500	600	600	120.0%
Telephone, Postage	0	226	346	1	0	500	500	500	100.0%
Meeting, Planning	8	0	0	0	0	200	500		0.0%
St. John's Ambulance	0	9	0	0	0	500	500	0	0.0%
Ceremonies Operations	174	500	3,591	0	0	1,000	3,700	2,700	270.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(969)</b>	<b>5,289</b>	<b>11,204</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>3,200</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>17,100</b>	<b>534.4%</b>
Remembrance Reception	0	0	22,623	0	0	12,000	12,600	600	5.0%
Silver Cross Mother	280	10,259	6,750	0	0	5,000	6,700	1,700	34.0%
Cadet of the Year	5,692	6,205	15,210	3,639	0	8,000	17,000	9,000	112.5%
Total - Poppy Fund	5,972	16,464	44,583	3,639	0	25,000	36,300	11,300	45.2%
Total - General Fund	(969)	5,289	11,204	362	67	3,200	20,300	17,100	534.4%
Total - National Remembrance Ceremony			60,504	4,313	1,143	50,450	56,600	6,150	12.2%

Not showing in summary

Buses were previously provided by CAF, staff mileage is also included here  
 Staff accommodations were previously coded to Remembrance Reception - this GL now includes staff accommodations and per diem  
 Lamination of passes  
 Postage to send out passes to Embassies, VIPs, Veterans' Groups, etc.  
 Expenses specifically related to planning meetings  
 Photographer, supply items, etc.

Estimated based on 2022 actuals  
 Estimated based on 2022 actuals

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>COMMITTEE</b>									
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing and Office	0	1,528	0	0	0	400	400	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	316	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	25	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0%
	341	1,556	0	0	0	500	500	0	0%
<b>PRINTING &amp; STATIONERY</b>									
Membership Forms	344	958	1,496	0	1,531	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Early Bird Stickers	1,291	1,233	1,591	0	1,685	1,500	1,500	0	0%
	1,635	2,191	3,087	0	3,216	2,500	2,500	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,977</b>	<b>3,747</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

PUBLIC RELATIONS

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>COMMITTEE</b>									
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing, Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	100	100	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	0%
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	0	32	113	0	0	100	100	0	0%
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

**PR SECTION**

**External**

Media Monitoring	37,030	38,634	39,173	19,528	19,350	50,000	40,000	(10,000)	-20%	Reduced by \$10K
Media Distribution	6,540	5,280	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Specialist Consulting	0	0	3,720	0	0	7,000	3,500	(3,500)	-50%	Reduced by 3500
National Memorial Ride	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
National Memorial Ride Donations	44,783	81,742	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Partnership/Event PR Support			26,045	12,936	32,684	50,000	40,000	(10,000)	-20%	Reduced by \$10K

**Training/Liaison**

- Per Diem	3,021	0	2,330	0	369	2,500	2,500	0	0%	
- Travel	1,522	0	930	0	7,869	5,000	5,000	0	0%	
- PR Training			0	0	5,069	5,000	0	(5,000)	-100%	Every 2 years
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>92,896</b>	<b>125,656</b>	<b>72,198</b>	<b>32,464</b>	<b>65,341</b>	<b>119,500</b>	<b>91,000</b>	<b>(28,500)</b>	<b>-24%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92,904</b>	<b>125,689</b>	<b>72,311</b>	<b>32,464</b>	<b>65,341</b>	<b>120,200</b>	<b>91,700</b>	<b>(28,500)</b>	<b>-24%</b>	
<b>Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback/Grant @12%</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(10,000)</b>	<b>(910)</b>	<b>(7,212)</b>	<b>(14,424)</b>	<b>(11,004)</b>	<b>3,420</b>	<b>-24%</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>82,904</b>	<b>115,689</b>	<b>62,311</b>	<b>31,554</b>	<b>58,129</b>	<b>105,776</b>	<b>80,696</b>	<b>(25,080)</b>	<b>-24%</b>	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

RCEL COMMITTEE

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<b>Meetings:</b>									
<u>Committee</u>									
Expenses	767	1,249	14,023	23	58	400	400	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>14,023</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

NOTE: The 2022 travel and per diem expenses to be charged to RCEL rather than RCEL Committee

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

SPORTS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE	2020		2021		2022		2023		2024		BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
Travel	-	-	571	495	3,477	1,000	1,000			0	0%	
Per Diem	-	-	1,112	652	0	1,000	1,000			0	0%	
<b>T &amp; F - LAC</b>												
- Spring Site Visit	663	-	7,092	7,092	3,599	7,500	10,500			3,000	40%	
- Fall Site Visit	-	3,128	0	0	0	5,000	0			(5,000)	-100%	
Printing, Stationery	51	-	216	67	0	500	500			0	0%	
Telephone & Fax	82	-	0	0	0	100	100			0	0%	
Postage	11	132	0	0	637	450	1,000			550	122%	
Miscellaneous	565	565	1,009	1,009	966	1,565	1,565			0	0%	
<b>TOTAL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>3,825</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>9,315</b>	<b>8,679</b>	<b>17,115</b>	<b>15,665</b>			<b>(1,450)</b>	<b>-8%</b>	

The 2024 Legion Nationals is being hosted in Calgary, AB. Therefore, the Spring Site Visit will require flights for all participants (from central Canada to Calgary, AB).

There will be no Fall site visit in 2024 as that will be the second year for Calgary, AB hosting the event. We do not conduct a fall site visit during the second year.

**DARTS**

Travel											
- Participants	-	-	0	0	9,268	25,100	25,200			100	0.4%
- Committee	909	-	0	0	1,681	2,640	2,640			0	0%
Awards & Prizes-participants	800	-	0	0	946	1,430	1,430			0	0%
Advance to Host Branch	1,500	-	0	0	1,200	800	1,200			400	50%
Ground Transportation	3,209	-	0	0	2,100	1,500	2,100			600	40%
<b>TOTAL DARTS</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,195</b>	<b>31,470</b>	<b>32,570</b>			<b>1,100</b>	<b>3%</b>

Based on flights for 9 teams (4 per team) up to 700 per person. Flights costs have gone up significantly and are too unpredictable to budget for what they costs currently. Budget must be based on what Sports Committee has authorized.

Host grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

Grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

**CRIBBAGE**

Travel											
- Participants	10,412	(10,174)	0	0	19,521	24,500	25,200			700	3%
- Committee	-	-	0	0	1,453	2,200	2,200			0	0%
Awards & Prizes	909	-	0	0	946	1,430	1,430			0	0%
Advance to Host Branch	-	-	0	0	1,200	800	1,200			400	50%
Ground Transportation	-	-	0	0	2,100	1,500	2,100			600	40%
<b>TOTAL CRIBBAGE</b>	<b>11,321</b>	<b>(10,174)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,220</b>	<b>30,430</b>	<b>32,130</b>			<b>1,700</b>	<b>93%</b>

Based on flights for 9 teams (4 per team) up to 700 per person. Flights costs have gone up significantly and are too unpredictable to budget for what they costs currently. Budget must be based on what Sports Committee has authorized.

Host grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

Grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

**EIGHT BALL**

Travel											
- Participants	1,013	-	0	0	18,982	21,700	25,200			3,500	16%
- Committee	-	-	0	0	1,819	2,310	2,310			0	0%
Awards & Prizes	909	-	0	0	946	1,430	1,430			0	0%
Advance to Host Branch	800	-	0	0	1,200	800	1,200			400	50%
Ground Transportation	1,500	-	0	0	2,100	1,500	2,100			600	40%
<b>TOTAL EIGHT BALL</b>	<b>4,222</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,047</b>	<b>27,740</b>	<b>32,240</b>			<b>4,500</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS</b>	<b>18,753</b>	<b>(10,174)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>65,461</b>	<b>89,640</b>	<b>64,700</b>			<b>(24,940)</b>	<b>-28%</b>
<b>TOTAL T &amp; F</b>	<b>(21,099)</b>	<b>(423)</b>	<b>226,045</b>	<b>40,234</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>293,150</b>	<b>242,333</b>			<b>(50,817)</b>	<b>-17%</b>
<b>TOTAL SPORTS &amp; COMMITTEE</b>	<b>(974)</b>	<b>(6,773)</b>	<b>236,045</b>	<b>49,549</b>	<b>74,750</b>	<b>399,905</b>	<b>354,938</b>			<b>(44,967)</b>	<b>-11%</b>

With tournament in Goose Bay (a remote location) all teams will be provided the 700 subsidy

Host grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

Grant was approved for increase in 2023 by the Sports Committee to help the host branches with increase costs due to inflation. Additionally, the last increase was in 2011

Budget has increased by 7300  
Budget has decreased by 15,817

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD

			Jun	Jun				BUDGET VARIANCE	
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	\$	%
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET		
Transportation	4,000	0	175,280	56,985	19,558	215,000	215,000	0	0%
Accommodations, Meals	0	0	179,848	0	0	257,450	234,433	(23,017)	-9%
Committee - Travel	0	0	5,061	38	0	5,200	6,500	1,300	25%
Committee - Per Diem	0	0	19,655	0	0	23,000	18,000	(5,000)	-22%
Local Committee	299	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Kits / Supplies / Medals	6,508	0	7,949	6,156	18,489	12,500	22,400	9,900	79%
Buses	0	0	15,472	0	0	17,500	17,500	0	0%
Honoraria	500	0	3,000	2,000	2,500	3,000	3,000	0	0%
Reception	0	0	1,500	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	0%
Athletic Facilities	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Equipment / Mtg Rooms	0	0	1,000	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0%
Clinicians	0	0	500	0	0	1,000	500	(500)	-50%
Officials	0	0	1,025	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	0%
Freight & Express	768	77	626	54	62	1,000	2,000	1,000	100%
Miscellaneous	0	0	720	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>12,075</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>412,636</b>	<b>65,233</b>	<b>40,609</b>	<b>543,150</b>	<b>526,833</b>	<b>(16,317)</b>	<b>-3%</b>
Less Prov Cmd Portion	(38,175)	0	(115,685)	0	0	(100,000)	(130,000)	(30,000)	30%
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>(26,099)</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>296,951</b>	<b>65,234</b>	<b>40,609</b>	<b>443,150</b>	<b>397,333</b>	<b>(45,817)</b>	<b>-10%</b>
<b>RECOVERIES</b>									
Registration - Non Legion									
Athletes	0	0	(36,910)	0	0	(25,000)	(30,000)	(5,000)	20%
Sponsorships	5,000	0	(40,000)	(20,000)	(40,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	0	0%
Grant-VAC	0	0	(5,000)	(5,000)	0	(5,000)	(5,000)	0	100%
Other & Centanial		(500)	0	0	0	(100,000)	(100,000)	0	0%
<b>Total Recoveries</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>(500)</b>	<b>(81,910)</b>	<b>(25,000)</b>	<b>(40,000)</b>	<b>(150,000)</b>	<b>(155,000)</b>	<b>(5,000)</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>NET EXPENSE</b>	<b>(21,099)</b>	<b>(423)</b>	<b>215,041</b>	<b>40,234</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>293,150</b>	<b>242,333</b>	<b>(50,817)</b>	<b>-17%</b>

Accommodations are \$33 a night/per person (including tax) for 2024 (in 2023 we budgeted for \$49 per person per night plus tax). Food is more expensive but the accommodations more than make up for it. We are travelling to Calgary Alberta. All participants require a flight (in 2023 we were in Sherbrooke which was a relatively short drive). Room costs in Calgary for 2024 are cheaper as the rooms are in the University hotel).

Costs for supplies have gone up significantly - these numbers are based on costs for 2023. Plus, Athletics Canada no longer supplies volunteer/security shirts, or the branding on other shirts.

We will be shipping 4 - 5 large skids across Canada

THE ROYAL CANADAIN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

RITUAL & AWARDS

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing, Stationery	11	0	0	0	0	120	120	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	23	0	0	0	0	150	150	0	0%
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<u>Publications</u>									
RAP Manual Amendments & Trasnlation	337	763	548	548	96	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

CONSTITUTIONS & LAWS COMMITTEE

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	52	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing, Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	35	4	0	0	0	100	50	(50)	-50%
Postage	78	44	1	1	269	100	300	200	200%
<u>Publications</u>									
- Revision to On-Line Manuals	370	489	1,137	716	430	1,000	1,000	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>537</b>	<b>1,138</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>13%</b>

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

			Jun		Jun		BUDGET VARIANCE		
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	165	0	120	85	260	200	200	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing, Postage, Telephone & Fax	222	290	141	136	109	480	480	0	0%
Miscellaneous	368	0	9	8	3,202	300	0	(300)	-100%
Annual Vimy Award & AGM	0	5,400	150	150	575	6,000	6,000	0	0%
Conference of Defence Association Fee & CIC Fee	3,995	0	0	0	6,000	4,000	4,000	0	0%
Comradeship Awards	166	3,481	1,465	104	1,536	1,000	2,000	1,000	100%
<u>CF Sponsorships</u>									
- Nijmegen	12,000	5,650	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>16,956</b>	<b>14,867</b>	<b>1,885</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>11,682</b>	<b>12,030</b>	<b>12,730</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>6%</b>

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

VETERANS CONSULTATION

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	2022	2023	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	0	101	101	0	1,000	200	(800)	-80%
Per Diem	0	0	274	274	0	500	250	(250)	-50%
Printing & Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	625	625	0	500	750	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>(800)</b>	<b>-40%</b>

Lunch for all attendees, no cost recovery



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

(FOF) Going Forward Committee

	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	2,833	265	0	2,022	4,000	500	(3,500)	-88%
Per Diem	0	2,900	428	0	1,602	2,100	250	(1,850)	-88%
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,733</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,624</b>	<b>6,100</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>(5,350)</b>	<b>-88%</b>

Members are SEOs (one Advisor not). Any in-person meeting to be held with SEO/DEC meetings  
Per diem covered by SEO/DEC budget

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

ELECTED OFFICERS & DOMINION PRESIDENT

	2020	2021	2022	Jun	Jun	2023	2024	BUDGET VARIANCE		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
<b>ELECTED OFFICERS:</b>										
Travel	0	0	0	0	968	8,000	1,500	(6,500)	-81%	
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	821	3,000	1,000	(2,000)	-67%	
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Miscellaneous	0	2,587	1,305	73	0	500	500	0	0%	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,587</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>11,500</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>(8,500)</b>	<b>-74%</b>	
<b>DOMINION PRESIDENT:</b>										
Travel	5,491	19,807	23,115	14,510	18,981	45,000	45,000	0	0%	
Per Diem	4,896	5,765	24,701	13,740	9,809	24,500	25,000	500	2%	
Hospitality	388	3,559	9,341	380	370	5,000	5,000	0	0%	
Telephone & Postage	898	942	1,607	899	1,205	2,500	2,500	0	0%	
Miscellaneous	1,708	9,448	5,083	53	106	5,000	5,000	0	0%	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>13,381</b>	<b>39,521</b>	<b>63,847</b>	<b>29,582</b>	<b>30,471</b>	<b>82,000</b>	<b>82,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1%</b>	
<b>PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS:</b>										
Travel	0	3,466	8,737	3,562	2,324	2,000	0	(2,000)	-100%	8 in 2024
Per Diem	0	3,565	9,666	2,956	2,779	1,000	0	(1,000)	-100%	8 in 2024
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7,031</b>	<b>18,403</b>	<b>6,518</b>	<b>5,103</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,000)</b>	<b>-100%</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,381</b>	<b>49,139</b>	<b>83,555</b>	<b>36,173</b>	<b>37,363</b>	<b>96,500</b>	<b>85,500</b>	<b>(11,000)</b>	<b>-11%</b>	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

			Jun				BUDGET			
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	VARIANCE		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
<b>D.E.C. MEETINGS:</b>										
Travel	382	12,928	34,551	15,847	26,582	35,000	35,000	0	0%	To reflect actual cost for in-person meetings
Per Diem	326	12,558	36,600	17,206	47,312	25,000	45,000	20,000	80%	
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Telephone, Fax & Postage	0	681	51	0	14	100	100	0	0%	
Miscellaneous	1,890	4,142	8,214	1,112	7,564	3,000	8,000	5,000	167%	Includes Dom Pres and LHQ receptions
<b>SUB-TOTAL D.E.C. MEETINGS</b>	<b>2,598</b>	<b>30,309</b>	<b>79,416</b>	<b>34,165</b>	<b>81,472</b>	<b>63,100</b>	<b>88,100</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>40%</b>	
<b>SENIOR ELECTED OFFICERS MEETINGS:</b>										
Travel	0	7,910	4,222	821	203	6,000	6,000	0	0%	
Per Diem	0	4,904	7,361	1,396	608	4,000	4,000	0	0%	
Telephone, Fax & Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Miscellaneous	349	0	298	84	0	100	100	0	0%	
	349	12,814	11,881	2,301	811	10,100	10,100	0	0%	
LESS:										
Canvet Board and Shareholders Meetings	0	(1,500)	(6,000)	0	0	(6,000)	(6,000)	0	0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>41,622</b>	<b>85,298</b>	<b>36,466</b>	<b>82,282</b>	<b>67,200</b>	<b>92,200</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>37%</b>	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Dominion Convention

			Jun		Jun				BUDGET	
	2020	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	2024	VARIANCE		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
DEC										
Travel	0	4,235	0	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	0%	
Per Diem	0	2,793	0	0	0	0	65,000	65,000	0%	
Staff										
Travel	626	1,103	2,182	797	2,337	0	25,000	25,000	0%	
Per Diem	0	0	2,765	1,098	0	0	65,000	65,000	0%	
Past President										
Travel	0	2,687	0	0	0	0	7,500	7,500	0%	
Per Diem	0	455	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	0%	
DC Zone Commanders										
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0%	
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	0%	
Other										
Travel	1,583	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0%	
Entertainment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
Credentials	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	0%	
Printing & Design										
Convention Reports	3,972	8,059	2,384	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	0%	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	0%	
Translation & Interpretation	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,000			
Postage	3,060	218	18	0	0	0	20,000	20,000	0%	
Freight	0	0	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000	0%	
Social Activities										
President Reception	0	186	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	0%	
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0%	
Convention Centre	0	32,298	0	0	0	5,000	60,000	55,000	100%	
Convention Operation	0	50,889	373	373	(672)	5,000	200,000	195,000	100%	
Transportation	0	(1,774)	0	0	0	0	0			
Ceremonies	0	678	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0%	
Local Arrangements Committee	0	0	310	0	3,000	3,000	0	(3,000)	100%	
Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	
	9,241	101,827	8,032	2,268	4,665	13,000	549,500	536,500	100%	
Revenue	10,888	3,051	0	0	0	0	(5,000)	(5,000)	0%	
Delegate Fees	0	26,822	0	0	0	0	(75,000)	(75,000)	0%	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>75,004</b>	<b>8,032</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>469,500</b>	<b>456,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	
Provision	0	105,000	0	0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)	0%	
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>180,004</b>	<b>8,032</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>269,500</b>	<b>256,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	
Recoveries	0	0	0	0	0	0	(70,000)			
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,240</b>	<b>180,004</b>	<b>8,032</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>199,500</b>	<b>186,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE (FROM 15A)</b>	<b>1,596</b>	<b>5,357</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>10400%</b>	
<b>TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE</b>	<b>10,836</b>	<b>185,362</b>	<b>8,032</b>	<b>2,267</b>	<b>4,665</b>	<b>13,100</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>196,900</b>	<b>1503%</b>	

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND**

**Convention Committee**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>BUDGET VARIANCE</b>	
	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>%</b>
Travel	827	0	0	0	0	0	8,000	8,000	0%
Per Diem	416	0	0	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	0%
Printing, Stationery	150	2,659	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Postage	202	2,698	0	0	0	100	0	(100)	-100%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,595</b>	<b>5,357</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>10,500</b>	<b>10,400</b>	<b>10400%</b>

**Event Attendance Report**  
Bruce Julian Dominion President

**Meeting with Veterans Affairs Staff** January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Travelled to Ottawa and met with Veterans Affairs Senior Staff at their offices to discuss areas of concern of the Royal Canadian Legion. In attendance were Steven, Carolyn and myself. A good “frank” meeting with positive interaction was held.

**Meeting with the Official Opposition Defense Critic** January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

Travelled to Ottawa to meet with Blake Richards and his staff at Legion House. It was a productive meeting but probably more of a “get to know you” session. I was concerned that they were more interested in embarrassing the “department” or government than helping veterans... that’s possibly a little harsh, but that’s the way it came across.

**Interviews and Selection of new Director of Corporate Services** February 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Travelled to Legion House to conduct interviews and deliberations on the appointment of a new Director of Corporate Services... **Congratulations Randy.**

**Runup Events and DEC** April 21<sup>st</sup>, - May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

A series of events and meetings preceded a very successful DEC, attended by the PED’s. Along with the usual discussions, reports, and protocols those attending were hosted by the National War Museum to an enjoyable tour.

**Royal British Legion & Royal British Legion (Scotland) Conventions** May 17<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2023

I attended both conventions. The RBL was held in Torquay in South-west England . The RBL (Scotland) was held in Perth Scotland. Many of the issues and problems discussed were similar to what would have been heard at a Royal Canadian Legion Dominion or Provincial Convention i.e. membership, modernization, electronic processes, veterans issues and governance. However, in discussion with our counterparts we found that the RCL was already moving forward on many of these initiatives while they were still at the beginning of these processes. We heard that their dependency on non-electronic means of conducting “processes” had caused great difficulties during the pandemic and lockdown periods and there was great interest in our experiences. There are significant differences between the RBL and RCL particularly in governance and mission. The RBL is foremost a charity and is governed under specific rules for British Charities and their governing body is a Board of Trustees not the membership. Also, the number of “branches” has declined significantly in number and importance. All in all, an excellent informative visit, both Chairpersons indicated their intent to attend our next convention.

**RCAF 100<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Ball** June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Attended this commemorative event at the Infinity Centre in Ottawa.

**Vancouver British Columbia** June 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Along with Steven, we visited the BC/Yukon Command Office, Legion Veterans Village and Honour House. It was an outstanding and informative visit to all locations.

**Legion Nationals, Sherbrooke QC** August 9<sup>TH</sup>-15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

This was an incredible, well-organized, well-run event...local participation was excellent, the athletes level of competition was of the highest level and their sportsmanship was outstanding. Everywhere I

went I and the RCL were thanked for our sponsorship. The commemorative events were well attended and appreciated.

Anyone who has doubts about the value of this programme to both the Royal Canadian Legion and our youth need only attend a Legion Nationals and they will be convinced of its worth.

#### **American Legion Convention** August 24<sup>th</sup> -Sept.1<sup>st</sup> , 2023

Representing the Royal Canadian Legion, I attended the American Legion Convention in Charlotte North Carolina. I attended several of their events, the ANAVICTUS breakfast, their Memorial Service as well as the regular sessions of the convention.

There are several procedural differences in the way that they manage their convention business, probably because of size and numbers or maybe tradition. It seemed most business and decisions were handled within their various committee's and the "general floor" simply approved the committee recommendations (no discussion, simply moved, seconded...and approved).

I was approached many times by American Legionnaires and U.S. Military personnel thanking Canada and Canadians for our past and continued contribution to our mutual defense.

Again, I think it important that we continue to attend this event... our non-attendance would be noticed and missed, and our own national standing would be diminished. However, it may be advisable that our attendance could be altered in the future. With our Dominion Convention change to late August of even numbered years this schedule conflicts directly with the American Legion Convention. I would suggest that in future we only attend in "off" Dominion Convention years.

#### **Finance, Budget, and Investment Committee Meetings**. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Various committee meetings along with financial, investment and budget discussions at Legion House

#### **Interviews and selection for the Director of the Poppy & Remembrance Division** Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>

Interviews were held and a new Director of the Poppy and Remembrance Division was selected.

#### **Congratulations Lia**

#### **Veterans Consultation Assembly** October 14<sup>th</sup> , 2023

At Legion House a meeting of a number of Veterans Organizations on common issues and concerns...our position as the leading veterans organization and spokesperson for all is well respected.

#### **CIMVHR Forum** October 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> , 2023.

I attended the CIMVHR forum in Gatineau QC. CIMVHR stands for the "**Canadian Institute for Military and Veterans Health Research**" and is supported both financially and conceptually by the Royal Canadian Legion. The forum was well attended by Researchers, Clinicians, Physicians, Psychiatrists, Psychologists and Technicians, both military and civilian and those organizations such as the Royal Canadian Legion who support their "evidence based" research.

I had the honour of announcing this year's Legions \$30,000.00 "Master Scholarship" recipient, Ms. Kathryn Reeves. from Mount Saint Vincent University in Nova Scotia. Her study will involve Veterans and their families who have suffered "moral injury". A "moral injury" occurs in a military member when they are required to commit, or fail to prevent, incidents which violate their own personally held beliefs or moral values. I have no doubt of the immense value of this "evidence based" research to our military along with all the other statistical studies and research being done on veteran's issues.

I also had the privilege of introducing the Legions new \$50,000 PHD. Scholarship beginning in 2024. The Royal Canadian Legion was mentioned and thanked on numerous occasions for its ongoing support of CIMVHR and its financial support of “evidence-based research” through our Master Scholarship Programme and our newly announced PHD Scholarship.

I believe it is essential to continue our presence at the annual CIMVHR forum “True Patriot Love” is there “Wounded Warriors” is there “Soldier On” is there and the Royal Canadian Legion should be there.

**Presentation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Poppy**

October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

I along with Comrades Larry and Steven and other Legion representatives attended Rideau Hall for the presentation of the “First Poppy” to Her Excellency Governor General Mary Simon. Present were a number of Veteran residents from Pearly Rideau Health Centre. It was a wonderful ceremony full of pageantry and commemorative symbolism.

**Run up to Remembrance Day Itinerary**

**24<sup>th</sup> Ceremony of Remembrance at the Senate Chambers** Nov. 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

I along with Steven attended the Remembrance Ceremony in the Senate Chambers

**Remembrance Dinner Br. 192 Carleton Place**

Nov. 05<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The 5<sup>th</sup> was actually scheduled as a free day, but I attended this event at the invitation of the Branches Remembrance Activities Chairman.

**City of Ottawa Commemorative Street Naming**

Nov. 06, 2023- 11 AM

**Taping of Remembrance Message for Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines**

Nov. 06, 2023- 2 PM

**VAC Candlelight Tribute**

Nov. 06, 2023- 7 PM

Attended the National War Museum for the Candlelight Ceremony.

**Attended unveiling of Indigenous Portraits**

Nov. 07, 2023- 5 PM

Macdonald Building

**VAC-National Indigenous Veterans Day**

Nov. 08, 2023- 11 AM

Attended at National Indigenous Veterans Monument.

**National Arts Centre**

Nov. 08, 2023- 12 PM

Last Post Fund Indigenous Veterans Initiative **Finding Unmarked Graves**

**Lunch with Silver Cross Mother**

Nov. 09, 2023- 12 PM

Attending, SCM Mrs. Gloria Hooper and daughter Ashley, Steven and Donna Clark, Charls Glendron and Kim Reynolds, Nicole, Steve, Lia, and myself

**Vimy Gala**

Nov. 09, 2023- 5 PM



**November 10<sup>th</sup>**

Met SCM, Poster & Literary Contest winners and Cadet Corps Outstanding Cadets 8 AM

**And together we,**

Tour the House of Commons-The Speakers Office-The Room of Remembrance 8:10  
Tour of the Senate, hosted by Greg Peters, Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod 9:30  
Attend rehearsal at the National War Memorial 10:30  
Attend the National Silver Cross Mothers Luncheon at the Chateau Laurier 12:30 hosted  
by the Dominion President along with the presentation of awards to the Senior Poster and Literary  
Contest winners, the Outstanding Cadets.  
Arrive at the National War Museum for presentations/museum tour 3:00  
Return to Chateau Laurier (end of the days youth activities) 5:30

**Remembrance Day**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Spoke at Operation Remembrance along with the Minister of Veterans Affairs 8:30 AM organized  
by Dr Paul Cavanaugh with approximately 250 students in attendance.  
Left for National War Memorial and the day's activities 9:45 AM  
Silver Cross Mothers Luncheon at Rideau Hall with Her Excellency Governor 12:30 PM General  
Mary Simon, CDS General Wayne Eyre, National Silver Cross Mother Gloria Hooper and her  
daughter Ashley, our Poster & Literary Contest winners, the Outstanding Cadets, the Sentry  
Programme participants and all their families. Along with CAF, Legion members, and other invited  
guests

Dear Comrades,

I had the privilege and fun of representing the Dominion President at the Air Cadet League AGM/Awards Dinner held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in Halifax this weekend.

It was an excellent event following what was a busy and highly productive two day AGM in the view of the Air Cadet League participants.

The Guest of Honour for the Dinner was the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, His Honour Arthur J. Leblanc, himself a former Air Cadet who spoke very highly of the Cadet Program, including his own personal experience. He also mentioned the Legion in very positive terms.

The Guest Speaker was Captain Mary Cameron-Kelly, a former Air Cadet and the first female Aurora crew commander in the history of the RCAF. She gave a very informal, humorous and outstanding outline of her career in the Air Force starting as a young technician more than 30 years ago.

I was well received and many folks commented on the exceptional and critical support of the Legion across the country to the success of the Air Cadet. program.

Although the dress was formal mess dress or tuxedo or female equivalent, with medals, I decided to wear normal Legion dress with medals to ensure that our presence was visibly evident. I was really glad that I did that because a number of people spoke to me simply because they could recognize that I was in the Legion.

I was not scheduled to speak but requested to have the opportunity to do so at some point to pass on greetings but much more importantly to ensure that they were aware of the very high priority that the Legion, at all levels, assigns to the Cadet Program and to pass on the gratitude of the Royal Canadian Legion to the CAF and the Air Cadet League and in particular to all the highly dedicated volunteers of the League who ensure that the Cadet program remains the best youth development program in Canada. I was given the opportunity to speak just prior to the beginning of the awards presentations and my remarks were well received. A bit later the Lieutenant Governor quietly thanked me and the Legion for our essential support of Cadets.

As an aside, I believe that the importance of the Cadet Program and the Legion's support of it throughout our almost 100 year history is something we need to ensure is highlighted in our Centenary activities.....and that may already be 'the plan'.

Overall it was a very enjoyable evening and I much appreciate having had the opportunity to represent Comrade Bruce at this important and worthwhile annual event.

All the very best,  
Larry

## **REPORT on NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT CONVENTION**

Thank you to Comrade Bruce for the opportunity to represent Dominion Command at the Nova Scotia/Nunavut Provincial Convention, held in Sydney, Cape Breton, from May 19 to 22, 2023.

Bill and I travelled to Sydney. We were greeted upon arrival at the Hampton Inn by President Donna, after a round of hugs and introduction to Executive Director Valerie Mitchell-Veinotte, we went to the Convention location at Branch 138. It was a delightful surprise to see Past NS/NU President Comrade Mel Crowe, looking well, and get more big hugs! As well, we were introduced and welcomed by the Branch President Lowell Crowe (Mel's brother) and the Executive of Ashby Branch 138.

Whitney Pier Branch 128 was host to the convention, however, due to water damage sustained to the interior of their building during Hurricane Fiona, they were unable to hold it on site. Congratulations were extended to Ashby Branch 138 for stepping in to provide a venue, permitting the convention to go forward as scheduled.

Friday, we delivered pamphlets and pins to the branch, checked out the convention set up, and took a drive to Whitney Branch to see the damage. Upon return to the hotel, NB President Darryl and Executive Director Jack had arrived, and off we went to the 'Meet and Greet'.

Saturday morning, at their Provincial Executive Council meeting, I brought greetings, from our President Bruce Julian, the Senior Elected Officers and Staff of Dominion Command. Registration and training sessions were held at the branch. Later Saturday afternoon, the PEI contingent arrived, IPP Duane and wife Anne, President Jack and wife Pat, and PEI Executive Director Brenda and husband. The Provincial guests had been recruited as scrutineers for the election.

Several draws and raffles were conducted over the weekend, we all bought tickets but none of us won! Mark Fenety was on hand, promoting the NS/NU Military Service Recognition Book, with his basket of chocolates and Walmart gift cards. Didn't win them either!

Sunday morning at 8:40, under cloudy skies, we marched off for the Wreath laying at the Cenotaph. Comrade Daniel Keogh, at 91, Whitney Pier's eldest Veteran took the salute. The sky was ominous, however, Mother Nature held her water, thankfully, until we were back inside! Lunch was followed by opening ceremonies.

After best wishes for a successful convention were delivered by local dignitaries, President Donna extended a welcome to all guests and Delegates, and introduced Comrade Daniel to declare the convention officially open. I was introduced as the Dominion Rep, and again brought greetings.

The Chairs had agreed to hi-lite their reports. The Provincial Service Officers delivered their report from Halifax via Zoom. The first call for nominations was made, followed by my report, which comprised an update on happenings in Ottawa, outcomes of DEC and

an appeal on behalf of the RCEL, which brought in donations totaling \$8,444.55. The convention then recessed, districts went into their caucus groups for discussion and decisions.

Sunday evening was the President's Reception at Ashby Branch, finger food with Karaoke, a fun evening with several Rita McNeil and Anne Murray wannabes.

The convention reconvened Monday morning, with more reports and return of non-concurred resolutions. A couple of contentious issues, early in the day, involved standing votes to determine the outcome. The debates were interesting. The concerns of Delegates are shared by all. Delegates conducted themselves well throughout the convention, with Chair Comrade Tom in control. Cudos to Comrade Marion Fryday-Cook for delivering an excellent OP Harmony update.

Throughout the convention weekend, memories were shared and best wishes extended to retiring Executive Director Valerie Mitchell-Vienotte. A standing ovation was given following delivery of her Final credentials report. There were 135 Accredited Delegates, carrying 100 proxies for a total voting capacity of 235 of potential 286, 6 guests and an impressive 18 observers, which said, there are members in NS/NU Command wanting to learn and experience Legion.

Nominations closed. No positions were contested. Comrade Donna declined to stand for President. In the tradition of NS/NU Command, a ballot must be cast. I invited Immediate Past President Comrade Marion to cast the ballot for President electing Comrade Don McCumber; incoming IPP Comrade Donna to cast the ballot for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President electing Comrade George Della-Valle; Past President Comrade Mel cast the ballot for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice electing Comrade Harry Jackson; Past President Comrade Steve Wessel voted for Treasurer electing Comrade Conrad Gilbert; and, Past President Comrade Ron Trowsdale cast the ballot electing Comrade Tom Young as Chair. Past President Comrade Clarence Dawe was in attendance as an active Zone Commander. At the close of business, the Installation of Officers was conducted.

Acknowledging every Command conducts business differently, it was a good convention, with the business done in an orderly manner. I congratulated the LAC Co-Chairs and all involved on a job well done, the new Officers on their 'election', thanked all delegates for their participation, their hospitality and warmth, and wished them a successful term of office. As Comrade Larry would say, Bravo Zulu!

A group dinner of SEOs and guests at the restaurant adjacent to the hotel was followed up with a windup party in President Don's room. The sing along was led by Comrades Marion, Donna and Valerie, with Comrade Jim (Donna's spouse) and PEI's Comrade Jack on guitar. Fun was had by all, bringing an end to a successful convention weekend, followed by fond farewells, big hugs and best wishes.

Again, Comrade Bruce, thank you for the assignment.

Sharon McKeown  
Vice-President Dominion Command

## **Report to the President Memorial Cup 2023 – Kamloops, British Columbia**

Kamloops hosted the 2023 Memorial Cup from 25 May to 04 June, 2023.

I was asked by President Bruce Julian to represent him as the Royal Canadian Legion representative to the games.

My role was initially unclear, and through communications with Dion Edmonds, I connected with Canadian Hockey League (CHL) officials to define my duties.

It became evident, my only official duty at the event was to present the 2023 Memorial Cup Jersey to Chief Roseanne Casimir of Kamloops Indian Band. This was to be done at the arrival of the cup on 25 May.

BC Yukon Command ED Veronica Brown and I had one Zoom meeting with Patrick Roberge, the person in charge of the arrival of the cup ceremony. That conversation took place in early April and was the last contact prior to the actual ceremony.

In gleaning info from other sources, I met with Mr. Roberge and his team at the practice for the arrival of the cup event, an hour before the actual event, and was briefed on my involvement.

My duty was to unveil the Memorial Cup Jersey at the arrival of the cup event, then present it to Chief Casimir.

After the event, I was invited to the VIP reception sponsored by the local organizing committee. This invite occurred only because of my knowing the President of the Kamloops Blazers, I was not invited by the CHL.

That was the extent of my official involvement.

Because I am known locally by the local organizing committee, I was asked by the CHL to provide a Veteran to drop the puck at the opening game. I took the opportunity to represent the Legion and Veterans, and chose to drop the puck myself.

I was also interviewed twice by the CHL in taped interviews, one on the history of the Memorial Cup and the second on the relationship of the Indigenous Pin and the Memorial Cup jersey.

I must make a few comments overall.

There seemed to be a lack of communications between CHL and the Legion. There was also found to be some issues that arose around the Memorial Cup Jersey.

The Rocky Mountain Rangers were not pleased their logo would not be on the MC Jersey. Dion advised this decision was made in Ottawa by a person from the Strategic Joint Staff (SJS), a woman named Louise.

When discussing the make-up of the Colour Party for the first game, the Legion was advised SJS (Louise) had decreed there would be no Veterans involved, the Colours would be presented solely by the Rocky Mountain Rangers.

Each evening during the games, a member of the Rocky Mountain Rangers was spotlighted on the big screen and was in attendance. No Veterans were spotlighted.

During the distribution of poppies to the final game, the DCO of the Rocky Mountain Rangers advised SJS (Louise) had decreed there would be no poppies worn by any member of the military, specifically the Rocky Mountain Rangers. The DCO advised SJS was angry that military members had worn poppies during the first game.

The City of Kamloops has a long and storied relationship with 419 Tactical Fighter (Training) Squadron based at CFB Cold Lake, Alberta, in fact, 419 Squadron has "Freedom Of The City Of Kamloops", an honour bestowed them many years ago. 419 Squadron was already set to attend a function in Kamloops on 2023 May 27, and because they were already going to be in the City, the Mayor and Council requested they perform a "fly-past" at the arrival of the cup ceremonies.

SJS (Louise) took great exception to this request for a "fly-past" and went to lengths to have it stopped. Had it not been for the intervention of the Member of Parliament for this riding, and Chief Casimir, the "fly-past" would not have happened.

In talking with CHL, local organizers and local military personnel, it seems SJS (Louise) wanted the Legion to have no official role in the MC. This seems to be something that stems from meetings between the Legion and SJS.

On a lighter note, the Kamloops Legion Branch 01-052 was front and center during the entirety of the MC. The Branch hosted a breakfast for the MC followers booster club, the Junior Junkies, as well as having pre-game meals available. Branch members also manned the Legion booth in the Fan Zone the entire week.

By chance, I was fortunate enough to meet the organizing team from Saginaw, Michigan, the hosts for the 2024 Memorial Cup. They were very interested in the Legion's involvement throughout. At their request, I provided them with Dion's email as they are looking at including the RCL in their event next year.

Finally Bruce, I wish to personally say thank-you for allowing me the privilege of representing you and the RCL at the 2023 Memorial Cup event in Kamloops.

Craig Thomson  
President  
BC Yukon Command

**REPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

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**1. National Headquarters Staffing**

<u>Category</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Permanent	37	35	42	45	42
Long-term Contract	12	7	4	4	2
Short-term Contract	0	0	3	1	0
Temp/Casual	1	1	0	0	0
Total	50	43	49	50	44

a. Notes:

- Permanent personnel:
  - Two vacancies: Corporate Services, Veterans Services
  - One on maternity leave: Financial Services
- Long-term contract personnel: Financial Services

b. Retirements:

- Danny Martin, Corporate Services, 1 May 23
- Freeman Chute, Poppy & Remembrance, 25 Aug 23
- Dave Louie, Supply, 31 Aug 23
- Mike Smith, Veterans Services, 16 Nov 23

c. Resignations:

- Tracey Silversen, Member Services, Nov 23

d. New Personnel:

- Eric Poissant. Service Officer, 3 Oct 23
- Stacey Dagley, Member Services, 16 Oct 23

e. **Christmas Leave Period.** As detailed in the Employment Regulations and Benefits book, Legion House will close for the Christmas / New Year's period on Friday, 22 December 2023 and reopen for business on Tuesday, 2 January 2024.

**2. Legal**

The legal situation regarding an individual who was the supplier of the Poppy Puppy is ongoing.

3. **Legion House**

- a. Legion House Maintenance Plan, 2022 – 2024. The Legion House Maintenance Plan, 2022 – 2024 outlines how the Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command will pro-actively and cost effectively maintain our infrastructure to ensure that our assets provide an exceptional and sustainable work environment that positively contributes to the goals of the RCL. All maintenance projects at the Legion House are completed and recorded in accordance with the direction outlined in the Maintenance Plan. The Maintenance Plan aims to achieve a preventative to corrective maintenance ratio of 6:1. Since April 2023, Legion House has completed 9 preventative or planned maintenance projects and 2 corrective maintenance projects. It should be noted that the exterior repairs were not explicitly outlined in the maintenance plan but includes preventative work that was identified as a result of a corrective maintenance issue. The Legion House Maintenance Plan will be updated to include future exterior foundation preventative maintenance.
- b. Legion House Project List. The below list outlines maintenance projects that were completed, or in progress, since the last DEC meeting.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
Plumbing Work	<b>Planned:</b> Replaced kitchen faucet as original has ceased to function	\$565.73	Completed
HVAC Repair	<b>Planned:</b> Boiler was leaking and required repair	\$867.12	Completed
Electrical Projects	<b>Planned / Corrective</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace 5 exterior light fixtures due to water damage</li> <li>• 2 Photocell replacements on roof</li> <li>• Fix exterior light for front memorial (connected to all exterior lights). Required significant digging</li> </ul>	TBD	Completed



TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
Window Cleaning	<b>Planned:</b> Conducted annual window cleaning	\$2,593.35	Completed
Catch Basins	<b>Planned:</b> Conduct annual catch basin maintenance (pumping out the catch basins)	\$2,712.00	Completed
Fire Alarm System	<b>Planned:</b> Inspection and remediation on the fire alarm system. Some equipment required upgrading and repair to ensure the system meets code.	\$5,025.11	Completed
Water Intrusion Repair	<b>Corrective:</b> During a major summer storm, water leaked into the warehouse through the foundation wall. Some drywall needed to be repaired.	\$2,932.35	Completed
Exterior Repairs	<b>Preventative:</b> Several exterior building repairs are required to prevent water from intruding in the building and causing greater damage. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waterproof and re-caulk areas around front entrance</li> <li>• Exterior Interlock (raise a section)</li> <li>• Re-caulk at concrete joints</li> </ul>	Estimated at \$5,140	In progress

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
Loading Dock Repair	<b>Planned:</b> Repair loading dock and install new rubber bumper pads	Estimated at \$5,000	In progress

**Note: Preventative/Planned projects include those that have been identified in the Legion House Maintenance Plan and have been allocated funds OR are preventative in nature due to a corrective maintenance occurrence.**

- c. Legion House Future Major Projects. The below list outlines major projects that are planned for the year 2024.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
A/C Unit	The government has phased out Freon gas air conditioning units. Our roof A/C units must be replaced in the future. This is a large project which must be done if any major problems occur with the system. Therefore, the unit will be replaced proactively.	\$132,268 (plus tax)	Planned for 2024
Backflow Prevention Program	The City of Ottawa is conducting a review of our buildings (and surrounding buildings) backflow prevention systems. A survey has been completed and we are waiting on a report from the city. Likely to be a major project if the report finds that work must be done.	\$10,000 +	Waiting for report from City of Ottawa
Electrical Panels	The electrical panels should be inspected and re-torqued where required. This will be completed at the same time as the A/C replacement to save on costs.	\$6,000	Planned for 2024

**4. Supply**

a. Sales as of the end of October 2023 are:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
JANUARY	122,916	91,288	84,406	128,218
FEBRUARY	162,142	84,834	99,299	147,935
MARCH	123,693	114,830	169,073	227,715
APRIL	29,648	140,054	164,223	195,650
MAY	78,473	126,255	194,847	229,400
JUNE	161,327	142,272	193,236	217,031
JULY	191,372	190,924	122,392	123,548
AUGUST	175,208	195,464	152,550	220,693
SEPTEMBER	361,608	375,110	317,162	364,945
OCTOBER	1,077,888	659,387	596,039	860,098
	2,484,275	2,120,418	<b>2,093,227</b>	<b>2,715,233</b> <b>(+30%)</b>
NOVEMBER	1,301,189	724,252	574,155	
DECEMBER	227,360	172,793	160,152	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,012,824</b> <b>(+56%)</b>	<b>3,017,463</b> <b>(-25%)</b>	<b>2,827,534</b> <b>(-6%)</b>	

b. 2023 so far has been a stellar year for the Supply Department with growth in all areas: Branch, Member and the Poppystore. The 10-month period January-October comparison:

Branch

- 2022: 6,862 orders generated \$1,248,040
- 2023: 7,783 orders generated \$1,400,864 (+12%)

Poppystore

- 2022: 9,622 orders generated \$562,239
- 2023: 23,795 orders generated \$972,866 (+73%)

c. Supply continues to promote the Poppystore through e-flyers, ads in Legion Magazine, along with the assistance of Marketing & Communications to promote through social media.

d.

e. New products added this year include golf shirts, ballcap, door ornament, lawn ornament, pen, flags and poppy pin; all have been well-received.

f. We are always creating and developing new products to help increase revenue generated through the Supply Department.

g. Supply continues to support committee activities and initiatives.

## 5. **Marketing and Communications**

### a. Communications

The department continued to produce communications impacting our mission pillars. Videos were developed around advocacy positions focused on Veteran Homelessness as well as showcasing the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships first ambassador. We successfully implemented communication strategies to highlight the first National Legion week as well as the annual Poppy Campaign and National Remembrance Day Ceremony that generated National coverage.

### b. **Direct Mail Marketing**

Three renewal marketing campaigns were launched this year – the latest in October to over 58K members with no email on file encouraging them to renew.

### c. **Email Marketing**

Email renewal reminders continue to be sent to members with an email on file (now over 100K on file and growing) on a consistent basis throughout the year. The department continues to issue branch and member newsletters via email each month. Emails are proving to be quite successful: the industry average for nonprofit emails show a 40% open rate and 2% click rate vs the Legion's, which have a 51% open rate 8.4% click rate. This further reinforces the need for email collection at all levels of the organization.

### d. **Social Media**

We have invested a significant portion of our annual budget in Social Media advertising to drive membership acquisition as well as Poppy Store Sales. This complements our organic posts that are designed to raise awareness.

Both the Store and membership are up significantly Year of Year. The social campaign is also driving significant traffic to legion.ca in key areas. See below Year over Year increases in site traffic.

### e. **Broadcast Marketing**

New TV and Radio spots were developed for the Remembrance Period and received significant coverage by all major channels.

## 6. **IT**

### a. **Projects Completed Since May:**

- New Wi-Fi throughout the building.
- Implementation of a new backup system, resulting in a cost savings of over \$12,000 annually by replacing two old solutions.
- Introduction of a new security awareness program.
- Deployment of Mobile Device Management for Legion-owned cell phones.

- Automation of system patching and applications updates using PDQ.
- Successful migration to a new integrations platform for our CRM/GP integrations, which involved re-architecting the process and eliminating manual steps.
- Completed a substantial Accounts Receivable cleanup within the Finance department.
- Implementation of a new ticketing system for IT and Membership.
- Identified and fixed several major issues in our payable reporting in CRM. This, combined with the re-architecting of the integrations, has led to two months of no issues with provincial payables for Finance during some of our highest volume months.
- Built a CRM plugin to handle Digital Card URLs, enabling us to fully launch the Digital Card.

b. **Projects Ongoing:**

Some challenges were experienced with the Portal Upgrade project. A part of the upgrade that was originally considered straightforward turned out to be more complex than expected and could not be completed in the allotted timeframe. As a result, this will be postponed until 2024 to bundle it with our plan to migrate the portal to the cloud.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File:65-1**

<b>B. Julian</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>O. Parkhouse</b>	-	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>B. Chafe</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>J. Mahon</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>D. Gordon</b>	-	<b>Homeless Veterans</b>
<b>G. O'Dair</b>	-	<b>Seniors Advisor</b>
<b>T. Jenvenne</b>	-	<b>BSO Legion OSI Special Section</b>
<b>L. Murray</b>	-	<b>Ex-Officio</b>
<b>C. Hughes</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>A. Pasha</b>	-	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING:** 12 October 2023  
**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** TBD January 2024

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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1. There are no action items for decision.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**2. LEGION ADVOCACY**

We continue to request updates from the government on important issues affecting our Veterans and their families; specifically, the backlog of disability claims which has made some positive progress, details on the Veterans Survivor Fund, the mandated priority "Elimination of the Marriage Over 60 Clause", for increased access to improved Veterans Independence Program, long term care, the promulgation of the National Homeless Veterans Strategy, and various other departmental benefits and programs.

**3. CANADA LIFE**

On 1 July 2023 Canada Life became the new health insurance for CAF members, veterans and public service employees, transitioning them from Sun Life. There have been several complaints raised in the media regarding difficulties in obtaining benefits and not being able to reach a representative on the phone. While those who raised public personal complaints appear to have been resolved, many others are experiencing the same difficulties. Comrade Bruce will be sending a letter shortly to the Treasury Board to advocate for all who are being negatively affected

by the transition as similar problems will likely be experienced when Canada Life also takes over the Pensioners Dental Plan in 2024.

**4. LEGISLATION**

Over the past several decades VAC benefits have come under the purview of the *Pension Act*, the *New Veterans Charter* and now the *Well-Being Act*. This has resulted in multiple different and overlapping benefits and programs depending upon when a Veteran applies for a disability benefit. Recommendations for fairness for all Veterans from the Minister's Advisory Groups have largely been ignored.

The Committee is exploring what would be the best way to advocate, such as a Royal Commission, Commission of Inquiry, or similar avenues and will invite Comrade Andrea Siew to present her research and recommendations to the VSS Committee in January.

**INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS**

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**5. CIMVHR FORUM**

Comrades Bruce Julian, Dominion Command President, Steven Clark, the National Executive Director, and Carolyn Hughes, Director of Veterans Services attended the annual forum in Gatineau this year in October. The research being conducted is invaluable in providing better health and well-being for veterans and their families, and will guide the development of new and improved programs by VAC and improved health care overall.

The President spoke at three well-received events during the forum, presented the scholarship to Ms. Kathryn Reeves, and hosted the Student and Postdoctoral Engagement.

**6. MILITARY VETERAN WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Under Comrade Dave Gordon's guidance, the Committee and with Veterans Services at Dominion Command, continue to roll out the Homeless Veterans Program across the country. With consent, Veterans Services has the ability to verify Veteran's service, often within a few hours, but no later than 72 hours if request occurs over the weekend. This continues to expand across the country and Veterans Services has been seeing some uptake in referrals. Once service is verified, the veteran is then connected with the appropriate Provincial Command for assistance.

**7. VETERANS SERVICES**

There has been a turnover of Service Officers in various Provincial Commands across the country and at Dominion Command. Training continues to be ongoing

and Dominion Command Service Officers continue to support several Provincial Commands with Service Officer functions.

In 2024, the Director of Veterans Services or a senior Service Officer will conduct site visits across the country to provide assistance as needed and to ensure processes, procedures and security protocols are respected as per the RCL Business Process and MOU with Veterans Affairs Canada.



**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

File: 35-1

Berkley Lawrence	- Chair
Derek Moore	- Vice-Chair
Peter Merola	- Member
Carol Pedersen	- Member
Daryl Alward	- Member
Ernie Tester	- Member
Lia Taha Cheng	- Coordinator
Nicole Thomas	- Assistant Coordinator

**DATE OF LAST MEETING:** 24 October 2023

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Spring 2024

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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**1. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 403.ii.a.**

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee discussed that funds used for repairs in the Housing Accommodation or Care Facilities category within the Poppy Manual should be minimal; therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to ensure that Poppy Funds are only to be used for minor repairs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That section 403.ii.a. be amended to the read: “Housing Accommodation or Care Facilities: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 50 percent of the current balance, *to assist in minor repairs* or furnish housing accommodation and care facilities, including hospice facilities and hospital wards/rooms for Veterans.”

**2. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 403.ii.f.**

The purpose of a glossary is to define specific terms, not to provide parameters for the use of Poppy Trust Funds. Therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to move the restrictions regarding Poppy Trust Funds usage for monuments, cenotaphs and war memorials’ grounds maintenance from the glossary on page 55 to section 403.ii.f. of the Poppy Manual.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That section 403.ii.f. be amended to read: “Monuments: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 25 percent of the current balance, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or preserving local monuments to Veterans. The 25 percent must not exceed one-half of the total funds (50 percent) required to construct, maintain or preserve local monuments for which funds are allocated. For Legion-owned monuments, 50 percent of the current balance may be used for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or preserving the monument. *The use of Poppy Funds to maintain or preserve local monuments, cenotaphs and war memorials is limited to the statue or structure itself and does not include landscaping or other grounds maintenance.*”

**3. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 403.ii.g.**

Branches have been permitted to donate to several cadet corps or squadrons, *multiple times per year*. Therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to ensure that each cadet corps or squadron is only receiving one donation per year from the Branch. To note, the total of the combined donations cannot exceed 20 percent of the balance of the Branch Poppy Fund.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That section 403.ii.g. of the Poppy Manual be amended to the read: “Support of Cadet Units: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) *Once a year*, up to 20 percent of the balance, to support and encourage Cadet Units that have assisted the Branch with the Poppy Campaign or other Remembrance activities. Cadet units are defined as Sea Cadets, Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Navy League Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers. An allotment would be for assistance to Cadet units, not reimbursements for individual expenses. See “Example” in Subsection 403.i.e.”

**4. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 403.ii.k.**

Since donations are also received as paper bills, the intent of the following amendment is to include bill sorting machines to count bills collected during the Poppy Campaign.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That section 403.ii.k. be amended to read: “*Money Sorting Machine:* (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 10 percent of the cost or maintenance cost of a coin *or bill* machine designed to count/sort/wrap coins *or bills* collected during the annual Poppy Campaign. Group funds or larger Branches may make application under this Section for a greater percentage, the approving authority will be the Provincial Command.”

5. **REQUEST FOR FUNDS – MARKETING THE POPPY CAMPAIGN 2024**

The marketing department would like to actively promote the Poppy Campaign through a series of social media and on-line initiatives as part of the 2024 marketing plan.

Below are the details on the intended initiatives to take place between October and November 2024.

- Social media paid ads (X(Twitter)/Facebook/YouTube/Google): \$100,000
- Paid media buy (TV/Radio/Out of Home Signs) to encourage moment of silence/visit a local ceremony on November 11: \$75,000

Therefore, the following recommendation is presented to DEC for consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That funding in the amount of \$175,000 for the 2024 marketing campaign be approved.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

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1. **ZONES AND DISTRICTS TO HOLD POPPY FUNDS REQUEST**

Allowing Zones and Districts to hold Poppy Funds was initially discussed during the 21 April 2022 Poppy and Remembrance Committee of the Whole meeting and the majority of Provincial Commands did not support the request.

The request was subsequently brought up at the DEC meeting on 30 April 2022 and it was directed that the Poppy and Remembrance Committee revisit this request. At the following Poppy and Remembrance Committee of the Whole meeting on 21 March 2023 the following was included under new business at item c:

“Zone and District Poppy Fund accounts. This was not brought to New Business as it will need to be brought as a resolution in the next Dominion Command

Convention to have the current rulings changed. The current status is that Zone and District levels may not hold Poppy Funds.”

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee discussed that some Branches in larger cities are working together during the Poppy Campaign and have setup joint Poppy Funds. These funds are not managed by the Zones or Districts but by the Branches themselves. In addition to combined Branch efforts and Provincial Commands already being set up to assist with larger Poppy Fund requests, joint Poppy Funds may be a solution for Ontario Command’s current concerns. Following the discussion, the Committee maintained their previous position that Zones and Districts do not require their own Poppy Funds and recommended that Ontario Command propose this resolution at the next Dominion Command Convention.

**DISCUSSION:** The above information is presented to DEC for discussion.

**2. POPPY MANUAL 403.ii.a and c.**

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

403.ii.c. “Medical Appliances: (prior Provincial Command approval is required) Up to 50 percent of the current balance such as but not limited to, medical thermal imaging cameras and defibrillators which will assist in the care of Veterans within the community.”

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee discussed how their Provincial Commands are addressing the special use requests in sections 403.ii.a. and c. There have been ongoing concerns that these uses sometimes may not directly support Veterans or their families. Therefore, the Committee has requested that Provincial Commands share their application process regarding the criteria (e.g., number of Veterans who could access the medical appliance, percentage of Veterans at the accommodations, etc.) that must be met before they approve these requests.

**DISCUSSION:** The above concern is presented to DEC for discussion.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**1. POPPY TRADEMARK**

Following direction and guidance from our intellectual property lawyers, The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is in the process of developing a formal Poppy

Trademark program to safeguard the Poppy insignia as a symbol of Remembrance. The new trademark terms and conditions and procedure to request use of the trademark will be shared in 2024. Since it is expected that the application process will be more rigorous in the future, individuals have been encouraged to request approval well before the beginning of the Poppy Campaign for future years. In the meantime, please report any Poppy trademark infringements to [poppytrademark@legion.ca](mailto:poppytrademark@legion.ca).

## **2. POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE DIVISION STRATEGIC PLAN REFRESH**

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee, on behalf of the Legion National Foundation (LNF) where applicable, will continue to focus on reviewing, enhancing and modernizing Legion and LNF Poppy and Remembrance programs. In collaboration with Provincial Commands, the Committee's focuses will be on the Poppy Campaign, Poppy trademark, National Youth Remembrance Contests, Pilgrimage, Teaching Guide, Poppy and Remembrance promotional materials, and the expansion of corporate partnerships.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File 23:1**

<b>Owen Parkhouse</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Valerie MacGregor</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>Terry Campbell</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Marion Fryday Cook</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Rosalind Larose</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Duane MacEwen</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Garry Pond</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Amanda Black</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>Randy Hayley</b>	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: October 4, 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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No action items for consideration.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**1. CONSISTENT MEMBERSHIP GROWTH**

Legion membership is set to grow in 2023, as we have already surpassed our final numbers from 2022. This marks the second consecutive year of membership growth.

Additionally, we're off to a promising start with 2024 renewals, even though it's still early in the year.

The influx of new members and reinstatements is occurring at a record-breaking pace. We have high expectations of exceeding 40,000 by the end of our reporting year, marking a modern-day record.

A big congratulations to all branches that participated in our inaugural National Legion Week. The events we witnessed and took part in from across the country lay a strong foundation for future growth and engagement.

**2. COMMITTEE TARGET REPORT**

The Membership Committee Target Report below is as of October 11, 2023.

- These Key Performance Indicators form the foundation of both our Membership business model and strategic plan.
- All KPI's continue to show year over year progress.
- Please see summary of attached detailed report below:

## 2023 Membership Committee Targets

Command	Renewals	Branch Rates	Member Emails	Branch Portal Processing	Auto Renewals
01 RCL BC/YUKON COMMAND	82.1%	100.0%	64.5%	88.5%	13.7%
02 RCL ALBERTA/NWT COMMAND	84.6%	97.0%	58.6%	73.5%	13.4%
03 RCL SASKATCHEWAN COMMAND	89.2%	99.4%	50.4%	57.0%	9.0%
04 RCL MANITOBA/NWO COMMAND	87.0%	100.0%	46.5%	66.9%	10.7%
05 RCL ONTARIO COMMAND	87.4%	99.0%	57.2%	84.9%	12.4%
06 RCL QUEBEC COMMAND	85.8%	87.4%	59.7%	68.0%	12.1%
07 RCL NEW BRUNSWICK COMMAND	86.4%	100.0%	45.0%	65.7%	8.7%
08 RCL NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT COMMAND	85.8%	100.0%	46.5%	85.4%	9.6%
09 RCL PEI COMMAND	88.0%	94.7%	41.6%	68.4%	9.1%
10 RCL NFLD/LABRADOR COMMAND	85.5%	89.1%	61.8%	65.2%	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	85.8%	97.8%	56.7%	75.5%	12.2%
<b>2023 Membership Committee Targets</b>	89%	100%	70%	80%	15%

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
SPORTS COMMITTEE  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 42-2**

<b>Brian Weaver</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Jerry Lava</b>	-	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>Nathan Lehr</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Keith Andrews</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Serge Thibaudeau</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Steven Van Muyen</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>Angela Colkitt</b>	-	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S):** 5 October 2023

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** December 2023

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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1. **PROPOSED DOMINION SPORTS GUIDE AMENDMENT – SECTION 709**

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

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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2. **DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The year 2023 marked the return of the Dominion Member Sports Championships since they were last held in 2019. The 2023 host branches did an exceptional job at ensuring the members enjoyed a great weekend of comradeship, community, and friendly competition. The 2024 Dominion Member Sports Championships are anticipated with much excitement and will be hosted at the following locations:

**2024 Dominion Member Sports Championships**

**Eight Ball:** 24 – 27 May 2024

**Host:** Branch #07-24 Hartland, NB  
41 Orser Street, Hartland, NB, E7P 1P3

**Cribbage:** 26 – 29 April 2024

**Host:** Branch #07-033, Shediac, NB  
386 Main Street, Shediac, NB, E4P 2G1

**Darts:** 3 – 6 May 2024



**Host:** Branch #06-251, Laval, QC  
2000 Boul Cure-Labelle, Laval, QC, H7T 1L3

It should be noted that the 2024 Dominion Eight Ball Championships were originally planned to be hosted at Branch 51 Happy Valley Goose Bay, NL. However, due to rising costs of air fare, it was decided (in consultation with both Branch 51 and NL Provincial Command) to seek a new location for the hosting of the championships.

### **2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships Bid Process**

The Host Branch Call for Applications process for the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships concluded in August 2023. The sports committee will review the submission and make a selection in January 2024.

### **3. LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The 2023 Legion Nationals took place in Sherbrooke, Quebec from 9 – 15 August 2023. A detailed summary of the event can be viewed at the end of this report. In general, post-event surveys and after-action reports indicated that the event was a huge success. For 2023, the Dominion Sports Committee moved the Legion Teams to Bishops University. Bishops provided an exceptional environment for the teams, going above and beyond in every aspect. From a competition perspective, the 2023 Legion Nationals was a huge success, registering the second largest number of athletes in the history of the championships. A major highlight of the event was the inclusion of Mike Trauner as the Legion Nationals Ambassador. Mike told his story as an Afghanistan veteran and competitive athlete, exemplifying the values of the Royal Canadian Legion and teaching the kids to face and overcome adversity. In summary, the 2023 Legion Nationals provided a life changing experience for Canadian youth through the delivery of values-based sport!

### **2023 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships**

The 2024 Legion Nationals will take place in Calgary, Alberta from 7-14 August. The competition will occur at Foothills Athletic Park. The Legion Teams will be housed at the University of Calgary. The Remembrance theme for the 2024 Legion Nationals is under development.

### **Future Legion Nationals**

The dates for all upcoming scheduled Legion Nationals are as follows:

- A. August 7 – 13, 2024. Calgary, AB
- B. August 6 – 12, 2025. Calgary, AB

### **2026/2027 Legion Nationals Bid Process**

Dominion Command collected bid submissions to host the 2026 and 2027 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships in July 2023. In total, we received 6 competitive and detailed bid submissions:

- a. Kamloops, British Columbia
- b. Laval, Quebec
- c. Nanaimo, British Columbia
- d. Regina, Saskatchewan
- e. Saint John, New Brunswick
- f. Truro, Nova Scotia

The sports committee will conduct an extensive and detailed review process of each submission with the goal of selecting a winning bid in early 2024.

#### 4. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Sport 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 Sports Program.

## 2023 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Post-Championships Report

The 45th Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 9-15 August 2023 in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The total attendance was 908 athletes, including 307 Legion sponsored athletes, representing 9 of 10 Provincial Commands, and 601 open category athletes. The athletes were supported by 36 Legion sponsored chaperones and 31 Legion sponsored coaches, as well as 108 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 2023, a remembrance theme of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peacekeeping was prominent throughout. For Provincial Command teams, the highlight of the event was visiting having the opportunity to listen to Mike Trauner, Canadian Forces and Afghanistan Veteran, speak about his experience suffering major injuries in Afghanistan and going on to become a decorated athlete.

The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President attended the event and was the official guest of honour. Additionally, the Royal Canadian Legion Vice-President and Sports Committee Chair, Comrade Brian Weaver, was present throughout the event. In attendance as well was Comrade Norman Shelton, who attended on behalf of the Royal Canadian Legion QC President; Elisabeth Brière, Member of Parliament; Christine Labrie, National Assembly of Quebec, and Guy Marchesseault, Branch 010 President. The opening ceremony began with a parade led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Michel Rodrigue, and his Color Party. The music was provided by piper Sylvain Ross. Additionally, the Canadian Forces Recruit and Leadership School official band provided music throughout the opening ceremony. Legion teams representing the participating Provincial Commands made for a wonderful opening. It should be noted that due to forecasted inclement weather, the opening ceremonies was held indoors at Bishops University. Immediately following the ceremony, Dominion Command hosted a reception on-site at Bishops University. Further receptions were held at Branch #010 Sherbrooke for the coaches and chaperones on Friday and Saturday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the Bishops University Sports Centre on Sunday 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 Mr. Danny Martin.

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 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Peacekeeping (i.e. on volunteer t-shirts, event bags, hats, bibs, event booklets, etc.). Other areas of remembrance were the medals presented which featured silhouettes that paid tribute to

the UN veterans. On-site, a peacekeeping booth was set up which provided the public with information on the various peacekeeping missions Canada has contributed to. This booth was included UN Veterans who were able to speak to the public about their experiences. Additionally, two minutes of silence, the act of remembrance, and the laying of a wreath by the guest of honour, were all done during the opening ceremonies.

A major highlight of the event was the attendance of the first Legion Nationals Ambassador, Afghanistan Veteran Mike Trauner. Mike lost both his legs from an improvised explosive device while serving in Afghanistan in 2008. Mike has since gone on to be a successful national athlete, winning multiple medals including 2 Invictus Games gold medals. Mike spoke to the Legion Teams during the athlete clinics and was present throughout the competition. His experience and perseverance inspired all the athletes and helped educate the public on the sacrifices serving Canadian Forces members, and Veterans, make for Canada.

The meet was held from 11-13 August under favourable weather conditions. The facility at the Université de Sherbrooke 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, Daniel Quirion, the official's director, Cecil Lefebvre, and the technical advisor, Serge Thibaudeau. Six meet records were broken. The top Legion female athlete, receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy, was Hannah Gates from Saskatchewan and the top male athlete, receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy, was Caleb Piven from Quebec.

Logistically, the cafeteria from Bishops University provided all food for the Legion Teams while the stadium canteen provided food at the track. The food provided to the Legion Teams from Bishops University was excellent throughout the entire week. The quarters used to house the Legion teams were also in excellent condition at Bishops University. The transportation provided for staff and Legion teams was very flexible and, despite some logistical challenges transporting teams to and from the track, were sufficient in ensuring the transport went smoothly.

For 2023, an digital media campaign was conducted which included Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and Snapchat. The digital media campaign was successful in reaching a large audience and bringing awareness to the Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships.

Additional promotion prior to the event was provided through advertisements at high school track and field championships and interviews with local and provincial media outlets. During the championships, the track events were broadcasted via live streaming on AthleticsCanada.TV.

The Sherbrooke community led by the LAC Chair (Judith Lefebvre) and President (Sandrine Charron) worked extremely hard to provide the best possible experience for the athletes, coaches, chaperones, and guests. Additionally, Legion Branch #010, led by President Guy Marchesseault, provided exceptional support throughout all aspects of the event. The entire Sherbrooke community rallied around the program providing a volunteer

base of over 200. Additionally, the 197 Frontenac Royal Canadian Sea Cadet Corps was involved in the opening ceremony, the medal presentations, the closing banquet, photography, and recruitment. The Université de Sherbrooke, Athletics Canada, Bitfarm, Athlétisme Sherbrooke, Yeti, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc. were diamond level sponsors, along side many other local sponsors, who made the event possible.

Overall, the 2023 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships were a huge success.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
RITUAL, AWARDS AND PROTOCOL COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Blaine Kiley** - **Chair**  
**Mary-Ann Latimer** - **Vice-Chair**  
**Don McCumber** - **Member**  
**Jack Porter** - **Member**  
**John Cher** - **Member**  
**Antony Chevalier** - **Member**  
**Charls Gendron** - **Committee Coordinator**

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: 26 October 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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None

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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The Ritual and Award Committee is working to finalize the review of the RCL Chaplain Manual, with an expected completion date of March 2024.

**Award submissions reviewed since last report of Apr 2023:**

COMMAND	MSM	Palm to MSM	MSA	Palm to MSA
Alberta-NWT				
BC/Yukon	3			
Man & NW Ont	3			
New Brunswick	1	1		
NL & Labrador				
NS/ Nunavut				
Ontario	5			
PEI	2			
Quebec				
Saskatchewan	1			
Intl USA Zone				

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 17-2**

Dave Gordon	-	Chair
David Eaton	-	Vice Chair
George O'Dair	-	Member
Bill Chafe	-	Member
Craig Thomson	-	Member
Gerald Budden	-	Member
Randy Hayley	-	Committee Coordinator
Ty Backer	-	Assistant Committee Coordinator

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: October 12, 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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No action items for consideration.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**GENERAL**

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

**ARTICLE III REVIEW**

During the summer, the Committee reached out to all Provincial Commands seeking feedback on suggestions to improve the current Article III process. Twenty percent of the Commands (Que and PEI) had no issues with the current process. The remaining Commands provided 51 suggestions with a few common themes including mandatory mediation, additional training and a review of some specific timelines. The Committee continues to work on recommendations for these Article III improvements.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
RCEL COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 26-2-4**

<b>B. Julian</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>T. Irvine</b>	-	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>O. Parkhouse</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>S. Clark</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>C. Racine</b>	-	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: 26 April 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 23 November 2023**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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The committee will bring forward a funding envelope recommendation for approval for the Individual Assistance Grants and Poppy Material needs for Caribbean countries that receive such support. It is expected the overall budget forecast will be close to or slightly over the 2023 budget which was at \$231,500.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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The distribution of benevolent payments to Veterans in widows will continue with direct support to Antigua, Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

Discussions surrounding the end of the RCEL mandate continue to take place along with consideration as to how the role and participation of RCL may evolve when this occurs in 2027.

As previously confirmed, RCL will be hosting the 2025 Conference between 29 June 2025 to 3 July 2025. This is anticipated to be the last conference RCEL conducts. Preliminary planning is underway to ensure this event is a success as it will bring significant worldwide attention the Royal Canadian Legion.

Monitoring and welfare visits to Jamaica and Bahamas are scheduled to take place in February and March 2024. Other islands in receipt of financial assistance and poppy materials were visited in February 2023.

The Legion's President Cruise will take place in February 2024. Dominion President, Bruce Julian and National Executive Director, Steven Clark will host a group of over 50 Legionnaires. Official visits including Wreath Laying Ceremonies, visits to war graves and cemeteries, meet and greet events with the Governors General will be conducted in St. Lucia, Tobago, Grenada and Antigua. The RCEL Annual Report is attached for further information.



**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
DOMINION CONVENTION COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 19-1**

<b>B. Julian</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>O. Parkhouse</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>B. Chafe</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>R. Hayley</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>T. Backer</b>	-	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>
<b>S. Clark</b>	-	<b>Ex Officio</b>

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT for the 2024 Dominion Convention, electronic delegate voting be implemented for the elected officials voting process.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT for the 2024 Dominion Convention, electronic registration be implemented for all attending delegates.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT for the 2024 Dominion Convention it is recommended the Pre-Convention Book (Committee Reports and Resolutions Book) be issued only in an electronic format.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT the 2030 Dominion Convention be held in London Ontario.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**2024 DOMINION CONVENTION**

The 2024 Convention is scheduled for 24-28 August 2024 in Saint John, NB. Contractual agreements are in place. A confirmation site visit took place during late September 2023.

**2026 DOMINION CONVENTION**

The 2026 Convention is scheduled for 22-26 August 2026 in Winnipeg, MB. Contractual agreements are finalized.

**2028 DOMINION CONVENTION**

The 2028 Convention is scheduled for 17-24 August 2028 in Saskatoon, SK.

**2030 DOMINION CONVENTION**

The 2030 Convention is scheduled for 16-21 August 2030 in London, ON. This is subject to DEC approval of the recommendation listed in this report.

**2032 DOMINION CONVENTION**

For 2032 BC is being considered as a location but specific sites are still in the initial stages of research.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File:82-27**

<b>Andrea Siew</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Brendan Heffernan</b>	-	<b>Vice Chair</b>
<b>Mindy Pearson</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Brian Sauvé</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dean Young</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>Carolyn Hughes</b>	-	<b>Observer</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S):** 27 September 2023  
10 July 2023

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** January 2024

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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The Defence and Security (D&S) Committee has one action item for decision.

1. **Requirement for a National Women Veterans Monument**

The Government of Canada should establish a national monument to honour Canadian Women Veterans and recognize their significant contributions and sacrifice to Canada and inspire future generations to appreciate the role women have played in Canada's military history. It would acknowledge their dedication, resilience, and pivotal role in defending the nation, and fostering a sense of equality and inclusivity in the narrative of Canada's military heritage.

Research shows that women often do not see themselves as a Veteran despite the fact that Canadian women have a long and outstanding history of serving in various capacities during times of conflict and peace. The following briefly highlights the significant contribution that women have made in supporting the defence and security of Canada:

- Prior to World War I women supported the military effort by volunteering as nurses, providing medical care to wounded soldiers, and participating in charitable organizations assisting the military. The Northwest Rebellion of 1885 and the Boer War (1899-1902) saw Canadian women providing medical aid and support to troops.

- It was during World War I that Canadian women's involvement in the military became more formalized and structured with the establishment of organizations like the Canadian Army Medical Corps and the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC), leading to more recognized roles within the military. During World War I, Canadian women served as nurses, clerks, and in other supportive roles both at home and overseas. Approximately 2,500 Canadian Nursing Sisters were part of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, providing critical medical care.
- The Second World War saw a significant increase in the involvement of Canadian women. They served in the military in various roles, including the Canadian Women's Army Corps (CWAC), Royal Canadian Air Force Women's Division (RCAF-WD), and the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (WRCNS).
- After World War II, women's involvement in the military continued to expand:
  - Women served in Korea (1950-1953) and various peacekeeping missions.
  - By the late 1970s, the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) began integrating women into all military occupations.
  - In recent decades, Canadian women have served in diverse roles within the CAF, including combat roles, aviation, naval operations, intelligence, engineering, and more including during the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991) and the Afghanistan (2001-2014).

A monument recognizing Canadian Women Veterans would honour their service, resilience, and sacrifice, highlighting their integral role in shaping the military and societal landscape of Canada. It would serve not only as a symbol of gratitude for their service and sacrifice but also as a reminder of the ongoing need for gender equality and inclusivity in the CAF.

Today, there are almost 100,000 women Veterans who have served Canada and it is time that their service and sacrifice be recognized.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada establish a monument to honour Canadian Women Veterans, to recognize their significant contribution and sacrifice to Canada, and inspire future generations to understand the role women have played in Canada's military history.

## **ADVOCACY ACTIONS**

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## **2. RCMP - Definition of a Veteran for Commemoration Purposes**

The Legion has not received a response to the letter sent in February 2023 to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Dominion President sent a follow up letter to the new Minister on 26 October 2023.

## **3. RCMP – VAC Clawback from Merlo Davidson Lawsuit Claimants**

The Legion has not yet received a response to the May 2023 letter that the Dominion President sent to the Minister of Veterans Affairs. The Committee plans to follow-up.

## **4. CAF Sexual Misconduct and Cultural Change**

While the CAF is making significant progress to implement the recommendations of Independent External Comprehensive Report (IECR) by the Honourable Louise Arbour there are concerns:

- On October 24, 2022, the Government announced the appointment of Madame Jocelyne Therrien as the External Monitor to oversee the DND/CAF efforts to address sexual misconduct and harassment in the CAF and monitor the implementation of the 48 recommendations of the IECR. While the appointment is initially for one year, the Committee is optimistic that the Government will do the right thing and extend the appointment.
- The external review of the two military colleges, as required by recommendations 28 and 29 in the IECR has not yet been launched. The May progress report by the independent monitor, Jocelyn Therrien, stated that the panel would be operational by June 2023. There is no indication of a reason for the delay in launching the review.

The next progress report of the independent external monitor is due October/November.

## **5. CAF Housing Differential Benefit**

In July the CAF announced a phased approach to implement the CAF Housing Differential Benefit, the new housing benefit for CAF members. With the introduction of the new housing benefit, approximately 7,700 personnel currently in receipt of the old benefit (Post Living Differential) would be ineligible for the new benefit and thousands of others would see their monthly payments reduced. Hearing feedback from CAF members who were set to lose the payments, the CAF created a new program, to gradually phase out its old housing benefit. Under this new program those who would have seen their monthly housing benefit end or decrease will receive decreasing payments until July 2026.

## **6. Defence Policy Update**

The update to Strong, Secure, and Engaged, the current defence policy, which was announced in the 2022 Budget, has still not been promulgated. The Committee has concerns that the delay will impact personnel readiness, equipment and procurement as well as the need for the overall modernization of the CAF.

## **7. Budget Cuts**

The Committee is monitoring the Government's proposed spending cuts to find \$15B in savings over the next three years and the impact on the CAF and the RCMP. The proposed spending cuts will have an impact on personnel, equipment and operations for both the CAF and the RCMP which are already stretched and over committed.

## **8. Domestic Operations and Call for a Dedicated Response Capability**

The Committee is monitoring the unprecedented number of climate emergencies and other domestic operations as the support provided by the CAF and the RCMP is not sustainable. There have been calls for the creation of a dedicated emergency response force. The Minister of Emergency Preparedness stated in September that they are looking at options. While the wildfire season is coming to an end the Government should have at least an interim coordinated national response capability for summer 2024.

## **COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES**

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### **9. Meetings and Engagement**

- a. The National Executive Director (NED), Director Communications, Director Poppy and Remembrance, Veterans Services staff and Defence and Security Committee Chair hosted a meeting with the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare (CFMWS) CEO Ian Poulter on 27 June 2023 to discuss how The Legion and CFMWS can enhance engagement and partnership opportunities. The NED provided an overview of the Legion and current engagement with the CAF. Marketing, sponsorship and communication initiatives were discussed. Opportunities for Legion directed support/gifts for troops deployed as part of the Latvian Battle Group similar to the gifts provided to deployed troops during the Afghanistan mission were discussed and CFMWS will follow-up on possible options.
- b. A meeting with the Minister of National Defence COS Taras Zalusky and the NED, Director of Communications, Director Veterans Services and the Defence and Security Committee Chair was held on 29 June 2023. The very candid and

open discussion focused on The Legion's three key Defence and Security advocacy priorities:

- CAF cultural change and recruiting and retention challenges (CAF Housing and new housing benefit)
  - The Defence Policy Update
  - Operational capabilities and modernization of the CAF. A future meeting between the Minister of National Defence and the President of the Royal Canadian Legion is being planned.
- c. The Committee Chair and Coordinator attended the annual VIMY Gala on 8 November.
- d. A meeting with the RCMP Commissioner Micheál Duheme and Chief Human Resource Officer Nadine Huggins is being planned for November.

## **THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS AND GOALS**

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Future plans and actions have been reported in recent Committee minutes.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 10-2**

**L. Murray - Chair**  
**B. Julian - Vice Chair**  
**S. Clark - Coordinator**  
**C. Hughes - Assistant Coordinator**

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 14 October 2023**  
**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Fall 2024 (TBD)**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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The committee has no action items at this time.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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Eighteen Veterans organizations were represented at the October 2023 meeting of the Veterans Consultation Assembly.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Hon. Ginette Petitpas Taylor, presented an update on VAC and outlined her priorities as Minister. Other presentations included The Burns Way, by John MacBeth, and The Pepper Pod, by Sandra Perron. Afternoon discussion followed on areas of common interest and concern to Veterans and organizations.

The consensus of the attending organizations was to issue a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs expressing appreciation for her attendance and to outline the areas of priority focus as determined by the group: Long Term Care / VIP, Marriage After 60, and that the “One Veteran, One standard” suite of benefits and services.



**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File:**

<b>Sharon McKeown</b>	<b>Chair</b>
<b>Donna McRury</b>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>Paulette Cook</b>	<b>Member (QC)</b>
<b>Jack Clayton</b>	<b>Member (NB)</b>
<b>Nathan Hoffmeister</b>	<b>Member (SK)</b>
<b>Dale Johnston</b>	<b>Member (BC/Y)</b>
<b>Rosalind LaRose</b>	<b>Member (AB/NWT)</b>
<b>Carolyn McCaul</b>	<b>Member (ON)</b>
<b>Law Power</b>	<b>Member (NL &amp; L)</b>
<b>Ernie Tester</b>	<b>Member (MB/NWO)</b>
<b>John Yeo</b>	<b>Member (PEI)</b>
<b>Tom Young</b>	<b>Member (NS/NU)</b>
<b>Nujma Bond</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>Leah O'Neill</b>	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>
<b>Dion Edmonds</b>	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): October, 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: December, 2023**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

---

None

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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For information:

- Committee is interested in learning any Legion 100 initiatives in the works for compilation/awareness.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
GOING FORWARD COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 10-1-1**

**B. Julian - Chair  
B. Chafe - Member  
T. Irvine - Member  
B. Lawrence - Member  
S. McKeown - Member  
L. Murray - Member  
O. Parkhouse - Member  
B. Weaver - Member  
D. Gordon - Advisor  
S. Clark - Coordinator  
R. Hayley - Assistant Coordinator**

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: 27 July 2022  
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBC**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

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No action items for decision.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

---

The Committee will consider the Draft Action Plan to be proposed by the Op Harmony Committee in developing next steps for EDI within the organization. It is expected that the Op Harmony Committee will evolve into the EDI Committee to implement the (approved) Action Plan.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
OP HARMONY COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 10-1-1**

<b>L. Murray</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>M. Emery</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>M. Fryday-Cook</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>B. Lawrence</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>J. Mahon</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>V. McGregor</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>A. Siew</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>T. Ross</b>	-	<b>Special Advisor, Rainbow Veterans of Canada</b>
<b>R. Thibeau</b>	-	<b>Special Advisor, Aboriginal Veterans Autochtones</b>
<b>Rabbi I. Scher</b>	-	<b>Special Advisor, Congregation Machzikei Hadas</b>
<b>S. Clark</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING: 12 September 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

---

The Legion's EDI Strategic Plan, as approved by Dec on 29 April 2023, embeds Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) into the culture of all levels of the Legion. It sets out strategic direction and accountability that are intended to empower members, Branches, Provincial Commands and Dominion Command to develop and implement EDI plans and initiatives, not only for its members, but also for its employees and clients that may or may not be Legion members. It includes Strategic Objectives and Key Goals that will support efforts across the Legion as we seek to become more equitable, diverse, and inclusive.

Following the approval of the EDI Strategic Plan, the Op Harmony Committee has met five times to develop the Legion's EDI Action Plan. Input was sought also from the three Special Advisors.

This Action Plan is subordinate to, and must be read in conjunction with, the Strategic Plan. The Action Plan defines the six strategic objectives and for each objective includes the key goals, specific action items, implementation priority, which office is responsible for implementation and the proposed completion date.

Following the EDI discussion and incorporating any resulting amendments into the proposed EDI Action Plan, it will be presented to DEC for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT the draft Action Plan for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion implementation within the Legion be approved.

### **THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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With the approval of the Action Plan, the task assigned to the Op Harmony Committee will be complete and it will be stood down. Discussion is ongoing with the Dominion President regarding the establishment of a new Standing Committee (EDI Committee) to advance the Action Plan and effect lasting and meaningful change in the organization. A verbal update will be provided during the DEC meeting.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND  
CENTENARY COMMITTEE TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File:48-20**

Owen Parkhouse	-	Chair
Valerie MacGregor	-	Vice-Chair
Marion Fryday-Cook	-	Member
Duane MacEwen	-	Member
John Mahon	-	Member
Carol Pedersen	-	Member
Garry Pond	-	Member
Chris Richardson	-	Member
Jean St-Laurent	-	Member
Philip Wood	-	Member
Gail Conrad Davey	-	Member
Thea McEvoy	-	Member
Kandys Merola	-	Member
Larry Murray	-	Ex-Officio
Steven Clark	-	Ex-Officio
Ty Backer	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	Assistant Coordinator

**DATE OF LAST MEETING:** 10 October 2023

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** 5 December 2023

**ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION**

---

None

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

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**GENERAL**

The Centenary Committee continues to meet periodically to discuss initial Centenary projects, planning, and overall strategies going forward.

**2023 CENTENARY BUDGET**

The Centenary Committee has spent approximately \$3,994.55 of the initial budget that was allocated to initiating centenary projects. To date, funds have been used for the creation of the Centenary Logo Brand Guide and for the creation of the Heraldic Crest.

**THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS**

Sub-committees and initial OPIs were established at the last meeting and committee members agreed to meet more frequently now that initial projects are beginning to develop. The Committee's goal going forward is to further evolve each of these major plans and to develop better courses of action for 2024.

Attached is a copy of the project tracker and sub-committee sheet for reference.

**Centenary Project Tracker**



SETUP									
Project Name	Category	Assigned To	Committee Members	Estimated Finish	Status Update	Required Action 1	Required Action 2	Completed Tasks	
Centenary Gala	Major project	John	Gail	2025/2026	in booked, next step preliminary planning				
Legion Centenary Day	Major project	Legion House		2025/2026					
Documentary	Major project	TBD		2025/2026	Request sent to Heritage Canada				
Brand Partnerships	Major project	Valerie		2025/2026					
War Museum Exhibit	Major project	Garry		2025/2026	Discussed with War Museum Director	official request			
Merchandise	Major project	Marion	Thea	2025/2026	discuss with Joan				
Stamp and Coin	Major project	Legion House		2025/2026	Official Request have been sent				
Tulip Festival	Major project	Legion House		2025/2026					
Sponsorships/Donations	Major project	TBD		2025/2026					
Coat of Arms	Major project	Chris		2025/2026	Design phase				
Book	Major project	Nujma		2025/2026	Contract with Nujma				
Commemoration Medal	Major project	Jean		2025/2026					
All other minor projects	Minor projects	Ty		2025/2026					

**REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD. TO THE  
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 November 2023**

<b>O. Parkhouse</b>	-	<b>Board Chair</b>
<b>B. Julian</b>	-	<b>Board Vice-Chair</b>
<b>B. Chafe</b>	-	<b>Secretary</b>
<b>T. Bursey</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>S. Clark</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>T. Irvine</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>B. Lawrence</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>S. McKeown</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>B. Weaver</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>I. Weiser</b>	-	<b>Director</b>

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): April 26, 2023, September 7, 2023**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 24, 2023**

**INTRODUCTION**

2023 will be a better-than-expected year for Canvet, with a modest surplus forecasted. The publishing industry has weathered the current economic climate and Canvet is well positioned for the future.

**SUBSIDY REVENUE**

Once again, Canvet received the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) subsidy in 2023. The funding was awarded for *Legion Magazine* and *Canada's Ultimate Story (CUS)*.

In 2022, Canvet received \$1,020,896. This year, the CPF awarded a combined cheque for \$940,961, eight per cent (\$79,935) lower than last year. The reason for this decrease in funding is due to the CPF phasing in a new formula to calculate the maximum amount of subsidy for Canadian publications. In the past, the formula was based on the publication's Canadian circulation, but it is now based on Canadian content. This new formula is being phased in over a four-year period. Twenty-five per cent of the new formula was applied in 2021, 50 per cent in 2022, 75 per cent in 2023 and 100 per cent in 2024. Canvet's publications consist of 100 per cent Canadian content, so with this new formula, Canvet will receive another slight decrease in 2024 but then should stabilize at the maximum subsidy. This bodes well for the future of Canvet's subsidy under the new formula.

The subsidy comes with clear rules for inclusion and the Department of Canadian

Heritage must continue to be confident that *Legion Magazine* and *CUS* are independent publications and that Canvet is an independent publisher. Any periodicals “that primarily reports on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization” will be excluded from receiving funding.

Canvet’s budgets are dependent on support from the federal government. The government year is from April 1 to March 31, while Canvet’s is the calendar year, so the amounts in the operating budget reflect that variation.

In 2012, Canvet made the commitment to convention to keep the subscription price for *Legion Magazine* at \$9.49 for eight years. Canvet not only realized that commitment, but exceeded it by an additional four years. At the next convention in August 2024, Canvet will need a subscription fee increase which will take effect in 2025.

## **EDITORIAL**

In 2023, Canvet published six issues of *Legion Magazine*, four issues of *CUS*, six French inserts and a French and English eBook titled *Veterans Benefits Guide* (56 pages) which is free to all veterans and their families.

Canvet also produces websites, eBlasts, including a weekly e-newsletter showcasing *Front Lines Weekly* and *Military Milestones*, the *Military Moments* video series and podcasts.

In 2024, the January/February issue will showcase coverage of Remembrance Day and articles about the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RCAF, fighting disease in the Great War, Trail blazer Kathleen Blake (Kit) Coleman, Canada’s first female war correspondent, and much more.

Again, four Special Interest Publications are scheduled: RCAF: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; 1944: The prelude to victory; Battle of the Scheldt; and O Canada.

In addition to translations of articles from the English edition, each French insert includes an original article on a topic from French Canada’s military history.

## **WWW.LEGIONMAGAZINE.COM AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

In 2023, legionmagazine.com will have more than 3 million visits, and it continues to grow yearly. The site showcases our award-winning interactive websites, historic photo archives, podcasts, videos and the Last Post database with nearly 210,000 names to date. Canvet continues to produce videos in the *Military Milestones* series with four more published this year.

## **MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE**

The Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Member Benefits Package (MBP) offers discounts for members through IRIS Eyewear, Medipac Travel Insurance, Arbor Memorial



Services Inc., Canadian Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co., HomeEquity Bank, HearingLife Canada, Pocket Pills - Canada's Online Pharmacy, Belairdirect Home and Auto Insurance, Blowes and Stewart Travel Group, MBNA Canada Inc., Ultramatic Adjustable Beds and Mattresses, Rogers, Teslica and Upper Canada Wills. Not only do the partners offer member discounts but they also contribute significant funding to Legion programs. Canvet offers the partners exclusive advertising rates, so they reach an exclusive market as an endorsed partner.

## **CONCLUSION**

This report is for information only.

**REPORT OF THE  
LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION  
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
25 NOVEMBER 2023**

**File: 10-18**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<b>D. Flannigan</b>	-	<b>Chair</b>
<b>T. Irvine</b>	-	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
<b>B. Burnham</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>L. Murray</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>P. Kavanagh</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>G. O'Dair</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>A. Siew</b>	-	<b>Director</b>
<b>S. Clark</b>	-	<b>Executive Director</b>
<b>S. Laprade</b>	-	<b>Director of Development</b>
<b>R. Hayley</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>

**GENERAL**

This report is provided for the information of the Dominion Executive Council. The Foundation's Board of Directors last met on 23 October 2023.

**FUNDRAISING**

The Legion National Foundation received donations from individuals, foundations, and corporations in the last number of months. The Digital Poppy Campaign from October 27 to November 11 is the signature event and will raise significant funds to support the work of the LNF. The appeal card included in the Legion magazine, online donations, legacy gifts, monthly donations, and gifts of securities continue to be sources of revenue.

The website for the Legion National Foundation has been refreshed to keep current and inspire donors to give to support Veterans and their families. Increasing diversity through photos was also a focus of the updated website.

**DISBURSEMENTS**

The Board confirmed a disbursement of \$75,000 to the Veterans Transition Network. In addition, a bursary of \$2,500 was awarded to a Cadet for their university studies.

The Legion National Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in November, 2023.

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

Dear Mr. Clark,

My name is Ian Walker and I was one of the lucky students who had the honour and privilege of being a part of the 2023 CBF Battlefield Study Tour that took our group to numerous Canadian battlefields from both the First World War and the Second World War in France and Belgium. I am writing this letter to thank you and those involved with the Royal Canadian Legion 75th Anniversary Bursary for their contributions to the CBF study tour as without those generous contributions none of us would have been able to have the experiences on the trip that we did. The CBF Tour has certainly left a mark on me in regards to my perspective on the sacrifices of many Canadians during the First and Second World Wars, being able to see the land in which these men fought and died for was a truly humbling and inspiring experience that you cannot get in the classroom in the same way, and I know the other students would agree with me in that regard. As I was also in the Normandy portion of the study group I had the privilege to attend numerous ceremonies with my fellow students around the anniversary of D-Day to commemorate the liberation of Normandy and the role Canada played in that. The ceremonies were a humbling experience in their own right as it showed that the soldiers will never be forgotten as the commitment to commemoration is incredibly strong in these places and that was something truly special, nearly 80 years on and there is such a strong connection between France and Canada as well as the other allies due to the commitment to never forgetting what happened in Normandy all those years ago was something special to experience and I am eternally grateful for that and how donors like yourselves made that possible for my fellow students and I. The tour was a truly life changing experience for all of us that had the privilege of being selected for it and I hope other students for years to come are able to have the same opportunities that this tour provided us. On behalf of all of us from the 2023 CBF Tour, I just want to thank you and the Royal Canadian Legion 75th Anniversary Bursary for your generous contributions to the CBF and the Study Tours that allowed us to see the battlefields in person and gain such a valuable learning experience, it was incredibly valuable and something I will never forget in my life and hope students will continue to experience these tours for years to come, thank you for all you and your organization do for the foundation.

Sincerely,

Ian Walker  
Wilfrid Laurier University  
BA History Class 2021

**RECEIVED**  
**DOMINION COMMAND**  
JUL 05 2023

Olivia Holland  
523798 Curry Road  
Ingersoll, ON  
Canada  
N5C 3J7  
[ohollan2@uwo.ca](mailto:ohollan2@uwo.ca)  
519-280-6269

Steven Clark  
Executive Director  
Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command  
86 Aird Place  
Ottawa, ON  
Canada  
K21 0A1


June 27, 2023

Dear Mr. Clark,

Though this letter is short, I hope that it alludes to the depth of my gratitude, which the written word will never be able to truly capture. Thank you for your generous donation to the Canadian Battlefields Foundation. This year, I was honoured to be part of the Canadian Battlefields Foundation Battlefield Study Tour. Without contributions like yours, this trip would not have been possible. The Battlefield Study Tour provided me with the incredible opportunity to travel to Belgium and France to learn about Canada's contribution in the world wars. Though I love learning about history in the classroom, being at the actual site brought history into sharper contrast, broadening my understanding and appreciation of the sacrifice of war.

Participating in commemorative ceremonies is an experience that I will remember forever. It is important that we never forget not only the soldiers who fought and died in the wars, but other groups who contributed to the war effort as well. Discussing such groups, such as the Chinese Labour Corps or Canadian women, has inspired potential research topics for my postgraduate studies, yet another reason to be grateful. As this tour is a once in a lifetime experience, my hope is that this opportunity will continue to be available for future students.

Thank you again for your donation,

  
Olivia Holland



Commander Royal Canadian Air Force

Commandant Aviation royale canadienne

National Defence  
Headquarters  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de  
la Défense nationale  
Ottawa (Ontario)  
K1A 0K2

RECEIVED  
DOMINION COMMAND  
JUL 24 2023

18 July 2023

Mr. Steven Clark  
National Executive Director  
Royal Canadian Legion  
86 Aird Pl  
Kanata, ON K2L 0A1

Dear *Steven*

On behalf of the Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and all guests who attended the 2023 RCAF Ball on 3 June 2023, I want to thank The Royal Canadian Legion for their sponsorship since 2020 of this inaugural Ball. This event was a great success with over 555 attendees, which included Canadian Armed Forces members, DND personnel and Veterans, along with many corporate and community partners. This event was a wonderful opportunity to come together to celebrate 99 years of the RCAF and to give thanks to and recognize members of the RCAF Community.

The huge success of RCAF Ball would not have been possible without the outstanding support from The Royal Canadian Legion. Through your generosity and participation as a sponsor, this event far exceeded our expectations and provided a fantastic evening for all participants. A special thank you for the silent auction items and 600 giveaway bags you provided so everyone would have a great memory to take home.

On behalf of the entire Defence Team, I wish to thank you for your support from 2020 to this 2023 RCAF Ball and for your participation in the upcoming 2024 Centennial events. We wish The Royal Canadian Legion continued success and prosperity, and we look forward to working with you in 2024, when we come together once more in celebration of the RCAF Centennial on 01 June 2024. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E.J. Kenny'.

E.J. Kenny  
Lieutenant-General

## **2023**

21 November	Monthly PED Meeting, Zoom
24 November	Dominion President's Christmas Reception, Legion House
25 November	DEC Meeting, Legion House
27-28 November	RCEL Conference Recce, Ottawa, ON
25 December-1 Jan.	Legion House Closed for Christmas/New Years

## **2024**

11-22 February	Dominion President's Cruise
8-19 May	Royal British Legion and Legion Scotland Conference (Julian)
24-28 August	49 <sup>th</sup> Dominion Convention, St. John, NB



*Helping Commonwealth veterans who fought for our freedom*



# ROYAL COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES LEAGUE ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 23



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## Message from the Grand President

General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL



**It has been a year of highs and lows for the League. The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, our Patron for over 70 years, came as a great blow to all our Member Organisations across the Commonwealth.**

Her Majesty's deep interest and commitment to the League began in June 1951 when she attended, as the then Princess Elizabeth, the 11th Conference Reception hosted by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. Her Majesty was deputising for our Patron His Majesty King George VI who was unable to attend due to illness. By the 12th Conference in 1953, Her Majesty had graciously agreed to succeed King George VI as our Patron. Indeed our 12th Conference in London was less than a week after her Coronation on the 2 June 1953. The support that we have received from The Royal Family for over 100 years has been outstanding. It continues today, exemplified by His Royal Highness Prince Edward, the then Earl of Wessex, now Duke of Edinburgh, hosting our 34th Conference Reception in St James's Palace on 28 September 2022, just a few days after the period of Royal Mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. That our 11th Conference was held in St James's Palace in 1953 and 69 years later in 2022 our Centenary Royal Reception in the same Palace, is tangible evidence of this incredible link between the League and The Royal Family over the last century.

My tribute to our Patron Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 follows but amongst the sadness of Her loss came the commemoration and celebration of our 34th Centenary Conference in London on 24 September 2022. That 39 Member Organisations were represented by over 100 delegates was remarkable and I thank all those who made the trip to London to make the Conference a very special and uniquely memorable 5 days. There will be more coverage later but I, like many who were present, will not forget the incredibly moving Service of Remembrance in the Guards Chapel when wreaths were laid for all Nations of the League and for the first time, we sang God Save The King.

Of course, it is the veterans and widows who we, together, support that are and always will be the unifying focus of the League. It is right that we celebrated our 100 years of commitment to them and their service while fully recognising the amazing efforts of our Member Organisations. None of this though would be possible without our generous supporters and I finish by once again thanking the Service Charities who are also members of the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee for their moral and financial support.



**HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

Between 1952 and 2022 we could not have been more fortunate that Her Majesty chose to be our Patron. For 70 years she remained committed to those Commonwealth veterans who served in the Armed Forces of the United Kingdom and to their widows. Her Majesty showed a continuous, and personal interest, in the Charity throughout, receiving regular updates on the issues affecting the veterans and widows in our care.

The League was formed in February 1921 at the Empire Conference held in Cape Town and attended by Earl Haig and General Smuts. The United Kingdom with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa are the Founder Members. The object of the League is to ensure that no man or woman who served the Crown should be without help if in need.

Past and present members of our Family of Nations were all greatly honoured to have received the support, influence and companionship of Her Majesty for 70 of our 101 years of existence. There is no doubt that her engagement has contributed significantly to our longevity and tens of thousands of Commonwealth veterans and their widows have been lifted out of poverty, affording some dignity in the knowledge they have not been forgotten. She will be greatly missed by all our veterans and widows in Commonwealth countries across the world.

Message from the Deputy Grand President  
Major General Mitch Mitchell CB MBE



The Deputy Grand President role has several responsibilities, but one is always a pleasure; saying thank you. So can I start by first saying thank you to you all for your unwavering efforts and dedication to supporting our veterans and their widows in their hour of need. It has been another terrific effort this year. My next thank you is to our Grand President, General the Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL, for his Message opening this year's Annual Report. It reminds us of the huge commitment and sad loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and just how grateful we are to our Grand President and Lady Richards for their own personal and genuine commitment to the League.

Our Centenary Conference in September 2022 was held in Canada House in the heart of London's Trafalgar Square. Another thank you must go to His Excellency Mr Ralph Goodale, the Canadian High Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Ireland, for allowing us to meet in this magnificent setting and for the support of his incredible team. His Excellency was also able to join us at the poignant Remembrance Service in the Guards Chapel at the beginning of Conference, where watching the laying of wreaths by all our members organisations left me with a tear in my eye and a visible understanding of just how global our effort is. Canada House is our home in London, and it did not disappoint. I should also mention our Conference accommodation venue, the Army and Navy Club, which allowed us to enjoy their wonderful history and atmosphere during the 5 days of Conference.

We had some very important business to attend to and were delighted that Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG KC, a Friend of the League and Chair of the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee, was able to join as our first Guest Speaker. We were also incredibly fortunate that our subsequent

guest speakers, both role models, could find the time to address Conference. Colour Sergeant, now Warrant Officer Class II, Johnson Beharry VC COG and Lieutenant General James Bashall CB CBE, National President of the Royal British Legion, both delivered memorable addresses to Conference.

Much was discussed and debated during the Regional Discussion Groups and the plenary session in Canada House. The widow's eligibility criteria was amended, and Conference passed two key Resolutions concerning the future of the League. After more than 100 years of service we must be ready for, and manage effectively, the next 5 years or so. Naturally, if very sadly, our beneficiaries will fade away and the time will come when we cease to be a going concern as a Charity. The timing of such a cessation is largely dependent on two conditions; first, the decline of beneficiaries and the second, our financial position. On the former we hope this 'decline' will be slow as our veterans and widows live for longer. On the latter, we await news of our application to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office for an extension to the Commonwealth Veterans Programme for a further 3 years out to April 2027. Our future will largely hinge on this extension decision.

Rest assured, the Senior Management Team, Executive Committee, the core League staff and I, are fully engaged with our future as a going concern. My final thank you for this year goes to them for their incredible commitment and wise counsel. Next year will be crucial and I look forward, with confidence, to reporting that the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office have continued their generous support to our veterans and widows and that we have mapped out a way ahead for the next 5 years.

Mitch Mitchell

Report of the Secretary General  
Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Warren



**Last year I reported that 'in April 2023 we enter the final year of the Commonwealth Veterans Programme, and we shall be applying for an extension in order to ensure the 2,500 or so veterans and widows who are forecast to be with us remain supported for as long as is necessary.'**

I can report that the Deputy Grand President submitted the application on 28 April 2023 and, following a review of the actuarial forecast based on live data, requested support for 3,355 veterans and widows. This Annual Report explains the success of the 4th year of the Programme which has allowed us to reach more eligible beneficiaries than expected. This is terrific news and testimony to the hard work of our Member Organisations.

Significant investment by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has delivered improved resilience and governance. Much of what we do though

is still delivered by volunteers, whether our Board of Trustees and Commonwealth Council Members in UK or those overseas who commit so much time and energy to helping others. So, the stage is set for an encore: another 3 years of funding by FCDO to ensure we continue with the same level of grant award as we have since 2019. If there is no extension, this would be detrimentally life changing for thousands who served The Crown and their widows. It could also undermine the great gains made in resilience and governance across the Commonwealth and wider.

We remain hugely positive about the outcome because FCDO and their team supporting this Programme could not have been more supportive. I recognise and thank, on behalf of over 7,000 beneficiaries who have been kept alive during the first 4 years, the Government of the United Kingdom for their life saving contribution to those from across the Commonwealth who served The Crown in its hour of need.



Sierra Leone Veterans in Waterloo with Mr Toby Case, Lt Col Fatorma Gottor, Maj Clarence Mac-Sesay and Sam Sahr



*Pasan Kularatne on parade at the Queen's funeral*

We said a fond farewell to our Office Manager of 21 years, Mari Gordon-Roe. Mari was an exceptional team member and I'm delighted to say that her dedication to improving the lives of Commonwealth veterans and widows was recognised with the award of an MBE in the New Year's Honours list.

The State Funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 19th September 2022 at 1100hrs. The League had been fortunate to enjoy the Patronage of Her Majesty for over 70 years and was honoured to be invited to parade our Standard at the Cenotaph, on the route of the Funeral Procession. Colonel Pasan Kularatne, our Standard Bearer, joined a handful of Royal British Legion and other National Standards, for a week of rehearsals prior to the State Funeral. The World watched as Her Majesty's coffin processed to Westminster Abbey and then on to St Georges Chapel at Windsor Castle and our Standard was dipped as Her coffin passed a few feet away. Inside the Abbey our Grand President, General the Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL, as a former Head of the British Armed

Forces and Chief of Defence Staff, was in the front row of the Congregation to say farewell to our much-loved Queen.

We are honoured and proud that the Standard of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League was on Parade to recognise and pay tribute to the incredible support Her Majesty gave to Commonwealth pre-independence veterans and their widows who served in the British Armed Forces.



*RCEL team visit to the Poppy Factory*

## Report of the Honorary Treasurer Mr Jeremy Archer



**T**his report covers the 12-month accounting period to March 2023, the penultimate year of the Accountable Grant Arrangement (AGA) into which we entered, in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) formerly the Department for International Development (DFID), four years ago.

During the last two years, changes in working practices – driven by the Covid-19 pandemic to a hybrid model – are now well established across the League. All key management meetings in the UK, including the Commonwealth Conference, were held in person. In addition, the HQ Staff have conducted a larger than normal number of Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) visits to our Member Organisations, both to clear a pandemic-related backlog and also to satisfy the contractual requirements of the AGA.

The League's income improved year-on-year, with donations higher than expected, driven by the return of accumulated welfare grants from India – which could not be spent due to FCRA regulations – and also by generous grants from The Dulverton Trust and the M St J Way Charitable Trust. FCDO provided £646,000 of additional funding to cover the final 18 months of the Commonwealth Veterans' Programme (CVP), which enabled the League to maintain individual grants at the same level, despite higher-than-forecast beneficiary numbers. A cumulative number of 7,285 veterans and widows have been supported by the CVP over the last four years.

After a significant spend deficit in the first two years of the CVP – borne by the League from its own reserves – a key target this year was to continue to offset the CVP match-funded overspend for a second year. This was successfully achieved, as FCDO funded a larger proportion of welfare grants, reflecting earlier underspends, together with a proportion of the additional funding which enabled individual grant levels to be maintained. This adjustment has brought match-funded expenditure across the first four years of the programme back into line with budget. The overspend on grants was driven entirely by an increase in the number of beneficiaries, a significant proportion of whom were widows from countries which had not previously supported them. Ultimately, the League has been able to support more beneficiaries than initially forecast with the promised two nutritious meals a day. Other cost lines were tightly controlled and delivered under budget.

I am pleased to report the following progress for 2022/2023:

- Global distribution (including Founder Members) exceeded £3.76 million.
- Total income exceeded £3.79 million.
- Under the heading of Agency Work, the League distributed £464,783.
- 544 individual welfare cases were met.

The League is most fortunate to have financially stable, steadfast and sympathetic supporters, despite the significant impact

# Welfare Distribution

April 2022 to March 2023

of the pandemic across the Service Charity sector. Our two key supporters are ABF The Soldiers' Charity, which donated £200,000, and The Royal British Legion (TRBL), which donated £240,000. Furthermore, TRBL generously agreed to continue its support for Commonwealth veterans and their widows for a further two years, to the end of 2024. The League is not only extremely grateful for TRBL's financial support but also for the use of office space, with associated technological and administrative support, in Haig House. In addition, we received grants of £30,000 from The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and of £20,000 from The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

Agency Work comprises a significant proportion of the League's workload and this will continue, albeit at a declining rate. A decrease in the number of Agency cases from 705 in 2021/2022 to 544 in 2022/2023 was directly attributable to the increasing age and frailty of those receiving support.

A comprehensive strategy paper – exploring the longer-term future of the League beyond the CVP, which is due to finish in March 2024 – has been discussed with key stakeholders. The paper not only considered future sources of funding, including the prospects for further funding from FCDO, but also the future role of the League, as numbers of pre-independence Commonwealth veterans, their widows and contemporary veterans inevitably decline. The potential Courses of Action (COA) resulting from this paper were considered and voted on at the Commonwealth Conference in September, thus empowering the Trustees to take the appropriate action.

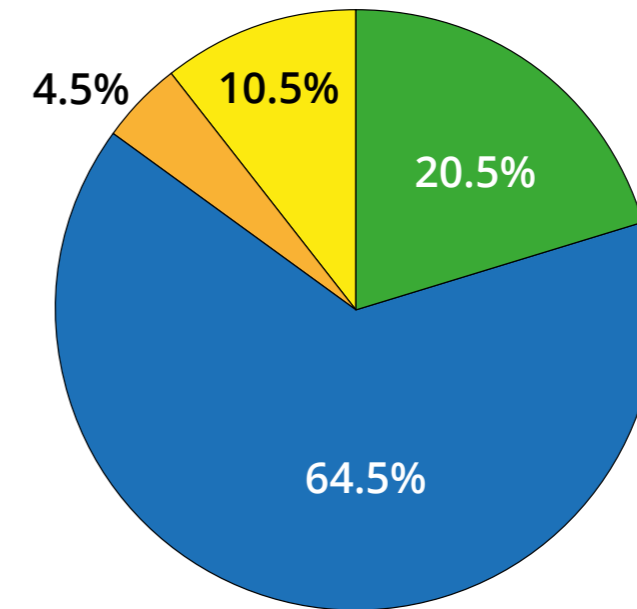
Following Conference, the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee (CVRC) – chaired by Sir Malcolm Rifkind and General The Lord Richards – was updated by the Deputy Grand President. The Service Charities, the principal supporters of Commonwealth veterans and their widows overseas, will be briefed fully once the outcome of the FCDO CVP extension

is known – and agreement for the chosen COA sought.

An application for a three-year extension to the CVP from March 2024, driven by the fact that the number of beneficiaries supported by the League exceeds actuarial forecasts, has been submitted to FCDO. We estimate that some 3,355 beneficiaries would still need support for up to a further five years after the end of the CVP. Whilst the FCDO is aware of the situation, they are as yet unable to indicate whether or not further support will be forthcoming. An extension to the CVP, supported by our CVRC partners, will be our main effort during the final year of the Programme.

The outlook remains uncertain. The war in Ukraine continues; however, of greater economic significance is the dramatic global increase in the cost of living. Many of the countries we support have been significantly affected by the inflationary impact on food prices which, in turn, affects the purchasing power of our grants. Despite these ongoing challenges, the League – through its network of Member Organisations – continues to support our beneficiaries around the world, providing much needed food grants at a time when many veterans and their widows are particularly vulnerable.

Our key objective – to 'help our veterans now, in their hour of greatest need' – remains unchanged. Whilst beneficiary numbers fluctuate, the overall trend is inevitably downwards; nevertheless, a significant number will require our support through to 2024 and beyond. In all our endeavours, we continue to rely on our staunch network of supporters and benefactors.



**WELFARE DISTRIBUTION for 2022 - 2023**

	£	%
1. Africa	2,077,953	64.5
2. Asia	662,575	20.5
3. Caribbean (2)	146,610	4.5
4. Rest of the World (2)	337,566	10.5
<b>TOTAL (1)</b>	<b>3,224,704</b>	<b>100.0</b>

The total of funds distributed to those in need was £3,224,704 and the total number of ex-Service men and women helped by in 2022/2023 was 4,658

**Notes:**

1. The total above does not include the TRBL Office/Poppies figure or Welfare Support.
2. The grants from Australia and Canada went direct to beneficiaries in Australia and the Caribbean.

## Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2023

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Intangible assets	-	-
Investments	1,373,131	1,550,199
	1,373,131	1,550,199
<b>Current assets</b>		
Debtors	13,403	14,028
Cash at bank and in hand	577,285	485,080
	590,688	499,108
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	(50,261)	(69,593)
	540,427	429,515
<b>Net current assets</b>	540,427	429,515
<b>Net assets</b>	1,913,558	1,979,714
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Unrestricted funds	1,712,244	1,717,506
Designated funds	36,069	138,668
Restricted funds	165,245	123,540
	1,913,558	1,979,714

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds Year ended 31 Mar 2023	Total funds Year ended 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
<b>Donations and legacies</b>					
Donations, grants and appeals	686,850	-	524,837	1,211,687	1,260,538
FCDO grant	-	-	2,552,398	2,552,398	2,843,710
Legacies	-	-	5,000	5,000	-
<b>Income from investments</b>	23,109	62	1,759	24,930	16,280
<b>Total income</b>	709,959	62	3,083,994	3,794,015	4,120,528
<b>Expenditure</b>					
<b>Expenditure on raising funds</b>					
Fundraising costs	52,098	-	-	52,098	47,397
Poppy supplies and freight charges	14,436	-	-	14,436	35,305
	66,534	-	-	66,534	82,702
<b>Expenditure on charitable activities</b>					
RCEL welfare grants	625,755	102,661	500,345	1,228,761	1,302,059
FCDO grant	-	-	2,541,944	2,541,944	2,859,380
<b>Total expenditure</b>	625,755	102,661	3,042,289	3,837,239	4,244,141
<b>Net income/(expenditure) before investment (losses)/gains</b>	17,670	(102,599)	41,705	(43,224)	(123,613)
<b>(Losses)/gains on investments</b>	(22,932)	-	-	(22,932)	72,858
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before transfers</b>	(5,262)	(102,599)	41,705	(66,156)	(50,755)
<b>Transfers between funds</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(5,262)	(102,599)	41,705	(66,156)	(50,755)
Total funds brought forward	1,717,506	138,668	123,540	1,979,714	2,030,469
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	1,712,244	36,069	165,245	1,913,558	1,979,714

## Thank You

RCEL could not distribute aid to those who need it most without the support of the Service Charities and those who very generously fund our work.

We would like to particularly acknowledge the following generous supporters:

RCEL exists to support those veterans and widows who served the Crown and came to our aid in our greatest hour of need. To support them in their hour of need, please consider making a donation.



## Please Donate

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League relies on donations to maintain its vital work. It must raise sufficient funds each year to maintain the provision of two meals a day for surviving Commonwealth veterans and widows. Without this support, it may have to reduce the size of grant each beneficiary receives. Please consider donating today to ensure veterans and widows continue to receive two nutritious meals per day.

A donation of **£14** will provide two meals a day for a veteran or widow in Malaysia for a week

A donation of **£32** will provide weekly meals for two veterans or widows in Zimbabwe

A donation of **£59** will provide weekly meals for five veterans or widows in Sri Lanka

A donation of **£100** will provide weekly meals for five veterans or widows in Pakistan



One of the best ways to support our work is with a regular donation.

To donate, please make a cheque payable to RCEL and send to:

Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, Haig House,  
199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA

OR

Donate online at: [www.justgiving.com/commonwealthveterans](http://www.justgiving.com/commonwealthveterans)

Please contact:

[cjohn@commonwealthveterans.org.uk](mailto:cjohn@commonwealthveterans.org.uk) to request a standing order form so you can set up a regular donation or to discuss remembering RCEL in your will.

[www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk](http://www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk)

Report by Chairman of the Standing Committee  
on Welfare Programmes (SCOWP)

Brigadier John King MBE



**D**uring 2022, the effects of COVID-19 had largely passed and the work of SCOWP returned to normal, delivering welfare grants to needy pre-independence veterans and their widows throughout the Commonwealth. I congratulate all Member Organisations on their quick recovery and resilience.

In April, SCOWP began the fourth year of our Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Commonwealth Veterans Programme, a five-year welfare programme to deliver the highest-ever level of welfare grants to our beneficiaries. For many veterans and widows in the 25 countries within the programme the grants, equivalent to the cost of two meals a day in their country, have meant a significant improvement in their welfare, beyond RCEL's previous aim of providing one meal a day. Having avoided the worst of COVID, our needy veterans and their widows now face steep cost-of living increases, rapidly rising prices for food, cooking gas and cooking oil.

During 2022 SCOWP grants were made to 4,114 beneficiaries across 28 countries, a reduction of 10% from the 4,580 veterans and widows supported in 2021. RCEL global welfare distribution to Member Organisations exceeded £3.76M including those of other Founder Members and UK Service Charities. This sum included 544 grant payments totalling over £464,000 on behalf of some 28 UK-based charities as Agency work. Our disbursement of grants from Blind Veterans UK (BV UK) continues. Some 115 veterans were supported, similar to 2021 and this £120 annual grant is highly valued by beneficiaries. BV UK's continued support to blind and partially sighted Commonwealth veterans is gratefully acknowledged.

The Royal Canadian Legion is also gratefully acknowledged for its generosity in 2022, contributing over £92,000 of welfare support to Member Organisations in the Caribbean, directly funding 43 beneficiaries in Antigua, The Bahamas, Tobago, and Trinidad & Tobago and part-funding 29 veterans and widows in Jamaica. Our other Founder Members, The Returned & Services League of Australia, The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association and The South African Legion also contributed significantly to beneficiary welfare.

Although the worst of COVID-19 has passed, the threat of natural disasters is ever present for our beneficiaries, so many of whom live in poor accommodation and rely on subsistence farming. Sadly, the south Asia monsoon was the worst for a generation and flooding hit Pakistan particularly hard during June – October 2022. Whilst our Member Organisation in Pakistan, the Commonwealth Ex-Services Trust reported no beneficiary fatalities they did ask us to assist veteran's widows whose homes were washed away. I was pleased to provide modest recovery grants to these widows to buy replacement kitchen goods along with vital cooking gas, oil and food to meet their immediate needs.



Pakistan - Exceptional Asia monsoon flooding



SCOWP meeting at Canada House, London

As post-COVID travel restrictions were lifted the office staff were able to resume Monitoring & Evaluation visits to Member Organisations and meet our increasing aged and less mobile beneficiaries. In May 2022, our Deputy Grand President Maj Gen Mitch Mitchell visited India, accompanied by Tim Burt, Controller Welfare & Grants. This visit, to the largest of our India member organisations, the India Ex-Services League, and to the Veterans Department of the Indian Ministry of Defence, concluded with the payment by Indian states of old-age pensions to pre-independence veterans and widows.

Pasan Kularatne, RCEL Programme Manager, visited Cameroon and Eswatini, formerly Swaziland. In Cameroon, our Member Organisation, the Fraternal Union of Cameroon Ex-Servicemen of the Crown, supports 52 beneficiaries across the two Anglophone regions. Despite the tricky security situation Pasan was able to travel to Limbe in the South West and Bamenda in the North West to meet veterans and widows and make welfare grant payments.

Secretary General Chris Warren and our Honorary Legal Adviser & Council Member for Gambia, Toby Case, visited The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Uganda. They met dozens of pre-independence veterans and widows but sadly just a few WWII veterans, now all in their late 90s. In all the countries our on-the-ground Honorary Advisers and supporters continue to provide oversight and confidence of grant delivery.

David Thompson, Controller Finance & Compliance visited Mauritius and Malaysia. In Mauritius, our Member Organisation, the Ex-Service Association of Mauritius looks after our veterans and widows along with a handful of BVUK beneficiaries. Whilst Malaysia has few RCEL beneficiaries it does have our highest number of Agency cases, over 90 Army, RAF and Royal Navy veteran and widow beneficiaries of our UK Service charity partners, which our Member Organisation the Malaysia Ex-British Army Association does the excellent casework and grant payment on behalf of.

Further visits were undertaken during the year to Malawi, Botswana and Zambia. A summary of all visits to meet beneficiaries can be read in later pages. Throughout 2022, RCEL's unique network of Member Organisations and partnership with UK Service charities once again delivered vital welfare benefits to their beneficiaries.

SCOWP welfare grants, maintained for a fourth year by FCDO funds, continue to deliver life-changing funds to over 4,000 needy pre-independence veterans and widows throughout the Commonwealth. I am pleased our Member Organisations remained resilient in the face of COVID, delivering RCEL welfare grants to beneficiaries affording daily food-security to those who served the Crown and now look to us for their support.

# Welfare Grants Table

distributed by RCEL April 2022 to March 2023

COUNTRY	TOTAL FUNDS SENT	COUNTRY	TOTAL FUNDS SENT
Australia	£3,770	Sierra Leone	£75,795
Bangladesh	£91,665	Singapore	£2,080
Belize	£7,333	South Africa	£116,490
Botswana	£10,222	Sri Lanka	£83,983
Burma	£40,005	Swaziland (Eswatini)	£15,186
Cameroon	£42,773	Uganda	£347,482
Canada	£69,220	Zambia	£40,358
Cyprus	£24,856	Zimbabwe	£599,447
Dominica	£7,892	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£3,094,705</b>
Gambia	£31,038		
Ghana	£273,292	TRBL - Office/Poppies	£60,346
Grenada	£9,827	Direct Grants - RSL Australia	£13,142
Guyana	£27,053	RCL Canada	£116,856
Hong Kong	£4,000	Welfare Support	£672,544
India	£2,402	Grand Total	£3,957,593
Jamaica	£71,033	Regions Total	£3,224,704
Kenya	£390,611		
Lesotho	£21,233		
Malawi	£90,666		
Malaysia	£49,626		
Malta	£390		
Mauritius	£23,360		
New Zealand	£10,810		
Non Members (1)	£2,811		
Pakistan	£484,525		
St Lucia	£18,116		
St Vincent	£5,356		

Region	£	%
Indian sub-continent	662,575	20.5
Africa	2,077,953	64.5
Caribbean	146,610	4.5
Rest of the World	337,566	10.5
<b>TOTAL (1)</b>	<b>3,224,704</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note 1. Non- Members are countries other than Commonwealth Countries where eligible veterans in need are resident. Grants are distributed with the assistance of the High Commission or Embassy.

## Case Studies



**Cedric Chimala**, aged 101, was born in Malawi. He left school at 15 and in 1937 when he was 16, the army came to his village looking for men to enlist and he enrolled.

When he returned to Malawi after the end of WW2, Mr Chimala had a breakdown and later relocated to Northern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he eventually settled in Bulawayo and found work as a gardener. His mental health improved over the years and in 1953 he married his wife Elizabeth who was working for the Red Cross, training nurses. The couple went on to have children and continue to live in Bulawayo. Mr Chimala and his wife are now both retired and she is bed ridden. Two of their great grandchildren live with them and assist with their care.

Left: Mr Chimala at a tea party to celebrate his 100th birthday.

**SSgt James Fallah** was working as a welder and paint sprayer when he enlisted in 1958. He was born on 12 January 1923 and recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He continued to serve in the Republic of Sierra Leone Regiment until discharge in 1977. He attended a boxing course in the UK and took part in a competition in London. He fondly remembers his Company Commander, Major Buchanan, who he describes as a Scot and an excellent Commander. The monthly pension he, and others, receive from Sierra Leone is SLL 250 or the equivalent of 50p after 36 years' service in the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces. He survives on the grant received from RCEL.



**Mr Gunasekara** from Sri Lanka served in the Ceylon Royal Army Service Corps from April 1942 to August 1946 with overseas service in Kenya, Egypt and Libya. He recently celebrated his centenary birthday at his son's home in Kandy. Mr Gunasekara's wife died 20 years ago and he is cared for by his children.

**Elizabeth Fane Mbatl's** husband, Febian, served as a Corporal in the Northern Rhodesia Regiment during WW2 from 7th October 1943 until 27th August 1945. They were married in 1951 and had eight children, seven of whom are still alive. After leaving the Army, Febian worked for the government as a court presiding officer. He retired in 2004 and died in 2007. Elizabeth worked as a primary school teacher in Zambia after her last child was born, a job she loved. Now 86, she uses her RCEL grant to buy food and is very thankful for the help she receives.





# FCDO (UK Aid) Commonwealth Veterans Programme 2022/23



**F**rom a standing start in 2019, the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) has successfully completed the fourth year of its five-year Commonwealth Veterans Programme (CVP). Majority-funded by FCDO (UK Aid), the key aim of the programme is to support Commonwealth veterans and surviving spouses of veterans who served in the British Armed Forces prior to their country gaining independence who are now living in poverty.

This cash transfer programme enables beneficiaries to afford sustained nutrition, for two meals a day, strengthening their resilience and lifting them out of absolute poverty. Such grants provide a level of dignity that otherwise they may not experience. The monetary value of an average individual welfare grant across the League has increased from £48 in 2014 (Pre LIBOR) to £219 in 2018 (with LIBOR) to an average of £665 from 2019 to date (with UK Aid) enabling RCEL to make a significant positive impact on the lives of our frail and elderly beneficiaries.

RCEL is the only NGO which globally provides Commonwealth veterans and widows with targeted cash transfer support. There is no other NGO that specifically focusses on these

beneficiaries, over 50% of whom are widows, and therefore has a unique understanding of the eligibility process, beneficiary requirements and grant delivery mechanisms.

A new policy - Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) was formulated and added to existing RCEL Safeguarding policies and circulated to all Member Organisations. Given a significant proportion of the welfare grants are publicly funded, an enhanced annual due diligence check of Member Organisations is carried out prior to the disbursement of funds. The quarterly reporting system is well established to reconcile funds received and disbursed, and gather additional data required to complete both our Quarterly Reports and our Annual Review submitted to FCDO as required in the Accountable Grant Arrangement. The mid-cycle Due Diligence refresh of RCEL was successfully completed in October 2022 by FCDO and the ongoing action plan agreed.

Again, the CVP received an 'A' grade for the Annual Review for the fourth consecutive year. This would not have been possible without the support and guidance from the Senior Management Team, the RCEL Board, hard work of our Member Organisations, the team effort of the HQ RCEL Staff, our Project Officers and Honorary In-country Representatives, FCDO staff based in Whitehall and East Kilbride, the Mannion Daniels team lead by David Bailes and our auditors, Mazars.

RCEL disbursed just over £2.5M to our Member Organisations during the fourth year of the FCDO funded Programme. These welfare grants were distributed amongst 3,909 Commonwealth veterans and widows in 25 countries. India was removed from the programme in the first half of Year 4, and Botswana in the second half as beneficiaries in those countries are now in receipt of their own government pensions.

Antigua was removed from the FCDO Overseas Development Assistance recipients (ODA) list of countries at the end of 2021 and no FCDO funds were sent to Antigua this year. Antigua now receives support from the Royal Canadian Legion, and we are most grateful to them.

The table below is a summary of funds disbursed and the costs incurred. It is important to note the relatively low disbursement cost incurred which is testimony to the value for money of the Programme and a credit to the RCEL network established, developed, and maintained over the last 102 years.

Period	Grants Disbursed			Cost	% of Cost to Grants
	FCDO	RCEL/Service Charities	Total		
Year 1	£2,008,113	£1,101,440	<b>£3,109,553</b>	<b>£472,853</b>	<b>15.21%</b>
Year 2	£2,159,989	£899,613	<b>£3,059,602</b>	<b>£419,627</b>	<b>13.72%</b>
Year 3	£2,492,399	£465,990	<b>£2,958,389</b>	<b>£366,491</b>	<b>12.39%</b>
Year 4	£2,153,626	£389,097	<b>£2,542,723</b>	<b>£387,828</b>	<b>15.25%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£8,814,127</b>	<b>£2,856,140</b>	<b>£11,670,267</b>	<b>£1,646,799</b>	

To improve the capacity and capability of our Member Organisations, RCEL Controller Compliance with the ongoing assistance of The Royal British Legion, developed and launched three online training modules during 2020/21: Safeguarding Essentials, IT & Data Security and Fraud Awareness. The progress so far is shown below.

Module	No of Countries Completed	% of No of Countries Completed
Safeguarding Essentials	25	100%
IT and Data Security	25	100%
Fraud Awareness	25	100%



Pasan Kularatne visiting widow Dharmawathi Pethiyagoda, aged 94 in Sri Lanka



Widow Yama Sowe with The Gambia Project Officer Noeline Ambrose



Secretary General meeting with High Commissioner of Sierra Leone Lisa Chesney (C) and SSgt McMillan (L)

**Eighteen Monitoring and Evaluation Visits (M&E Visits) were successfully completed during 2022/23.**

#	Country	By Whom	Date
1	Lesotho	Secretary General	3 - 5 April 2022
2	South Africa	Secretary General	1 - 3 April 2022
3	India	Controller Welfare & Grants	17 - 23 May 2022
4	Bangladesh	Controller Welfare & Grants	24 - 25 May 2022
5	Tanzania	Controller Finance & Compliance	24 - 26 May 2022
6	Kenya	Controller Finance & Compliance	26 - 30 May 2022
7	Malawi	Controller Welfare & Grants	19 - 23 July 2022
8	Botswana	Controller Welfare & Grants	23 - 28 July 2022
9	Zambia	Finance & Welfare Officer	19 - 21 October 2022
10	Cameroon	Programme Manager	21 - 26 November 2022
11	Canada	Secretary General	24 - 27 November 2022
12	Eswatini	Programme Manager	28 November - 1 December 2022
13	Ghana	West Africa Project Officer	November 2022
14	Gambia	Secretary General and Hon Legal Advisor	21 - 26 January 2023
15	Sierra Leone	Secretary General and Hon Legal Advisor	26 - 31 January 2023
16	Uganda	Secretary General and Hon Legal Advisor	2 - 6 February 2023
17	Mauritius	Controller Finance & Compliance	22 - 27 February 2023
18	Malaysia	Controller Finance & Compliance	28 February to 3 March 2023



Pasan Kularatne visiting widows in Limbe with Vice President FUCEMOC, Nyenti Egbe John (L) and Hon Treasurer, Njie Sophie Namaondo (R)



Camilla John with two widows inside the Burma Memorial Hall in Lusaka Zambia

One of the key challenges of the CVP budget management is the increase in the number of beneficiaries relative to the original business case. A rebudgeting exercise was completed in the second half of 2022 and we were successful in securing an additional budget of £646K over the life of the programme to support all eligible beneficiaries, resulting in no reduction in individual grant size. An Accountable Grant Amendment was formally signed between FCDO and RCEL in December 2022. As such, the FCDO budget has increased from £11.6M (£11,690,000) to £12.3M (£12,336,168).

The updated Programme Budget is given below.

	FCDO	RCEL/ Service Charities	Total
<b>Available Budget</b>	£12,336,168	£3,710,000	<b>£16,046,168</b>
<b>Spent so far</b>	£10,467,332	£2,891,945	<b>£13,359,277</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£1,868,836</b>	<b>£818,055</b>	<b>£2,686,891</b>

We would like to record our sincere gratitude to John McGinn the current Programme Manager and Senior Reporting Officer from FCDO, to Freya Pascal, Deputy Head, Civil Society and Civic Space, also from FCDO, and all FCDO staff who are involved with the Programme. Their continued commitment to make a difference to the lives of thousands of Commonwealth veterans and widows, particularly during a challenging time for public expenditure is much appreciated by all across the Commonwealth.

The cumulative number of beneficiaries the Programme has supported over the four years is 7,285 more than the 7,000 predicted in the Business Case in 2018. Although the numbers are steadily declining, at the end of the current 5-year programme in March 2024, over 3,300 veterans and widows living in 24 countries are expected to continue to require life sustaining support. The CVP is currently supported by match funding from RCEL and the major Service Charities. However, we will not be able to continue with the same level of support to our beneficiaries without the support from FCDO, our major funding partner. An extension of

3 years, from April 2024 – March 2027 would save these veterans and widows from starvation. An application for a Programme Extension was submitted in April 2023. We hope this will be successful and our beneficiaries will have continued FCDO support. If the application is unsuccessful, the level of individual grant size will fall to pre-LIBOR level.

RCEL extends its thanks to the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee (CVRC) partners for their ongoing match funding support. The Committee, chaired by Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KC and our Grand President, General the Lord Richards GCB CBE DSO DL, consists of the major supporting UK Service Charities. On behalf of the veterans and widows supported through the Commonwealth Veterans Programme, we thank The Royal British Legion, ABF The Soldiers' Charity, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity and the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund.

*At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them.*



CANADA



SRI LANKA



BAHAMAS

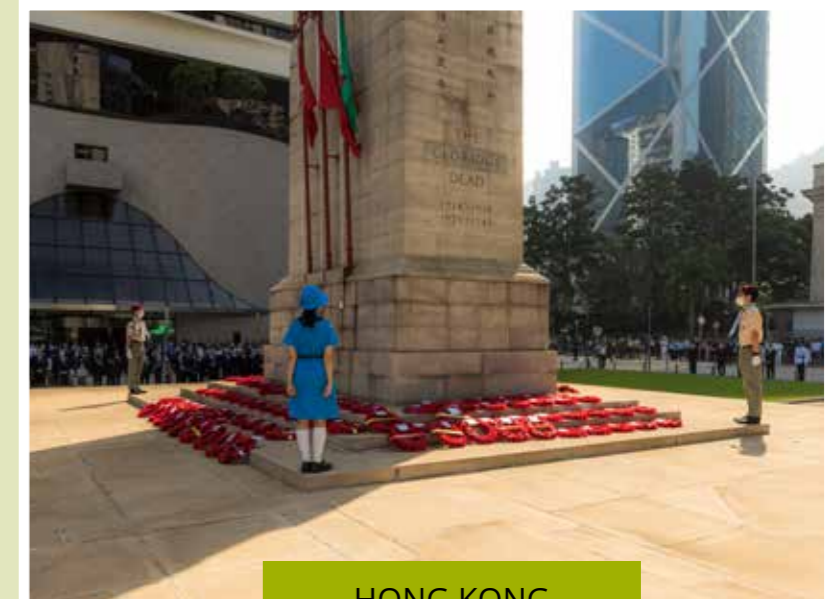
## REMEMBRANCE across the Commonwealth



GHANA



ST LUCIA



HONG KONG

# REMEMBRANCE across the Commonwealth



INDIA



MALTA



ZAMBIA



SIERRA LEONE



PAKISTAN



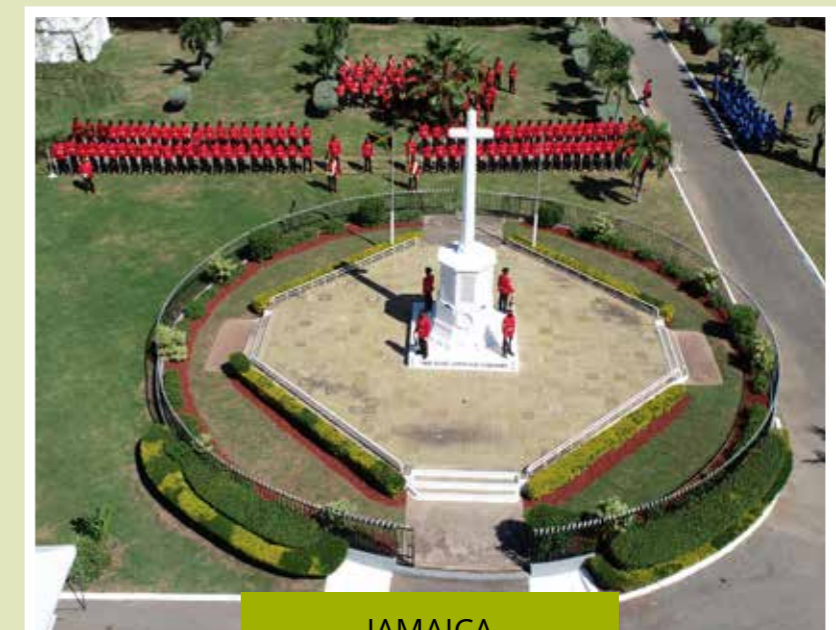
SCOTLAND



SEYCHELLES



SOUTH AFRICA



JAMAICA

# Monitoring & Evaluation Visits

## Controller Welfare & Grants BANGLADESH 24 – 25 May 2022

Tim Burt's visit to our member Organisation the Bangladesh Armed Services Board (BASB) was in accordance with RCEL policies and practices and to meet beneficiaries. However, the planned two-day visit was cut to one day (Wednesday 25th May) following a weather delay travelling from Delhi to Dhaka.

The shortened visit led to a change of programme to do what was possible for one day. Unfortunately, this meant Tim was unable to visit Comilla and meet veterans and widows gathered at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery, Maynamati. The shortened programme began with a meeting at Bangladesh MOD and concluded with meeting at BASB, both in central Dhaka.

Tim met with Mr Hasibul Alam, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence under whose remit BASB falls. Also in attendance was Director General BASB, Brigadier Hasan and other BASB executives. It was a productive meeting highlighting the important role BASB plays in distributing aid to veterans and widows in Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Armed Services Board, Dhaka  
Left to Right – Major Moshiul Mashuk, Brigadier Md Quamrul Hasan, Tim Burt and Major Ashraf Choudhury

Later that day, Tim received a briefing by Director General of BASB, who was joined by Colonel Hussain Reza and Major Moshiul Mashuk and Major Asraf Choudhury. The briefing outlined the BASB role, functions, organisation and size of membership (160,000+ veterans), RCEL beneficiaries, payment of RCEL grants since 2019 and discussion of the RCEL administration grant to BASB.

Whilst disappointing that bad weather cut the visit schedule in half, the meetings Controller Welfare & Grants had with Mr Hasibul Alam at Bangladesh MoD and with Brigadier Hasan and staff at BASB were very worthwhile. BASB remains a valued Member Organisation providing excellent support to veterans and widows in Bangladesh.

## Controller Welfare & Grants BOTSWANA 23 – 28 July 2022

The Botswana Veterans League membership of RCEL was formally ratified at the Kuala Lumpur Conference in 2016 and the last visit was by former Controller Finance, Nigel Dransfield. In 2021, a new Committee was formed. This visit was a routine monitoring and evaluation visit with the objective of meeting veterans and widows.

Accompanied by Group Captain Andrew Bastable (Defence Attaché Zimbabwe and Defence Advisor Botswana, Malawi and Zambia), Tim had a productive first day meeting veterans. These included Julius Segano who lives in Lobatse. Whilst slowing down in recent years Julius Segano remains a well-known local figure and former school master in the town. Julius was keen to talk about his early life, joining the Kings African Rifles in the then Bechuanaland Protectorate, his post war teaching career, retirement in 1990 and meeting Princess



Julius Segano

Anne when she visited Botswana in November 2011. Mr Segano is well cared for by family members in the family home.

Whilst in Botswana, Tim met with Mrs Sebipe, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Social Protection who confirmed that all elderly Botswana citizens receive a monthly pension and WWII veterans receive a monthly allowance; a total of approx. £90 per month.

## Programme Manager CAMEROON 21 – 26 November 2022

This was the first visit to Cameroon by a member of the UK team since 2019, though Derrick Cobbinah, Project Officer for Africa, visited in 2021. As one of the most challenging countries of the Commonwealth Veterans Programme because of the prevailing security situation in the country, a Monitoring & Evaluation visit was important.

The Fraternal Union of Cameroon Ex-Servicemen of the Crown (FUCEMOC) is the RCEL Member Organisation and at the time of the visit, there were 52 surviving beneficiaries: 31 veterans and 21 widows.

Pasan spent time in Limbe in Southwest Cameroon with Sophie Scott, FUCEMOC Treasurer and Chief Warrant Officer Nyenti Egbe John, Vice President of FUCEMOC, looking at the records they hold in the office. Pasan was able to meet with five widows at a lunch arranged by Sophie and hand deliver their SCOWP welfare grants, and visited two widows at their homes. He also visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Limbe Botanic Garden where the annual Remembrance service takes place.

Pasan also visited Bamenda in Northwest Cameroon but was advised not to stay overnight due to security concerns. Whilst in Bamenda,

Pasan and Sophie were joined by Captain Sylvester Ade, President of FUCEMOC. They met several widows including Cameroon's oldest surviving veteran, Sergeant Lawan John who is 108.



Pasan with Sergeant Lawan John

Sergeant John was recruited in Enugu Nigeria in March 1942 to Unit 2442 APC North Africa. He was discharged in July 1946. He served in Enugu, Jerusalem, Burma and Bamenda. He lives in Bamenda with his second wife and has 6 children.

Whilst in Cameroon, Pasan was able to meet with the Deputy High Commissioner, Nigel Holmes and inform him about the work of RCEL and the Commonwealth Veterans Programme.

Sophie, Egbe and Sylvester are doing a great job in Cameroon, despite the challenging security situation. Grants are disbursed in a timely manner and the welfare of veterans and widows is always forefront in their minds.



Pasan Kularatne with members of FUCEMOC, and veterans and widows in Bamenda

**Secretary General  
CANADA  
24 – 27 November 2022**

Following the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee (CVRC) Meeting in October 2022 the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) invited Chris Warren, Secretary General to Canada to update RCL on planning options for the future of the League over the next five years and attend the annual RCL SCOWP Committee meeting. RCL support to the Caribbean is crucial and a key objective of the visit was to discuss this support on an ongoing basis.

The RCL agreed to continue supporting Antigua, Bahamas and Trinidad & Tobago and assist with part funding in Jamaica. The RCL Committee agreed,

in principle, to continue support for a 3-year programme until March 27.

In addition, at the Centenary Conference in London in September 2022, the RCL offered to host the 35th Conference. Chris was able to discuss this further with the Executive who had undertaken a degree of planning and based on advice during this visit, would submit a more formal proposal in 2023. The proposal is to hold Conference in 2025 in Ottawa between 29th June and 2nd July 2025.

This was a timely and useful visit. The RCL are fundamentally important to RCEL for their outstanding moral and financial support to Commonwealth veterans and widows throughout the Caribbean. The RCL continue to support RCEL and we remain indebted to them.

**Programme Manager  
ESWATINI  
28 Nov – 01 Dec 2022**

Eswatini was last visited by the Secretary General in 2016, so this was a timely visit. The Member Organisation, Umsizi, the Ex-servicemen's Welfare Association is Chaired by Gaz Barlow who spent 12 years in the British Army (Royal Signals) before moving to Eswatini 22 years ago. Gaz is supported by his wife Iris, who acts as Treasurer.

There are no surviving veterans in Eswatini and 25 widows at the time of the visit. Pasan visited five widows in their own homes all living in rural areas. Tryphinah Sulo Khumalo, 80, is the widow of Pte Moses Mnushile Khumalo. Pte Moses served in the Royal Army Unit 97 from 1942 to 1945 where he



*Umsizi Treasurer, Iris Barlow with widow Josephine Fikelephi Ngozo*

served in Tripoli, Libya and Italy. After WW2 service, he served in the United States Defence Force and died in 2002. They had seven children. Mrs Khumalo expressed her gratitude for the grants she receives.

Whilst in Eswatini, Pasan met with the British High Commissioner, Simon Boyden who was very interested to hear about RCEL and the Commonwealth Veterans Programme and expressed his willingness to assist Umsizi and RCEL if a need arises.

Umsizi is well run and well managed by Gaz and Iris Barlow and excellent paperwork is maintained. Both spend considerable personal time and money supporting RCEL beneficiaries.



*Pasan with Mrs Khumalo*

**Secretary General  
& Honorary Legal Adviser  
GAMBIA  
21 – 26 January 2023**

Chris Warren was accompanied by Toby Case, RCEL's Commonwealth Council Member for The Gambia, a member of the Senior Management Team and the Honorary Legal Adviser. Both were escorted on visits by Pa Faal and Gibril Jaw representing the Gambia Legion and by Peter Twitchett, who assists and advises the Legion. The security situation has much improved since the last visit in 2017.

Noeline Ambrose, our Gambia Project Officer, has responsibility for all aspects of welfare support and administration and all records and accounts are accurate and well maintained. Further, she and Pa Faal successfully persuaded the Gambian Armed Forces (GAF) to provide a vehicle and driver to assist with the payment of welfare grants.

Whilst in Gambia, Chris and Toby met with the Deputy High Commissioner, Martin Norman and thanked him for his support to veterans and widows during Remembrance and discussed the political situation. They also met with Major General Mamat Oacham, Deputy Chief of Defence Staff and thanked him for the support of the Gambian Armed Forces and the provision of a vehicle and driver during welfare payment visits.



*Bully Sanneh and Landing Jetta*

During a visit to Banjul, Chris and Toby met two widows and one veteran in their homes. Bully Sanneh, 95 is cared for by his wife and daughter. He joined the 1st Gambia Regiment in 1944 with the Royal West African Frontier Force and served until 1958. He completed his service as a Sergeant and remembers the atomic bomb being dropped on Hiroshima. He is very grateful for the RCEL welfare grant which is used to buy food.

The last remaining Gambia Legion branch situated in Bakau held its AGM during the visit. This was attended by 35 members, including many veterans and widows. This provided a further opportunity for Chris and Toby to meet with beneficiaries during the



*Chairman and members at the AGM in Bakau*

lunch that followed. They included WW2 veteran, LCpl Landing Jetta who finished his service with The Gambia Regiment in 1957.

This was a busy and productive visit, greatly enhanced by having Toby Case present in his capacity as Council Member and Honorary Legal Adviser. Toby was able to speak with and capture the details of many veterans and widows. In addition, he assisted with the review and auditing of Noeline's records and accounts.

**Project Officer West Africa  
GHANA  
November 2022**

For the third year, in November 2022, Project Officer, West Africa, Derrick Cobbinah undertook a round of visits to beneficiaries in Ghana. In addition to proof of life and welfare checks, Derrick distributed food boxes. As with previous years, the food boxes were funded by donations received by Warrant Officer Joseph Hammond's



sponsored walk and were gratefully received by all beneficiaries.

**Controller Welfare & Grants  
INDIA  
17 – 23 May 2022**

In 2019, India had the largest number of RCEL supported beneficiaries, over 1,400 veterans and widows. Sadly, as the provisions of the Government of India introduced Foreign Contributions Regulation Act 2010 (FCRA) have taken effect, our five member organisations in India have been unable to receive RCEL welfare funds for distribution to our beneficiaries. FCRA regulates and controls the receipt by charities in India of funds from overseas. Each charity must apply for FCRA accreditation and once approved open an FCRA accredited account with the State Bank of India. With FCRA accreditation or exemption the charity can receive funds to be disbursed in line with their accredited purposes. RCEL last sent funds to our Member Organisation the Indian Ex-Services League (IESL) Delhi in April 2019. There are complex reasons why all our India Member Organisations have been unable to secure FCRA accreditation (or exemption) where other charities in India who receive funds from overseas have been able to.

Major General Mitch Mitchell, Deputy Grand President was accompanied by Tim Burt, Controller Welfare & Grants. In preparation for the summit meeting with the Indian government to seek their assistance to receive and distribute our welfare grants, Mitch and Tim first met with IESL Delhi President, Brigadier Katar Singh, Secretary General, Colonel Jagdev Singh Yadav and other executives. Sadly, it became clear despite letters



India MoD, New Delhi  
L-R – Dr P H Prased (ESW), Dr P P Sharma (ESW) Shri Anand, (Sec ESW), Maj Gen Mitch Mitchell (RCEL), Brigadier Kartar Singh (IESL), Sqn Ldr Tim Burt (RCEL), Cmdre H P Singh (Sec KSB) & Colonel Jagdev Singh Yadav (IESL)

of support from RCEL, India CDS and others to the India Ministry of Home Affairs, IESL for one reason or other would not receive FCRA accreditation or exemption.

The meeting at the India Ministry of Defence in New Delhi was to resolve the FCRA issue by the signing of a prepared Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by Mitch Mitchell for RCEL and the Indian MOD so RCEL could recommence payment and distribution of welfare funds via the Indian MOD's veterans' agency, the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB). Sadly, at the meeting, the Minister (Secretary) of the Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Department (ESW) and Secretary of KSB were unable to sign the MoU and no grant payments would be made via the KSB. However, the Minister outlined how all Indian old age pensioners now received (from their home State Government) an annual pension of between INR72,000 – INR120,000 (some £720 - £1,200pa). The RCEL annual welfare grant to India beneficiaries is £561. If RCEL grants were to resume, the state pension would be withdrawn.

Whilst unexpected and disappointing not to sign the MoU, the good news is that RCEL beneficiaries in India now receive a state-paid old age pension and will have their needs met.

**Controller Finance & Compliance  
KENYA  
26 – 30 May 2022**

The last visit to Kenya was conducted by Controller Welfare & Grants, Tim Burt, in June 2019 shortly after the start of the FCDO Programme. Kenya has the second highest number of SCOWP beneficiaries after Pakistan with 289 veterans and 234 widows.

Accompanied by Col (Ret'd) John Steed, a former DA in Kenya and now Chairman of British Legion Kenya (BLK), David travelled to Machakos to visit the Defence Forces Comrades Association (DEFOCA) County Branch. They were joined by the County Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. In addition, Col Jonathan Makau, the Managing Director of DEFOCA and some of his HQ team travelled from Nairobi for the visit.

DEFOCA provided details of an extensive tour of the county, something not undertaken by the previous committee, resulting in several new potential beneficiaries requesting support. During his visit, Controller Finance, David Thompson, explained that globally RCEL was already supporting a higher number of beneficiaries on the programme than had been either forecast or budgeted for and that the funds available were finite. It was on this basis that we had had to take the very difficult decision to cap numbers in Kenya where numbers had already increased considerably since the start of the programme.

Whilst in Kenya, David met with ten veterans who had all served in WW2; four of the veterans were in their 90's and the remaining six were 100 or over with one aged 108. The majority were still able to communicate clearly and enjoyed telling David their



Controller Finance with DEFOCA HQ staff

history and experience during the war. Most of the veterans served in Somalia and Abyssinia during the war, but a couple had been in Burma as part of the East African Division.

Whilst in Kenya, David met with a number of the BLK Committee. He reviewed the grant payment transfer system to DEFOCA from BLK and looked at samples of the county beneficiaries lists matched to payment requests. The lists are reviewed at each Joint Committee meeting and Proof of Life checks are conducted by the county branches. The Joint Committee oversight and grant payment process are working well. BLK echoed the concerns of DEFOCA re the cap on beneficiary numbers.

David spent useful time with Brig Ronnie Westerman, Defence Advisor (DA) and Lt Col Ash Wiseman, Deputy Defence Advisor (DDA) at the British High Commission. He was able to thank them for their support of the Joint Committee in Kenya. The DA explained that the team was under resourced and would not be able to provide any assistance with oversight of the TPDF in Tanzania.

This was a busy and productive visit. The joint Committee of DEFOCA and BLK works well, and the oversight and grant payments are efficient.



WW2 Askari veterans with their carers, Machakos Committee Members, DEFOCA HQ Staff and Chairman BLK

**Secretary General  
LESOTHO  
3 - 5 April 2022**

This was the first trip to Lesotho since 2019, when the Secretary General last visited. For the last 19 years the ex-servicemen and widows have been looked after by Lt Col Jurie vd Merwe, supported by African Pioneer Corps National Secretary, Julia Puseletso Maratholi. Jurie is a previous President of the South African Legion and as a result of his dedication to the veterans and widows of Lesotho, the Basotho Legion is on a firm footing, well organised with the needs of beneficiaries well met. Since the last visit, Jurie's son-in-law, Hano Du Toit, a qualified accountant agreed to assist Jurie and the RCEL. He and Julia undertake the work required for the timely completion of the quarterly reports and returns.



*Calwick Lefu Ts'ehlana, the British High Commissioner, Home Affairs Minister, Secretary General, Julia Puseletso Maratholi and the late Jurie vd Merwe*

On the first day, the Secretary General met with the British High Commissioner, HE Anne Macro who was very interested in RCEL's work. Later that day, Chris was met by Colonel Mohale who had arranged for him to see Pte Lekane Tabo and Sgt Rakhare, both of the African Pioneer Corps and WWII veterans. Also present was the widow of Pte Molete, Mrs Mapablw. Chris had met the veterans in 2019 and was saddened to see they had aged considerably with a marked reduction in mobility. It was a great privilege for him to see them again.



*Widow Mrs Mapablw*

Chris also visited the African Pioneer Compound (APC) where he was able to check records and bank statements. RCEL investment in IT training for Julia and Hano's ongoing CPD has meant that resilience is far stronger than in previous years. Julia can create spreadsheets and undertake internet banking. This is vital as in January the Lesotho banking system ceased accepting cheques; all beneficiaries are now paid online.

Whilst at the APC, the British High Commissioner and the Home Affairs Minister arrived for an arranged visit. The Minister was very interested in RCEL's work, promising Government of Lesotho support to the pre-independence veterans and widows at Remembrance.

A timely visit and great reassurance that with Hano Du Toit overseeing quarterly reporting from information provided by Julia, the resilience built in will allow support to continue for the duration of the FCDO Programme.

*\* Lt Colonel Jurie vd Merwe is a Former President of the South African Legion. For over 20 years Jurie has been a committed and tireless supported as our Honorary Adviser to Lesotho for which he was awarded the Deputy Grand President's Certificate of Achievement. Jurie died on 25 November 2022.*

**Controller Welfare & Grants  
MALAWI  
19 - 23 July 2022**

Since the last visit by Nigel Dransfield, (then Controller Finance) the Kings African Veterans Trust (KAVT) has settled into a good grant distribution and reporting routine in line with RCEL reporting requirements. The focus of this visit was to ensure the more stringent verification requirements for pre-independence widows was being correctly observed.

Controller Welfare & Grants, Tim Burt's first meeting was with KAVT Honorary Advisor, Denis Lewis; this provided an opportunity for Tim to better understand the practicalities of life in Malawi for veterans and widows and the work of KAVT.

The same day, Tim met with the rest of the KAVT Committee and later visited the Memorial Homes in Zomba. Some 50 houses are located opposite Cobbe Barracks of the Malawi Defence Forces with about two dozen occupied by RCEL veterans and their widows. With the assistance of WOI (Ret'd) Chiwengo and Debora, his daughter, some 26 widows made individual Form B applications for welfare support, providing whatever identification and eligibility paperwork they could in support.

Tim also met with two veterans of 1Bn Kings African Rifles who live at the homes: former Corporal, Gideon Labani, 91, and former Private, Byson Ngkhuni, 88.

During his visit, Controller Welfare also met with KAR and Zambia Regiment WWII veteran Colour



*Tim Burt with Colour Sergeant Maxmos Ketulo*

Sergeant Maxmos Ketulo who was born in 1921. Maxmos explained, 'I am a Second World War veteran, who got wounded during combat in Burma. I was serving under 21st Brigade, 11th (East African) Division. I was shot in the mouth and the bullet came outside to the left of my neck, damaging two teeth in the process. I got

treated in India.' Former Colour Sergeant Ketulo now receives a SCOWP grant of £612 a year for which he is most grateful.

Tim had several more memorable meetings with widows during a visit to Balaka. Sadly, many were unable to provide the necessary paperwork for verification; without this their applications cannot be approved.

A productive and timely visit which provided great opportunities to meet with veterans and widows and re-enforce the good relations with KAVT.



*Zomba - widows waiting to make a SCOWP application*



**Controller Finance & Compliance  
MALAYSIA  
28 February – 3 March 2023**

Kuala Lumpur was the venue for the successful RCEL Conference in 2016. Prior to that, the last visit was in 2014, so a visit was overdue. In addition, Malaysia was the last country in the FCDO Commonwealth Veterans Programme (CVP) which required a Monitoring and Evaluation visit as outlined in the Accountable Grant Arrangement.

There are just two surviving SCOWP beneficiaries in Malaysia, both widows. Most of the work undertaken by the Malaysia Ex-British Army Association (MEBAA) is the disbursement of Agency grants on behalf of the various UK service charities. Whilst there are beneficiaries supported both by the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force, most served in the British Army in either the Royal Signals, the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers or what is now the Royal Logistic Corps.

The main purpose of this visit was to meet the MEBAA Committee to discuss its resilience and future plans, and to meet veterans and widows.

Accompanied by the President of MEBAA, Abdul Rahman Ahmad and Treasurer, Joe Scully, David visited two veterans and three widows. This included Sergeant Jalil, aged 80, who served in the Royal Signals Corps in Singapore between 1957 and 1969. He initially attended the Army Boys Trade School in Singapore. Sergeant Jalil subsequently served in 18 Signal Regiment, which were seconded to the Royal Air Force mainly in Singapore, but he also visited Hong Kong and Gan Island during his service. In addition, he attended his technical Class 1 Signals Course in Catterick for 6 months in 1962 – he remembers it being very cold and a considerable contrast to the weather in Singapore & Malaysia!

After his discharge, he worked for 5 years in the Oil Fields in Brunei and subsequently worked for Ericsson Communications for many years until his retirement. He has been married twice and had 6 children.

David later attend a MEBAA Management Committee meeting in which they conducted their standard business including a review of both income & expenditure, MEBAA membership numbers and beneficiaries including caseload by Service Charity, application renewals and pending approvals.



*President MEBAA, Abdul Rahman; Ahmad bin Jalil; RCEL Controller Finance; Mrs Jalil*

MEBAA is a very well-run Member Organisation; excellent individual records are kept of each beneficiary which include their records of service, grant applications, payment dates of grants together with amounts and any verification details. Currently MEBAA has a finite life span of around 2 years unless volunteers can be found to replace the existing committee. Discussions with the UK Service Charities will need to be arranged to agree plans to support beneficiaries if MEBAA ceases to exist.

**Controller Finance & Compliance  
MAURITIUS  
22 – 27 February 2023**

**As directed by the Mauritius Government, the dissolution of the Mauritius Ex-Services Trust Fund took place on 27th December 2021 and all responsibility for RCEL's beneficiaries was transferred to the Ex-Services Association of Mauritius (ESAM). Due Diligence was completed on ESAM as the new Member Organisation in early 2022. With the new organisation in place, this was an important visit to review how ESAM was operating.**

Further, this visit provided an opportunity to meet veterans & widows in receipt of SCOWP & Blind Veterans UK grants, to visit beneficiaries on Rodrigues Island, which had not been previously visited by RCEL and to see the impact of the Libor grant on the completed museum in Mauritius.

ESAM is a private association which has been in existence for 75 years. It is managed by a committee composed of 13 veterans with the

assistance of Mr Naden Armoogum, RCEL's main point of contact, who was appointed as the Manager of the organisation.

Controller Finance, David Thompson, and Naden met with the Acting British High Commissioner, Mrs Sally Harrison and briefed her on the Commonwealth Veterans Programme. The next day, David visited Rodrigues Island, a small volcanic island in the Indian Ocean, east of Mauritius.

On Rodrigues Island, there are four widows in receipt of SCOWP grants and two veterans who receive Blind Veterans UK grants. David met with all six beneficiaries who live in a variety of conditions, ranging from a tin and wood-built shack to more modern concrete structures. The beneficiaries included André Casimir. Mr Casimir served for two tours in the Royal Pioneer Corps from 1946 to 1949 and subsequently 1949 to 1952. He served in Cyprus, Egypt, Benghazi (Libya) and Palestine. He is 102 years old and can't remember much about his service other than the countries he visited, and his Army Number. When he returned to Rodrigues he was employed as a labourer mainly working in agriculture. His wife died some time ago, but they were married for over 50 years and had 17 children of which only 3 are still alive.



*Germaine Raboude, age 89; Andre Casimir age 102*

On his final day in Mauritius, David visited the museum, which pays tribute to the 3,000 and 35,000 Mauritians who served during WW1 and WW2 respectively, in the British Army. The exhibits are excellent and very informative. RCEL's Libor contribution is displayed prominently on the list of donors in the gallery. These funds have been spent productively and a fitting tribute has been created.

The trip concluded with a meeting with Mr R Sonea, one of the Permanent Secretary's in the Prime Minister's Office who is responsible for Veterans affairs in Mauritius. David was able to thank Mr Sonea for the support provided by the government to all our RCEL beneficiaries, the government funding provided for the museum and the leading role in Remembrance each year.

A timely and productive visit; ESAM is a well-run Member Organisation with good governance and excellent records.

**Secretary General  
& Honorary Legal Adviser  
SIERRA LEONE  
26 – 31 January 2023**

The last visit to Sierra Leone was in March 2020 when David Thompson, Controller Finance and Compliance was accompanied by our West Africa Project Officer, Derrick Cobbinah. Sierra Leone is a high maintenance country, requiring greater oversight and visits than many other countries. This is due to the security situation, changing personalities and a very complex political situation following the 10-year civil war.

At the time of this visit, there were 147 surviving beneficiaries - 55 veterans and 92 widows. Secretary General, Chris Warren and Hon Legal Adviser, Toby Case were accompanied in Freetown by the Secretary General of Sierra Leone Ex-Serviceman's Association (SLESA), Lt Col Fatorma Gottor and Sam Sahr, a former British NCO and our Honorary Adviser for Sierra Leone.

Chris and Toby spent considerable time with SLESA officers and staff in their office in Cockerill Barracks auditing paperwork, checking bank statements, and checking veteran and widow eligibility by dip testing a number on the lists of those supported. This proved to be a lengthy process as the filing system has room for improvement, something discussed and encouraged. On several occasions during time spent with SLESA, many widows arrived seeking a grant who sadly did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Whilst in Sierra Leone, Chris, Toby, Sam and Fatorma met the British High Commissioner, Her Excellency Lisa Chesney. The Secretary General was able to brief her on the RCEL global, FCDO and SLESA situation. →



*The Full SLESA office staff with Secretary General, Honorary Legal Adviser and Sam Sahr*

## MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

The High Commissioner highlighted the poverty in Sierra Leone and that the country was the 6th poorest in the world. With national elections on the horizon, she voiced her concern about civil unrest.

During a visit to Waterloo, Chris and Toby were greeted with a local song and introduced to many veterans and widows. These included Joseph Arunu who lost a finger when a mortar fuse detonated in his hand and Capt. Foday Kamara who was recruited in 1961 and joined 1st Bn Royal Sierra Leone Regiment. He is the Tribal Chief of the western area and Waterloo. He attended the Mortar Course at the Support Weapons Wing; Warminster and his happiest memory is of Calor gas heaters in his billet at Netheravon during his course. He remembers the instructor as Captain 'Terror' but is unable to recall his name.

Sierra Leone remains problematic, principally due to the political situation creating tension between SLESA and the MoD. However, SLESA continues to run well with Lt Col Fatorma Gottor at the helm.



Meeting veterans at Waterloo

The support of Sam Sahr is invaluable. RCEL is grateful to SLESA for continuing to ensure that veterans and widows in Sierra Leone receive our support.

## Secretary General SOUTH AFRICA 1 – 3 April 2022

At the time of the Secretary General's visit, RCEL was providing support to 18 SCOWP beneficiaries and 57 Agency cases (on behalf of UK Service charities). The South African Legion National Headquarters conducts casework and ongoing reporting for compliance of the FCDO Commonwealth Veterans Programme, and we are grateful to them for this valuable support.

Whilst in South Africa, Secretary General Chris Warren had a productive meeting with the British

Defence Adviser, Colonel Stan Harris. They were joined via Teams by the National President, Lgr Brian Smith and the National Secretary, Lgr Riana Venter van Zyl where Chris was able to brief the DA on the role of RCEL globally and with the SA Legion. The DA agreed to assist with Poppy distribution from the UK to the SA Legion.

The Secretary General later met with the National Executive Committee and separately, the National Office Bearers (NOB) for useful meetings. This was a timely visit to the South African Legion. The National President and National Secretary are committed to providing support to RCEL SCOWP and Agency beneficiaries and this remains their focus.



Lgr Brian Smith – National President, Secretary General and Lgr Riana Venter van Zyl – National Secretary

## MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

## Controller Finance & Compliance TANZANIA 24 – 26 May 2022

The last visit to Tanzania was by former Controller Finance, Nigel Dransfield in November 2018, just prior to the start of the Commonwealth Veterans Programme. Unfortunately, in early 2019, while compiling the due diligence required for the FCDO Programme, it became apparent that the Tanzania People's Defence Force's (TPDF) were not able to provide the necessary documents and assurance needed to satisfy the increased requirements. Therefore, no funds have been sent to Tanzania since 2019. A planned visit by the Secretary General in March 2020 to try and resolve the issues was postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

This visit by David Thompson, Controller Finance, aimed to explore the suitability of the TPDF to restart grant payments to beneficiaries with an increased level of oversight and to meet representatives from the Tanzania Legion & Clubs (TLC) to ascertain their suitability to make payments either in tandem with, or instead of TPDF should the latter be unable to meet the necessary criteria. The goal was to resume payments to the estimated 128 veterans and widows in Tanzania.

David met with the TPDF Chief of Reserve Forces, Brig Kadawi. He appeared in principle keen to assist with the disbursement of grants but was keen to gain official approval at Ministerial level before



From L - R: Col Milewa, Controller Finance, Brig Kadawi, Maj Ndaro

moving forward with the more detailed discussion/negotiation.

Whilst in Tanzania, David met with the British High Commissioner, David Concar, for a short but focused meeting. He was keen to help RCEL move forward and confirmed that he would push a formal bid for support from the TPDF through the right diplomatic channels to get to the Minister of Defence.

A meeting with the TLC revealed they would not be able to comply with the due diligence requirements and therefore would not be able to disburse grants to beneficiaries.

Despite this visit and subsequent exploratory discussions with various parties, it has not been possible to arrange the necessary governance and oversight of TPDF and sadly RCEL remains unable to disburse grants to Tanzania.

## Secretary General & Honorary Legal Adviser UGANDA 2 – 6 February 2023

The Uganda Ex-Servicemen's Association (UESA) has one of the largest numbers of beneficiaries with 455 (365 veterans & 90 widows) at the time of this visit.

This visit began with a meeting with the DA, Lt Col Toby Barrington Barnes and the Assistant DA SSgt Raj Chandrock in the British High Commission attended by Secretary General, Chris Warren, Honorary Legal Adviser, Toby Case, David Robers Senoga (Secretary General UESA) and Herbert Kamyuka, the Treasurer of UESA. The DA had agreed to facilitate the Remembrance and wreath

laying service at Jinja the next day. This event took place in Jinja, some 2 hours out of Kampala at the Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery. Several veterans and widows attended the moving service and the lunch that followed, and Chris and Toby were able to spend time meeting many of them. Lunch was greatly appreciated by the veterans and widows, and it was very good to witness them interacting with each other and enjoying the occasion.

Whilst in Kampala, Chris and Tony met the Chairman, Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General and the Treasurer at the UESA offices in Kampala.

This Committee currently meets twice a month and provided a full update on UESA, methods of payments to veterans and widows and funding UESA to effectively deliver the grants whilst meeting the demanding reporting requirements.

Chris and Toby were able to undertake a short audit. They concluded that the accounts were well maintained and that financial returns to RCEL →

## MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS



Secretary General meeting veterans and widows

during the quarterly reporting process was effective. Following this, they met WWII veteran E68142 Cpl Wiza Keberro who is 102. He was recruited in Uganda in 1943 and discharged in Nanyuki, Kenya following service with No 5 Company the East African Engineers. He was discharged in Kenya because his role had been guarding Italian POWs held in the Nanyuki area.

Later in the visit, Chris and Toby attended as observers a meeting of The Joint Veterans Committee (Uganda) which took place in the Department of Veterans Affairs in the MoD. During the meeting, Toby was again able to explain the importance of the Widows Policy and UESA and the Uganda MoD agreed that the eligibility criteria were clear, and they



Toby Case meeting veterans and widows following the Service.

would continue to use this for assessing new widow applications, of which there are many.

The trip concluded with visits to more veterans and widows in remote areas, requiring long drives; very few live in Kampala as it is too expensive. All expressed their gratitude for the support they are given.

This was a successful visit. Relationships with the British High Commission and the Uganda Department of Veterans Affairs have strengthened. It is clear the veterans and widows are well cared for and receive their grant in a timely manner. It is likely numbers will increase soon as pending widow applications are reviewed.

## Finance & Welfare Officer ZAMBIA 19 – 21 October 2022

Zambia was last visited by the Secretary General in 2016, so this was a timely visit. Camilla John, RCEL Finance & Welfare Officer was fortunately able to visit Zambia in October 2022 on the way back from a trip to neighbouring Zimbabwe.

At the time of the visit, there were two surviving veterans and 36 widows. Captain Geoff Thomas, Chair of the Zambia Poppy Committee is RCEL's main point of contact. Despite working full time, Geoff undertakes this role in a voluntary capacity with exceptional care and enthusiasm. He works alongside The Ex-Serviceman's League of Zambia (EXSELZA), liaising with the surviving veterans and widows, ensuring they receive their grants and completes all reports and paperwork for RCEL.

During her visit, Camilla spent time with Captain Thomas looking at paperwork, finances and running verification checks. She later spent an afternoon at the Burma Memorial Hall where she met with ten widows for an enjoyable lunch. She was joined by Brigadier General Joyce Puta, Chair of the NEC and Colonel Mwamba, Zambia Director of Veterans.

Camilla had the opportunity to meet ten widows individually; they were happy to share their stories and some were able to recall details of their husbands' service. All emphasised their gratitude for the grants received. (For the individual story of Elizabeth Fane Mbatia see Case Study on page 17).

This was a short but very productive visit. Captain Geoff Thomas is fully committed to the cause and doing an excellent job of supporting the remaining veterans and widows in Zambia.



Captain Geoff Thomas (front row), with Camilla John and Brigadier General Joyce Puta and Zambian widows outside the Burma Memorial Hall in Lusaka.



Group photo taken outside the Guards Chapel

## RCEL Centenary Conference

The RCEL Centenary conference took place in London between 24-28 September. Attended by over 100 people, the conference was the first full overseas meeting since Malaysia in 2016. Delegates from 39 Member Organisations were represented at this important conference. The welcoming address by the Grand President set the scene for what would be a hugely successful and memorable conference:

*"We are here to celebrate and commemorate 101 years of a quite remarkable history. Very few military charities survive this long, and the bedrock has been you, our Member Organisations. Most of you represent organisations that did not exist in 1921 but Founder Members with us today from Australia, Canada, England, Wales and Northern Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland and South Africa have been unflinching in their support for this great cause. I pay tribute to you, however long you have been a member of the League and on behalf of the veterans and widows you quietly support every day I thank you most sincerely. For those who have travelled thousands of miles to represent your country a very warm welcome on behalf of Conference and indeed the City of London. I do hope you and your wives, husbands and partners are able to enjoy excitement and buzz of the greatest multi-cultural and diverse city in the world."*

A key focus of the Conference was the Commonwealth Veterans Programme which began in April 2019 following the award of £12.3M of UK aid funding over a five-year period from FCDO (Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office). The objective of the Programme is to provide sustained nutrition of two meals per day, strengthening resilience and lifting Commonwealth veterans and widows out of absolute poverty.

Resolutions concerning the future of The League were discussed and voted. Importantly, there were wide ranging and open discussions about widows' eligibility criteria. All agreed the criteria were sensible and crucial to the effective and appropriate delivery of welfare grants.

In addition, the following two resolutions were supported by Conference.

- ◆ That a formal application to the UK Government Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, for an extension to the Commonwealth Veterans Programme for up to 5 years from 1 April 2024, be submitted on behalf of all Member Organisations.
- ◆ That work in parallel be undertaken by RCEL to secure support for eligible beneficiaries in the event of no Programme extension by the UK Government, with a view to a possible merger with the Royal British Legion or the ABF The Soldiers' Charity.

In addition to two busy days of productive Conference business, delegates and guests enjoyed a moving Remembrance service at the Guards Chapel with wreath laying. The traditional group photograph was taken outside the Chapel on a sunny autumnal day. A cultural day with a river cruise and lunch on the Thames was very much enjoyed. Conference concluded with a reception in the splendid surroundings of St James's Palace hosted by HRH Prince Edward.

RCEL thanks all those who attended for making it a truly memorable centenary conference, fitting for recognising and celebrating the remarkable achievements of the League over the previous 101 years.

# RCEL Centenary Conference

*"We are here to celebrate and commemorate 101 years of a quite remarkable history. Very few military charities survive this long, and the bedrock has been you, our Member Organisations"*



Conference delegates outside the Guards Chapel



Conference laughter



RCEL Programme Manager, Pasan Kularatne with the RCEL Standard during the Remembrance service at the Guards Chapel



Wreath laying at the Guards Chapel.



Deputy Grand President, Capt Roddy Sale, Brigadier Kartar Singh, Grand President, Colonel Jagdev Singh Yadev, Secretary General and Major General Upul Perera



Chairman SCOWP Conference address



RCEL Controller Welfare, Tim Burt and his wife Julia with Lebanon delegates, Rosie and Nemer Ghazel



Guyana delegate Carol Taylor with her husband, Clement enjoying the cruise



Johanna Lewin with Antigua delegate Hillroy J Brown (JB)



Welcome address by Sir Malcolm Rifkind KC



John King, Paul Davis and Erica Myers-Davis



Earl Francis, St Lucia and Lauren Grey-Beliaeff, Grenada



David Thompson, RCEL Controller Finance with RCEL Office Manager (now retired) Mari Gordon-Roe and her husband, Steve

# RCEL Centenary Conference



Ghana delegate Captain Ben Duah, and Toby Case, Hon Legal Adviser, meeting HRH Earl of Wessex

Conference concluded with a reception in the splendid surroundings of St James's Palace hosted by HRH Prince Edward.



Deputy Grand President presenting Erica Myers-Davis with her Certificate of Recognition



Chris and Nicky Warren



Lynda Crafter, Zimbabwe delegate and Derrick Cobbinah, RCEL West Africa Project Officer



Grand President presenting Gaz Barlow, Eswatini, with his Meritorious Service Award



Deputy Grand President presenting Naden Armoogum, Mauritius, with his Certificate of Recognition



HRH Earl of Wessex and Patrick Manion, delegate for Sierra Leone



Secretary General with Charles Byrne, Director General of The Royal British Legion



Grand President presenting Patrick Manion, Sierra Leone with his Meritorious Service Award



RCEL thanks all those who attended for making it a truly memorable centenary conference, fitting for recognising and celebrating the remarkable achievements of the League over the previous 101 years.

Sophie Scott, Cameroon,

# Founder Members Reports



## THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



Left to right:  
National President:  
Major General Greg Melick AP RFD SC  
Chief Executive Officer:  
Brigadier Philip Winter AM CSC ADC

2022 was another busy year and RSL Australia remains committed to delivering a diverse range of programs and initiatives which enable the RSL to better serve our current membership and the next generation of veterans and their families.

Throughout this year, we have been deeply involved with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide - attending hearings around the country and making extensive, detailed submissions and comments on behalf of the veteran community. We will continue to take a prominent position and implement projects to address some of the known issues as the Royal Commission continues into 2023.

Acknowledging the important role of Ex-service Organisations (ESOs) in the ongoing care of our veteran community, this year the RSL facilitated an inaugural National ESO Forum aimed at driving better coordination within the ESOs sector. The group established collective agreement on some key issues. A report and action plan has been published.

The RSL is consistently advocating for veterans. Our website demonstrates the extent of commentary on current issues as diverse as early calls for government assistance for Afghanistan interpreters, to demand-driven funding, mental health support, and proactive medical treatment for our veterans.

RSL Australia welcomed the release, in June, of the 2021 Census data which provided new insights into the nation's veteran population and revealed the regions with the highest populations of current and former serving Australian Defence Force personnel. These insights about the Defence and veteran population and their needs will enable the RSL to provide targeted support resources across the country.

This year, the passing of our Patron, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, was a significant event felt by all members who particularly valued her association and patronage of the League for more than 70 years. Her Majesty's passing was a moment of great sadness, but it was also a time to reflect on her unstinting service and contribution to Australia, Great Britain, and all the nations of the Commonwealth. I was honoured to represent the RSL and our members at Her Majesty's funeral. We are now seeking the support of King Charles III to succeed his mother as the RSL's National Patron.

Along with our major observances of ANZAC and Remembrance Day the RSL supported many other anniversaries and commemorations including the 80th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. We continued to support our veteran community through a range of national programs and services, including the RSL Veterans' Employment Program, and RSL Active.



## THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Left to right:  
National Chairman:  
Mr Jason Coward  
Director General:  
Mr Charles Byrne

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) is an expert and essential provider of support to those who served and those who survive them. They do an immense amount of work year-round to ensure that their unique contributions will never be forgotten.

While life in the UK has been turbulent over recent years, we must always remember and support those who live in the rest of the world. I am very

proud that in 2022, in addition to the RBL's general support to RCEL, we helped beneficiaries in 39 countries across 6 continents. We could not do that without an excellent network of like-minded partners.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, I congratulate and thank the RCEL for continued their support of His Majesty's Armed Forces, regardless of the country those individuals call home.



## THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION



Left to right:  
Dominion President:  
Mr Bruce Julian  
National Executive Director:  
Mr Steven Clark CD

The primary goal 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. Legion programs are focused on the provision of individual assistance as veterans and widows in need are identified.

Our ability to meet the needs of the veterans and widows in the Caribbean region is directly attributable to the generosity of Legion branches that continue to donate to the fund on an annual basis. In 2022, our branches and members donated \$259,469.90 CAD which is commendable as typically income received on non-convention years is much lower. The income received in 2021 was \$348,289.05.

In 2022, we provided \$135,159.09 CAD in direct benevolent assistance to Commonwealth veterans and widows in the Caribbean. RCL also took on the full support to Antigua beneficiaries whereas in previous years, RCL's contribution to Antigua was 50% of the 22% RCEL responsibility. In addition, the Legion provided \$19,647.79 CAD in Poppy and Remembrance material (plus \$23,276.34 CAD shipping) to assist the various organizations in conducting their own Poppy fundraising campaigns

and to coordinate their Remembrance Day ceremonies. The requests for poppy materials for 2023 are also in line with these figures.

The Legion continued its annual grant of \$5,500 to the Curphey Home in Jamaica. Also, a one-time grant of \$7,622.52 was awarded to RCEL to assist with the purchase of IT equipment for member organizations in the Caribbean.

The Covid 19 travel restrictions lifted in early 2022 which meant site visits could be resumed. Visits to the Bahamas, Antigua, Barbados, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Kitts were conducted in April 2022. We continue to have regular contact and correspondence with the agencies in Tobago, and Trinidad and Tobago where a site visit is being planned for 2024. Site visits have continued in 2023 with more to come in 2024 as well. It is extremely gratifying to see the continued loyalty and dedication of these veterans to the Commonwealth and to personally experience their appreciation for our assistance.

The Royal Canadian Legion, its leadership, our branches, and members, are proud of our continuing support of the RCEL and the assistance provided to Commonwealth veterans and widows in the Caribbean.



## THE ROYAL NEW ZEALAND RETURNED AND SERVICES' ASSOCIATION (INC)



(Left to right) Board Chair: Maj Gen (Retd) Martyn Dunne, CNZM, QSO  
CEO: Marty Donoghue  
National President: Sir Wayne Shelford, KNZM, MBE

This year we have gone through some changes within the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA). Our long-term National President B.J Clark stood down in October and was recognised in the New Year Honours with the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).

Sir Wayne (Buck) Shelford KNZM, MBE was elected as National President during our National Council. Sir Wayne served in the Royal New Zealand Navy for over a decade and is perhaps best known for his time as Captain of the All Blacks from 1987 to 1990.

Sir Wayne brings his national profile, leadership and passion for improving the wellbeing of veterans to the role. We also have a new Board Chair, Major General (Retired) Martyn Dunne CNZM QSO. Martyn was our Joint Forces Commander and led the New Zealand Forces during the intervention into Timor Leste. After retiring from the military, Martyn has had a significant career in the Public Service having been the Comptroller of Customs, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Primary Industries and High Commissioner to Australia.

**continued:**

The RNZRSA, along with the other veterans and the people of Aotearoa New Zealand celebrated the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen had a significant role with the RNZRSA and had been our Patron since the year of her accession.

This year has highlighted:

- Our support network needed to be reinforced and work with Government to financially support our efforts has resulted in a pilot project supporting veterans into employment.
- The recognition of challenges to veterans and their families wellbeing, identified in a Veteran's Affairs report, in which along with the RNZRSA a wide range of New Zealand's veteran organisations provided input. This policy level report provides a blueprint for Government agencies to better support veterans and their families.
- The need for the RNZRSA to strengthen its advocacy and activism in improving the conditions of service for those who currently serve within the New Zealand Defence Force, and to improve eligibility of support within the current policies and regulations within our veteran legislation.

- The need to reinforce our core pillars of Remembrance, Support and Advocacy.

This year, Anzac Day services, reinforced the nation's commitment and acknowledgement of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice, we must however pay more attention to our living veterans and their families.

The RNZRSA continues to focus on our core purpose. "Ka mua, ka muri" is a whakatauki (Māori value or metaphor) that means "walking backwards into the future" - the idea we should look to the past to inform the future. We have realised that we need to redefine our purpose and look toward the type of national organisation we want to be by 2030 providing relevant services for our veterans and their families.

points of contact with veterans and their families and helped 200 veterans directly with practical support and signposting to other organisations. Our staff and volunteers have worked tirelessly to ensure we are combating isolation and loneliness across Scotland for those who require our assistance.

It was also a busy year for our Pensions & Advocacy Department with staff presenting appellants at 99 appeals and the successful outcomes resulted in more than £769,000 in financial benefits for those veterans.

With the rest of the Nation and wider Commonwealth our members were devastated by the news of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in September and across our Areas

and Branches the period of mourning was marked with respect and poignancy. We had the privilege of sending representatives to the funeral at Westminster Abbey and to represent on behalf of the organisation here in Edinburgh for the Proclamation of the King. Like many other organisations we are currently awaiting confirmation of our new Patronage.

It remains our pleasure and privilege to be part of the wider Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League community and for our National Chairman to be invited to attend meetings in London throughout the year to contribute to discussions and to hear regular updates on the dedication and support of the organisation for those overseas who have given their lives in support of the British Armed Forces.



**THE ROYAL  
BRITISH LEGION  
SCOTLAND**



*Left to right:*  
National Chairman: Lieutenant  
Commander Martyn Hawthorn MBE RN  
Chief Executive: Dr Claire Armstrong

Our priority once again in 2022 has been to ensure we are a united organisation, engaging with local communities throughout Scotland to provide support for the Armed Forces Community.

Change is always a challenge for any organisation and the last 12 months have seen us continue to adapt working practices both for office-based staff and our volunteer network. We have continued to deliver virtual support where appropriate and make use of the new systems and methods of meeting which were forced upon us during the pandemic. However, the last 12 months have seen a welcome return to face-to-face meetings, events and support, which is crucial for our beneficiaries and our wider network.

There was also still time to reflect on our work over the last 100 years as we concluded our postponed Centenary events in early 2022. Annual Conference made a welcome return, and our members and representative of the Armed Forces Community joined us in Perth in May 2022 to provide updates

on the work of the Armed Forces across Scotland and to identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination of our efforts to ensure we can meet the challenges ahead.

One highlight of 2022's events calendar saw communities come together across Scotland between April and June to mark the 40th Anniversary of the Falklands War. In partnership with Scottish Government our organisation led on the national commemorative event held in Edinburgh on Saturday 18th of June. This was an excellent opportunity for the Armed Forces community to come together in poignant reflection of those who made the ultimate sacrifice and to spend a day together in comradeship.

Through marking key commemorations like this, sharing comradeship and providing practical support to veterans through our Veterans Community Support Service, everyone has stepped up this year to ensure we continue to deliver our charitable work. We reported more than 4,800



*Left to right:*  
National President:  
LGR Brian Smith  
National Secretary:  
Izelle Potgieter

The South African Legion continues to process grant applications and payments for both the Royal Commonwealth Ex-service League and the National War Fund (NWF). The beneficiaries are as always grateful for the aid and visits from the caseworkers. They do not often receive visitors other than their family members.

The SA Legion National Head Office had a change of staff after the resignation of Mrs Riana Venter van Zyl in May 2022, her position has been filled by Mrs Izelle Potgieter.

The SA Legion is sad to announce the passing to higher service of Legionnaire (Oom) Jurie VD Merwe, a very resolute and long serving Legionnaire, on 25 November 2022. He became the President of the SA Legion in 2007 and Past President for Life in September 2010. Oom Jurie was well known to the members of the RCEL.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember him.

2022 has been a year of recovery after Covid Pandemic and its restrictions. During the year, we had the freedom to open our doors, attend monthly meetings, have social activities with our members and to attend parades honouring the fallen once more.

South Africa is affected daily by power cuts, rolling blackouts, which seriously affect the daily lives of our beneficiaries, the running of the SA Legion offices and the Legion in general. 2022 has been the worst year of rolling blackouts since 2007 when it was originally introduced as a power saving initiative. Since September 2022 we have been faced with daily power cuts can last between six to ten hours at a time.

South Africans and the Legion members are tenacious and continue to rise above any obstacles thrown at them.

The SA Legion President Lgr Brian Smith and new National Secretary Mrs. Izelle Potgieter had the privilege to attend the RCEL 34th Conference in London in September 2022. We would like to thank the RCEL for the incredible hospitality during this event, and the attendees for the warm welcome and hand of friendship. It was truly a memorable occasion with new friendships being forged and being able to meet members from around the globe in person.

# Member Organisations of RCEL

*and their UK based representatives on the Commonwealth Council*

## **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION**

HE The High Commissioner for Antigua  
and Barbuda -  
The Revd Canon I St C Richards JP BA (Hons)

## **RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED**

\* Brigadier AW Freemantle CBE DBA  
Colonel K Farrar

## **BRITISH LEGION - BAHAMAS BRANCH**

Mr PD Cleminson CBE FIET

## **BANGLADESH ARMED SERVICES BOARD**

Defence Adviser, Bangladesh High  
Commission

## **BARBADOS LEGION OF RCEL**

Lieutenant Colonel DA Sullivan

## **BELIZE EX-SERVICEMEN LEAGUE**

\* Colonel JM Bowles MBE  
Miss Y Best

## **BERMUDA LEGION**

Mrs C Everson MBE

## **BOTSWANA VETERANS LEAGUE**

Colonel I Mills MBE

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

\* Ms L Atkins  
\* Mr J Coward

## **BURMA (H4FA)**

Mr R Bruce  
Mr PCC Mitchell

## **FRATERNAL UNION OF CAMEROON EX-SERVICEMEN OF THE CROWN**

Defence Adviser, Cameroon High  
Commission, Colonel J Ngwafor

## **ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

\* Mrs E Watkins DL

## **CAYMAN ISLANDS VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

## **DOMINICA LEGION OF RCEL**

Mr H Moore MBE

## **UMSIZI (ESWATINI) EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

Mr P Gooday

## **RETURNED SOLDIERS AND EX- SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF FIJI**

HE The High Commissioner for Fiji

## **RCEL (THE GAMBIA LEGION)**

\* Mr T Case

## **VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, GHANA**

Defence Adviser, Ghana High Commission  
\* Colonel PA Davis CBE

## **FORCES HELP GHANA (FHG)**

\* Colonel PA Davis CBE

## **GRENADA LEGION OF RCEL**

Mr N Hamilton

## **GUYANA VETERANS LEGION**

Ms C Taylor

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (HONG KONG AND CHINA BRANCH)**

Mr A Liardet  
\* Colonel MJ Winarick OBE

## **INDIAN EX-SERVICEMEN LEAGUE New Delhi**

Colonel AAA Beattie  
\* Mrs E Strouts

## **EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIA Chennai (incl Bangalore & Deccan) and Mumbai**

Captain R Sale OSTJ

## **EAST INDIA CHARITABLE TRUST Kolkata**

Captain R Sale OSTJ

## **JAMAICA LEGION RCEL**

Doctor Erica Myers-Davis DBA FRSA MBus  
Captain P Chambers LLB MBA

## **DEFENCE FORCES COMRADES ASSOCIATION (DEFOCA) KENYA**

Defence Adviser, Kenya High Commission  
Mr O Marsh

## **BRITISH LEGION KENYA**

Colonel T Merritt OBE  
Lieutenant Colonel ADT Barkas

## **AFRICA PIONEER CORPS (LESOTHO)**

Major U Cleminson CBE BEM TD

## **THE KINGS AFRICAN VETERANS TRUST (MALAWI)**

\* Brigadier DA Williams MBE

## **MALAYSIAN EX-BRITISH ARMY ASSOCIATION**

\* Brigadier JCL King MBE  
\* Colonel MM Slattery RRC

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MALTA**

Lieutenant Colonel JF Falzon BEM  
Commander S Farrington QGM RN

## **EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF MAURITIUS**

HE The High Commissioner for Mauritius  
Captain LJ Gill

## **MOTHS IN NAMIBIA**

Major JM Coldrick MBE GM  
Lieutenant Colonel S Pope OBE RM

## **ROYAL NEW ZEALAND RETURNED & SERVICES' ASSOCIATION INC**

\* Colonel AJ Martin ONZM  
Mr S Fitzpatrick ONZM

## **NIGERIAN LEGION**

General Dr Yakubu Gowon

## **COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES TRUST (PAKISTAN)**

Brigadier AE Berry OBE  
Brigadier BP Edwards OBE

## **PAKISTAN ARMED SERVICES BOARD**

Army & Air Adviser, Pakistan High  
Commission

## **ST. LUCIA EX-SERVICE LEAGUE OF RCEL**

Mrs E Mullings-Smith MSc BSc (Hons) FRSA

## **ROYAL ST. VINCENT LEGION RCEL**

Mr H Moore MBE

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND**

\* Lieutenant Commander MR Hawthorn  
MBE RN  
Doctor C Armstrong

## **SEYCHELLES EX-SERVICEMEN FUND**

Mr B Silver

## **SIERRA LEONE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Mr P Manion  
Major General AR Freer OBE

## **SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION**

\* Major General CH Elliott CVO CBE

## **SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

Brigadier DJ Innes LVO OBE DL  
Wing Commander S Sahabandu

## **TANZANIA EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION**

Colonel AEW Stormer

## **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LEGION**

\* Mr A Holmes OBE

## **TURKS & CAICOS EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION**

## **UGANDA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN RCEL**

Major GF Correa MBE  
Major RD Patrick MBE

## **EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEAGUE OF ZAMBIA**

Defence Adviser, Zambia High Commission

## **ZANE (ZIMBABWE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY)**

Major General AI Ramsay CBE DSO  
Brigadier P Lawless SCR

## **THE LEGION, ZIMBABWE**

Major General AI Ramsay CBE DSO  
Brigadier P Lawless SCR





## Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

Haig House, 199 Borough High Street, London SE1 1AA  
 Tel: 020 3207 2413  
 Email: [hyoung@commonwealthveterans.org.uk](mailto:hyoung@commonwealthveterans.org.uk)  
 Website: [www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk](http://www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk)  
 Registered Charity No. 1174874

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL) provides welfare support for ex-service men and women of Commonwealth countries who at some time served the British Crown, and who are resident overseas.

Founded by Earl Haig in 1921, RCEL has 52 Member Organisations in 46 countries, covering the Caribbean, West, East and Southern Africa, the Indian sub-continent to South East Asia, the Pacific and Australasia. RCEL provides support in the form of welfare grants to provide the equivalent of two meals a day. The key objective is to ensure that no eligible ex-service man or woman shall be without help if in need.

### Office Holders

**Grand President**  
 General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux  
 GCB CBE DSO DL

**Deputy Grand President**  
 Major General Mitch Mitchell CB MBE

**Secretary General**  
 Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Warren

**Controller Finance**  
 Major David Thompson

**Controller Welfare and Grants**  
 Squadron Leader Tim Burt

**Programme Manager**  
 Colonel B Pasan Kularatne

**Finance and Welfare Officer**  
 Mrs Camilla John

**Office Manager**  
 Ms Harriett Young

**Honorary Treasurer**  
 Mr Jeremy Archer

**Chairman Welfare (SCOWP) Committee**  
 Brigadier John King MBE

**Deputy Chairman**  
 Colonel Michael Winarick OBE

**Honorary Legal Adviser**  
 Mr Toby Case

**Honorary Medical Adviser**  
 Major General David Jolliffe CB FRCP

**Vice-Presidents For Life**  
 General Sir Sam Cowan KCB CBE  
 Mr Patrick Mitford-Slade OBE

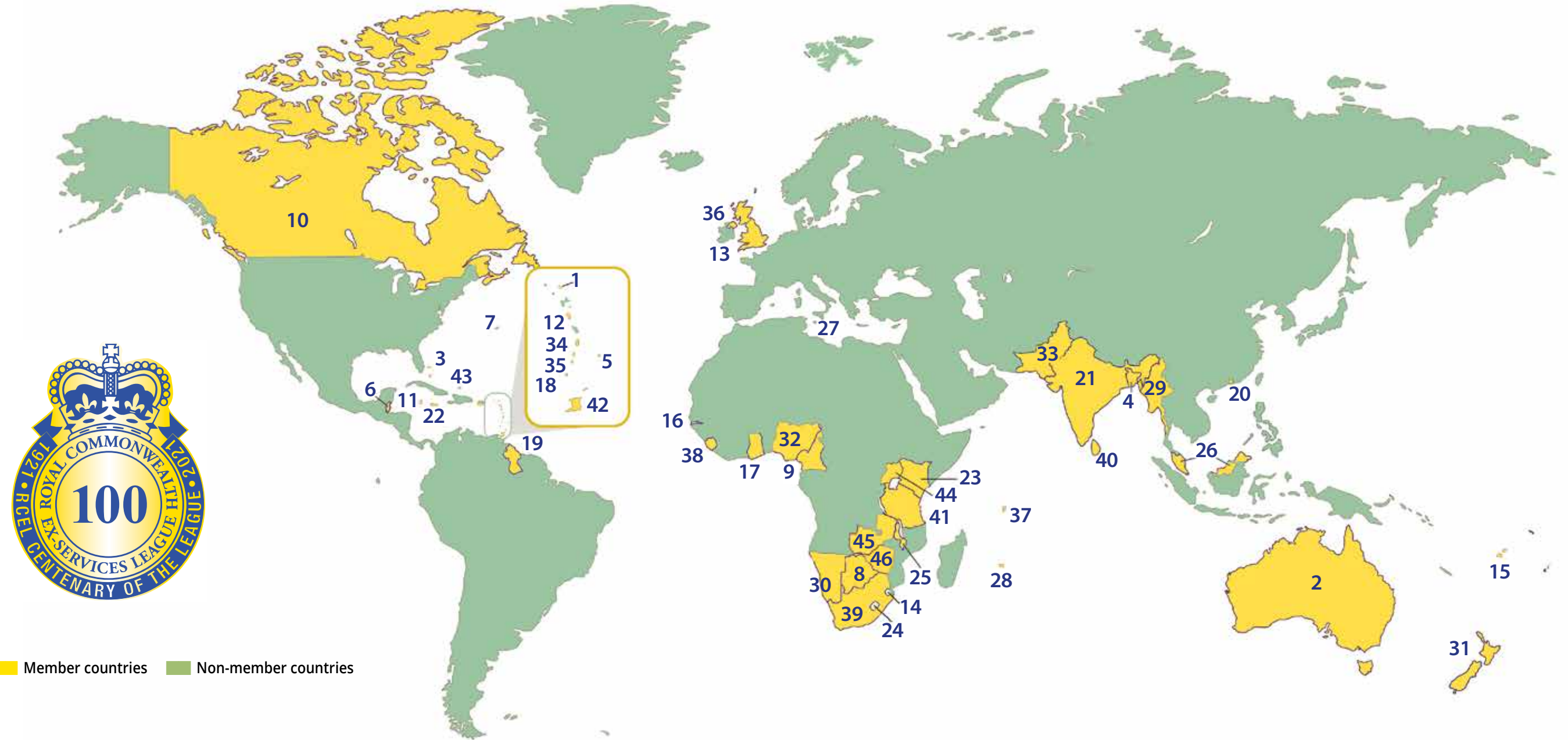
**Past Grand Presidents**  
 2015-2019 His Royal Highness The Duke of York KG  
 1974-2015 His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT  
 1946-1974 Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Mountbatten of Burma  
 1936-1946 Field Marshal Lord Milne  
 1927-1936 Admiral of the Fleet The Earl Jellicoe  
 1921-1927 Field Marshal The Earl Haig

### Friends

The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KCMG KC  
 The Rt Hon The Lord Astor of Haver DL  
 Adam Fleming  
 Frederick Forsyth CBE  
 Lady Getty  
 Nicola Horlick  
 Dame Penelope Keith DBE DL

Cover photographs: Veterans and widows of the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League.

# Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League - Global Support for Veterans



 1. ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	 8. BOTSWANA	 15. FIJI	 22. JAMAICA	 29. MYANMAR	 36. SCOTLAND	 43. TURKS & CAICOS
 2. AUSTRALIA	 9. CAMEROON	 16. GAMBIA	 23. KENYA	 30. NAMIBIA	 37. SEYCHELLES	 44. UGANDA
 3. BAHAMAS	 10. CANADA	 17. GHANA	 24. LESOTHO	 31. NEW ZEALAND	 38. SIERRA LEONE	 45. ZAMBIA
 4. BANGLADESH	 11. CAYMAN ISLANDS	 18. GRENADA	 25. MALAWI	 32. NIGERIA	 39. SOUTH AFRICA	 46. ZIMBABWE
 5. BARBADOS	 12. DOMINICA	 19. GUYANA	 26. MALAYSIA	 33. PAKISTAN	 40. SRI LANKA	
 6. BELIZE	 13. ENGLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND	 20. HONG KONG	 27. MALTA	 34. ST LUCIA	 41. TANZANIA	
 7. BERMUDA	 14. ESWATINI	 21. INDIA	 28. MAURITIUS	 35. ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	 42. TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	