

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

27 - 28 APRIL 2024

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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ATTENDEES:

Bruce Julian	-	Dominion President
Berkley Lawrence	-	Dominion First Vice President
Sharon McKeown	-	Dominion Vice President
Brian Weaver	-	Dominion Vice President
Jack MacIsaac	-	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 1st Vice-President
Tony Chevalier	-	NB Command President
Don McCumber	-	NS/NU Command President
David Doucette	-	PE Command 1 st Vice-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 D & S Committee
Valerie MacGregor	-	Chair Membership Committee
John Mahon	-	Chair Centenary Committee
Michelle Courtney	-	BC/YT Executive Director
Tammy Wheeler	-	AB-NT Executive Director
Chad Wagner	-	SK Provincial Executive Director
Cohen Rutledge	-	MB & NWO Assistant Executive Director
Pamela Sweeny	-	ON Provincial Executive Director
Jack Clayton	-	NB Provincial Executive Director
Craig Hood	-	NS/NU Executive Director
Brenda McMillan	-	PE Provincial Executive Director
Paul Hillier	-	NL Provincial Executive Director

ABSENT

Tom Irvine	-	Immediate Past Dominion President
Paulette Cook	-	QC Provincial Executive Director

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STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Steven Clark	-	National Executive Director
Randy Hayley	-	Director Corporate Service and 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
Amanda Black	-	Manager, Member Services
Michael Smith	-	Canvet Reporter

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	-	National Executive Director's Report
Annex F	-	Approval of Signing Authority
Annex G	-	Code of Ethics
Annex H	-	Dominion Treasurer's Report
Annex I	-	Transportation Cost
Annex J	-	Veterans, Service & Seniors Committee Report
Annex K	-	Poppy & Remembrance Committee Report
Annex L	-	Membership Committee Report
Annex M	-	Sports Committee Report
Annex N	-	Public Relations Committee Report
Annex O	-	Ritual & Awards Committee Report
Annex P	-	Constitution & Laws Committee Report
Annex Q	-	RCEL Committee Report
Annex R	-	Defence & Security Committee Report
Annex S	-	Dominion Convention Committee Report
Annex T	-	Veterans Consultation Assembly Report
Annex U	-	Going Forward Committee Report
Annex V	-	EDI Committee Report
Annex W	-	Centenary Committee Report
Annex X	-	Canvet Publications Ltd.
Annex Y	-	BC/YT Command Report
Annex Z	-	AB-NT Command Report
Annex AA	-	SK Provincial Command Report
Annex BB	-	MB & NWO Command Report

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Annex CC	-	ON Provincial Command Report
Annex DD	-	QC Provincial Command Report
Annex EE	-	NB Provincial Command Report
Annex FF	-	NS/NU Command Report
Annex GG	-	PE Provincial Command Report
Annex HH	-	NL Provincial Command Report
Annex II	-	TVS Special Section Report
Annex JJ	-	OSI Special Section Report
Annex KK	-	Legion National Foundation Report
Annex LL	-	Dominion Command Branches Report
Annex MM	-	Charters Issued and Cancelled
Annex NN	-	Requests for Support
Annex OO	-	Meetings and Invitations
Annex PP	-	Correspondence

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ITEM 1: LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/OPENING RITUAL

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council opened at 0830 hours on Saturday, 27 April 2024.

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 Comrade Jack Maclsaac as Vice President, Comrade Berkley Lawrence as First Vice-President.

ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The administrative arrangements were presented as information only, at Annex C.

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES / ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

DEC last met on 25 November 2023. The minutes were distributed electronically.

MOTION: THAT the DEC minutes of 25 November 2023 be approved.

CARRIED

The result of the electronic decisions taken since the last DEC meeting is at Annex D.

ITEM 7: CMP PRESENTATION

RAdm Chris Sutherland and CWO Martin Rousseau attended DEC.

ITEM 8: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

ITEM 9: APPROVAL OF SIGNING AUTHORITY

With the changes in Legion House personnel at the Director level, the listing of approved signing authorities must be updated. All financial disbursements require approvals / signatures of two Directors which must also include one of the primary authorities as a minimum, at Annex F.

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MOTION: THAT the authorized banking signatories be revised as follows to include:

National Executive Director	Steven Clark (Primary)
Director Financial Services	Oksana Gorelova (Primary)
Director Corporate Services and Strategic Planning	Randy Hayley (Primary)
Director Veterans Services	Carolyn Hughes (Secondary)
Director Marketing and Communications	Dion Edmonds (Secondary)
Director Poppy and Remembrance	Lia Taha Cheng (Secondary)
Director Supply	Joan Elliott (Secondary)

CARRIED

ITEM 10: CODE OF ETHICS

An updated Code of Ethics was distributed for signing, at Annex G.

ITEM 11: DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

The Dominion Treasurer presented her report, at Annex H. The draft audited financial statements are attached.

MOTION: THAT the Dominion Command portion of the Per Capita (excluding Legion Magazine) be increased by \$1.25 starting in the year 2025.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the Financial Statements be approved as presented.

CARRIED

ITEM 12: TRANSPORTATION COST

Transportation costs are reviewed annually, with detail at Annex I.

MOTION: THAT the mileage rate for the use of privately owned vehicles on authorized Legion business be set at 70.0 cents/km, effective 1 May 2024.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the per diem rate for authorized Legion in-Canada travel be set at \$129.00 effective 1 May 2024.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the per diem rate for authorized Legion international travel (including USA) be set at \$255.00 CAD effective 1 May 2024.

CARRIED

ITEM 13: COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee

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

b. Poppy & Remembrance Committee

The Poppy & Remembrance Committee report was presented, attached an Annex K.

MOTION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$6,500 from Operation Remembrance be approved for 2024 and that notice be provided that this is the final year of financial contribution from Dominion Command.

CARRIED

MOTION: That \$35,000 be approved through the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding to support Heroes Mending on the Fly for 2024 and that notice be provided that this is the final year of financial contribution from Dominion Command.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$30,000 from Camp Aftermath be approved for 2024.

MOTION: That the funding request of \$50,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for Poppy Stories be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That section 815a and a(i) of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: “a. *General Use*: i. Any area that could result in the Poppy being trod upon.”

CARRIED

MOTION: That section 815a (“situations where the Poppy image would NOT be considered include”) be expanded to include subsection v as follows: “v. Any situation that could result in the Poppy being consumed, including edible goods.”

CARRIED

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MOTION: That subsection 501iii(f) (unauthorized Poppy Fund expenditures) be amended to read: “f. the purchase of headstones or grave markers”.

CARRIED

c. Membership Committee

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

d. Sports Committee

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

e. Public Relations Committee

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

f. Ritual and Awards Committee

The Ritual and Awards Committee report was presented, attached at Annex O.

MOTION: The Royal Canadian Legion Chaplain Manual be discontinued. The Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual for Legion religious ceremonies and events reference the CAF Manual as a guide that clergy could modify to reflect the geographic location and religious background of the Family.

CARRIED

g. Constitution and Laws Committee

The Constitution and Laws Committee report was presented, attached at Annex P.

MOTION: New 304.b. i. Complaints lodged under subsections i and ii below are subject to a mandatory mediation process. Mediation to be conducted by a mediator or mediation team as determined by the respective branch President. The mediator or mediation team shall attempt to resolve the dispute by agreement.

CARRIED

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MOTION: New 304.b.ii. If the mediator or mediation team is unable to resolve the complaint, then the mediator or mediation team shall determine if the complaint has been substantiated, and if substantiated may impose a disposition under 311 b. If the complaint is not substantiated, it shall be dismissed.

CARRIED

MOTION: New 304.b.iii. The decision of the mediator or mediation team is final unless an error has been made in the interpretation of these bylaws in which case an appeal can be filed with the branch President within 10 days. The appeal shall be heard by a committee of three branch members appointed by the branch President. The decision of the branch appeal committee is final and cannot be appealed any further.

CARRIED

MOTION: New 304.b.iv. Mediation will not be offered for sections 304 a. iii, iv, v, vi and vii.

CARRIED

MOTION: The addition of the above amendments will require a renaming of the current sections 304 b. c. d. e. f. g. and h. to become 304 c.d.e.f.g.h.and i.

CARRIED

MOTION: New 311.b. Where a complaint alleges only a breach of 304.a. i and or ii the charges may be dismissed, or if substantiated, one or more of the following dispositions may be imposed. (i and ii remain as written)

CARRIED

MOTION: Insert New 311 c to read:
where any disposition imposed under 311.b has not been fulfilled within 10 days, or such other time as may have been set, the member is automatically deprived of clubhouse privileges until the disposition is fulfilled or 12 months expires from the date of disposition, which ever occurs first.

CARRIED

MOTION: Rename 311.c. to 311.d.

CARRIED

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MOTION: Section 306. a.b.c.d. and e. are no longer a requirement and can now be deleted.

CARRIED

MOTION: Section 306.f. to become just 306.

CARRIED

MOTION: Section 306 to be renumbered to Section 305 and current Section 305 to be renumbered to Section 306 (Complaints at Command Level)

CARRIED

MOTION: 405 b. The Dominion Chair shall ascertain which of the three Dominion Vice-Presidents wish to be candidates for this office and shall then conduct a vote of the **members-of-the voting** Dominion Executive Council **members** to determine which of the Dominion Vice-Presidents shall succeed to this office. **An electronic vote using email or other secure electronic means mail-vote-may shall** be conducted if there is no Dominion Executive Council meeting or Dominion Convention within the specified period. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six (6) months of the next Dominion Convention.

CARRIED

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MOTION: 406.b. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the three Dominion Vice Presidents for any reason, including election to higher office, the **voting** Dominion Executive Council **members** shall fill the vacancy by electing **the new Dominion Vice President from among its voting eligible members. An electronic vote using email or other secure electronic means**, from among its **voting eligible** members, **shall be used to elect** a new Dominion Vice-President. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six months of the next Dominion Convention.

CARRIED

MOTION: 611.a. A branch may, by By-Law, provide that a member be required to serve one term on ~~the~~ **a** branch executive to be eligible to be elected president, a vice-president or **branch chair and/or** that a member be required to **either** hold membership in the branch, **or in any branch**, for a period of one year to be eligible for election to the branch executive.

CARRIED

h. RCEL Committee

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

i. Defence And Security Committee

The Defence and Security Committee was reported, attached at Annex R.

MOTION: THAT DEC approve the change to the D&S Committee Terms of Reference to reflect the Royal Canadian Legion's EDI statement.

CARRIED

j. Dominion Convention Committee

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

k. Veterans Consultation Assembly

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

l. Going Forward Committee

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

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m. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee

The EDI Committee report was presented, attached at Annex V.

MOTION: THAT the EDI statement provided for discussion be approved by DEC.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the need for a glossary of EDI terminology be recognized and a standardized glossary be developed.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the need for an annual Budget for EDI (to include the production of EDI material, EDI training) be recognized and authorized for inclusion in the budget process.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT DEC recommend all Commands/Sections and Branches establish an EDI officer and committee.

CARRIED

n. Centenary Committee

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

MOTION: Add the following to Section 121 of the Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual:

“The Dominion Executive Council retains the authority to exercise discretion in specific situations, such as the 100th Anniversary commemorative medal, allowing for the sale of a distinct commemorative medal to Legion members”.

CARRIED

ITEM 14: CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD

The CANVET Publications LTD report was presented as information only, attached at Annex X.

ITEM 15: PRESENTATION: INDIGENOUS VETERANS INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Maria Trujillo from Last Post Fund made an Indigenous Veterans Initiative presentation.

ITEM 16: COMMAND/SPECIAL SECTION REPORTS

- a. BC/YT Command
The BC/YT Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex Y.
- b. AB-NT Command
The AB-NT Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex Z.
- c. SK Provincial Command
The SK Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex AA.
- d. MB & NWO Command
The MB & NWO Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex BB.
- e. ON Provincial Command
The ON Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex CC.
- f. QC Provincial Command
The QC Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex DD.
- g. NB Provincial Command
The NB Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex EE.
- h. NS/NU Command
The NS/NU Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex FF.
- i. PE Provincial Command
The PE Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex GG.
- j. NL Provincial Command
The NL Provincial Command report was presented as information only, attached at Annex HH.
- k. TVS Special Section
The TVS Special Section report was presented as information only, attached at Annex II.

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- I. OSI Special Section
The OSI Special Section report was presented as information only, attached at Annex JJ.

ITEM 17: MULTIFAITH HOUSING INITIATIVE PRESENTATION

Alan Mulawyshyn made a Veterans' House Canada presentation.

ITEM 18: SENIOR OFFICER REPORTS

No Senior Officer Reports were submitted.

ITEM 19: LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION REPORT

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

ITEM 20: MINISTER VAC ADDRESS

Minister Ginette Petitpas-Taylor and Paul Ledwell attended DEC.

ITEM 21: KING'S CORONATION MEDAL (IN CAMERA)

This discussion was held in camera.

ITEM 22: DOMINION COMMAND BRANCHES

This report was presented as information only, attached at Annex LL.

ITEM 23: CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

This report was presented as information only, attached at Annex MM.

ITEM 24: REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

Requests for support were considered detailed at Annex NN.

MOTION: That the Legion provide \$10K from Dominion Command Poppy Trust Funds to support the Canadian Battlefields Foundation educational tour.

CARRIED

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MOTION: THAT DEC approve Legion sponsorship for the Army Cadet League of Canada's 2024 Professional Development Conference and Annual General Meeting in the amount of \$2500, to be sourced from the Dominion Command Request for Support budget.

CARRIED

ITEM 25: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

This summary is presented as information only, attached at Annex OO.

ITEM 26: CORRESPONDENCE

The letter(s) are provided as information only, attached at Annex PP.

ITEM 27: OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Clarification on Poppy Funds expenditures and balance were discussed.

The official portrait of His Majesty King Charles III has not yet been released. Any current photographs being circulated are not official and branches are encouraged to await the official release.

An update on the progress of the Burns Way initiative was presented.

The Invictus Games 2025 will be held in Vancouver/Whistler. National organization support has not been requested.

Tammy Wheeler spoke about the 3MDR program at the University of Alberta. A video was presented and can be found at:
3MDR: <https://vimeo.com/922240643/0a67987d21>

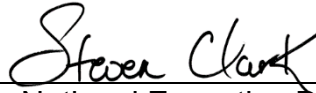
Standardized terms of reference/ job description for a Provincial Executive Director is in development.

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ITEM 28: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council was adjourned on Sunday 28 April 2024 at 3:30 pm

Dominion Chair



National Executive Director

GRAND PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS FOR DEC, 27 APRIL, 2024

Thank you, Comrade Chair.

Good morning, Comrades.

I am really pleased to be with you this morning. My opening remarks will be a little different than normal because i intend to focus on an issue that you will have the opportunity to discuss later in the agenda and my aim is to encourage a fulsome conversation at that time, in preparation for the upcoming dominion convention.

I will begin by briefly reviewing some legion history with an emphasis on recent legion achievements in which you have all played a leadership role.

I will then touch on some recent critical success stories using one in particular as an example. I will follow that with a personal story. I will conclude with a pitch requesting your personal engagement and leadership with an existing legion challenge which needs to be dealt with wherever it exists in this great organization if the legion is to maintain its current growth and momentum and to continue to flourish. I know that we are all aware that the Legion was created almost 100 years ago by courageous veterans unhappy that their needs and the needs of their injured Comrades and their families were being sadly ignored by the government.

They made a huge contribution to their Comrades and to Canada in countless areas and over the years were replaced by World War 2 and Korea war veterans who took over "the helm". They have gradually been replaced by modern day veterans and associate members, many of whom are in this room.

Our early predecessors achieved historic gains for veterans and their families as well as for communities across the country and richly deserve the praise and gratitude that we and most Canadians accord them.

Hopefully that recognition will reach new heights in the next few years as we gear up and then celebrate the legion centenary. However recent legion history is also something to take great pride in. The support of veterans and their families has never waned as illustrated by the legion, initially almost alone, going to bat for homeless veterans across the country, providing essential support to initiatives like CIMVHR, "the burns way", the ongoing battle for priority access beds and remembrance efforts such as spearheading the tomb of the unknown soldier in Canada and more recently in Newfoundland and Labrador.

I could go on for some considerable time with this list as well as endless other good works in areas such as youth in cadet and sport programs as well as many other worthy causes.

The incredible community support provided by legions across the country throughout the first global pandemic in a century a few years ago wrote another chapter in the remarkable history of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Surviving as a credible, dynamic and the largest and most highly respected national veterans and community support organization in Canada despite a daunting demographic reality is also part of the remarkable story of today's legion. When I became grand president in 2010 the legion had just completed its dramatic, downsizing of DEC governance and at that time Dominion President, the late Pat Varga, was leading the charge with her "focus on the future" project. This was followed by numerous other initiatives to stem the bleeding in membership to try to turn around the then unsustainable decline in numbers.

Thanks to an incredible collective effort led by many of you success was achieved in early 2020..... And then the pandemic struck.

However, you did not waver, and the legion emerged from the pandemic with renewed vigor to regain the membership growth momentum. Thanks to over a dozen separate membership initiatives in recent years, the 2023-year end results were more than 256,000 members up nearly 13000 members or plus 5.3 percent year over year. this is our second consecutive year of growth after more than 30 years of decline.

Our end of march results this year indicate a plus 6.6 percent increase.

I am only using membership as an example to indicate that recent legion history, like its early history, is very impressive.....and you were and are part of that story and should take great pride in your contributions.

I am also using membership as an example to demonstrate that leadership matters and when the Legion leadership focusses on an issue, and works together, anything is possible.

There is another issue that I believe we need to take on together. To set the scene I will tell a personal story. Because I was a regular blood donor at the time and had two donations in a row rejected due to a low iron count, my doctor launched an investigation and this resulted in me being diagnosed with lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma 12 years ago in August 2012.

This is a form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma which is not curable but can be treated and managed for many years with chemotherapy. Because I had no apparent symptoms I was put on a "watch and wait" approach which simply meant blood tests and a meeting with a hematologist every three months. Since I had no serious symptoms and no treatment I decided not to tell anyone besides my wife to avoid unnecessarily worries for my family and others.

Low iron counts last fall led to a variety of tests and to me commencing chemo treatment a few weeks ago on the 4th of April. I finished the first two day chemo treatment with only a few side effects and am doing fine. I just need to avoid getting any sort of infection, thus the mask.

The treatment centre itself is a very special place blessed with an outstanding team of highly dedicated, helpful, and friendly nurses and technicians who have a great relationship with most of the patients, many of whom they have known for years. The staff teamwork and cheerful support for each other reminds me of the very best ships companies that i sailed with in the navy when my career really was mostly fun. Now back to my main point about all this.

When I was sitting receiving chemo and watching this amazing team do their jobs while at the same time looking after and helping each other I was reminded of the Legion's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion challenges following an EDI committee meeting the day before my treatment.

I realized that all we need to do is to figure out how to get members of Legion branches to treat each other as if they are working together in a cancer clinic to save lives.....and the Legion does save and enrich lives. I also realized that although there is a good deal of process involved in implementing the approved Legion EDI strategy and action plan it is really is all about a legion version of the golden rule.

That is, all of us simply need to learn how to treat each other and others involved in any way with the legion the way we would all like to be treated ourselves. We must stop sometimes tolerating rude, exclusionary, and unacceptable behaviour by a small minority of members, unfortunately including leaders in a few branches. We must also work hard to actively encourage increasing diversity in our ranks across the country at all levels.

Let me be clear, I am not saying the legion is 'broken' in some way. Indeed, it is among the most caring and engaged organizations in the country which is why we are all here. However we do need to become more aware of and sensitive to EDI issues and lapses and to deal with them in a forthright manner and we need to add some training and education.

In my view this is as important as membership numbers or our work in support of veterans and their families or youth and communities or remembrance because it is inextricably linked to all of these efforts and to everything else, we do or try to do. We don't need perfection but we do need to be seen by our members and by other Canadians to be taking clear, concrete action to make the situation better now and very much better over time.

If we do so in an honest and credible manner the Legion will continue to do great work and to flourish for another 100 years. If we don't, those challenging demographics will re-emerge and we risk simply becoming a social club for old white guys who look like me and fading away as a credible national voice for veterans and other worthy causes. Success depends on respected, values-based leadership and personal engagement by all of us and time is critical.

Edi is not an initiative that will sit and happily germinate for five years, with our strategy and action plan gathering dust as the demographics work against us. The upcoming Dominion Convention is "the time" to launch it for real, with the fresh imperative of the recent strategy corporation report, a new EDI strategy and action plan and the engaged, visible support of as many leaders at all levels as possible. However, to get there for the convention I believe that this meeting of the Dominion Executive Council must have a frank, honest and energized discussion to ensure that we are on the same page and ready for the Dominion Convention in August.

Sorry to go on a bit but, as I hope you have already gathered, in my view the EDI initiative "matters" and it must begin to be visibly and consistently implemented at all levels in the Legion in words and, more importantly, in actions, soon.

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 and congratulate two of our council members to their new positions, Berkley Lawrence who was elected to the position of 1st Vice President, and Jack McIsaac of Prince Edward Island Command who was elected Vice President of Dominion Executive Council. I have had the pleasure of working with both these comrades and I am positive they will make an invaluable contribution to Dominion Executive Council.

As is included in the agenda we will have the pleasure of having four external presentations over the next two days. This morning, we will hear from the Chief of Military Personnel on the state of the Canadian Armed Forces, later today we will receive a presentation on the “Last Post Funds” indigenous veterans initiative. Tomorrow we will have a presentation on sheltering homeless veterans by Multifaith Housing and after lunch be hosting the Minister of Veterans Affairs Ginette Petitpas Taylor and the Deputy Minister Paul Ledwell

I am sure everyone had their eyes and hearts opened yesterday by our visit to the Pepper Pod and seeing the amazing work that they do for our female veterans and still serving CAF members. I am positive that we will do whatever we can to support their endeavors within our guidelines.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank several individuals, starting with our Grand President, Comrade Larry for his knowledge, experience, encouragement and support. He plays a vital role just with his presence here in Ottawa as the well known and highly respected face of the Royal Canadian Legion

You've heard it many times this week and witnessed it yesterday, but I cannot emphasize it enough...but that we do have an amazing staff here at Legion House. From National Executive Director Steven Clark, through our various Departmental Directors to the newest person on staff, they are dedicated and 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.

My Comrades, we are headed into the “home stretch” of this term of office now...we've turned that last corner and are headed for the finish line. It has not been all “flowers and sunshine” ...we have had to make hard, gut-wrenching decisions but we have done that with the best interests of the organization that we love and the membership that we serve forefront in our thought processes.

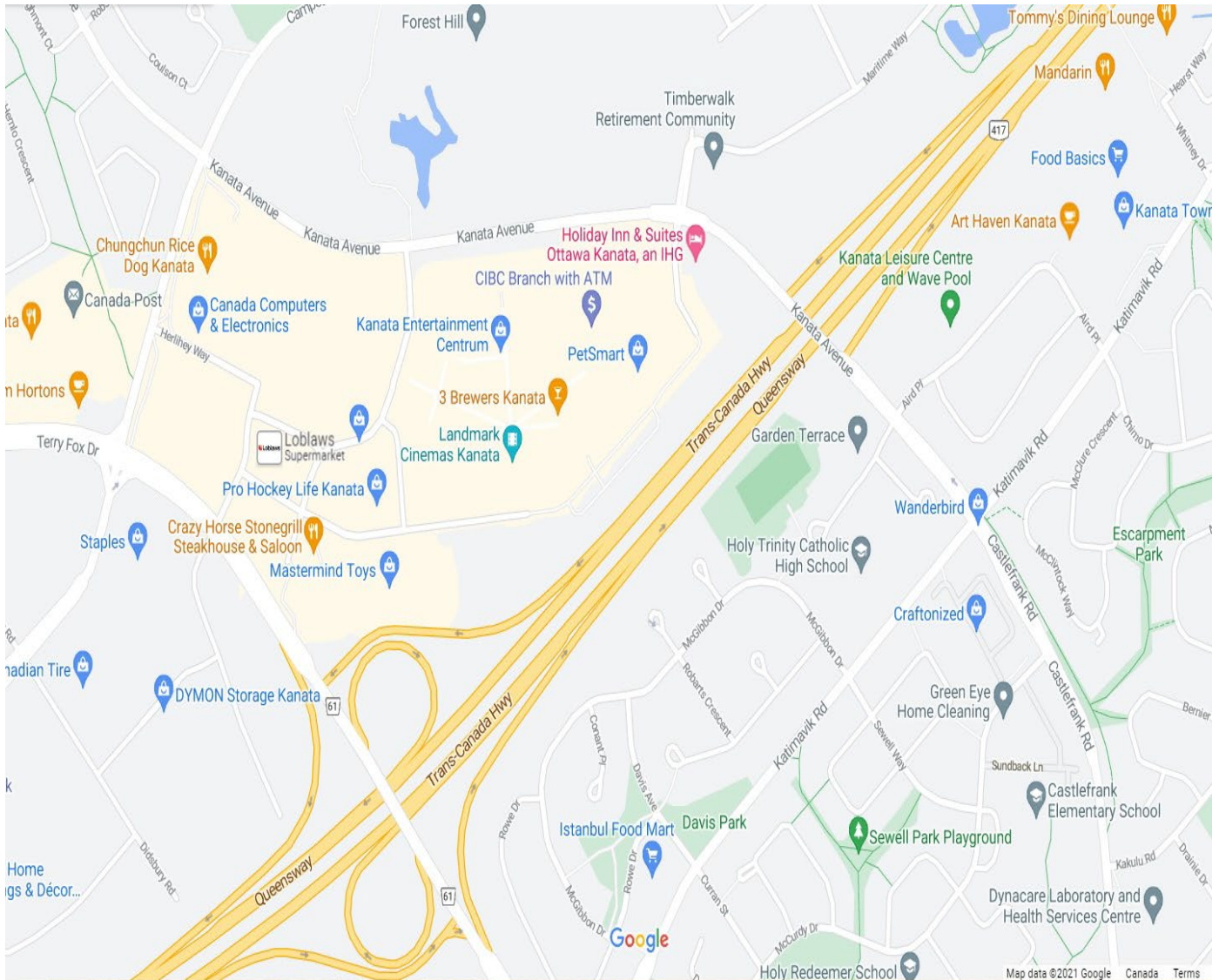
Comrades, the past three years have been an amazing experience for me personally, but it would not have been possible without the support and participation of everyone

around this table. That support and participation 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 all that really matters.

Comrades I thank you for your support from the bottom of my heart...Comrade Chairman, we have a full agenda and I turn the meeting back to you.

ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

- a. Schedule – Saturday, 27 April 2024 and Sunday, 28 April 2024
 - i. 0830 hours – DEC convenes
 - ii. 1200 hours – Lunch (Call of the Chair)
 - iii. 1300 hours – DEC re-convenes
 - iv. 1630 hours – DEC adjourns for the day (Call of the Chair)
- b. Meals. Lunch will be provided both days. DEC and PEDs per diem claims will be adjusted accordingly.
- 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 meeting schedule. If you intend to check out earlier, please advise the hotel as soon as possible. Please note that DEC members and PEDs 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. Smoking is permitted only at the rear of the building. 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.
- g. Dress. Legion informal dress shirt (exception: those involved in the Installation Ceremony).



Centrum Area

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES / ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

a. Approval of Minutes

DEC last met on 25 November 2023. The minutes were distributed electronically.

MOTION: THAT the DEC minutes of 25 November 2023 be approved.

b. Salute during Provincial Anthems

There were 4 electronic Decision / Email vote that took place since the last DEC meeting on 25 November 2023.

12 December 2023

THAT DEC authorize Legion members to render a hand salute during the playing of authorized provincial anthems and that the Ritual, Awards and Protocol Manual be amended to reflect this change.

CARRIED

18 December 2023

THAT the Dominion President request the Chief of the Defence Staff authorize CAF members to salute during the playing of The Ode to Newfoundland during commemorative events at the National War Memorial in St. John's, NL on 1 July 2024.

CARRIED

12 December 2023

The process to fill the vacancy for the position of Dominion First Vice President was actioned in accordance with GBL 405.b.

DECISION

Comrade Berkley Lawrence was elected as First Vice President through an electronic vote.

27 December 2023

The process to fill the vacancy for the position of Dominion Vice President was actioned in accordance with GBL 406.b.

DECISION:

Comrade Jack MacIsaac was elected as a Vice President through an electronic vote.

ITEM 8: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. National Headquarters Staffing

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	35	42	45	42	43
Long-term Contract	7	4	4	2	1
Short-term Contract	0	3	1	0	0
Temp/Casual	1	0	0	0	0
Total	43	49	50	44	44

a. Notes:

- Permanent personnel:
 - Vacancies (3): Corporate Services, Veterans Services, Poppy & Remembrance
 - Maternity leave (1): Financial Services
 - One Long-Term Contract in Financial Services became a permanent employee on 1 January 2024

b. Long-Term Contract:

- Financial Services (1)

c. Announced Retirements:

- Sandra Monaghan, June 2024
- Joan Elliott, September 2024

d. Significant Anniversaries

- Kelly Therien 20 years 1 March
- Cathy Stanley 10 years 3 March
- Amanda Black 10 years 31 March

e. **Summer Hours:** Summer hours at Legion House start Monday, 29 April and end Labour Day: core hours will be 8:30 am – 4:00 pm.

2. Legal

The legal action initiated by the individual who was the supplier of the Poppy Puppy has been concluded in the Legion's favour.

3. Legion House

- a. **Legion House Maintenance Plan, 2022 – 2024.** Since November 2023, Legion House has completed nine preventative or planned maintenance projects and one corrective maintenance project.
- 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
AC / Plumbing Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned: Repaired Boiler pump #2 as it was leaking. • Planned: Replaced baseboard heat actuators. • Corrective: Experienced major water leak and multiple seals in heating system. This required both plumbing and HVAC repair. • Planned: Repair leaking water fixture in bathroom 	\$1,076.52 \$263.52 \$4449.49 (awaiting HVAC Invoice) \$499.46	In progress
Security Alarm	Planned: Service call to repair front door which was not linked with system.	\$214.70	Completed
Door Repair	Planned: Repair several doors (locks and closure systems) in building.	\$1,706.01	Completed
Window Repair	Planned: Repaired windows located in Canvet that had experienced water intrusion and damage.	\$2,712.00	Completed
Exterior Repairs	Preventative: Exterior building repairs were completed to prevent water from intruding in the building and causing greater damage. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof and re-caulk areas around front entrance • Exterior Interlock (raise a section) *Some repairs are still required and will be completed in 2024	\$3,796.80	Completed

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST/ ESTIMATE	STATUS
Electrical Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned: Replaced outdoor light fixture for front monument. • Replace outdoor light fixtures due to water damage. 	\$1,574.09 Awaiting invoice	Completed
Loading Dock Repair	Planned: Repair loading dock and install new rubber bumper pads	\$5863.57	Completed

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.

AC Conditioning Replacement. As outlined below, the Legion House AC unit is overdue for a complete replacement. The building department was provided with an original quote of \$132,268 plus tax. This quote was approved in November 2023.

*UPDATE: Unfortunately, the facilities department has been informed that as of the year 2024, the replacement unit quoted in the original quote is no longer available due to new government regulations (environmental in nature). As a result, it is no longer possible to simply replace the roof unit. Instead, both the unit and the HVAC lines will need to be replaced to accommodate a new system. For this reason, the building department requested a new quote from two suppliers.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
A/C Unit Replacement	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.	Awaiting new quote	Planned for 2024
Backflow Prevention Program	<p>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.</p> <p>*UPDATE – The City of Ottawa has experienced delays in administering this project. However, it is still planned and therefore we must continue to expect future expenses for this project.</p>	\$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 March 2024 are:

	2021	2022	2023	2024
JANUARY	91,288	84,406	128,218	152,780
FEBRUARY	84,834	99,299	147,935	148,232
MARCH	114,830	169,073	227,715	157,056
	290,952	352,778 (+21%)	503,868 (+43%)	458,068 (-9%)
APRIL	140,054	164,223	195,650	
MAY	126,255	194,847	229,400	
JUNE	142,272	193,236	217,031	
JULY	190,924	122,392	123,548	
AUGUST	195,464	152,550	220,693	
SEPTEMBER	375,110	317,162	364,945	
OCTOBER	659,387	596,039	860,098	
NOVEMBER	724,252	574,155	740,888	
DECEMBER	172,793	160,152	157,245	
TOTAL	3,017,463	2,827,534 (-6%)	3,613,366 (+28%)	

b. Year in review:

Branch

- 2022: 8,776 orders generating \$1,579,207
- 2023: 9,503 orders generating \$1,727,904 (+9.4%)

Member (including Poppystore orders)

- 2022: 3,385 orders generating \$217,741
- 2023: 4,213 orders generating \$262,949 (+21%)

Poppystore (excluding Member orders)

- 2022 13,417 orders generating \$737,574
- 2023 35,647 orders generating \$1,286,499 (+74%)

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. Work on developing new additional supply products has been occurring at a good pace. Expected for release between now and September are new products to commemorate the Battle of the Atlantic, Italian Campaign, fanny packs, seed cards, apron, ornament, mug, jackets and sweater. We are always creating and developing new products to help increase revenue generated through the Supply Department.
- e. Supply continues to support committee activities and initiatives.

5. **Marketing and Communications**

a. **Communications**

The department continued to produce targeted communications to complement our key objectives in the first quarter. Focus was given to updating the organizations' comprehensive overview PowerPoint presentation, accessible and modifiable by all Legion representatives tasked with a presentation. In support of strategic operations, we oversaw the development of initial public relations actions by commands across the country, to align with the Legion's equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) plans. A detailed article on the organization's 2023 achievements and upcoming plans was created and published. We also created a public response in the wake of the passing of former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

b. **Direct Mail Marketing**

Two renewal marketing campaigns were launched in Q1: January and March to past members. The campaigns are driving renewals as seen by membership being up over 6% year over year.

c. **Email Marketing**

Email renewal reminders continue to be sent to members with an email on file (now over 113K on file and growing), on a consistent basis throughout the year. The department also 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 3% click rate vs ours which have a 56% open rate and 6.8% click rate. This further reinforces the need for email address collection and verification at all levels of the organization.

d. **Social Media**

We continue to invest a significant portion of our annual budget in Social Media advertising to drive revenue through membership acquisition as well as Poppy Store Sales. This complements our organic posts that are designed to raise awareness. Online joins are up 30% year over year; 35% of online joins are driven by social media ads. Poppy Store sales are up 3% year over year

despite overall supply sales being down 9%. The store ads are consistently producing over a 40% return on marketing investment and 40% of all monthly store sales.

e. **Broadcast Marketing**

TV and Radio spots produced last year are once again in market as of February promoting awareness of the Legion and encouraging the public to become members. At the end of March, we already have over 20K new/reinstated members!

6. **IT**

- a. **Restructuring of IT:** Last year, we successfully restructured our IT department, severing ties with our Managed Service Provider (MSP) of three years. By implementing equally effective yet more cost-efficient software solutions, we've achieved annual savings exceeding \$13,000.
- b. **Infrastructure Refresh:** Our infrastructure refresh is well underway. We've completed the laptop component and eliminated Citrix from our environment. Currently, our server refresh stands at 75% completion.
- c. **Future Planning:** We've initiated strategic planning to align our Membership and Finance Systems with technological advancements over the next 3-5 years. This proactive approach ensures our systems remain robust and adaptive to evolving needs.

ITEM 9: APPROVAL OF SIGNING AUTHORITY

With the changes in Legion House personnel at the Director level, the listing of approved signing authorities must be updated. All financial disbursements require approvals / signatures of two Directors which must also include one of the primary authorities as a minimum.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the authorized banking signatories be revised as follows to include:

National Executive Director	Steven Clark (Primary)
Director Financial Services	Oksana Gorelova (Primary)
Director Corporate Services and Strategic Planning	Randy Hayley (Primary)
Director Veterans Services	Carolyn Hughes (Secondary)
Director Marketing and Communications	Dion Edmonds (Secondary)
Director Poppy and Remembrance	Lia Taha Cheng (Secondary)
Director Supply	Joan Elliott (Secondary)

CODE OF ETHICS

File: 28-1

Goal: Members of the Dominion Command Council and/or a Committee must operate in a fair and accountable manner in dealing with the business of The Royal Canadian Legion. It is recognized that as volunteers who are senior elected executive officers or duly appointed members from across Canada, members' outside lives may sometimes conflict with their volunteer activities. Therefore, this Code of Ethics has been established as an essential component of good governance and accountability.

Code: Members of the Dominion Command Council and/or Committees are committed to observing and promoting the highest standards of ethical conduct in the performance of their responsibilities. Accordingly, Dominion Command requires all members of the Dominion Command Council and/or Committees to accept the obligations set out in this Code as a minimum guideline for ethical conduct and undertake to:

Accountability

1. Faithfully abide by the Act of Incorporation, the General By-Laws and policies of the Royal Canadian Legion, including decisions made by the Dominion Convention and the Dominion Executive Council.
2. Exercise reasonable care, good faith and due diligence in organizational affairs and decisions.
3. Fully disclose, at the earliest opportunity, information that may result in a perceived or actual conflict of interest and recuse themselves from further activity involving the conflict.
4. Fully disclose, at the earliest opportunity, information of fact that would have significance in board decision making.
5. Remain accountable for prudent fiscal management of resources to Legion members, the Dominion Executive Council and our partners.

Professional Excellence

6. Fully disclose any history of/or refrain from engaging in, any conduct, whether as a Legion member or private citizen, that is or could be deemed harmful to the Legion's reputation, makes it difficult for the Legion to manage its operations, or renders one unable to perform their organizational obligations in a satisfactory manner. Such conduct includes any serious breach of the Criminal Code of Canada.

7. Maintain a professional level of courtesy, respect and objectivity in all activities related to the Royal Canadian Legion.
8. Strive to uphold those practices and assist other members of the Dominion Executive Council and/or Committees in upholding the highest standards of conduct.

Personal Gain

9. Exercise the powers invested for the good of all members of the Royal Canadian Legion rather than for their own personal gain.

Equal Opportunity

10. Ensure the right of all Legion members to appropriate and effective services without discrimination based on geography, political, religious, or socio-economical characteristics of the province or region represented.
11. Ensure the right of all Legion members to appropriate and effective services without discrimination based on the Legion's volunteer or staff make up in respect to gender, sexual orientation, national origin, race, religion, age, political affiliation or disability, in accordance with all applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Confidential Information and Materials

12. Keep all Confidential Information and Confidential Materials they receive confidential and not, without the prior written consent of the appropriate party, disclose any Confidential Information or Confidential Materials to any other person, firm, company or other entity, except as may be required by law or judicial or administrative process.
13. Take all reasonable care to prevent any unintended or inadvertent disclosure of such Confidential Information or Confidential Material.
14. Advise the appropriate parties if any inappropriate disclosure of Confidential Information or Confidential Material has been disclosed.
15. Not use any of the Confidential Information or Confidential Material for any purpose other than the purpose for which it was provided and upon conclusion of the matter for which the Confidential Information or Confidential Material was received, to the extent possible, take reasonable steps to either return the Confidential Information or the Confidential Materials to the party who provided it or another appropriate person, or

destroy it in such a manner as to prevent it from being disclosed, (such as by shredding or burning).

Collaboration and Cooperation

16. Respect the diversity of opinions as expressed or acted upon by the members of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Dominion Executive Council, Dominion Convention, committees and membership, and formally register dissent as appropriate.
17. Promote collaboration, cooperation and partnership among members of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Acknowledgment and Acceptance

By signing this Code of Ethics, I signify:

- (1) my acceptance and willingness to abide by its principles and
- (2) my acknowledgement that a failure to comply with this Code may constitute a breach of my obligations to the Legion.

Signature

Date

Print Name

ITEM 11: DOMINION TREASURER'S REPORT

OVERVIEW OF 2023 YEAR

REVENUES

The Canadian economy has shown early signs of slowing after a solid first quarter of 2023. Consumption in Canada has slowed, as interest rates remain elevated and early signs of labour market cooling have emerged. Canada's stock market produced a robust gain in the fourth quarter to finish 2023 with a double-digit return. Slowing inflation fueled optimism that the Bank of Canada and other major central banks could begin cutting interest rates as soon as the first half of 2024. Early surveys are pointing to stronger investment growth in 2024. Some analysts, however, are concerned about bloated valuations in the technology sector, and the 2024 U.S. presidential election could create some major volatility in the market.

It was a challenging year for the Legion as well; unrealized gain this year amounted to \$940K. Dividends and interest earned were down by 13%. As you all know, the Legion relies heavily on investment earning throughout the year. Considering the above, Net Revenue is \$954,652 for the year 2023 and operating income amounts to \$282,519.

Positive news: Membership revenue has been steadily climbing up for the past three years: for 2023, it was \$5,911,738, above 2022's result by \$243,606. The actual number of memberships processed in 2023 was 256,046, up by 13,434 members or 5% year over year.

The Supply Department had a terrific year and finished 2023 with \$3,596,185 in sales; it was above budget expectation by 9% (2022 had sales of \$2.8M). Unfortunately, as anticipated, the cost of sales went up 21% due to numerous economical constraints which contributed to the overall net revenue reduction for this year. Looking at risks to global economic growth over the next 12 months, geopolitical conflicts remain the top-cited risk for the year 2024, while inflation continues to be the second-most-cited global threat and the top concern domestically.

In 2023, the Legion received supplementary income in the form of a bequest in amount of \$250,613 and other miscellaneous income of \$149,705.

EXPENSES

BY DEPARTMENT

- Member Services – Overall departmental cost declined by \$41,720:, mostly due to personnel staffing changes. Major expenses for that department are credit card processing fees and telephone. Currently 69% of members were processed online last year; this digital shift creates more business online which increases credit card charges and telephone costs. With the emphasis on membership retention and growth as core objectives of the organization, approved budget excess for the membership department exceeded budget due in large part to increased cost of permanent card pack-outs, customer service standards improvements with longer hours of operation, credit card processing fee increases, and mail processing fee increases.
- Supply Chain Management – With the total sales being over budget, the cost of goods sold was \$1,476,514. Personnel costs increased slightly due to a combination of the warehouse assistance and costs related to a staff departure/arrival.

As the global economic recovery continues to gather steam, it is apparent that we will continue to experience supply chain problems. Supply will likely play catch up for some time, meaning higher costs for shipping, ports, trucks, and higher prices for raw materials. Due to increased cost of postage fees, shipping, wrapping, and packing, accounts are over budget by \$85,307.

- Information Technology - \$82,726 over budget due to increases with Maintenance, Contracts and Support. Additional support was subcontracted through SRG consulting company for complex upgrades of the Legion's operating systems.
- Legion House – decreased this year by \$301,709 due to building repairs that were completed last year. All expenses were recovered through building reserve. The overall increase was \$21K, due to growing expenses on maintenance and preservation of the building.
- Marketing & Communications – over budget by \$101K. Most of the increase in that budget primarily is due to social media cost increases. The free membership program cost amounted to \$32,273.

COMMITTEES

Committees have come in overbudget by \$269,600K, most increases happened in sport related committees and DEC committee expenses increased by \$44K compared to the last year.

SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPACTS

The unrealized gain for 2023 is \$940K, due to slow global market recovery. Planned major Information Technology systems upgrade in 2023-24 total \$215K.

Contingency Liability (membership HST provision) – Our Auditors have concluded that the \$672K provision is no longer appropriate to the Legion’s financial position and it was removed from this year’s Financial Statements. This resulted in a positive outcome of \$672K for the year end 2023 (Net profit).

Historical Reserve adjustment \$286,435, it is recorded as other expense on Statement of Revenue and Expenses and fund balances.

Pension Cost was moved from Fund Changes Balances Statement and expensed through corporate services \$654K.

INVESTMENT RESERVES

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

General Fund	\$16,952,482
Poppy Fund	\$ 8,558,008
Centennial Fund	\$ 2,223,240
RCEL Fund	\$ 1,001,057

Many Canadians are faced with real affordability challenges and are feeling the effects of higher grocery prices and housing costs. While inflation has fallen in Canada for eight straight months, it remains elevated – both in Canada and around the world. For many advanced economies, interest rates have risen to their highest levels in more than 15 years. This is resulting in slowing economic growth globally. The rapid rise in interest rates has also led to turmoil in some parts of the global banking system and volatility in global financial markets, highlighting the considerable uncertainty about how economic conditions will evolve going forward.

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 eight 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 are presenting a Recommendation for a modest Dominion per capita increase for 2025. 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.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Dominion Command portion of the Per Capita (excluding Legion Magazine) be increased by \$1.25 starting in the year 2025.

ITEM 12: TRANSPORTATION COST

Mileage and per diem rates are reviewed annually to ensure Legion rates are in line with other established guidelines.

Mileage Rates

The mileage reference used is the “reasonable per-kilometre allowance” prescribed by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). CRA establishes this allowance by considering the average cost of operating a vehicle and uses this amount as a comparator to determine if the mileage allowance paid to individuals is reasonable.

The historical mileage rates per-kilometre are (in cents):

	<u>CRA</u>	<u>LEGION</u>
2016	54.0	55.5
2017	54.0	51.6
2018	55.0	57.5
2019	58.0	57.5
2020	59.0	57.5 *
2021	59.0	57.5 *
2022	61.0	61.0
2023	68.0	68.0

* Mileage rates were not adjusted during these years due to greatly reduced travel during the Covid-19 pandemic.

For 2024, CRA has set the allowance rate at 70.0 cents/km, above the current Legion paid mileage rate.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the mileage rate for the use of privately owned vehicles on authorized Legion business be set at 70.0 cents/km, effective 1 May 2024.

Per Diem Rates

Per diem rates are reviewed annually using the National Joint Council (NJC) as reference. The NJC, which includes Treasury Board, develops the travel directive for government employees travelling on government business.

Current Legion rates:

\$123.00	In-Canada
\$242.00	International (including USA)

As of 1 April 2024, NJC rates are:

\$129.25	In-Canada
\$255.20	International (including USA). Note: rates vary for international countries; this represents the average of the various countries that the Legion visits

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the per diem rate for authorized Legion in-Canada travel be set at \$129.00 effective 1 May 2024.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT the per diem rate for authorized Legion international travel (including USA) be set at \$255.00 CAD effective 1 May 2024.

Rental Car Allowance in lieu of Taxi Fare – Ottawa

DEC members are authorized to rent a car in lieu of taxi fare when coming to Ottawa for meetings. Travel by taxi between the airport and Legion House is approximately \$75.00-80.00 each way.

The maximum allowance for car rental and fuel from the Ottawa airport to the Kanata Holiday Inn and return is currently \$170.00. A recommended increase to the \$170 provision will not be presented

GUIDELINES ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION NATIONAL MILITARY VETERANS WELLNESS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Dominion Command is providing the following document as a Guideline, to assist The Royal Canadian Legion (Legion), Provincial Commands, Districts, Zones and Branches to understand the Military Veterans Wellness Program (MVWP).

On 9 November 2020, the Ontario Provincial Police and Toronto Police Services announced their partnership with the Legion, Ontario and Manitoba/NWO Commands, in the Operation: Leave the Streets Behind, Homeless Veterans program, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program (OSISS). This program is expanding across the country with the aim to include all jurisdictions across the country.

The program's goal is for all Police Officers in Canada to take an online self-guided course, available on the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, to receive an understanding about military culture, veteran issues, and how to de-escalate a potentially violent veteran who is in crisis. The training will also provide the tools necessary for Police Officers to easily refer a Veteran to the Legion, VAC and OSISS for assistance.

MILITARY/HOMELESS VETERAN REFERRAL FORM (attached)

To complete the referral, the Police Officer will use the Military Veteran Referral Form which can easily be completed from their squad cars or from their mobile electronic device. The Military Veterans Wellness Program is unique in that the information on the form is completed by local Police Services and forwarded to the appropriate agencies for action, with the goal of expediting assistance for the Veteran.

The Officer will provide the veteran with Page 2 - National Assistance and if appropriate, Page 3 for local assistance so the Veteran can contact the support agencies on their own if they prefer to.

VETERAN'S INFORMATION

The section on Veteran Information provides the minimum personal information of the Veteran and allows the organizations to reach out to the veteran. Name and date of birth are mandatory so that the Legion can confirm service, especially if the veteran does not recall their service number.

If appropriate, provide a shelter name and contact or phone number, as this will allow the Legion or VAC to contact the shelter as a follow up if the individual does not have a phone number or a fixed address.

The organizations to provide the completed form to are listed in the Instructions.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 April 2024**

File: 65-1

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

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 2 April 2024
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD June 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. 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 and improvements to Veterans Independence Program, long term care, and various other departmental benefits and programs.

2. 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 will invite Comrade Andrea Siew to present her research and recommendations to the next Veterans Consultation Assembly in the fall.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

3. VAC STAKEHOLDERS and WOMEN VETERANS SUMMIT

Comrade Bruce Julien attended the summit virtually and Comrades Steven Clark, Carolyn Hughes, Alexa Pasha and Charls Gendron attended in person in Montreal.

More information can be found in the last Minutes of 2 April 2024. The topics discussed were relevant to Veterans although the presentations and panelists were a bit overshadowed by a few outspoken veterans and there was not much time for any questions to be asked of the various panelists.

4. 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. Service verification continues, often within a few hours,

A revised intake form has been developed with Veterans Services contact information. Once service is verified, the veterans are then connected with the appropriate Provincial Command for assistance. A new process document is being developed to share with all Commands in the near future. The intake form and draft process are attached.

5. RESOLUTIONS

The Committee has received only one resolution to date from Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command regarding long term care contract beds. Currently only WWII and Korean war veterans are eligible under the program for Priority Access Beds (PABs) and this resolution calls for increased access for all veterans, including those who served following these wars. It also calls for the Veteran's Units and Wings to be maintained.

After a review of all the governments previous responses and the policies and eligibility for PABs and recently developed program for Preferred Admission Beds, which includes post Korean war veterans, the Committee has non-concurred. Given the government's past responses and refusals to change, the Committee has developed a new resolution regarding the Preferred Admission Beds to bring forward at Convention in August.

6. VETERANS SERVICES

There has been a turnover of Service Officers in various Provincial Commands across the country and at Dominion Command. Training and mentoring are ongoing and Dominion Command Service Officers continue to support four Provincial Commands with Service Officer functions while they undergo changes.

Last DEC, it was noted that 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. The Director is the responsible party in the MOU for security clearances and CSDN access. She will visit New Brunswick/Nunavut Command prior to Convention for a few days and is reviewing dates in May to travel to Nova Scotia to train a new Service Officer and will conduct a site visit at that time.

Veterans Services statistics in 2023 have increased in some areas and decreased in others.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Inc or Dec
First Applications	3478	2819	2394	2678	3083	13%
Departmental Reviews	601	310	247	151	146	-3%
Counselled Out/Withdrawn	1095	830	1093	932	1006	7%
Entitlement Reviews	161	219	204	141	135	-4%
Entitlement Appeals/RfRs	143	99	83	97	45	-116%
WI VIP/PME	1297	2718	1796	2511	3656	31%
SCAN/Field Visits	403	443	131	1072	311	-245%

First application submissions have increased however Entitlement Reviews and Appeals have decreased for two reasons. One is that VAC has been more favourable in their decisions in their first decision in some instances. The second is that many of veterans who came to the Legion for support have now had files reviewed given the new Hearing Loss and Tinnitus and Partial Entitlement Policies of 2018.

The majority of outreach in SCAN and Field Visits to Branches is being done in Ontario and several Commands reported none for 2023.

CONCLUSION

This is my report and I move for its adoption.

NOTE: The referral form will have a designated area and the contact information for the Legion will be inserted in the document. All referral forms will be sent to Dominion Command veteransservices@legion.ca who can also be contacted toll-free at **1-877-534-4666**.

If the Police Officer on scene is able to facilitate a call to the organizations for the veteran during working hours, they are requested to do so, as well as submitting the referral form.

CONSENT FOR CONTACT

As a Police Officer's Memo Book confirming verbal consent is available through the Access to Information Act, the Police Officer engaging with the veteran at the time of the interview must complete this section and note it in their Memo Book. The verbal consent obtained by the Officer allows for the Legion, VAC and OSISS to make initial contact with the veteran. Once consent is given, it can also be withdrawn at any time by the Veteran contacting the Police Officer.

SUBMITTING OFFICER

This section is for the submitting Police Officer to complete. If required, the officer can be contacted as follow up of the status of the Veteran.

DISTRIBUTION

Once completed the document will be sent to the designated officer in each Police Service, for distribution to VAC, RCL and OSSIS. Once the verification of service is complete it is expected that assistance will be provided to the Veteran within 72 hours.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ACTION:

Once received and service has been verified, Veterans Services at the National HQ of the Legion will provide information to the appropriate Provincial Command, as each has established a program, to provide support to Homeless Veterans in their distinct areas of responsibility.

CONCLUSION

This initiative will help homeless veterans by enhancing the Homeless Veterans program, encouraging local Branches to engage with the Police Services in their communities, and building strong local community partnerships. This will lead to greater and more expeditious assistance provided to the Veteran. We owe our veterans the necessary action to prevent and eradicate Veteran Homelessness.

For further information/assistance please contact Carolyn Hughes, Director of Veterans Services by email at chughes@legion.ca or toll-free at 1-877-534-4666

GUIDELINES ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION NATIONAL MILITARY VETERANS WELLNESS PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Dominion Command is providing the following document as a Guideline, to assist The Royal Canadian Legion (Legion), Provincial Commands, Districts, Zones and Branches to understand the Military Veterans Wellness Program (MVWP).

On 9 November 2020, the Ontario Provincial Police and Toronto Police Services announced their partnership with the Legion, Ontario and Manitoba/NWO Commands, in the Operation: Leave the Streets Behind, Homeless Veterans program, Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) and the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program (OSISS). This program is expanding across the country with the aim to include all jurisdictions across the country.

The program's goal is for all Police Officers in Canada to take an online self-guided course, available on the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, to receive an understanding about military culture, veteran issues, and how to de-escalate a potentially violent veteran who is in crisis. The training will also provide the tools necessary for Police Officers to easily refer a Veteran to the Legion, VAC and OSISS for assistance.

MILITARY/HOMELESS VETERAN REFERRAL FORM (attached)

To complete the referral, the Police Officer will use the Military Veteran Referral Form which can easily be completed from their squad cars or from their mobile electronic device. The Military Veterans Wellness Program is unique in that the information on the form is completed by local Police Services and forwarded to the appropriate agencies for action, with the goal of expediting assistance for the Veteran.

The Officer will provide the veteran with Page 2 - National Assistance and if appropriate, Page 3 for local assistance so the Veteran can contact the support agencies on their own if they prefer to.

VETERAN'S INFORMATION

The section on Veteran Information provides the minimum personal information of the Veteran and allows the organizations to reach out to the veteran. Name and date of birth are mandatory so that the Legion can confirm service, especially if the veteran does not recall their service number.

If appropriate, provide a shelter name and contact or phone number, as this will allow the Legion or VAC to contact the shelter as a follow up if the individual does not have a phone number or a fixed address.

The organizations to provide the completed form to are listed in the Instructions.

NOTE: The referral form will have a designated area and the contact information for the Legion will be inserted in the document. All referral forms will be sent to Dominion Command veteransservices@legion.ca who can also be contacted toll-free at **1-877-534-4666**.

If the Police Officer on scene is able to facilitate a call to the organizations for the veteran during working hours, they are requested to do so, as well as submitting the referral form.

CONSENT FOR CONTACT

As a Police Officer's Memo Book confirming verbal consent is available through the Access to Information Act, the Police Officer engaging with the veteran at the time of the interview must complete this section and note it in their Memo Book. The verbal consent obtained by the Officer allows for the Legion, VAC and OSISS to make initial contact with the veteran. Once consent is given, it can also be withdrawn at any time by the Veteran contacting the Police Officer.

SUBMITTING OFFICER

This section is for the submitting Police Officer to complete. If required, the officer can be contacted as follow up of the status of the Veteran.

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Once completed the document will be sent to the designated officer in each Police Service, for distribution to VAC, RCL and OSSIS. Once the verification of service is complete it is expected that assistance will be provided to the Veteran within 72 hours.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ACTION:

Once received and service has been verified, Veterans Services at the National HQ of the Legion will provide information to the appropriate Provincial Command, as each has established a program, to provide support to Homeless Veterans in their distinct areas of responsibility.

CONCLUSION

This initiative will help homeless veterans by enhancing the Homeless Veterans program, encouraging local Branches to engage with the Police Services in their communities, and building strong local community partnerships. This will lead to greater and more expeditious assistance provided to the Veteran. We owe our veterans the necessary action to prevent and eradicate Veteran Homelessness.

For further information/assistance please contact Carolyn Hughes, Director of Veterans Services by email at chughes@legion.ca or toll-free at 1-877-534-4666



MILITARY VETERAN ASSISTANCE FORM

Date: _____
(yyyy/mm/dd)

VETERAN'S INFORMATION

Date of Birth: _____ (yyyy/mm/dd)

Surname

Maiden Name

Given Name (G1)

Military Branch / Nationality

Military Service Number

Currently
Serving?

Years of
Service: _____ to _____
(yyyy/mm/dd) (yyyy/mm/dd)

Address (Street number and name, Apt. #, City, Province, Postal Code)

Phone Number (10 digits)

Shelter Name

Shelter Phone Number (10 digits)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. If you encounter a Veteran who requires assistance, please submit the form via the link at the bottom.
2. In addition, for immediate assistance during regular business hours contact the following and speak to a service agent
 - Veterans Affairs Canada (1-866-522-2122),
 - Royal Canadian Legion (1-877-534-4666), or
 - Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program (1-800-883-6094).
3. If you are not able to speak to a service agent, attempt to assist the Veteran with any other local services, to ensure the Veteran's well-being until a care provider can contact them within 72 hours.

CONSENT FOR CONTACT

- The Veteran indicated they wish to receive support from Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion, and/or the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program.

I have advised the Veteran of the following:

- The information collected on this form is solely to link Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion and/or the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program to the Veteran and for no other purpose.
- The provision of any information, together with the Veteran's participation in a program, is strictly voluntary.
- The consent provided can be withdrawn at any time.
- The Veteran provided consent to allow this Police Service to provide the collected information contained on this form to Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion, and/or the Operational Stress Injury Social Support Program.

SUBMITTING OFFICER

Surname, Given Name

Badge / Employee Number

Contact Number

Police Service

Division / Unit / Detachment

Submit by Email

ONE HOMELESS VETERAN IS ONE TOO MANY



AVAILABLE RESOURCES ARE:

- Veterans Emergency Fund
- Health Care
- Financial Support
- Employment
- Vocational Training and Support
- Peer Support
- Veteran & Family Well-Being Fund
- Case Management
- Local Service Providers

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO SERVED IN THE
CANADIAN ARMED FORCES OR THE ROYAL
CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE WHO IS HOMELESS
OR AT RISK OF BECOMING HOMELESS?

CALL US.
1-866-522-2122

veterans.gc.ca/services

1-800-268-7708

VAC Assistance Service, to speak to a mental health professional



Veterans Affairs
Canada

Anciens Combattants
Canada

Canada



Leave the Streets Behind

Homeless Veterans Assistance



ASSISTANCE PROVIDED

- Medical Needs
- Assistive Devices
- Emergency Assistance
Rental Payments, Furnishing Assistance, Moving Expenses, Utility Payments, Shelter, Food, Transportation and more.

For more information, contact:

The Royal Canadian Legion National Headquarters
86 Aird Place, Ottawa, ON. K2L 0A1
veteransservices@legion.ca

TOLL FREE: 1-877-534-4666 • PHONE: 613-591-3335 • FAX: 613-287-0122



Operational Stress Injury Social Support

The Power of Peer Support

The OSISS program includes CAF members, veterans and family members in multiple locations across Canada who provide mentorship, firsthand lived experience and practical knowledge of what life is like with an OSI. Our program is for peers, by peers.

- National standardized program
- One on One support as well as group support
- Community engagement
- Confidentiality



1 800 883 6094



OSISS-SSBSO@forces.gc.ca



OPERATIONAL STRESS INJURY
SOCIAL SUPPORT

SOUTIEN SOCIAL
BLESSURES DE STRESS OPÉRATIONNEL



osiss.ca

24 Hour Assistance Lines

Veterans Affairs Canada Assistance Service Line: 1 (800) 268-7708 TDD/TTY: 1 (800) 567-5803

Canadian Forces Family Information Line: 1 (800) 866-4546

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

File: 35-1

Berkley Lawrence	- Chair
Derek Moore	- Vice-Chair
Peter Merola	- Member
Carol Pedersen	- Member
Daryl Alward	- Member
Ernie Tester	- Member
Sharon McKeown	- Member
Brian Weaver	- Member
Jack MacIsaac	- Member
Lia Taha Cheng	- Coordinator
Nicole Thomas	- Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 4 April 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16 April 2024 (Meeting of the Whole)

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – OPERATION REMEMBRANCE 2024

Operation Remembrance requested \$6,500 for their 2024 program. Their focus is to educate students on the importance of honouring Canada's military history and Veterans. The 11 days of videos are researched by students and filmed within their schools and then shared on YouTube and Instagram.

Operation Remembrance has previously received between \$5,000 to \$6,500 annually from 2020 to 2023. As per the Veteran Support Partnership Program Poppy Fund Guidelines which state that a project is not eligible if it creates financial dependency, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee determined that this should be the final year of funding from The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$6,500 from Operation Remembrance be approved for 2024 and that notice be provided that this is the final year of financial contribution from Dominion Command.

2. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – HEROES MENDING ON THE FLY 2024

Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada requested \$50,000, up from \$35,000 in 2023,

for their 2024 program. Their focus is on the physical and emotional rehabilitation of injured Canadian military personnel, members of the RCMP, first responders and disabled Veterans through fly fishing and its associated ongoing activities, including education and outings. They presently have chapters in BC, AB, MB, ON, QC, NB, NS, and NL.

Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada has previously received between \$20,000 to \$35,000 annually from 2018 to 2023 from The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command. In 2023, in addition to the \$35,000 provided by Dominion Command, Heroes Mending on the Fly received \$109,400 from Legion Provincial Commands and Branches. As per the Veteran Support Partnership Program Poppy Fund Guidelines which state that a project is not eligible if it creates financial dependency, the Poppy and Remembrance Committee determined that this should be the final year of funding from The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command and that the \$15,000 requested increase in funding should not be approved.

RECOMMENDATION: That \$35,000 be approved through the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding to support Heroes Mending on the Fly for 2024 and that notice be provided that this is the final year of financial contribution from Dominion Command.

3. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – CAMP AFTERMATH 2024

Camp Aftermath requested \$30,000 to cover the costs of mental health professionals for 1 year, flights and hotels for out of province participants, and room and board at sister charity, Camp Garagona. Their aim is to provide support to Veterans and their families by offering a comprehensive program centered around volunteerism. As part of the program, Veterans will engage in various volunteer activities aimed at providing them with a sense of purpose beyond their military careers.

The application was reviewed by the Veterans, Service and Seniors (VSS) Committee who support this funding request. The Poppy and Remembrance Committee concurred with this decision.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$30,000 from Camp Aftermath be approved for 2024.

4. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – POPPY STORIES 2024

For a second year, the Legion was proud to present “Poppy Stories”, an initiative that allows Canadians to scan a lapel Poppy with their smartphone. With every scan, Canadians were introduced to a fallen soldier with a story to remember. 50

new stories were added in 2023 that focused on peacekeeping.

The Poppy and Remembrance Division requested \$50,000 to continue with Poppy Stories by developing a desktop application (it is currently only available on mobile devices), exploring voiceovers for each story, and possibly sharing stories to highlight the Royal Canadian Air Force centennial. The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is in support of this request.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of \$50,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for Poppy Stories be approved.

5. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 815a(i)

Historically, the intention of Poppy Manual section 815a(i) was to ensure that the Poppy is never placed in any area, not just in parks, where it could be walked upon or stepped on.

815. “Situations where the use of the Poppy image would NOT be considered include:

a. Community Use:

i. Parks: Any area on the ground that could result in the Poppy being trod upon”

Therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to replace “Community Use” with “General Use” and remove the word “Parks”.

RECOMMENDATION: That section 815a and a(i) of the Poppy Manual be amended to read: “a. *General* Use: i. Any area that could result in the Poppy being trod upon.”

6. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 815a

Historically, The Royal Canadian Legion has not permitted the use of the Poppy in any instance where it could be consumed. However, this is not explicitly stated in the Poppy Manual. Therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to add subsection v to 815a to include not allowing the Poppy image to be used in any situation that could result in the Poppy being consumed.

RECOMMENDATION: That section 815a (“situations where the Poppy image would NOT be considered include”) be expanded to include subsection v as follows: “v. Any situation that could result in the Poppy being consumed, including edible goods.”

7. PROPOSED POPPY MANUAL AMENDMENT – POPPY MANUAL 501iii(f)

Poppy Manual subsections 403ii(f) and 501iii(f) are contradictory. As contextual information, a Branch would like to add a Veteran's name that is missing to their cenotaph. Since it is already constructed, the only way to accomplish this is by adding a plaque to the cenotaph. Subsection 501iii(f) states "the following expenditures are not authorized: the purchase of headstones, grave markers, memorial plaques for cenotaphs."; therefore, the use of Poppy Funds to add a plaque with the Veteran's name on it is not permitted. However, if a new cenotaph is constructed, which would include a memorial plaque with names, Poppy Funds would be authorized as per subsection 403ii(f): "authorized special use expenditures: monuments: up to 25 percent of the current balance, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining or preserving local monuments for Veterans".

Therefore, the intent of the following amendment is to remove "memorial plaques for cenotaphs" from unauthorized Poppy Fund expenditures in subsection 501iii(f).

RECOMMENDATION: That subsection 501iii(f) (unauthorized Poppy Fund expenditures) be amended to read: "f. the purchase of headstones or grave markers".

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. RED ROSE RANCH

Red Rose Ranch in Manitoba requested \$4,500 for their equine therapy program for Veterans and First Responders. The five-day camp is designed to provide the learner with the knowledge, techniques, and skills required to understand basic riding, horse care, and stable requirements. The application was reviewed by the VSS Committee who did not support this funding request and the Poppy and Remembrance Committee concurred with this decision.

2. HELMETS TO HARDHATS

Helmets to Hardhats requested \$270,000 for the marketing of their program: The Skills Awareness Project. The project will launch a national awareness campaign highlighting second career opportunities for Veterans in Canada's unionized skilled trades sector. The application was reviewed by the VSS Committee who did not support this funding request and the Poppy and Remembrance Committee concurred with this decision.

3. SINGING IN FLANDERS FIELDS

The Acadia University Singers requested \$13,000 to cover the travel fees of 12 students. They will travel to Arras, France and then to Ypres, Belgium to perform choral compositions of In Flanders Fields and other Remembrance-themed music

by Canadian composers. The Poppy and Remembrance Committee determined that the project was ineligible for the Veteran Support Partnership Program as the funding would not be used to assist Veterans.

4. REMEMBRANCE BANNER DISPLAY

Canadian Heritage offered the Legion the opportunity to partner with them for their Confederation Boulevard Remembrance Banner Display. They would like to produce special Poppy-themed, Remembrance banners to display around the National War Memorial and Vimy Place during the Poppy Campaign. They have proposed a 5-year partnership which would allow the Legion to be directly involved in the banner designs and include the Legion logo on all banners. The Legion's financial contribution would be \$19,918.09 for year one and then \$5,800 for each of the 4 succeeding years (representing a 5-year average annual cost of approximately \$8,623.62). The Poppy and Remembrance Committee determined that although Remembrance banner programs are excellent, financial contributions should continue to come from General Funds.

5. APPROVED POPPY TRADEMARK USE REQUESTS

The Dominion Command Supply Department requested the use of the Poppy trademark design for the below commemorative and Poppy items which have been approved by the Poppy and Remembrance Committee.

- A pin commemorating the end of The Battle of the Atlantic
- A pin commemorating the end of The Italian Campaign
- A commemorative baseball hat featuring the design of the end of The Battle of the Atlantic pin
- A commemorative baseball hat featuring the design of the end of The Italian Campaign pin
- Two fanny packs featuring the Poppy design on the inside lining
- A hand painted ceramic mug
- A hand painted ornament

The Sports Committee requested the use of the Poppy trademark design for the 2024 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships medals to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the end of Canada's Mission in Afghanistan which has been approved by the Poppy and Remembrance Committee.

6. REMEMBERING THEIR FACES

Mohawk College is investigating using facial recognition AI technology to identify Veterans in old photos with the goal of preserving Canadian military history. There are thousands of photos in museum archives that are not labelled so their intent is to use AI tools to automatically identify Veterans in photos. They plan to launch a

website called Remembering their Faces to let people search, upload, and share digital artifacts to honour our Canadian Veterans.

The next phase of the project involves the public contributing photographs to their database. They hope to find their Veteran in the museum's collection using AI and provide the new identification information to the museum to enhance their curatorial efforts. They have requested that the Legion adds a checkbox on the Virtual Wall of Honour and Remembrance page so that contributors have the option to consent to sharing submitted images with their project and museum partners.

The below media links provide additional information on this project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eLWxkoEQQEM>

https://www.thespec.com/news/hamilton-region/mohawk-college-professor-leading-effort-in-preserving-war-history-with-ai/article_6e490d44-e36f-54cb-bfc2-24211d3a40f7.html

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee was interested in the project; however, they would like to see further developments prior to supporting the initiative.

7. PROJECT ATHENA

Project Athena, encompassing Operations Apollo, Athena, and Attention, is a pioneering digital initiative by the Project '44 team that captures Canada's involvement in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2014. Through an interactive map and a user-friendly editor, Canadian Armed Forces Veterans can work together to map out the history of Canada in Afghanistan. Project Athena will be open for the public to view, and for Veterans to contribute to. Their first version will show IED strikes over a 5-year period from 2004-2009, as well as select Geotagged photos from Afghanistan.

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee was interested in the project; however, there were concerns about privacy and the impact that it may have on some Veterans. Therefore, the Committee determined that the request should be referred to the VSS Committee and the Operational Stress Injury Special Section for their recommendations.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. POPPY CAMPAIGN MODERNIZATION

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee will continue to focus on enhancing and modernizing the Poppy Campaign. Through optimizing relationships with existing

corporate partners, the Committee continues to explore opportunities to collect donations via PoS systems. Starbucks has confirmed their support for 2024 and funds collected through this National initiative will continue to be distributed back to corresponding Legion Branches via EFTs. With RBC's acquisition of HSBC Bank Canada, the Committee is redesigning the Pay Tribute tap-enabled Poppy boxes for 2024. The Committee is also working on enhancing Poppy Stories so Canadians can continue to be introduced to a fallen soldier with a story to remember.

2. POPPY TRADEMARK

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is working on the standardization and formalization of the Poppy Trademark use request process. Their focus is on outlining new terms and conditions and developing an application form to request the use of the trademark.

3. OTHER INITIATIVES

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is in the process of developing cardboard Poppy boxes to continue to reduce the Legion's environmental footprint. They are also developing a framework for Memorial Banners so that Branches have a template to use for their banner designs. Finally, they are undergoing a review of the Branch Status Report as there is public interest in donations raised during the Poppy Campaign and how the funds are disbursed.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DATE: April 27, 2024**

File # 23:1

Valerie MacGregor	-	Chair
Terry Campbell	-	Member
Marion Fryday Cook	-	Member
Rosalind Larose	-	Member
Duane MacEwen	-	Member
Garry Pond	-	Member
Berkley Lawrence	-	Member
Sharon McKeown	-	Member
Brian Weaver	-	Member
Amanda Black	-	Coordinator
Randy Hayley	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: November 25,2023

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

At this moment, there are no resolutions to present or discuss.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. 2024 MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS:

- By March 26, 2024, the membership tally reached 226,128, which constitutes 88.0% of the total members from 2023, with a year-over-year growth of 6.6%.
- A total of 20,117 new or renewing members have joined, exceeding the 20,000 milestone before the end of March, representing a 7% increase from the previous year.
- In the first three months of 2024, Member Services managed 10,000 calls, indicating a 13% increase compared to the same period last year.

Automated Telemarketing and Direct Mail Campaign for Membership Renewal

The Automated Telemarketing Renewal Calling Campaign and Direct Mail initiative is proactively engaging with approximately 18,000 members who have not yet renewed, using primarily telephone communications.

During the campaign's initial two weeks, we have either left messages for or directly connected with 2,500 members, encouraging them to renew their membership for 2024.

To prompt members about their renewal, we are utilizing a pre-recorded message. This campaign is executed on a weekly basis and is slated to run into the end of April.

In a parallel effort, 36,000 members were targeted with a renewal reminder letter sent through direct mail.

These combined efforts have led to the renewal of about 7,500 memberships from March 5th to March 25th.

2. COMMITTEE TARGET REPORT

Below is the Membership Committee Target Report as of March 25, 2024.

The committee has set the goals for 2024, as detailed below.

2024 Membership Committee Targets					
Command	Renewals	Branch Rates	Member Emails	Branch Portal Processing	Auto Renewals
01 RCL BC/YUKON COMMAND	76.9%	100.0%	69.3%	90.5%	17.5%
02 RCL ALBERTA/NWT COMMAND	78.2%	96.9%	62.7%	75.5%	16.3%
03 RCL SASKATCHEWAN COMMAND	85.4%	99.4%	53.6%	60.6%	10.7%
04 RCL MANITOBA/NWO COMMAND	81.2%	100.0%	51.1%	67.7%	13.2%
05 RCL ONTARIO COMMAND	83.1%	99.2%	61.4%	85.6%	14.9%
06 RCL QUEBEC COMMAND	79.2%	88.3%	63.8%	70.9%	14.9%
07 RCL NEW BRUNSWICK COMMAND	80.7%	100.0%	48.8%	65.7%	11.0%
08 RCL NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT COMMAND	77.5%	100.0%	53.0%	87.4%	12.5%
09 RCL PEI COMMAND	80.0%	94.7%	45.9%	68.4%	10.2%
10 RCL NFLD/LABRADOR COMMAND	79.4%	89.1%	66.9%	67.4%	18.1%
Total	80.4%	98.0%	61.2%	77.2%	15.0%
2024 Membership Committee Targets	90%	100%	70%	85%	20%

3. 100th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Ideas and discussions to be proposed for the 100th year anniversary of the Legion.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27 APRIL 2024**

File: 42-2

Brian Weaver - Chair
Keith Andrews - Member
Serge Thibaudeau - Technical Advisor
Steven Van Muyen - Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien - Assistant Committee Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 11 January 2024
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

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

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2. DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Dominion Sports Committee is happy to report that the 2024 Dominion Member Sports Championships are once again ready to bring together members from across the country for camaraderie, competition, and fun. The 2024 Dominion Cribbage Championship is being held from 26 – 29 April, the Darts Championship from 3 – 6 May, and the Eight Ball Championship from 24 – 27 May. The Dominion Sports Committee wishes all competitors good luck!

2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships Host Branches

In January 2024, the Sports Committee selected the following host branches for the 2025 Dominion Member Sports Championships:

Eight Ball: 23 - 26 May 2025
Host: Branch #07-004 Fredericton
199 Queen Street, Fredericton, NB

Cribbage: 25 – 28 April 2025
Host: Branch #05-112 Whitby
117 Byron St. S Whitby, ON L1N 4P5

Darts: 2 - 5 May 2025
Host: Branch #05-410 Port Stanley
310 George St, Port Stanley N5L 1C9

3. LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

2024 Legion Nationals

The 2024 Legion Nationals will take place in Calgary, AB from 7 – 13 August 2024. The competition will occur at Foothills Athletic Park and the University of Calgary. The Remembrance Theme for the 2024 Legion Nationals will be Afghanistan: 2001 – 2014.

2026/2027 Legion Nationals Bid Process

The Sports Committee conducted an extensive and thorough bid process for the 2026 and 2027 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships. In total, the committee received 6 competitive and detailed bid submissions. Bids were analyzed in accordance with the evaluation criteria matrix outlined in the bid handbook and reviewed in detail by all members of the committee. Based on the evaluation of the bids, the Sports Committee moved and approved the selection of Regina, Saskatchewan as the host city for the 2026/27 Legion Nationals.

As a result, future Legion Nationals are as follows:

- a. 2024: Calgary, AB
- b. 2025: Calgary, AB
- c. 2026: Regina, SK
- d. 2027: Regina, SK

I move approval of this report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
APRIL 2024**

File: 44

Sharon McKeown	-	Chair
Donna McRury	-	Vice-Chair
Jack Clayton	-	Member (NB)
Nathan Hoffmeister		Member (SK)
Dale Johnston	-	Member (BC/Y)
Rosalind LaRose	-	Member (AB/NWT)
Mary-Ann Latimer	-	Member (QC)
Carolyn McCaul	-	Member (ON)
Law Power	-	Member (NL)
Ernie Tester	-	Member (ON)
John Yeo	-	Member (PEI)

Nujma Bond	Coordinator
Leah O’Neill	Assistant Coordinator
Dion Edmonds	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: March 7, 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: May 2, 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

- The sharing of EDI terminology and/or guidelines with all commands so that there is some consistency in how we execute across the country. Reference guides have been created by the Government of Canada. Links are below.
 - [Guide on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Terminology \(noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca\)](#)
 - [Inclusive writing – Guidelines and resources – Writing Tips Plus – Writing Tools – Resources of the Language Portal of Canada – Canada.ca \(noslangues-ourlanguages.gc.ca\)](#)
- Agree to hold new member “get acquainted” socials with community groups and within branches – a modernized version of the past “Welcome Wagon” initiative to help people learn more about their membership and feel good about joining.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

- The committee members are providing concrete PR-related actions each command will take to work towards the Legion's EDI plans. A complete compilation will be forthcoming. The current attachment outlines the submissions to date.

I move this report.

Sharon McKeown
Chair
Public Relations Committee

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
 RITUAL, AWARDS AND PROTOCOL COMMITTEE TO THE
 DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

File: 51

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

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 29th March 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS

Through consultation with the Ritual, Award and Protocol co-ordinator and committee, and senior management, it has been determined that for Legion religious ceremonies and events the best route is to discontinue the Chaplin Manual and reference the CAF manual as a guide. Wording utilized by clergy could be modified to reflect the geographic location and religious background of the family. The Ritual and Award Manual will be review and amended as needed in the course of the present calendar year.

Award submissions since last report of APR 2023:

COMMAND	MSM	Palm to MSM	MSA	Palm to MSA
Alberta-NWT	1			
BC/Yukon	1	1		
Man & NW Ont				
New Brunswick	1			
NL & Labrador	1			
NS/ Nunavut	1	1		
Ontario	4			
PEI				
Quebec	1			
Saskatchewan				
Intl USA Zone	1			

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

File: 17:2

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

DATE OF LAST MEETING: March 19, 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. Article III Mediation:

Based on the recommendations received from the Provincial Command C&L Chairs in 2023, the Committee is proposing an amendment to section 304 which includes separating less serious complaints (304.a. i. and ii.) from more serious complaints (304.a. iii, iv, v, vi and vii).

The Committee is recommending mandatory Mediation for section 304.a. i and ii. The Committee does not support mediation for 304.a. iii, iv, v, vi and vii.

Under COMPLAINT PROCEDURE the following is recommended regarding Section 304. a. for sections i. and ii.:

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. New 304.b. i. Complaints lodged under subsections i and ii below are subject to a mandatory mediation process. Mediation to be conducted by a mediator or mediation team as determined by the respective branch President. The mediator or mediation team shall attempt to resolve the dispute by agreement.

RECOMMENDATION: 2. New 304.b.ii. If the mediator or mediation team is unable to resolve the complaint, then the mediator or mediation team shall determine if the complaint has been substantiated, and if substantiated may impose a disposition under 311 b. If the complaint is not substantiated, it shall be dismissed.

RECOMMENDATION: 3. New 304.b.iii. The decision of the mediator or mediation team is final unless an error has been made in the interpretation of these bylaws in which case an appeal can be filed with the branch President within 10 days. The appeal shall be heard by a committee of three branch members appointed by the branch President. The decision of the branch appeal committee is final and cannot be appealed any further.

RECOMMENDATION: 4. New 304.b.iv. Mediation will not be offered for sections 304 a. iii, iv, v, vi and vii.

RECOMMENDATION: 5. The addition of the above amendments will require a renaming of the current sections 304 b. c. d. e. f. g. and h. to become 304 c.d.e.f.g.h.and i.

2. Section 311 Dispositions:

As a result of the above amendments, the Committee proposes an amended Section 311.b. to read:

RECOMMENDATION: 1. New 311.b. Where a complaint alleges only a breach of 304.a. i and or ii the charges may be dismissed, or if substantiated, one or more of the following dispositions may be imposed. (i and ii remain as written)

RECOMMENDATION: 2. New 311.b. Where a complaint alleges only a breach of 304.a. i and or ii the charges may be dismissed, or if substantiated, one or more of the following dispositions may be imposed. (i and ii remain as written)

RECOMMENDATION: 3. Rename 311.c. to 311.d.

3. Administration amendments:

As a result of the above amendments the following additional amendments are required:

RECOMMENDATION: 1. Section 306. a.b.c.d. and e. are no longer a requirement and can now be deleted.

RECOMMENDATION: 2. Section 306.f. to become just 306.

RECOMMENDATION: 3. Section 306 to be renumbered to Section 305 and current Section 305 to be renumbered to Section 306 (Complaints at Command Level)

4. Sections 405 and 406:

Having recently experienced the process of filling a vacant 1st Vice President and Vice President position the following recommendations are made to update Sections 405 and 406 of the General By-laws as follows:

405.b. Current by-laws reads as follows:

405.b. The Dominion Chair shall ascertain which of the three Dominion Vice-Presidents wish to be candidates for this office and shall then conduct a vote of the members of the Dominion Executive Council to determine which of the Dominion Vice-Presidents shall succeed to this office. A mail vote may be conducted if there is no Dominion Executive Council meeting or Dominion Convention within the specified period. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six (6) months of the next Dominion Convention.

Recommended updates are listed in **red** below:

RECOMMENDATION: 405 b. The Dominion Chair shall ascertain which of the three Dominion Vice-Presidents wish to be candidates for this office and shall then conduct a vote of the ~~members of the voting~~ Dominion Executive Council **members** to determine which of the Dominion Vice-Presidents shall succeed to this office. **An electronic vote using email or other secure electronic means mail-vote may shall** be conducted if there is no Dominion Executive Council meeting or Dominion Convention within the specified period. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six (6) months of the next Dominion Convention.

406.b. Current bylaw reads as follows:

406.b. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the three Dominion Vice Presidents for any reason, including election to higher office, the Dominion Executive Council shall fill the vacancy by electing, from among its members, a new Dominion Vice-President. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six months of the next Dominion Convention.

Recommended updates are listed in **red** below:

RECOMMENDATION: 406.b. Whenever a vacancy occurs among the three Dominion Vice Presidents for any reason, including election to higher office, the **voting Dominion Executive Council members** shall fill the vacancy by electing **the new Dominion Vice President from among its voting eligible members. An electronic vote using email or other secure electronic means,** from among its **voting eligible** members, **shall be used to elect** a new Dominion Vice-President. This provision is not mandatory if the vacancy occurs within six months of the next Dominion Convention.

5. Section 611.a.

611.a. Current by-law reads as follows:

611.a. A branch may, by By-Law, provide that a member be required to serve one term on the branch executive to be eligible to be elected president, a vice-president or chair and that a member be required to hold membership in the branch for a period of one year to be eligible for election to the branch executive.

Recommended updates are listed in **red** below:

RECOMMENDATION: 611.a. A branch may, by By-Law, provide that a member be required to serve one term on **the a** branch executive to be eligible to be elected president, a vice-president or **branch** chair and/or that a member be required to **either** hold membership in the branch, **or in any branch,** for a period of one year to be eligible for election to the branch executive.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

GENERAL

The Committee continues to review and respond to Constitution and Laws questions by email and telephone as necessary.

CONCLUSION

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

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
RCEL COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27- 28 April 2024**

File: 26-2-2

Bruce Julian	-	Chair
Tom Irvine	-	Vice Chair
Berkely Lawrence	-	Member
Sharon McKeown	-	Member
Brian Weaver		Member
Jack Maclsaac	-	Member
Steven Clark	-	Coordinator
Christine Racine	-	A/Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 23 November 2023

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 27 – 28 April 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. There are no action items at this time.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2. As concurred at the RCEL's AGM held on 29 March 2023, Canada has been selected as the host country for the RCEL 2025 Triennial Conference. Accommodations and conference rooms have been secured with the Chateau Laurier at a preferential rate.

The Dominion Command organizing committee chaired by Randy Hayley, Director, Corporate Services has been established. Committee members are involved and coordinating with their peers where required.

In preparation for this meaningful and significant event, a recce will be taking place from 26 - 30 June 2024 (arrival and departure dates may be subject to change depending on flights). Dominion President, Bruce Julian and National Executive President, Steven Clark will be the key hosts for the RCEL officials travelling to Ottawa for the recce.

The Legion continues to provide direct benevolent support to Veterans and widows in Antigua, the Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago and Tobago. A total of 33 beneficiaries receive direct assistance from the Legion. Verification on the adjudication and distribution of funds is conducted pre-disbursal and post-disbursal. In-person visits with the beneficiaries were recently conducted in the Bahamas earlier in March. For the remaining countries, the assistant coordinator conducts the verification and adjudication by communicating with the representatives for each branch and country. We obtain

information on the current health status of each beneficiary and request confirmation funds are distributed accordingly. Due to limited access to technology and the advanced age of the representatives and the beneficiaries, the verification process can be somewhat onerous. We are grateful that we can rely on Johanna Lewin, RCEL representative residing in Jamaica. Johanna is a key person in assisting the Legion to obtain and conduct the appropriate due diligence.

The Legion also provides a portion of the funding to beneficiaries in Jamaica. These funds are directed to RCEL UK for their distribution. Also, the Legion provides an annual grant directly to Curphy Home (retirement care home for Veterans). This year the grant was increased from \$5,500.00 to \$7,500.00. A site visit was recently conducted by Bruce Julian and Steven Clark with Veterans and widows in Jamaica. A visit to Curphy Home was also conducted. Our funds are used to enhance the quality of life of the Veterans residing in the home.

The 2024 President's Cruise took place from 11 - 22 February. Visits were conducted and hosted by Bruce Julian and Steven Clark. Over 55 Legionnaires participated and attended these visits in St. Lucia, Tobago, Grenada, and Antigua. Excursions included a laying of the wreath ceremony on the islands, visits to Veteran cemeteries, luncheons and receptions with Governors General and government officials were coordinated between the Legion and the representatives on the islands. These visits provide a global appreciation of the Caribbean countries' participation in WWII as well as help raise the awareness for continued Remembrance of all who served under the Commonwealth.

For 2025, a cruise package is being offered to Legion members. The ports include Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and Grand Cayman. Official visits will not be conducted. This cruise offers Legionnaires the chance to visit different ports. Discussions are on-going as to the education, awareness sessions and organized events which would take place on the days the ship will be at sea.

The next President's Cruise will take place from 23 February to 4 March 2026. Ports included on this cruise are St. Maarten, Antigua, St. Lucia, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Kitts. To raise awareness and continue our commitment to Remembrance, official visits and wreath laying ceremonies will be organized and coordinated.

I move approval of this report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 April 2024**

File: 82-27

**Andrea Siew - Chair
Brendan Heffernan - Vice-Chair
Mindy Pearson - Member
Brian Sauv  - Member
Dean Young - Coordinator
Carolyn Hughes - Observer**

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 9 January 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14 May 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

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

1. The Terms of Reference for the Defence and Security (D&S) Committee (attached) has been reviewed and the Committee would like to add the following new paragraph: **“All Committee deliberations and decisions will take into consideration and embrace the Royal Canadian Legion’s Equity, Diversity Statement.”**

Recommendation: That DEC approve the change to the D&S Committee Terms of Reference to reflect the Royal Canadian Legion’s EDI statement.

ADVOCACY ACTIONS

2. Requirement for a National Women Veterans Monument

The Dominion President sent a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on 15 January 2024 to request that the Government of Canada establish a national monument to honour Canadian Women Veterans and recognize their significant contributions and sacrifice to Canada. A response to the letter has not been received.

3. RCMP - Definition of a Veteran for Commemoration Purposes

The Dominion President sent a follow up letter to the new Minister of Veterans Affairs on 26 October 2023 to request that the Government change the definition of a Veteran to include the RCMP for commemoration purposes. A response has not been received. The Committee Chair also reached out to the RCMP Veterans Association to ensure that they are also advocating on the issue.

4. CAF Culture Change and Sexual Misconduct

On 21 March 2024 the Minister of National Defence announced amendments to the National Defence Act, Bill C66. The amendments propose a suite of targeted changes to modernize the military justice system by addressing key recommendations made in the independent and external reviews conducted by former Supreme Court Justices Louise Arbour and Morris J. Fish.

The most significant change is the amendment to address Recommendation 5 from the Honourable Louise Arbour's Independent External Comprehensive Review to definitively remove the CAF's jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute Criminal Code sexual offences committed in Canada. The proposed legislation provides exclusive jurisdiction to civilian authorities to investigate and prosecute such offences **committed in Canada**.

It is important to note that this amendment is only for the investigation and prosecution of offences committed in Canada. This is a significant gap and the way forward for offences committed outside of Canada is unclear. "It is being studied."

Of concern to the Military Sexual Trauma community, under the amendment victims no longer have a choice in how their case will be investigated or prosecuted. Also, there is an issue in the length of time it takes for investigation and prosecution in an already overcrowded civilian justice system. There have already been cases that were moved from the military justice system to the civilian system and then discontinued because of the delay between charge and trial under the Jordan principle.

While I support the proposed amendments and it is a positive step forward in modernizing and enhancing the military justice system, there is more work to be done especially in the area of resolving how the investigation and prosecution of sexual offences committed outside of Canada will be conducted as well as ensuring that the needs of victims of military sexual trauma come first.

5. Defence Policy Update

The update to the 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. The Committee continues to monitor and wait for the release of the Update.

6. Budget Cuts

The Committee is monitoring the Government's proposed spending cuts to find \$15B in savings over the next three years. 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. The next federal budget is on 16 April 2024.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

7. OP HARMONY Initiative CAF and RCMP Indigenous Youth Programs

Op Harmony Committee tasked the Defence and Security Committee to investigate outreach opportunities related to the CAF and RCMP Indigenous Youth Programs. The Committee Coordinator established a program with the RCMP for Legion recognition of the top student of the RCMP's Indigenous Youth Program. The Committee Coordinator is currently working with CAF program officials to establish a similar program hopefully in time for the summer 2024 programs.

There are 5 CAF indigenous youth programs across the country that are held annually for six weeks each summer. Participants are paid approximately \$4,500. The program provides Indigenous youth the opportunity to experience a taste of Army life to see if they would like to join the CAF. There also is an RMC Leadership Course. More information can be found at <https://forces.ca/en/programs-for-indigenous-peoples/>.

8. CAF Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Retirement

The current CAF Chief of Defence Staff retirement was announced on 12 January 2024. The Dominion President sent a letter thanking General Eyre for his outstanding service to Canada.

MEETINGS AND ENGAGEMENT

9. Visits and Meetings

a. **RCMP Commissioner** – The Committee Chair continues to work with the Dominion Executive Director to organize a meeting with the RCMP Commissioner.

10. Events

a. **1 March 2024 - WiDS Breakfast 1 March** – D&S Committee sponsored a table at the Women in Defence and Security (WiDS) breakfast. The Grand President and Dominion Executive Director attended along with members of the D&S Committee and key Legion staff.

b. **06 March 2024 CDA AGM** – The Legion's representation on the CDA Board of Directors came to an end after three years. The position rotates to another Association.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE ADVOCACY, PLANS AND GOALS

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

CONCLUSION

This is my report and I move its adoption.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CONVENTION COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

File: 19-1

B. Julian - Chair
B. Lawrence - Member
B. Chafe - Member
R. Hayley - Coordinator
T. Backer - Assistant Coordinator
S. Clark - Ex Officio

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

There are no actions for consideration at this time.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2024 DOMINION CONVENTION

The 2024 Convention is scheduled for 24-28 August 2024 in Saint John, NB. Contractual agreements are in place and all plans remain on target for our first in-person Dominion Convention in six years. A final pre-convention site visit took place early April 2024.

2026 DOMINION CONVENTION

The 2026 Convention is scheduled for 22-26 August 2026 in Winnipeg, MB. Contractual agreements are finalized, and a pre-convention site visit is scheduled for later this Fall.

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.

2032 DOMINION CONVENTION

BC is being considered as the site for the 2032 Convention, but specific sites are still in the stages of research.

I move acceptance of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

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

The committee has no action items at this time.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
GOING FORWARD COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

File: 10-1-1

**B. Julian - Chair
B. Chafe - Member
T. Irvine - Member
B. Lawrence - Member
J. MacIsaac - Member
S. McKeown - Member
D. McRury - Member
L. Murray - 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

No action items for decision.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

Together the Royal Canadian Legion is Committed to Equity, Diversity and Inclusiveness

The Royal Canadian Legion strives to embed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into the culture of all levels of the Royal Canadian Legion from our Branches and members to Dominion Command and from Dominion Command to our Branches and members. We empower members, Branches, Provincial Commands/Special Sections and Dominion Command to build EDI plans and initiatives, not only for our members, but also for our employees and clients that may or may not be Legion members. Our ultimate goal is to ensure that the Royal Canadian Legion projects a culture where all Veterans and Legion members, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, nationality, disability, economic status, gender identity, sex and sexual orientation feel welcome and included. Failure to meet that goal will indicate that we are not supportive of all Veterans, nor all non-Veteran Legion members.

Our Mission

The Legion's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion is unwavering and will reflect across all of our work supporting all Veterans, their families and our communities. This is central to our impact and our mission: "To serve Veterans, which includes serving Military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to serve our communities and our country."

Our Vision

To achieve our vision "To be the most highly respected Veteran and Community Service organization", we must demonstrate our commitment to cultivate an organizational culture that values, supports, and promotes equity, human rights, respect, and accountability among Veterans, members, clients and employees. In our inclusive community, we must encourage and support individual and collaborative efforts to identify and address inequities as we engage with diverse ideas, knowledge, and perspectives in the pursuit of inclusive excellence for the organization's future.

To achieve our vision for EDI we are guided by the principles:

- **Equity** – ensuring access, resources and opportunities for all, regardless of their identities

- **Diversity** – the presence of differences that enrich the Legion and reflect the communities it serves including the Veteran community, all Legion members and Canada as a whole
- **Inclusion** – welcoming all people regardless of their background and integrating their perspectives and contributions into how our Branches operate
- **Human Rights** - the basic rights and freedoms that belong to everyone
- **Equality** - men and women, people of different races, religions and sexual orientation are all treated fairly and have the same opportunities regardless of the equity-deserving group to which they associate
- **Respect for reconciliation with Indigenous peoples** – the Legion extends its unreserved support, wherever possible and appropriate, and in collaboration with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities, to assist in this healing journey.

These guiding principles will inspire and establish our strategic objectives. To achieve our strategic objectives, every member of the Royal Canadian Legion has a role to play, and together we will:

- Establish an EDI strategy through strong and effective leadership
- Address cultural and traditional gaps and invest in training
- Formalize policies and procedures to create a common EDI standard
Build tools and processes to collect EDI data and measure success
- Proactively communicate and recruit to build diversity and inclusivity
Build partnerships and engage with external groups to expand capacity

The Royal Canadian Legion has been serving Veterans, their families and our communities for nearly 100 years. However, we know that Canada's Veteran population and the demographics of our membership has become increasingly diverse, and the Royal Canadian Legion has failed to keep pace. The philosophy that "a Veteran is a Veteran is a Veteran" must be clearly understood to include the statement "regardless of age, ethnicity, race, nationality, disability, economic status, gender identity, sex and sexual orientation." This will ensure that all Veterans and non-Veterans will know that they are supported and served by the Royal Canadian Legion regardless of their association with any equity-deserving group. This is the future of the Royal Canadian Legion.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CENTENARY COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27 April 2024**

File: 48-20

John Mahon	-	Chair
Valerie MacGregor	-	Vice-Chair
Marion Fryday-Cook	-	NS-NU Representative
Duane MacEwen	-	PEI Representative
Deb Bolduc	-	AB-NWT Representative
Carol Pedersen	-	SK Representative
Garry Pond	-	ON representative
Chris Richardson	-	Member at Large
Jean St-Laurent	-	QC Representative
Craig Thompson	-	BC-YK Representative
Gail Conrad Davey	-	MB-NWO Representative
Thea McEvoy	-	NB Representative
Kandys Merola	-	TVS Representative
Larry Murray	-	Ex-Officio
Steven Clark	-	Ex-Officio
Berkley Lawrence	-	Ex-Officio
Ty Backer	-	Committee Coordinator
Kelly Therien	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 27 March 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tentatively set for 14 May 2024

GENERAL

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

CENTENARY PROJECT UPDATE

One of the major Centenary projects in the works is the creation of the of a 100th anniversary medal. Although a resolution was passed at the 2021 Dominion Convention to prohibit the sale of commemorative medals, the Centenary Committee feels that it is necessary to amend this resolution because of the uniqueness of the centennial year. Instead of creating a new resolution, the committee has developed an amendment to the current resolution in order to include the creation of commemorative medals for special occasions such as the 100th anniversary.

Therefore, the Centenary Committee would like to forward the drafted resolution to the Ritual and Awards Committee for their consideration. Please refer to the drafted resolution attached with this report. The Centenary Committee is open to any further discussion, comments, and recommendations.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

Committee OPIs have initiated and continue to develop their projects. The Committee's goal going forward is to further evolve these major plans, while also making sure to attain their respective timelines. Below is a brief update on several projects which have recently advanced in planning:

- **Centenary Medal** – Proposal phase and design discussions. Approval of the medal creation requires DEC approval.
- **Documentary** – Budgeting and planning phase with Canvet. \$7000 dedicated to the project from the Centenary budget.
- **Centenary Merchandise** – Preliminary discussions with the Supply Department
- **Brand Partnerships** – Formulating an action plan and ideas on possible collaborations with corporate partners.
- **War Museum Exhibit** – Initial discussions with the War Museum Director to produce a travelling “national” exhibit.
- **Heraldic Crest** – Design phase is in the works at Rideau Hall.
- **Centennial Stamp and Coin** – Recommendation letters and reminders have been sent to both Canada Post and the Royal Canadian Mint.
- **Cookbook** – Currently working to secure the appropriate publisher.
- **Legion Anniversary Book** – Setting up a meeting with Nujma.
- **Centenary Gala** – No update other than a planned site visit to the RBC convention Centre for September 2024.
- **Gala Sponsorships** – John, Chris and Gail are formulating the plan. All sponsorship received will accrue directly to the Gala rather than offset the overall expenditures.
- **Legion 100th Anniversary Day, 17 July 2026** – No update. Dominion Command will assume responsibility of this project.

**REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD. TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27 – 28 April 2024**

B. Julian	-	Board Vice-Chair
B. Chafe	-	Secretary
T. Bursey	-	Director
S. Clark	-	Director
T. Irvine	-	Director
B. Lawrence	-	Director
S. McKeown	-	Director
B. Weaver	-	Director
I. Weiser	-	Director

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 25 – 26 November 2023

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 2024

INTRODUCTION

In 2023, Canvet had a better year than forecasted. The publishing industry remains stable and the outlook for 2024 remains positive.

SUBSIDY REVENUE

In 2023, the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) for *Legion Magazine* and *Canada's Ultimate Story (CUS)* totaled \$939,269.60, an 8% decrease over 2022.

The Department of Heritage requires all publications to apply annually and Canvet is hopeful the latest application is successful. The rules for acceptance are clear, *Legion Magazine* and *CUS* must remain independent publications, produced by an independent publisher. Any periodicals “that primarily reports on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization” will be excluded from receiving funding.

The funding is allocated over the government fiscal year, which will bridge 2023 and 2024.

Canvet's budgets are dependent on support from the federal government.

At the 2012 convention, Canvet made a commitment to keep the subscription price for *Legion Magazine* at \$9.49 for eight years. Not only did Canvet fulfill that promise in 2020, but it also extended this obligation for an additional four years. The next convention will be held in August 2024. At that time, Canvet will need a subscription fee increase which will take effect in 2025.

EDITORIAL

Legion Magazine is the leading voice on Canada's military history and veteran's issues. Publishing dozens of articles, including: The Forgotten War, Canada's contribution to the Korean War; Behind Enemy Lines, the story of how a Canadian recon soldier was critical in the Allied campaign in Italy; Operation Medak Pocket, considered one of the most severe battles of the Korean War; and a major feature on Tecumseh, the greatest warrior.

Future articles in 2024 includes stories on: D-Day and the Normandy landings (May/June); a special feature on the Pilgrimage of Remembrance (July/August); Liberation Nation, exploring the role of Canadians in the liberation of France (September/October); Liberation of Ravenna, how a Canadian intelligence officer led a group of locals against the Nazis (November/December).

For the 2024 *CUS* special issue series we have published *RCAF 100, Celebrating the Centennial of the Royal Canadian Air Force* (Winter); *1944, Prelude to Victory* (Spring); and for the rest of 2024, *Clearing the Scheldt* (Summer); and finally, *O Canada, Friends and Foes* (Fall).

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 2024, 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 209,000 names to date. Canvet continues to produce videos in the Military Milestones series with four more coming 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, Canadian Safe Step Walk-In Tub Co., HomeEquity Bank, HearingLife Canada, belairdirect car and home insurance, Blowes and Stewart Travel Group Ltd., MBNA Canada Inc., Ultramatic Inc., Rogers – Red Wireless, Teslica E-bikes and Upper Canada Wills and Estates. 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.

AWARDS

In February, Canvet was awarded two silver awards at the Canadian Online Publishing Awards in the following categories:

Best Feel-Good Story: *The way Home* by Sharon Adams
<https://legionmagazine.com/the-way-home/>

Best Multicultural Story: *Tecumseh* by Stephen J. Thorne
<https://legionmagazine.com/the-shooting-star-celebrating-the-great-shawnee-warrior-tecumseh/>

Canvet's award total to date now stands at 39.

CONCLUSION

This report is for information only.



**British Columbia/Yukon
Command**

**BC/YUKON REPORT COMMAND
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

On behalf of the Provincial Executive Council and Senior Elected Officers of BC/Yukon Command, please accept this report covering the period of April 2023 – March 2024.

Leadership Changes

BC/Yukon Command has undergone many changes since the last reporting period. Most notable is the passing of the Command Treasurer of eight years, Comrade Jim Diack in January of 2024. Jim was an RCMP veteran and longtime Legion member and his loss is keenly felt within the Command. Under the BC/Yukon Command By-Laws, the Provincial Executive Council held a vote to fill the vacant position and Comrade Glenn Hodge was elected Treasurer for the remainder of the current term, ending June 2025. Comrade Glenn was Treasurer of BC/Yukon Command from 2009-2015 and brings a wealth of knowledge to the position.

In May of 2023, BC/Yukon Command welcomed Michelle Courtney into the role of Provincial Executive Director. Michelle began her tenure with BC/Yukon Command in 2014, working her way up to the position of Executive Director and working in every department and aspect of command operations along the way. Michelle holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of the Fraser Valley and Certificate in Not-for-Profit Management from Simon Fraser University. In addition to her role as Executive Director, Michelle also sits on the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation Board of Directors.

Key Events

In June of 2023, BC/Yukon Command had the pleasure of hosting Dominion Command President, Comrade Bruce Julian and National Executive Director, Comrade Steven Clark for a short but full stay. While in British Columbia, Bruce and Steven toured the Legion Veterans Village in Surrey, along with the BC/Yukon Command office and two Surrey Legion Branches, 01- 006 Cloverdale and 01-229 Whalley.

The Minister of Veterans Affairs, The Honourable Ginette Petitpas-Taylor chose the Legion Veterans Village as the location to announce recipients of the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund in August of 2023. BC/Yukon Command was honoured to attend the presentation ceremony and a roundtable with the recipient organizations, with many of BC/Yukon Command's partners received funding.

The Minister returned to BC in March of 2024 to attend a Remembrance ceremony for the 10th anniversary of the end of the war in Afghanistan at the BC Afghanistan Memorial in Victoria. While in BC, The Minister met with Branch 01-294 UBC Campus to learn more about their branch model. Executive Director Michelle Courtney attended the event and provided the Minister with an overview of the BC/Yukon Command. While in BC, the Veterans Affairs Minister held a Commendation Ceremony for Comrade John Scott of 01-043 Prince George. Congratulations to John on receiving the prestigious award.

Collaborative Partnerships

BC/Yukon Command continues to maintain a strong partnership with the BC/Yukon Legion Foundation. Together, BC/Yukon Command and the Foundation work with branches and organizations that support transitional housing, trauma counselling, education, service dogs, and programs addressing Veteran homelessness.

The Command is working with the Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre of British Columbia, one of the grant recipients of the Veteran and Family Well-Being Fund to provide free training to branch service officers, council members and command staff.

In 2024, the cenotaph at Victory Square in downtown Vancouver will commemorate its 100th anniversary. BC/Yukon Command is currently exploring partnering with businesses in the Vancouver area on a commemorative banner project to mark the occasion.

The Command's goal is to continue to develop new strategic partnerships with other organizations that align with our mission to enhance our recognition in the community.

Branch Update

BC/Yukon Command posted strong membership numbers to end 2023 with paid memberships sitting at 106.30% of the previous year, above the national average of 104.26%. Congratulations to Comrade Valerie MacGregor, National Membership Committee Chair and her team on a successful membership year!

Branches across BC/Yukon Command ran another successful Poppy Campaign in 2023, raising close to \$4 Million to support Veterans and their families in British Columbia and the Yukon.

BC/Yukon Command continues to work closely with branches to ensure their success and viability with operations, governance and exploring redevelopment opportunities. We continue to engage with government agencies to explore opportunities for property tax exemptions and streamline liquor licensing processes for our branches.

Future Outlook

The command office headquarters has been in its current location for the past ten years in Surrey, BC. The current office space is leased and costs have risen considerably during this time. In October of 2023, the Provincial Executive Council gave permission for the command to begin exploring the purchase of an office space from the building

reserve fund. Command staff identified a location in the South Surrey area, approximately ten minutes from the current office as a potential site.

Looking ahead to the coming year, BC/Yukon Command is excited to welcome the Calgary Grey Cup Committee to host their famous pancake breakfast at Branch #01-176 Billy Bishop/Kerrisdale on November 14. The command is also exploring opportunities to become more involved with the Invictus Games in 2025 from February 8-16, 2025 in

Whistler, BC.

While there is still time left to go in the current term, the command is already in the planning stages of the 2025 provincial convention, scheduled to take place from June 5-8 in Kamloops, BC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Thomson President
BC/Yukon Command

**AB-NWT COMMAND REPORT
TO THE DOMINION COMMAND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

On behalf of ABNWT Command Council and Staff, I extend Greetings.

Firstly, we are excited to share that our Command Office is up and running after the fire in October 2023. Thank you to our staff for their patience through the access to necessary documents, client care, shuffling of workspace, and mental stability during the restriction from their Home of Work.

Branches within our command are moving forward in a positive manner, recovering from the pandemic and the long-awaited reopening, with little effects, and others with difficulty. Many large branches are having trouble due to expenses incurred throughout closure without regular income and the current rise in costs of goods and utilities. Some branches have taken the initiative to relocate to smaller, less costly facilities to call home.

Article III's –

With a new Article III process in place, we hope that this will reduce the number of cases. We observe situations that are based on or related to personality differences, often resulting in a division between branches and members. Members do not choose to work together for the legion and our Veterans, which is the purpose of the organization.

CERB Loans –

Of the branches that applied for the CERB Loan, 14 had repaid the loan early in the program, 17 had the funds to repay by the deadline date, 5 applied for government repayment plan and 1 did not have a plan.

Constitution & Laws –

Our province has implemented a process where all branch bylaws are on a three-year rotation, this gives the committee the opportunity to take the time to study the information submitted and request changes where necessary. This method is a quick reminder to new executives while retaining up-to-date by-law information.

Membership –

As in most provinces, our membership continues to grow, and we are thankful to all for choosing to join the organization. We recognize that so many do not have Veteran connections and therefore, most often are not familiar with Legions. It is important that the new members receive a "Welcome" from the branches they have chosen to join. These could be their future Volunteers and Leaders.

Poppy and Remembrance –

Branches reported successful Poppy Campaigns and Remembrance programs in 2023. Some branches are holding healthy Poppy Funds, there is still the stigma that funds should and must be utilized within the community that the donations were derived from, however our Command Service Bureaus are in place to assist all Veterans near or far from a legion branch. This enables all Veterans to receive assistance.

Provincial Convention 2025 –

The location of ABNWT Legion 2025 Convention is Stoney Plain, Alberta in May of 2025.

Public Relations –

We continue with our Membership Newsletters to all ABNWT Legion members who have registered their email address. This allows any member to receive the information.

We take this opportunity to thank the Dominion Command for the continual information sent out to all branches and members within their Legion Dispatch. I believe that with these processes, members receive necessary information and updates.

Ritual & Awards –

Rewarding members of “well earned” recognition for their volunteer hours and dedication is important and should be a continuous process at branches. It is important to honor those deserving of recognition.

Sale of Property –

Currently our Command has two branches that have sold their building and property and relocating to their new homes, three that are in the process of selling and relocating and one branch that gone through the proper process with the membership and will retire their charter.

Sports –

Our 2023/2024 Sport program has drawn to a close. Entries were lower in many Districts; thus, we are seeking the reason for the decline.

Track & Field –

Our command will host the 2024/2025 National Track & Field Championships. We are extremely excited about the event, with the organizing and plans falling into place. We look forward to Welcoming all athletes to Calgary in August of 2024.

**SASKATCHEWAN COMMAND
REPORT TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Comrades,

Since we last reported Saskatchewan Command has kept steady with our normal course of business.

2023 seen our first ever Legion week Nationally. Many of the branches in Saskatchewan took part in the festivities. Some had events every day. Being the first year and still ironing out details, it was great to see us celebrate our accomplishments. During the week, we ran a Membership drive where any new member who signed up during Legion week for the remainder of the year and paid for their 2024 membership dues, we would cover the cost of the per capita for the remainder of 2023. It was so well received that we extended the offer through the rest of the year. We had nearly 150 new members take advantage of the promo. We felt this was a success as it encouraged branches to think differently in terms of recruiting, but it also solved a problem when people sign up in the fall thinking they have a full year membership, when really, they are only good until January.

We continue to advocate for Veterans and like causes with our Provincial Government. Earlier last year we were successful in making changes to the Social Services Policy Manual. This will ensure that any veteran that is receiving compensation due to pain and suffering from their service are still eligible for social assistance regardless of the pain and suffering benefit. It was not clear what was exempt from the eligibility criteria. It is now very clear.

Once again the Veterans Service Club grant will be available for Veterans Service Clubs in the province. This will be the 6th year in a row and now comes with \$1.5 million in funding that will get used for branch upgrades, repairs, carbon footprint reduction, and many other projects. Our Command administer the grant process for a fee, which brings in added revenue. The Ministry of Parks Culture and Sport, deem it as their flagship grant and wish to emulate how we administer it with other grants. The project has been utilized by Legion branches, Anavets clubs, peers support programs and other like organizations. It is very well received, and we are grateful for the opportunity to enhance communities in our province.

We continue to battle with Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs. Almost seems like the issue is growing. We have been in constant contact with law enforcement and are on top of events that pop up. Branches are much more understanding of the policy and are doing as good as they can to prevent them. However, some of these clubs are very persuasive. We just need to stay on top of it. For the most part we have been able to prevent it from being an issue but is it a tremendous amount of work.

We started a quarterly newsletter early in 2023. It has been going out steadily and continues to grow in readership. Feel free to sign up for it by going to our website sasklegion.ca. There is a form on the home page that you can fill out. We include all content as it relates to the Legion. An example would photos that don't meet the criteria for Legion Magazine. We still want to share these moments. Our aim is to ensure this letter will be inclusive. So regardless of the size of the branch or where they are located, we take submissions from any of them.

The 2023 Poppy Campaign went pretty well. The supply chain issues from last year seemed to resolve itself. The black center pins continue to be extremely popular. We make use of a local courier that provides us with a very good shipping rate. This helps not only the bottom line but also provides a very effective service door to door. We still see the need for increased means of payment from donors. Although the Tap and Pay is great, we would like to see this enhanced and expanded as our society continues to push to being cashless.

Home Hardware in the Saskatoon area got permission to create a paper poppy that they sold on site. The paper poppy allowed for a customer to write a name on the poppy of someone they wanted to recognize. This was an idea that came up a while ago, but until Home Hardware came along it was put on the back burner. I am extremely impressed with the owners of those stores as well the branches for taking the initiative. Dominion Command Poppy also needs to be acknowledged for being open to the idea. Hopefully this is something we can expand upon in 2024.

We are working on a few things. Expansion of our Leadership education and mentoring. This is something always front of mind, but often difficult to organize. We are hoping to focus more attention on Zone Commanders roles and responsibilities.

Next, we are creating a working group of Veterans Champions. Essentially the concept will be to have members who are veterans around the province that will be ambassadors for the Legion. More importantly reach out to Veterans that are not members to ensure we are including them on our advocacy and program creation. We want to make sure that all veterans voices are heard. These champions will be our eyes and ears on the ground to help promote the Legion but also to gather the necessary data to make better decisions on how we operate.

The 2023 Track and Field Camp was a huge success. Our office staff did a lot of work getting various donations or discounts on our costs. We had the highest number of attendees since the 90s. The main source of this increase is being present at the High Schools Track and Field Championship. We have a great relationship with SHSAA who is the governing body. They provide us with a table at the event where we have our great volunteers showcasing the camp. We were able to bring in Mike Trauner as our guest and hope to do the same in 2024. His presence was greatly appreciated and inspiring.

We have also been awarded the National Championship in 2026 and 2027. We are thankful to the committee members for the hard work in preparing the bid. Our objective from the beginning is to showcase our hospitality that Saskatchewan is known for. We look forward to the challenge and hope to see many of you there.

Otherwise we are waiting for Convention in August and look forward to seeing everyone there and push forward new ideas and take us into the future.

In Comradeship,

Carol Pedersen
Provincial President
Saskatchewan Command

Training –

Training is important and ongoing within our Command and Branches; this is necessary as we welcome new volunteers to the many positions and committees within our organization. We are in the process of uploading a variation of training materials to our Provincial website for members' access.

Veterans Service & Seniors –

Branches are quick to assist Veterans in need, this is a quick turnaround for smaller requests. In the event of larger needs by the veteran, the branch connects with our Command Service Bureau for further assistance and the success rate is tremendous.

Youth –

The change in ruling for Cadets regarding liquor laws, while assisting at branches, has incurred replanning for legion events where Cadets originally aided through volunteering.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalind LaRose
President

**MANITOBA & NWO COMMAND
REPORT TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Comrade Chair & Comrades,

On Oct. 26th I presented the first Poppy to Lt. Governor of Manitoba. Nov. 4th I was invited to the Stonewall Remembrance Dinner. Nov. 11th I attended the Service of Remembrance at the Convention Centre in Winnipeg. It is always a honor to lay a wreath for **MBNWO** Command. On Dec. 6th I attended the Commanders Holiday Season Reception at 17 Wing. Feb. 3rd and 4th attended the

Provincial

Crib at the Charleswood Branch. On Feb.29thI attended Past Provincial President Jerry Lava's funeral. March 20th I attended the Centennial of the RCAF for the opening of the commemorative Exhibit at the Royal Aviation Museum of Western Canada. I have struck up an EDI committee and we have sent letters to MMF and Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs and hope to be able to go to their communities and make presentations.

Respectively Submitted

Ernie Tester/President MBNWO

**ONTARIO COMMAND REPORT
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
PROVINCIAL PRESIDENTS REPORT
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Comrades All.

It certainly has been a challenging period to say the least. Art. III's continue to be rampant receiving at least one or two every week, there has to be a better way. Since Jan. 1st. 2022 we have handled well over 90 Art. III's, Appeals and FTD's [Failure to D] and the number just keeps growing. You can imagine the number of members involved on those appeal committee's and the money spent on mileage, meals, and hotels that are sometime required in our Northern locations, what a waste. At the end of the day the complaining members still don't like each other and start all over again. My suggestion is we should treat it just like soccer two Yellow cards, in this scenario two complaints, then you get the Red card and you are out of the game, in this case your membership is revoked. There has to be some consequence in my opinion.

BOT's & BFA's are plenty but very much in need and are garnering some very positive results when implemented, a sure sign that we are dealing with more members now more than ever that do require this type of training as our experienced volunteers are growing smaller in number each and every day

Our branches that have LA's many continue to have difficulties in getting along together, it's becoming increasingly more difficult trying to find ways to solve these personality differences to the satisfaction of both parties involved with time and money being wasted sending in teams to try and assist over and over again. Time for a serious discussion on the future of the LA in Ontario Command.

On another grim note I had to revoke the charter of a branch due to the infiltration of an OMG [Organized Motorcycle Gang]. A local Police Service was involved, we had substantial evidence of what was going on which unfortunately left us with very little choice. After much serious discussion at Provincial and Dominion level it was decided to revoke their charter which was the only sensible course of action left open to us. The building and property is currently up for sale, a couple of prospective buyers already. When sold bills, lawyers fees etc. will be paid off first then the remainder will be dispersed within the community. Now, like a Phoenix Rising from the Ashes, in the very same District, a new branch will be receiving their charter sometime we think in July. No official number designation as yet but they will simply be known as, Wasaga Beach Branch. Wasaga Beach is a community of approximately 25,000 permanent residence, this figure quite easily doubles in the summertime with the influx of tourists. I wish them all the luck in the world and look forward to attending the official opening ceremony sometime this summer.

I know this might sound like a broken record, but on a good note I can't say enough about our Leave the Streets Behind Program which continues to grow and be very successful, especially since we have our new partners, the Police Services Program, the Military Veterans Wellness Program which is expanding existentially across the Province and this vast country of ours. I am immensely proud of this initiative, started by our very own comrade Dave Gordon way back in 2009 and just keeps growing and growing. As of March. 1st 2024 we have assisted over 1187 homeless or near homeless veterans, 132 of which are female, 62 were entire families, in 199 different communities. Now with the welcome assistance of the Police Services we can identify and assist more homeless veterans sooner and more efficiently. Thank you comrade Dave for having the foresight in getting this initiative off the ground.

For the most part Ontario Command is holding its own, 390 branches not all are prosperous but still hanging in, we will see what the future holds for them further down the road. For me I am heading into my third year as Provincial President because of the covid pandemic, but now the countdown can begin.

Heading out to Newfoundland for July 1st. to take part in the Return of the Unknown Soldier Ceremony in St. John's. Here I look forward to an interesting weekend and later the upcoming Dominion T & F Meet, Calgary, Alberta 2nd. week of August and then the Dominion Convention in St. John, N.B. the end of August.

In comradship

Derek Moore
Ontario Command, Provincial President.

**QUEBEC COMMAND
REPORT TO DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Due to my past 2 year health limitations, this report will be brief in accordance with Dominion Guidelines similar to Action reports at DEC. That being said, let me highlight briefly some of the important progress that we have made in Quebec Command since becoming provincial president in Sept. 2022.

Membership:

Let me begin this by saying Congratulations to my membership team for taking first place in membership at Dominion Command. This committee consists of only 2 experience legion members, they being Comrades Susan Donnelly and Dawn Poll. I am very proud of this committee for the work that they have done in the last year and half.

Stolen Valor:

This is a new committee set up by myself and my executive to combat stolen valor within the boundaries of Quebec Command. Comrade Luc Fortier is spear heading this endeavour and doing an excellent job. I receive at least 1 phone call a month from Cde Luc discussing his parameters and his authority in outing supposedly stolen valor with thorough investigative techniques. Congrats to Cde Luc in a well performed job.

Arbitrator:

Upon taking over the position of provincial president, I asked Comrade Norman Shelton, the most experienced member of my executive, to head up this new committee, which I like to call The Arbitrator.

Quebec Command, being a small command of 102 branches, this task is meant to help solve problems within branches alleviating many article 3 complaints. Comrade Norman has successfully negotiated disagreements in 9 different branches within the command. His expertise, as a 3 time past provincial president, is instrumental in solving these problems.

Legion Correspondent:

I believe Quebec Command correspondent has been having trouble the last few months getting pictures submitted to the magazine. Granted, this is partially my fault for not enquiring sooner as I thought it was a glitch in the system. Only to find out, last month, it was due to a password issue at the magazine. I firmly believe it was nonsensical and should have been rectified immediately but I understand the 2 parties never talked until recently. Maybe someone from the CANVET side and possibly the chairman of the Public Relations committee can get together and see if we can make sure this does not happen to any other command. Just a Thought.

All of the committees within my command are working hard to be successful and are doing a great job.

To note, the vice presidents elected at command is their first time on board at this level and I cannot ask for a harder working team.

Comrade Terrance Deslage is doing an excellent job on Poppy to the point that he is even surprising me as a first timer.

Comrades Howe and Donnelly although not first timers at provincial level, have C&L well under wraps.

Comrade Ken Ouellet was asked to head up VSS and Leadership and both are working fantastic under his tutelage.

In closing, I am very proud of my officers for the work they do and the Command staff of 4 as they carry, as per most commands, the bulk of the paperwork and phone calls.

Although I will not be giving this report personally, when comrade Luc does give the report, to you the members of DEC, just take a look at the end of the table and watch me smiling.

Well Done Quebec Command!

TD Irvine CD
Provincial President
RCL Quebec Command

**NEW BRUNSWICK COMMAND PRESIDENT'S REPORT
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Comrades,

Since we last met in November, things at NB Command have been quiet. However, things are picking up, it must be springtime. Our C&L Committee has been busy with Art Ills. We have mediations going on, and complaints like we have never seen before. We have a Veteran who thinks that the Legion owes him the sky. He has been asking for financial support for the last 7-8 years without submitting substantiating papers. No matter what he has been told he keeps coming back.

The National cribbage tournament is being held in Shediac as we meet. My First VP, Comrade Harold Defazio, is representing Dominion Command at this event. The Dominion 8 Ball Tournament will be held in May at Hartland # 24.

Two (2) of our LA's have surrendered their Charters and one (1) Branch is in the process of surrendering their Charter (St. Leonard # 52). There have been 2 Service Officer Seminars which have been held with very poor attendance.

Every month I serve on the RA&P committee with some Comrades here in attendance. Our PED, Comrade Jack Clayton, is retiring at the end of June after over 10 years of dedicated service. We will be looking for a replacement starting this month or early next month.

Plans for the Dominion Convention are well underway, and I look forward to seeing you in Saint John in August.

Lest We Forget.

Respectfully submitted.

Tony Chevalier
Provincial President
NB Commands

**NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT COMMAND RCL
REPORT TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

As this is my first report to DEC Comrades, I wish to thank Comrade Dominion Command Vice President, Sharon McKeown for my installation to office at our Provincial Convention. My attendance at my first DEC meeting in November was an opportunity to see first hand the operation at our National Headquarters. I thank all for the warm welcome that I have received as a new member to DEC.

Comrade Craig Hood has officially taken his position as Executive Director of our Command and we have now hired a replacement Veterans Service Officer. We would like to thank Dominion Command Coordinator, Carolyn Hughes, Veterans Service and Seniors Committee for her support and especially the training offered by Dominion Command. NS/NU Command continues to support and advocate for the benefit of all Veterans.

In April, I will have the opportunity to appear before The Provincial Standing Committee on Veteran Affairs. My presentation will be in support of maintaining our Veterans Long Term Care Units for all Veterans. At present we are seeing few Veterans within these units due to VAC criteria and a majority of LTC patients (Non Veterans) being housed within these units. This is at the direction of our Provincial N.S. Health Authority. Permission to do so has been given by VAC. If this continues we will soon see our Veterans units disappear and they will become Community Long Term Care Facilities. We cannot let that happen. We also support the efforts of Dominion Command in addressing this issue. Branches within our Command continue to operate in support of the various programs we have to offer through our Veterans' Outreach Committee.

Just recently we presented the Veterans Farm project with a cheque for \$28,000 to rebuild its' damaged Greenhouses for which there was great support from our Branches. Our Command is looking to the future in encouraging Branches to become emergency shelters or to be able to provide assistance during extreme weather events and natural disasters that this Province has experienced in past months.

Assistance to our homeless veterans and those in emergency needs is being addressed by seeking support from our Branches to donate to our Veterans Benevolent Fund and we appreciate the support given to the cause through our Poppy Special Use applications. Command has formed the guidelines for a Branch Assistance Standing Committee.

This committee will be available to assist Branches with specific needs they may have and provide or recommend the resources available to meet their needs. Our Command website has been revised and also the setup of a Command Facebook and Instagram Page. This will give better access to our membership to ensure they are aware of the resources available, as well as the sharing of photos from the various Branches. We will

be setting up a committee to revitalize a Branch that is on the verge of losing its charter. The response from the community is very positive. Discussion is underway in the establishment of a new Branch on a First Nations Community near Shubenacadie. Meetings with interested parties will be conducted and we look forward to a positive outcome. I thank Dominion Command Staff for all of the support given to our Command and look forward to a successful upcoming Convention.

Respectfully Submitted
Don McCumber, President NS/NU Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

**PEI COMMAND REPORT
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Dominion Command RCL

Please consider this my report from RCL PEI Command for the period October 2023 through to April 2024.

During this cycle, we had to release our command service officer from our employ and were able to fill the position quickly. The new service officer we were able to attract for the position is a Veteran, and a person I have complete confidence will serve this Command well. We had him receive timely training from Carolyn E Hughes, Director of Veterans Services.

One of our Vice Presidents passed away, and I appointed a branch member to step into this position for the remainder of this council's mandate.

We are working on moving forward on a Housing Project that will favor Veterans and Seniors. We presently have significant support from all government, federal, provincial, and municipal levels, and we should see bricks-and-mortar activity in the not-too-distant future.

We have taken over ownership of a Legion Choir that has been associated with one of our Branches for the past 60+ years. We plan to have this choir active across our command and use it as a tool to promote RCL veterans' interests.

We hosted an all-branch Presidents meeting, which has proven beneficial for moving forward on our various command initiatives.

As a command, we are currently preparing training programs to standardize branch meeting protocols, and we plan to roll out this training initiative this fall.

We met with all our Provinces' Policing Services to introduce the Military Veterans Wellness Program. We are encouraged by their acceptance of this program as a tool they will employ when they realize their response involves a Canadian Veteran. We were assured that the individual training being provided to policing would be sought after by their in-house training program.

We are supporting a Maritime working group looking to create strategies to reach our Veterans in Remote Locations. We are using our Service Officer and Executive Officer as our Board representatives to communicate our points of view and receive the findings of this very meaningful working group.

Jack Maclsaac, CD
President, RCL PEI Command
Vice President DEC

**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COMMAND REPORT
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

General

Newfoundland Labrador Command has continued normal operations during 2023. We held face to face PEC meetings throughout the year. The Newfoundland Labrador Command Headquarters staff continuously demonstrate excellent commitment and initiative. With only two staff, their knowledge of all Legion policies and procedures have made the operations of the office and our entire Command more efficient.

Branches

We have 44 Branches in our Command and approximately 4,000 members. There are two Branches who have recently displayed some financial concerns and the Provincial Executive Council are in the process of dealing with those Branches as necessary.

Provincial Convention

The next Provincial Convention is scheduled for 2025, it will be held at Branch 51 in Goose Bay, dates are TBD.

Membership

Like many other Provinces across Canada, NL Command continues to seek ways to improve membership. All Branches within this Command are striving to increase their membership numbers by trying to recruit while strongly encouraging present members to renew. We will continue to move forward and try to find better ways to improve our membership by targeting experienced active and retired military personnel and others regardless of background, age or profession.

VSS (Support to Veterans)

A Legion Action Committee is operating effectively at all three VAC Long Term Care contracted facilities within the province, St John's, Botwood and Corner Brook. The well-being of Veterans is of the utmost importance. A very competent and caring staff ensures all requirements are met for each Veteran.

All Branches continue to support the Pavilion in their area by attending Remembrance ceremonies and visiting the Veterans throughout the year. They also serve on committees at the respective Pavilions to assist the staff with the planning and coordination of events for the Veterans.

Provincial Command Service Officer
Data for 2023:

1. First Applications completed (36)
2. Departmental Reviews (2)
3. VRAB Reviews (0)
4. VRAB Appeals and RFRs (Dominion Command) (1)
5. Number of Veterans counselled out/claims withdrawn (4)
6. Information and SCAN Seminars conducted (0)
7. Field visits to Branches (number of branches) (0)
8. VIP Applications submitted or WI for VIP (4)

2023 Provincial Command Pilgrimage to Europe

The 2023 Pilgrimage took place and was again a huge success. We are currently in the planning stages for the 2024 Pilgrimage which is scheduled for July 3rd – July 11th, 2023.

Youth Track & Field

Newfoundland Labrador Command held the Provincial Meet in July 2023. We participated in the 2023 National Track & Field, sending 17 athletes, 2 coaches, 2 chaperones and a provincial rep.

Poppy and Remembrance Committee Report

The Poppy Campaign was started again this year with the presentation of the first poppy to Lieutenant Governor, Judy Foote at Government House. We then proceeded to Confederation Building and held the Fly the Flag of Remembrance ceremony. It was a success and we will be continuing this event in 2024.

Poster and Literary Contest We met in January to screen all the poster and literary contest submissions. All entries were then passed to the applicable judges and once the judging was completed, the first-place entries were mailed to Dominion Command for further judging.

Centennial Committee

A special committee was established by Provincial Command who are meeting regularly with the Government of NL as well as other groups concerning the restoration of our National War Memorial. They are also working towards the development of proper protocols and logistical requirements regarding the return of our Unknown Soldier from France. The efforts of this committee will come to fruition on July 1st, 2024, for the 100th anniversary of our National War Memorial ceremony in St. John's. These preparations are well underway but there are still many details to iron out.

Email invites have been forwarded to the Past Provincial Presidents, all Commands and Dominion Command.

Remembrance Day

The National War Memorial was under construction for several months this year in preparations for the 100th Anniversary in 2024. Due to this, Remembrance ceremonies were held at an alternate location.

Veterans Service Recognition Book

We have published Volume 23 in our series of Veterans Service Recognition books. This project was once again successful from both a financial and community perspective. We continue to get support from Veterans and their families regarding the submissions of photos and information to go with them. We are currently seeking photos to be published in the next edition.

Social Media / Email Management

We currently have a web site and Facebook accounts for NL Command and publish information on them from time to time for our Branches and the general public. Our web site has recently been updated and continues to grow.

Conclusion – President NL Command

I feel good about The Royal Canadian Legion NL Command, which is a professional team made up of our PEC, Provincial Chairs, Command Staff, and the 44 Branches throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. These are changing times and I feel confident with the people and support around me in Newfoundland and Labrador Command.

Gerald Budden
President
The Royal Canadian Legion
Newfoundland Labrador Command

TVS REPORT TO DEC
27-28 APRIL 2024

The Tuberculous Veterans Section of the Royal Canadian Legion, "TVS" currently consists of 4 Branches and approximately 500 members. The Branches are as follows;

Saskatchewan, Dr Harold Anderson Memorial TVS Branch #78

Marguerite Wolf President, Elisa Paul 1st VP, Sandra Gilleki 2nd VP and Clarence Paul TVS Rep.

Alberta, Hugh Farthing Memorial TVS Branch #52

Marilyn Bushell President, Lynn Martin 1st VP, and Nancy Frayn TVS Rep

British Columbia Branch's TVS Branch 44 and Shalom TVS Branch #78

TVS Branch 44, Heddy Bing President, Mary McKenna 1st VP, Robert Tam 2nd VP and Lizz Lindsay TVS Rep.

Shalom TVS Branch #78, Danny Redden President

All TVS Branches are very active and are holding regular meetings and providing numerous activities for their members. Though all TVS Branches are somewhat handicapped in not providing a Mess, the Branches most importantly provide an opportunity for its members to be of direct assistance to the Veterans with respiratory issues as well as those with respiratory concerns in the community at large. All TVS Branches strive to raise funds for those in need, through vital respiratory equipment so desperately needed in various communities in their respective provinces. Again to reiterate, the Branches do this without the aid of beverage sales. Only with the enthusiasm of their membership are they able to succeed. As such all Branches are striving to grow their membership and increase their numbers so as to continue their service in their respective Provinces.

TVS would like to bring to everyone's attention the extraordinary effort and determination demonstrated by one of its member Branches and President, namely the Shalom Branch #78 and its president Comrade Danny Redden. After more than 50 years in the same facility and having contributed to the building construction those many years ago, the housing society that currently operates the facility, served the Branch an eviction notice. Thus leaving Branch 78 homeless in spite of the fact the Branch contributed the funds for the facility. To summarize, thanks to Comrade Redden's tenacity and diligence over the last nearly five years, the matter was resolved in BC provincial court in favour Shalom Branch 78, which has retained its rights to it's facility in perpetuity. Kudos and congratulations to Comrade Redden.

On a more personal note, the April DEC meeting will be my last for the foreseeable future, as I will be stepping down as TVS president when my term concludes at the TVS National convention in August. It has been an honour to represent TVS at DEC and having had the opportunity to bring my and TVS' perspective to the RCL. Though opinions sometimes differed it was refreshing to be able to share those opinions in such an open and candid forum such as the DEC. I am especially grateful for the comradery amongst all the representatives at DEC.

The opportunity to meet all and to make new friends will sustain me as time passes. The experience will continue to mean a lot to me, and I thank you all.

Yours in Comradeship,
Peter Merola
President TVS

**OSI SPECIAL SECTION REPORT
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 APRIL 2024**

Comrades,

I beg your forgiveness for the late arrival of this report. This counsel knows me well enough by now to know that I'm usually very punctual.

You see a very good friend of mine, was unable to deal with the demons, that a great many of us acquire as a result of our service to the people of this great nation. This is the second time, that I have had to deal with the suicide of an extremely close colleague and friend. I can assure you, it does not get any easier, but does give me pause to reflect on why I continue to advocate for Veterans and Civillian Members of the RCMP, and the CAF. All too often, the organizations in which we have served have failed us.

These organizations have not provided the guidance and support required to cope with what we have been forced to see, and do. We've often been forced to suffer in silence, for no one actually sees the damage that our service has caused us to endure. While things are changing, they are not changing fast enough. Regrettably a lack of funds, and understanding will lead to more tragedies, long after we have hung our uniforms in the closet, and in the case of my dear friend, signed off the airwaves for the last time.

The OSI Special Section is continuing to run our outreach programming namely Buddy Check Coffee, and Operation Vetbuild. We are currently working closely with Ontario Command to ensure that our programs are delivered in a safe and effective manner. We've learned a great deal, and developed some best practices, which can now be moved methodically across the country. These things take time. The Legion has had nearly 100 years to figure things out, as the newest command in the organization, we have had 8. I would like to thank Comrade Pam Sweeney, and Comrade Derek Moore for their unwavering support in our programming, and administrative guidance.

I look forward to a closer relationship with the National Executive Director, and the opportunity to meet with the rest of the Provincial Executive Directors in the near future. By working together, we can better serve, those Veterans who often cannot speak for themselves. Co-operation leads to success, and improved service delivery.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of this committee for their support and understanding over my last few years as a member of Dominion Executive Committee. The very young often try to run, before they learn to walk. Unfortunately, that usually leads to stitches in the forehead.

I Thank You for your past support and look forward to your continued support in the future.

Trevor L. Jenvenne
President
BSO Legion OSI
Trevor L. Jenvenne
President
BSO Legion OSI
204-340-5735
trevor.jenvenne@bsovetsoi.com

**REPORT OF THE
LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
27-28 April 2024**

File: 10-18

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

GENERAL

This report is provided for the information of the Dominion Executive Council. The Foundation's Board of Directors last met on February 27, 2024.

FUNDRAISING

The Legion National Foundation had a successful Digital Poppy Campaign from October 27 to November 11, 2023. We introduced a way for corporations to sponsor the program along with our presenting sponsor HomeEquity Bank. The initiative raised over \$350,000.

The LNF also continues to raise money through monthly donations, annual gifts, corporate giving, foundations and legacy gifts.

The new website for the Legion National Foundation offers donors and stakeholders a refreshed platform to learn about the work of the organization as well as sharing the work of the winners of the Poster and Literary Contest.

DISBURSEMENTS

The Board approved a motion to review future applications for non-qualified organizations (those non-profits without a charitable status) following a decision by the government of Canada to allow these types of gifts from a Foundation. This is an exciting way to engage with organizations assisting Veterans and their families in Canada.

The Legion National Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in May 2024.

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

ITEM 22: DOMINION COMMAND BRANCHES

As of January 31, 2024, the online branches of Dominion Command had a total of 12,871 members.

- a. **Dominion Ottawa Branch 13-013:** This is the largest branch in terms of membership. Membership increased by 2.5% year over year. The growth reflects successful retention strategies and the expansion of the auto-renewal program.

Category	2022	2023
Life	8	8
Ordinary	4039	4086
Associate	2116	2160
Affiliate Voting	745	801
Affiliate Non-Voting	119	135
Total	7027	7197

- b. **Veterans Welcome Program – One-year Free Membership Branch 16-015:** This branch saw significant growth, with total paid members increasing from 1044 in 2022 to 2035 in 2023, marking a 95% growth. This program contributed to more than 60% of these members renewing their membership.

	2022	2023
Total Paid Members	1044	2035

- c. **Veterans Welcome Program – Online Paying Membership – 15-015:** Established in 2019, this branch offers continued membership for those initially joining through the Veterans Welcome Program. Membership numbers grew from 2415 in 2022 to 2563 in 2023. These members receive a discounted renewal rate and have the option to transfer to a local branch.

	2022	2023
Total Members	2415	2563

- d. **Veterans Family Welcome Program – One-year Free Membership 16-016:** Launched in late 2021, this branch complements the Veterans Welcome Program by including immediate family members of veterans. Its membership increased from 395 in 2022 to 1076 in 2023.

	2022	2023
Total Members	395	1076

All Dominion Command branch members benefit from multiple renewal reminders and incentives to maintain their membership or transfer to a local branch. Since 2020, new members have been able to join local branches online, with digital membership cards introduced in 2022.

ITEM 23: CHARTERS ISSUED AND CANCELLED

The tables below detail the Charter changes for branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries in 2023.

New Charters 2023		
Command	Branch Number	DATE

Cancelled Charters 2023			
Command	Branch #	Date	Surrendered or Revoked
Alberta-NWT	237	15 Nov. 2023	S
	270	15 Nov. 2023	S
	55	7 Dec. 2023	S
Saskatchewan	344	7 Jul. 2023	S
Ontario	525	3 Mar. 2023	S
	595	1 Jan. 2021	S
	51	17 Feb. 2022	S
Quebec	001	24 Aug. 2023	S

For comparison to 2022:

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Reinstated
2022	7	1	0	0
2023	8	0	0	0

Ladies' Auxiliary Cancelled Charters 2023			
Command	Branch #	Date	Surrendered or Revoked
BC/Yukon	008	3 Feb. 2023	S
	164	3 Feb. 2023	S
	288	3 Feb. 2023	S
	237	7 Feb. 2023	S
	40	13 Apr. 2023	S
	227	13 Apr. 2023	S
	211	17 Apr. 2023	S
	293	17 Apr. 2023	S
	Command	2023	R
	061	16 Nov. 2023	S
	006	29 Oct. 2023	S
ALTA-NWT	178	3 May. 2023	S
	237	15 Nov. 2023	S
	55	7 Dec. 2023	S
MAN & NWO	100	1 Feb. 2023	S
Ontario	561	4 Feb. 2023	S
	595	1 Jan. 2021	S
	206	31 Jan. 2022	S
	56	31 May. 2021	S
	72	31 May. 2022	S
	379	31 May. 2022	S
	577	31 Dec. 2022	S
	406	31 Mar. 2023	S
	18	31 May. 2023	S
	340	31 May. 2023	S
	184	1 Jun. 2023	S
	532	27 Oct. 2023	S
	586	31 May. 2023	S
	499	20 Oct. 2020	S
	51	17 Feb. 2022	S

Ladies' Auxiliary Cancelled Charters 2023			
Command	Branch #	Date	Surrendered or Revoked
	75	31 May. 2017	S
	177	23 Oct. 2020	S
	625	28 May. 2018	S
	547	30 Sep. 2014	S

For comparison to 2022:

Year	Surrendered	Revoked	New	Reinstated
2022	9	1	0	0
2023				

ITEM 24: REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

Canadian Battlefields Foundation

Founded in 1992, the Canadian Battlefields Foundation (CBF) is an educational foundation that undertakes programmes to commemorate and promote public awareness of Canada's role in the First and Second World Wars. This is achieved through its battlefields study tours, educational activities and commemorative events. Each year, 12 university students earn the opportunity to discover firsthand the role Canadians played in the battlefields of France and Belgium during the World Wars.

The Legion has traditionally contributed financial assistance from Poppy Trust Funds to fund the participation of one university student in the CBF programme (\$10k).

RECOMMENDATION: That the Legion provide \$10K from Dominion Command Poppy Trust Funds to support the Canadian Battlefields Foundation educational tour.

Army Cadet League of Canada

The Army Cadet League of Canada (ACLC) is seeking sponsors for their Professional Development Conference and Annual General Meeting event in Quebec City on 27 April 2024. This year's event will continue with their Professional Development as the League strengthens their organizational and cadet activities for the upcoming training year.

Dominion Command has provided support for ACLC events in the past and they are hopeful that Legion support will be renewed as they continue their investment in their program volunteers. DEC had approved a contribution of \$2500 in 2022.

A financial commitment for this important event will reinforce and widely circulate throughout the leadership and membership of the ACLC the Legion's support for this outstanding youth program.

Funding would come from the Request for Support budget; the 2024 budget for this line item is \$15,000 and no expenditures have been made this year.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT DEC approve Legion sponsorship for the Army Cadet League of Canada's 2024 Professional Development Conference and Annual General Meeting in the amount of \$2500, to be sourced from the Dominion Command Request for Support budget.

ITEM 25: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

2024

19 April	Unveiling of New RVC Badge, Rainbow Veterans, Canadian War Museum (Julian, Murray)
23 April	73 rd Anniversary of the Battle of Yapkong, Ottawa, (Julian)
25 April	PED Meeting
25 April	ANZAC Day Commemoration (Julian)
25 April	Pepper Pod (DEC, PEDs)
27-28 April	DEC
8-19 May	Royal British Legion and Legion Scotland Conference (Julian)
21 May	PED Meeting (Zoom)
1 June	RCAF Ball, Ottawa (Julian, Murray)
2-9 June	D-Day 80 th Commemoration, France (Julian)
4-7 June	D-Day 80 th Commemoration, Moncton, NB (Lawrence)
18 June	PED Meeting (Zoom)
26-29 June	2025 RCEL Conference Recce, Ottawa (Julian)
30 Jun-2 Jul	Tomb of the Unknown Soldier interment, St. John's, NL (Julian)
8-11 Aug	National Track & Field, Calgary, AB (Julian, Weaver)
17 Aug	Warrior's Day Parade, CNE, Toronto (Julian)
24-29 Aug	49 th Dominion Convention, Saint John, NB
17 Sep	PED Meeting (Zoom)
27 Sep	RCEL/Pay/Pension/Investment Committees, Legion House
28 Sep	Budget Meeting, Legion House, SEO
15 Oct	PED Meeting (Zoom)
3-11 Nov	Remembrance
11 Nov	Operation Remembrance, Ottawa, (Lawrence)
19 Nov	PED Meeting (Zoom)
21 Nov	RCEL/Investment Committee, Legion House
22 Nov	President's Christmas Reception, Legion House
23 Nov	DEC, Legion House
17 Dec	PED Meeting (Zoom)



March 26, 2024

Royal Canadian Legion
ATTN: Ms. Carolyn E. Hughes
86 Aird Pl
Kanata, ON K2L 0A1

Dear Ms. Hughes,

On behalf of Queen's University and the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR), I express my gratitude for the Royal Canadian Legion's generous pledge to establish a Doctoral Scholarship in Military and Veteran Health Research.

The Legion's support of veteran research is genuinely inspiring and will undoubtedly make a profound impact. Your support will provide education and training for a new generation of researchers, facilitating ground-breaking research that deepens our collective understanding of the unique challenges Veterans and their families face in Canada. Your commitment to this cause is invaluable and will undoubtedly advance the well-being of Veterans who have served our country.

I am grateful for your visionary giving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Deane", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Patrick Deane
Principal and Vice-Chancellor