

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

23 November 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.



DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
23 NOVEMBER 2024

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ATTENDEES:

Berkley Lawrence	-	Dominion President
Garry Pond	-	Dominion First Vice President
Sharon McKeown	-	Dominion Vice President
Valerie MacGregor	-	Dominion Vice President
Trevor Jenvenne	-	Dominion Vice President
Bill Chafe	-	Dominion Chair
Jill Carleton	-	Dominion Treasurer
Bruce Julian	-	Immediate Past President
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
Tom Irvine	-	QC Command President
Tony Chevalier	-	NB Command President
Don McCumber	-	NS/NU Command President
Jack MacIsaac	-	PE Command President
Gerald Budden	-	NL Command President
Danny Redden	-	TVS Special Section President
Blaine Kiley	-	Chair R & A Committee
Dave Gordon	-	Chair C & L Committee
Andrea Siew	-	Chair Defence & Security

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Steven Clark	-	National Executive Director
Randy Hayley	-	National Executive Director Designate
Lia Taha Cheng	-	Director Poppy & Remembrance
Carolyn Hughes	-	Director Veterans Services
Tara Diamond	-	Director Supply
Dion Edmonds	-	Director Marketing & Communications
Oksana Gorelova	-	Director Financial Services
Jason Duprau	-	General Manager Canvet
Amanda Black	-	Manager, Member Services
Kelly Therien	-	Executive Assistant

ANNEXES:

- Annex A - Grand President's Remarks
- Annex B - Administrative Arrangements
- Annex C - 2025 Budget/Dominion Treasurer's Report
- Annex D - Senior Officer's Reports
- Annex E - National Executive Director's Report
- Annex F - Veterans, Service & Seniors Committee Report
- Annex G - Poppy & Remembrance Committee Report
- Annex H - Membership Committee Report
- Annex I - Sports Committee Report
- Annex J - Ritual & Awards Committee Report
- Annex K - Constitution & Laws Committee Report
- Annex L - RCEL Committee Report
- Annex M - Dominion Convention Committee Report
- Annex N - Defence & Security Committee Report
- Annex O - Veterans Consultation Assembly Report
- Annex P - Going Forward Committee Report
- Annex Q - EDI Committee Report
- Annex R - Centenary Committee Report
- Annex S - Canvet Publications Ltd.
- Annex T - Legion National Foundation
- Annex U - Heroes Mending On The Fly Presentation
- Annex V - Meetings and Invitation

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
23 NOVEMBER 2024

ITEM 1: OPENING / LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council opened at 0830 hours on Saturday, 23 November 2024.

ITEM 2: GRAND PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The Grand President's remarks are at Annex A.

ITEM 3: DOMINION PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

It has been a busy few months. Best wishes to Steven Clark for a happy retirement. I have attended ANAVETS convention, CIMVHR, and attended Remembrance Day events in Ottawa, Veterans Consultation Assembly meeting and met with the RCMP Commissioner. There are a few adjustments to the Committee lists and they will be distributed.

ITEM 4: INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

The Dominion Grand President and the Dominion President installed the newly elected SEO's and the TVS President.

ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

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

ITEM 6: APPROVAL OF MINUTES/ELECTRONIC DECISIONS

The DEC meetings last held on 24 August 2024, 29 August 2024 and 16 October 2024. The minutes were distributed electronically.

MOTION: That the DEC minutes of 24 August 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the DEC minutes of 29 August 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the DEC minutes of 16 October 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

ITEM 7: TREASURER'S REPORT/2025 BUDGET

The Dominion Treasurer presented the 2025 Budget, at Annex C.

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MOTION: That a drawdown of \$100,000 from the Centennial Fund, with allocation to the Track and Field Program for 2025, be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the charge back to the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund directed to the Marketing and Communications Department budget, as well as the Marketing, Advertising and Promotion budget, be increased to 18%.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the proposed 2025 budget be approved.

CARRIED

ITEM 8: SENIOR OFFICER'S REPORTS
Information Item only at Annex D.

ITEM 9: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
The National Executive Director presented his report, at Annex E.

ITEM 10: PRESENTATION: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND TRAUMA
Donna Riguidel and Danny Brown from Survivor Perspectives made an introductory presentation.

ITEM 11: COMMITTEE REPORTS

VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS

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

POPPY & REMEMBRANCE

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

MOTION That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$46,200 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the BuildHERs program be approved for 2024 only if the funds are still required at this time. If the full requested amount is no longer needed, the Committee is recommending to

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only approve the balance of funds that were not able to be raised through other sources.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$49,900 per year for 3 years from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the EmpowHER program be approved for 2024, with ratification required for each of the two successive years.

CARRIED

MOTION: That \$50,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the Canadian War Museum's Last Voices of the Second World War exhibition be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the funding request of \$50,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for Poppy Stories for 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

MOTION: That the funding request of \$175,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for marketing the Poppy Campaign be approved.

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP

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

MOTION: That a complimentary one-year membership be offered to any new member joining the Legion during the 2026 centenary year. For these new members, no per capita tax or membership fees would be collected or remitted at any level of the organization, including Dominion Command, Provincial Command, Local Branches, and Legion Magazine for the first year.

CARRIED

MOTION: In reference to the Dominion Convention Resolution #307- Online Membership Application ON3, passed at the 49th Dominion Convention the Membership

Committee, based on the advice of legal counsel, recommends the resolution should not be carried into effect and as a result the Dominion President and DEC be guided by Section 417 of the General Bylaws in making the decision.

CARRIED

SPORTS

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

RITUAL, AWARDS & PROTOCOL

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

CONSTITUTION & LAWS

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

RCEL

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

DOMINION CONVENTION

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

DEFENCE & SECURITY

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

MOTION: THAT the Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada increase the RCMP cadet training allowance to align with other police service's cadet training in Canada.

CARRIED

MOTION: THAT the Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada establish a Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN). A PSBN is essential to support domestic emergencies, offering a secure, high-speed communications network dedicated to public safety organizations.

CARRIED

VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY

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

GOING FORWARD

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

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY (EDI)

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

CENTENARY

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

PAY

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

- ITEM 12: CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.**
Canvet Publications Ltd. report was presented as information only, attached at Annex S.
- ITEM 13: LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION**
Legion National Foundation report was presented as information only, attached at Annex T.
- ITEM 14: PRESENTATION: HEROES MENDING ON THE FLY**
Heroes Mending On The Fly report was presented as information only, attached at Annex U.
- ITEM 15: CORRESPONDENCE**
No correspondence currently.
- ITEM 16: REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT**
There are not requests at this time.
- ITEM 17: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS**
The Meetings and Invitations list is attached at Annex V.
- ITEM 18: OTHER/NEW BUSINESS**
Dave Gordon spoke about Homeless Veterans Programs

Craig Thomson enquired about the King's Coronation medals.
Steven Clark said the medals will be received once the list is finalized.

Tom Irvine informed DEC that Quebec Command has partnered with a Service Dog Program and an MOU has been signed. Tom asked if there were any updates on Stolen Valour and the history book of the Legion.

Steven Clark put forth a recommendation.

MOTION: For DEC to protect \$40,000.00 of the 2024 surplus to fund the participation of the Provincial Executive Directors in the April 2025 DEC.

CARRIED

Berkley Lawrence presented Sharon McKeown with a vice president bar.

Larry Murray gave a Bravo Zulu to Steven Clark.

Bill Chafe thanked Steven Clark for his 20 years of work for the Legion.

ITEM 19: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Dominion Executive Council was adjourned at 1500 hours.

GRAND PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS TO DEC, 23 NOVEMBER, 2024

THANK YOU, COMRADE CHAIR AND GOOD MORNNG COMRADES.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY EXPRESSING MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS AND A BIG BRAVO ZULU TO COMRADE GARRY POND, TO COMRADE TREVOR JENVENNE AND TO COMRADE JILL CARLETON WHO HAVE BEEN INSTALLED TO THE POSITIONS OF DOMINON FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT, DOMINION VICE-PRESIDENT AND DOMINION TREASURER THIS MORNING.

I KNOW THAT YOU WILL ALL BRING VALUABLE LEADERSHIP, WISDOM AND INSIGHT TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN YOUR NEW ROLES.

I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU.

THANKS TO A LOT OF DEDICATED EFFORT BY ALL MEMBERS OF DEC AND MANY OTHERS , WORKING TOGETHER, GOOD PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THE PAST FEW YEARS IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS AND THE LEGION HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE A HUGE DIFFERENCE FOR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FOR COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

HOWEVER IT REMAINS A CHALLENGING TIME AND DEDICATED ENGAGEMENT, COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP AND STRONG TEAMWORK BY ALL OF YOU WILL CONTINUE TO BE ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THAT WE MAINTAIN THE MOMENTUM AND CONTINUE TO PROGRESS AS WE APPROACH THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAUNCH OF THIS GREAT NATIONAL INSTITUTION.

SINCE WE MET LAST APRIL I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF REPRESENTING OR PARTICIPATING WITH COMRADE BRUCE AND, SINCE THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION IN SAINT JOHN IN AUGUST, WITH COMRADE BERKLEY IN A NUMBER OF SIGNIFICANT CEREMONIES AND EVENTS INCLUDING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY.

PARTICIPATING IN THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF MILITARY AND VETERANS HEALTH RESEARCH, OR CIMVHR, FORUM IN WINNIPEG FROM 20 TO 23 OCTOBER WITH COMRADES BERKLEY, STEVEN AND CHARLS GENDRON WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS.

THIS OUTSTANDING GATHERING OF MORE THAN 500 MILITARY AND CIVILIAN HEALTH RESEARCHERS UNDERLINED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE REMARKABLE RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED IN OVER 45 CIMVHR MEMBER UNIVERSITIES AND HOW IMPORTANT THE RESULTS ARE TO THE CARE AND WELL BEING OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

IT IS ALSO VERY EVIDENT THAT THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE LEGION IS CRITICAL TO CIMVHR AND GREATLY APPRECIATED.

IN THAT REGARD, COMRADE BERKLEY AWARDED THE LEGION'S FIRST PHD SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDIES RELATED TO VETERANS HEALTHCARE DURING THIS FORUM AND, IN MY ROLE AS A DIRECTOR OF THE LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION, I AWARDED THE FIRST LNF MASTERS DEGREE SCHOLARSHIP, FOLLOWING FOUR AWARDED IN PREVIOUS YEARS BY THE LEGION.

THE CIMVHR FORUM WAS FOLLOWED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY BY A VERY PRODUCTIVE, INFORMATIVE AND WELL ATTENDED VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY WHICH THE DOMINION PRESIDENT HOSTED AT LEGION HOUSE ON 26 OCTOBER.

ANOTHER MEMORABLE EVENT WAS THE DOMINION PRESIDENT'S PRESENTATION OF THE FIRST POPPY TO THE GOVERNOR GENERAL ON 16 OCTOBER.

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

THE MANY VETERANS' WEEK EVENTS IN OTTAWA THIS YEAR WERE ALSO A BIG SUCCESS AND CULMINATED IN AN OUTSTANDING AND VERY WELL ATTENDED NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY AT THE WAR MEMORIAL ON 11 NOVEMBER.

THIS WAS A STELLAR TEAM EFFORT IMPRESSIVELY ORGANIZED AND LED BY DOMINION COMMAND, WITH SUPERB SUPPORT FROM THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES, LOCAL LEGION VOLUNTEERS AND VARIOUS POLICE AND OTHER KEY PARTNERS.

SPECIAL THANKS AND A BIG BRAVO ZULU TO COMRADES STEVEN CLARK, STEVEN VAN MUYEN, NUJMA BOND, CHARLS GENDRON, NICOLE THOMAS AND LIA TAHA-CHEN FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN PARTICULARLY KEY ROLES IN SUPPORT OF THE CEREMONY, THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER AND THE YOUTH AND CADET DELEGATION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO COMMEND COMRADE RANDY AND THE ENTIRE LEGION HOUSE TEAM FOR THEIR EXCELLENT AND ESSENTIAL EFFORTS PRIOR TO AND THROUGHOUT THE CEREMONY IN VARIOUS OTHER ROLES.

THANKS TO AN INSPIRED CHOICE BY THE LEGION, CANADA WAS ALSO BLESSED TO HAVE A VERY SPECIAL WOMAN, MAUREEN ANDERSON, FROM NEW BRUNSWICK AS THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER.

MAUREEN SPOKE FROM THE HEART ABOUT HER TWO SONS, BOTH SERGEANTS IN THE ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT WHO SERVED WITH DISTINCTION IN A NUMBER OF MISSIONS ABROAD INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY TOGETHER IN AFGHANISTAN.

BOTH RETURNED HOME SUFFERING FROM PTSD AND COMMITTED SUICIDE IN 2014 AND 2017.

I BELIEVE THAT THEIR TRAGIC STORY , WHICH RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA, MADE A VERY POSITIVE DIFFERENCE IN HELPING TO COMBAT THE STIGMA OF SERVICE RELATED SUICIDE AND IN STRENGTHENING THE ARGUMENTS FOR INCREASING MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCES FOR VETERANS.

IT WAS CLEAR DURING THE LUNCHEON THAT THE GOVERNOR GENERAL AND THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF HOSTED FOR THE SILVER CROSS MOTHER FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY THAT MAUREEN'S COURAGE AND RESILIENCE HAD DEEPLY MOVED THEM AND BOTH MENTIONED THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR VETERANS.

BEFORE CONCLUDING I WOULD BE REMISS IF I DID NOT EXPRESS MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS, A HUGE BRAVO ZULU AND HEARTFELT THANKS TO COMRADE STEVEN CLARK ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE LEGION FOLLOWING TWENTY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN INCREASINGLY CHALLENGING AND IMPORTANT POSITIONS, CULMINATING IN SEVERAL YEARS AS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

WELL DONE AND CONGRATS ON ALL YOUR SELFLESS DEDICATION AND GREAT WORK, "AT THE HELM" OF LEGION HOUSE, STEVEN, AND BEST WISHES TO YOU AND DONNA FOR A FUTURE ALWAYS BLESSED WITH "FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS"!

FINALLY, CONGRATULATIONS AND A BIG BRAVO ZULU ON YOUR RICHLY DESERVED APPOINTMENT AS NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RANDY.

YOU ARE AN INSPIRED CHOICE AND I KNOW THAT YOU WILL EXCEL IN YOUR NEW ROLE AND VERY MUCH LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH YOU.

THAT CONCLUDES MY REMARKS. THANKS VERY MUCH, COMRADES.

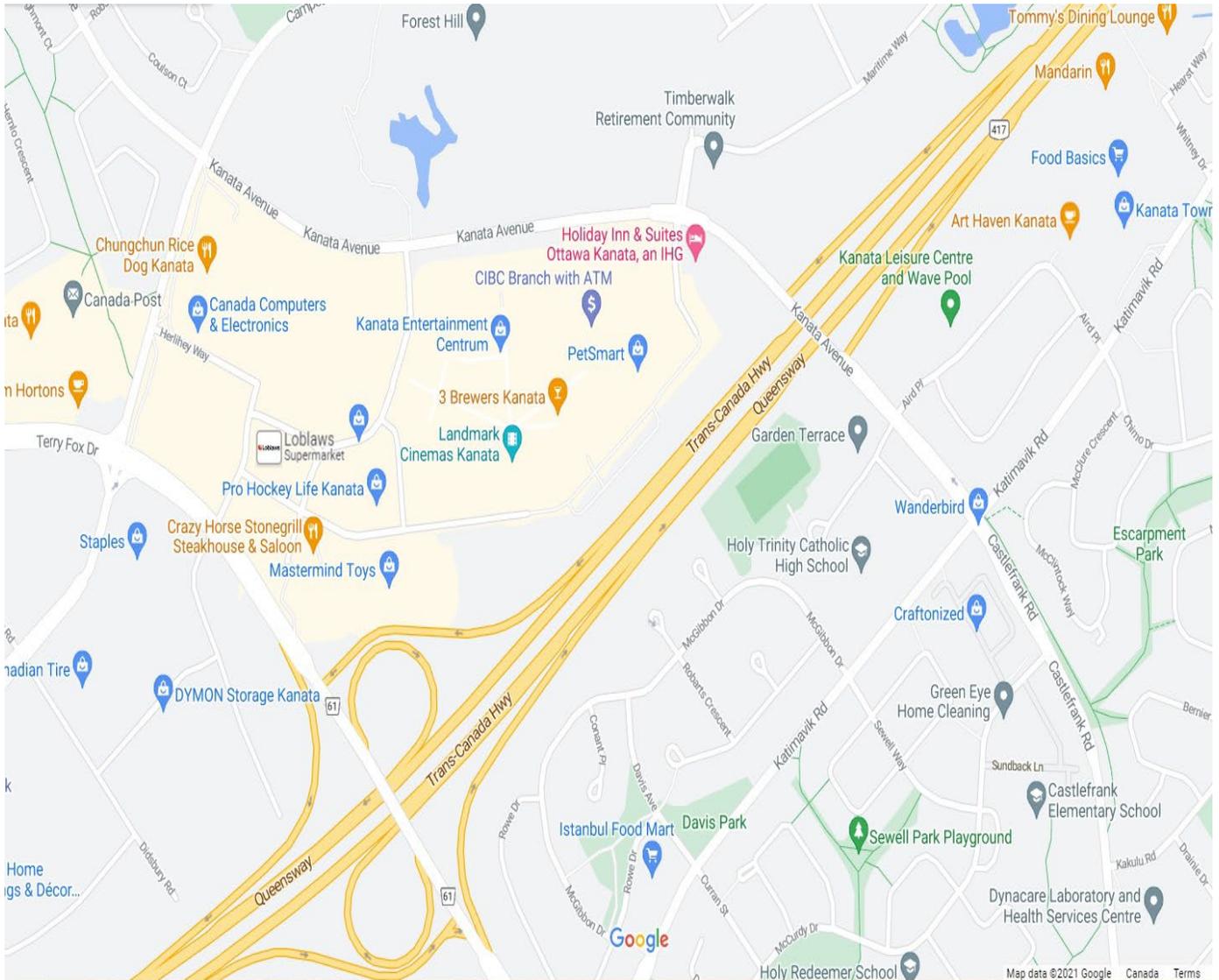
ITEM 5: ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

a. Schedule – Saturday 23 November 2024

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

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

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



Centrum Area

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

ITEM 7: 2025 BUDGET

OVERVIEW

The 2025 budget target was set at a break-even point of \$18,710. The current position of revenue (as of 30 October) is positive at \$532,204 however, due to seasonal revenue and cost fluctuation, typically approximately 90% of revenue collected at this time (mid-year), where expenses may not reflect all expenditures recorded that were planned for this year. Projected numbers for 2024 at this point can be distorted.

REVENUES

Membership revenue for 2024 has increased by 5.3% compared to the same period last year. With all branches operating at a normal pace and a larger marketing campaign in place this year, the Legion has exceeded the projected membership of 259,055 for 2024. As of 30 October, the actual membership revenue stands at 102%, or 261,922 members. So far, 74,366 members have been processed for 2025, with projections estimating a growth to 262,940 members and 1.48% increase from the previous year. Additionally, there have been 40,621 new and reinstated members processed to date (as of 30 October), marking a 5.7% increase from last year. Notably, 80% of these members were processed through the portal. Our ongoing focus remains on membership development and its significance to all levels of the Legion.

Investment income estimated for 2025 as per our portfolio is approximately \$540K. The draw down of \$3M for emergency distribution to the branches during the pandemic reduced the level of reserves and impacted revenues for the future years.

Economic growth is frequently linked to stock market performance. As the economy expands, corporate earnings are likely to rise, which can push stock prices higher. However, economic conditions can fluctuate, and unexpected events may affect growth. Over the next five years, the trajectories of the US and Canadian economies will depend on factors like GDP growth, unemployment rates, and inflation. While uncertainties are a given, experts predict a slow yet steady economic expansion, driven by increased immigration, a diversified economy, and technological advancements. Nonetheless, potential challenges such as a debt crisis and political changes could significantly alter these forecasts.

Additionally, actions taken by the Bank of Canada, particularly regarding interest rates, can have a major impact on the stock market. Rising interest rates may increase borrowing costs for both companies and consumers, which could in turn affect spending and investment. External risks, combined with economic indicators, contribute to the overall uncertainty surrounding the market's future.

The composition of Legion portfolios is low risk, a mix of equity and fixed income, which aimed to generate long-term returns. During a recession, dividends are especially important because they provide a cushion even if the stock price falls. The year 2025

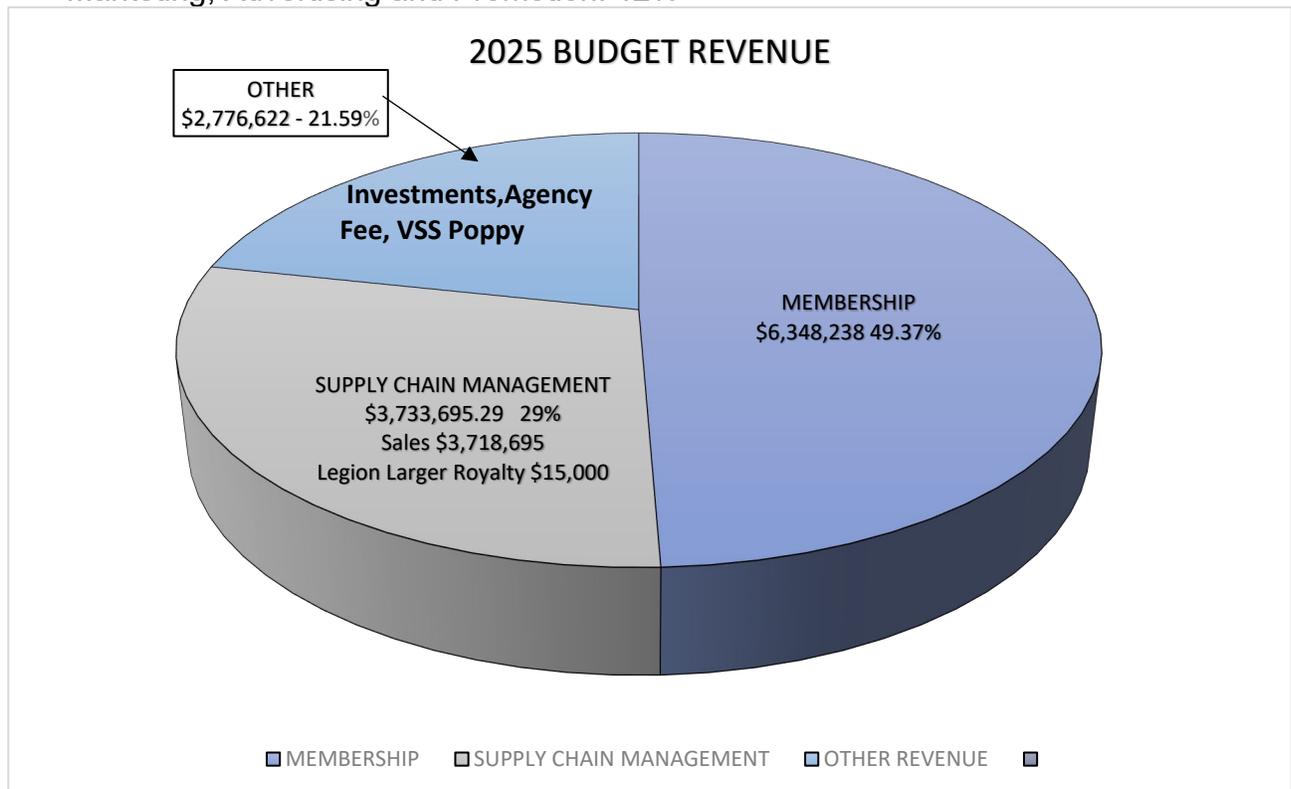
could be another challenging one with moderate impact on our investment portfolio.

For information, the investment revenues earned in the operating budget are retained in the investment fund and not transferred to the General Fund bank account at year end. By doing this, we receive a greater rate of return on the money. When cash is needed for operating expenses or expenses that are charged to Reserves, it is withdrawn at that time. This gives us the highest possible return on investments. The current general investment portfolio balance as of 30 September is \$18,445,881.

The Supply Department is forecasting sales of \$3,718,695 (an increase of 6.2% from last year) and royalty payments from Legion Lager of \$15,000, for a total of \$3,733,695. Last year, revenue was driven by successful sales of new stock items which maintained sales of approximately \$3.6M.

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

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



***Makeup of the Other Revenue:**

- Royalties - Member benefits program

- Administrative fees
- Building rental
- Mastercard royalties
- Estate bequests
- Royalties – Legion Lager
- Other corporate contributions

EXPENSES

Some revenue streams have shown a slight upward trend toward the end of this year and there is an assumption that this trend will continue into 2025. However, the outlook remains clouded by various uncertainties. Expenses have been analyzed and adjusted in accordance with the projected revenue for 2025.

Larger reductions in expenses are projected for:

- Marketing & Communication 3.3%
- Marketing, Advertising, Promotion 4.3%
- Membership 8.5%
- Employer Pension contribution 7.6%
- Information Technology 27.1%
- Legion House 20.6%

Increases are expected for:

- Corporate Services 4.5%
- Veterans Services 7.0%
- Supply chain management 8.5%
- Other Program Expenses 24.2%
- Financial Services 34.8%

The Centennial Fund grant for the Legion National Youth Track & Field Championships, with necessary approvals, should be renewed for \$100,000 for the 2025 year. Please note, the location plays a significant contribution toward increased costs for both this year and 2025. This is shown in the Recoveries section of the Track & Field budget.

CONCLUSION

The budget details are contained in Annex A for information and discussion.

SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL IMPACTS

INVESTMENT RESERVES

As a snapshot taken as of September 30, 2024, the investments by account were:

General Fund	\$18,445,880
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Poppy Fund	\$ 8,222,836
Centennial Fund	\$ 2,365,56
RCEL Fund	\$ 1,120,129

The draft budget follows for review and discussion.

RECOMMENDATION: That a drawdown of \$100,000 from the Centennial Fund, with allocation to the Track and Field Program for 2025, be approved.

A significant percentage of time by personnel in the Marketing and Communications Department is dedicated to supporting the annual Poppy Campaign and other Remembrance initiatives throughout the year. The current charge back of 12% to the Dominion Command Poppy Fund for this department, as well as the Marketing, Advertising and Promotion budget, is low and does not accurately reflect the commitment of personnel resources essential to successfully support the important Remembrance program. An increase is recommended.

RECOMMENDATION: That the charge back to the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund directed to the Marketing and Communications Department budget, as well as the Marketing, Advertising and Promotion budget, be increased to 18%.

RECOMMENDATION: That the proposed 2025 budget be approved.



THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION
COMMAND

GENERAL FUNDS

Statement of Revenue and Expense

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
REVENUE							
Per Capita Tax	5,668,132	5,911,738	5,683,237	5,830,148	6,348,238	518,090	8.9%
Canvet							
- Agency Fee & Support	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%
Investment Income	432,996	377,198	440,000	554,585	540,000	-14,585	-2.6%
Veterans Services Poppy Fund Grant	1,174,990	1,140,224	1,140,224	1,152,415	1,247,702	95,287	8.3%
Supply Chain Management	2,825,852	3,611,222	3,265,000	3,515,000	3,733,695	218,695	6.2%
Legion House							
- Tenants	82,920	82,920	92,920	92,920	92,920	0	0.0%
- Internal	331,000	331,000	331,000	331,000	331,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous							
- TD Royalties	82,963	85,367	60,000	104,000	0	-104,000	-100.0%
Corporate Donations	50,000	25	400,000	200,000	10,000	-190,000	-95.0%
- Other	325,332	411,344	315,000	335,000	155,000	-180,000	-53.7%
Estate Bequest	33,293	250,613	0	0			
TOTAL REVENUE	11,407,478	12,601,651	12,127,381	12,515,068	12,858,555	343,487	2.7%
EXPENSE							
Legion Magazine Subscriptions	2,541,272	2,639,612	2,546,045	2,596,564	2,802,525	205,961	7.9%
Corporate Services	831,109	864,465	898,128	923,549	968,289	44,740	4.8%
Information Technology	382,881	465,607	497,717	709,762	559,594	-150,168	-21.2%
Membership	874,783	833,064	894,830	937,378	861,626	-75,752	-8.1%
Marketing & Communications	436,904	367,191	432,910	380,133	369,740	-10,393	-2.7%
Marketing, Advertising, Promotion	736,332	908,030	871,200	922,240	883,960	-38,280	-4.2%
Financial Services	227,319	320,753	261,512	266,446	410,944	144,498	54.2%
Veterans Services	1,200,867	1,109,015	1,191,372	1,204,543	1,301,117	96,574	8.0%
Supply Chain Management	2,197,168	2,394,625	2,317,373	2,411,861	2,640,096	228,235	9.5%
Committees	557,351	821,000	735,581	879,684	875,476	-4,208	-0.5%
Other Program Expenses	176,959	197,163	93,750	100,100	124,600	24,500	24.5%
Amortization	75,858	64,401	84,500	66,708	65,000	-1,708	-2.6%
Employer Pension Contribution	655,053	654,074	787,820	611,100	568,045	-43,055	-7.0%
Legion House	685,302	359,180	479,063	492,616	408,833	-83,783	-17.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	11,579,158	11,998,180	12,091,801	12,502,684	12,839,845	463,999	3.71%
NET INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS	-171,680	603,471	35,580	12,384	18,710		

Original 16,000

SEO Changes	5,000	VSS SIMVR Forum
	7,500	Other program - Legal fees
	-1,500	Vet. Manual update
	5,000	Membership processing fees
	4,000	Corporate services - printing
	<u>20,000</u>	Total Adjustments

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

Corporate Services

EXPENSE	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	754,387	769,362	802,503	840,005	859,617	19,612	2.33%
Retirement Allowance	15,148	14,938	15,733	16,473	16,858	385	2.34%
Other Benefits	64,018	66,454	71,592	70,771	74,814	4,043	5.40%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	833,553	850,754	889,828	927,249	951,289	24,040	2.59%
Office Supplies	43,471	28,662	45,000	35,000	31,000	-4,000	-11.43%
Telephone	9,591	9,388	12,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.00%
Postage, Express	8,374	6,417	10,000	10,000	9,000	-1,000	-10.00%
Printing, Stationery	686	13,709	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%
Staff Travel	1,739	1,286	800	800	1,000	200	25.00%
Insurance	19,133	29,345	20,000	20,000	45,000	25,000	125.00%
Rent (CR to Building)	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	0	0.00%
Staff Recruitment	2,052	5,225	2,000	2,000	2,500	500	25.00%
Computer Network Support	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	6,931	12,921	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%
Training	4,081	5,260	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,041,111	1,074,467	1,108,128	1,133,549	1,178,289	44,740	3.95%
Less: charged to:							
Membership Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Marketing and Communications	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.00%
Veterans Services	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0.00%
Poppy Fund	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	0	0.00%
	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000	0	0.00%
NET EXPENSE	831,111	864,467	898,128	923,549	968,289	44,740	4.84%

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

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SECTION

EXPENSE	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	81,849	169,131	164,416	177,149	197,069	19,920	11.2%
Retirement Allowance	1,682	3,285	3,253	3,466	3,858	392	11.3%
Other Benefits	10,154	21,301	17,948	23,147	23,867	720	3.1%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	93,685	193,717	185,617	203,762	224,794	21,032	10.3%
Office Supplies	0	5	0	0	500		
Telephone	5,481	6,089	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	0	22	0	0	0		
Printing, Stationery	743	0	0	0	0		
Rent (CR to Building)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	116	494	100	0	300		
Network & PC							
- Upgrade of IT System	0	0	0	215,000	0	-215,000	-100.0%
- Maintenance Contracts/Leases	153,039	147,624	172,000	118,000	160,000	42,000	35.6%
- Programming & Support	154,378	139,324	140,000	179,000	173,000	-6,000	-3.4%
- Supplies & Other	2,146	7,726	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- Website & Internet connectivity & support	7,793	7,608	25,000	19,000	26,000	7,000	36.8%
TOTAL EXPENSE	427,381	512,609	544,717	756,762	606,594	-150,168	-20%
Less: charged to:							
Corporate Services	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
Finance	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Membership	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Marketing	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Veterans Services	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Supply	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	0	0.0%
Canvet	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
IT	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
LNF	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
P&R Division	2,500	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
	44,500	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	0	0
NET EXPENSE	382,881	465,609	497,717	709,762	559,594	-150,168	-21%

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

Membership Section

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
REVENUE							
Agency Fee	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000	0	0.0%
EXPENSE							
Salaries	477,453	445,759	546,902	540,729	479,763	-60,966	-11.3%
Retirement Allowance	9,861	8,674	10,692	10,546	9,303	-1,243	-11.8%
Other Benefits	51,472	49,394	58,136	61,503	56,960	-4,543	-7.4%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	538,786	503,827	615,730	612,778	546,026	-66,752	-10.9%
Office Supplies	109	156	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Telephone	11,119	11,836	10,500	11,000	11,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	64,739	65,984	47,500	47,500	50,000	2,500	5.3%
Printing, Stationery	5,722	2,968	5,500	5,500	5,500	0	0.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	2,293	3,184	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Permanent membership cards	16,872	18,706	18,000	38,000	19,000	-19,000	-50.0%
Membership cards, forms and paper	2,793	12,353	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Membership Pack out	36,201	42,798	37,500	37,500	40,000	2,500	6.7%
Credit Card Processing Fees	99,250	92,431	75,000	100,000	105,000	5,000	5.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	854,384	830,743	894,830	937,378	861,626	-75,752	-8.1%
NET EXPENSE	454,384	430,743	494,830	537,378	461,626	-75,752	-14%

COMMENTS & BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

membership growth
online and processing growth

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

Marketing Section

EXPENSE	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	398,016	356,098	413,543	360,332	376,460	16,128	4.5%
Retirement Allowance	8,082	6,922	8,130	7,091	7,404	313	4.4%
Other Benefits	35,624	30,746	36,120	30,446	32,938	2,492	8.2%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	441,722	393,766	457,793	397,869	416,802	18,933	4.8%
Office Supplies	221	25	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Telephone	3,354	3,299	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.0%
Postage, Express	352	70	250	300	300	0	0.0%
Printing, Stationery	22	27	200	200	200	0	0.0%
Staff Travel	333	277	500	400	400	0	0.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	1,110	1,260	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.0%
Administrative Support	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	474,614	426,224	491,943	431,969	450,902	18,933	4.4%
Less: Poppy Fund Chargback @18%	37,709	59,033	59,033	51,836	81,162	29,326	56.6%
NET EXPENSE	436,905	367,191	432,910	380,133	369,740	-10,393	-2.7%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

Marketing

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<u>Media - Print</u>							
Canvet Ads	25,890	22,759	24,000	24,000	24,000	0	0.0%
<u>Media - Video & Photography</u>							
Photography Services	0	0	0	0	25,000	25,000	100.0%
Promotional Videos	0	94,807	70,000	0	0	0	0.0%
<u>Media - Internet</u>							
Legion.ca website admin	85,799	157,194	125,000	125,000	125,000	0	0.0%
Media Coverage & P.R. (T &F)	8,682	6,255	12,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
CAF Support	85,133	90,844	128,250	128,250	128,250	0	0.0%
<u>Programs and Campaigns</u>							
Free Membership for CF retirees	32,720	32,273	55,000	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
Non Renewal Mailers	156,068	101,705	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	0.0%
MemberPerks	29,663	28,250	28,250	28,250	28,250	0	0.0%
Telesales	33,024	3,390	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Canvet Design Program	7,080	2,390	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
Promotions and Donations	68,795	62,781	70,000	70,000	70,000	0	0.0%
Social Media Campaign	142,160	177,956	175,000	225,000	225,000	0	0.0%
Online Banner Campaign	41,959	51,939	55,000	55,000	55,000	0	0.0%
Member/Branch Enewsletters	58,421	74,714	75,000	75,000	75,000	0	0.0%
Social Media - Agency	0	101,912	0	85,000	90,000	5,000	5.9%
Travel	1,101	1,975	2,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.0%
<u>Other Printed Material</u>							
Branch Collateral Marketing materials	38,913	15,686	50,000	40,000	40,000	0	0.0%
Total Expense	815,408	1,026,830	990,000	1,048,000	1,078,000	30,000	2.9%
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback@18%	79,180	118,800	118,800	125,760	194,040	68,280	54.29%
Net Expense	736,228	908,030	871,200	922,240	883,960	-38,280	-4.15%

new imagery required , a few years since last updated

increased by 5% to reflect cost

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

Financial Services

EXPENSE	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Salaries	362,052	400,344	462,693	413,425	616,670	203,245	49.16%
Retirement Allowance	7,672	7,844	9,043	8,000	12,083	4,083	51.04%
Other Benefits	41,910	51,484	38,930	45,698	58,854	13,156	28.79%
Contract	115,755	146,204	68,254	109,354	0	-109,354	0.00%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	527,389	605,876	578,920	576,477	687,607	111,130	19.28%
Office Supplies	352	716	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Telephone	2,959	3,041	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Postage, Express	2,434	2,678	5,000	2,500	2,500	0	0.00%
Printing, Stationery	22	521	1,000	1,000	700	-300	-30.00%
Staff Travel	0	67	100	100	100	0	0.00%
Audit Fees	79,000	93,101	65,000	65,000	95,000	30,000	46.15%
Rent (CR to Building)	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	0	0.00%
Computer Network Support	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	0	0.00%
GP Migration project					100,000	100,000	0.00%
Miscellaneous	8,838	6,308	7,000	7,500	7,500	0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSE	657,494	748,808	698,520	694,077	934,907	240,830	34.70%
Less: charged to:							
Supply	69,852	62,801	71,752	69,408	93,491	24,083	34.70%
Veterans Services - 10%	70,075	71,752	71,752	69,408	93,491	24,083	34.70%
Poppy Services - 20%	140,250	143,504	143,504	138,815	186,981	48,166	34.70%
National Legion Foundation	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	0	0.00%
Canvet	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	110,000	0	0.00%
	430,177	428,057	437,008	427,631	523,963	96,332	22.53%
NET EXPENSE	227,317	320,751	261,512	266,446	410,944	144,498	54.23%

Contract employee moved to new permanent position

Migration to new accounting system

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

Veterans Services

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>	
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
REVENUE							
Poppy Fund Grant	1,174,990	1,140,224	1,140,224	1,152,415	1,247,702	95,287	8.3%
EXPENSE							
Salaries	917,448	812,070	926,098	942,060	969,303	27,243	2.9%
Retirement Allowance	16,845	15,758	17,808	18,496	19,052	556	3.0%
Other Benefits	83,857	75,485	79,064	81,996	79,948	-2,048	-2.5%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	1,018,150	903,313	1,022,970	1,042,552	1,068,303	25,751	2.5%
Office Supplies Expense	5,889	2,895	5,000	5,000	3,000	-2,000	-40.0%
Telephone	6,009	5,854	6,750	7,000	6,000	-1,000	-14.3%
Postage	2,170	2,355	3,400	3,500	2,500	-1,000	-28.6%
Staff Travel	70	3,489	1,000	4,000	5,000	1,000	25.0%
Rent (Cr to Building)	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	0	0.0%
Service Officers Conference	16,203	39,295	0	0	42,000	42,000	0.0%
Advocacy and Representation	0	0	0	500	700	200	0.0%
Administrative Support	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0	0.0%
Computer Network Support	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Finance Dept							
Fees/Chargeback	70,075	71,752	71,752	60,991	93,114	32,123	0.0%
Miscellaneous	2,802	561	1,000	1,500	1,000	-500	-33%
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,200,868	1,109,014	1,191,372	1,204,543	1,301,117	96,574	8.0%

Outreach has increased and costs include flyers etc.... (MFRC, SMRSC, Transition Centre)

SOPD late fall 2025
Outreach has increased and costs include flyers etc....(SCANS, presentations)

To print flyers etc.... (homeless for example)

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

Supply Chain Management

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
REVENUE									
Sales of Supplies	3,996,709	3,001,664	2,811,833	3,596,185	3,250,000	3,500,000	3,718,695	218,695	6.2%
Less Cost of Goods	1,883,543	1,338,182	1,218,980	1,476,514	1,500,000	1,505,000	1,550,000	45,000	3.0%
GROSS MARGIN	2,113,166	1,663,482	1,592,853	2,119,671	1,750,000	1,995,000	2,168,695	173,695	8.7%
Legion Lager Royalty	10,443	13,841	14,018	15,038	15,000	15,000	15,000	0	0.0%
Provincial Commands @ 5.0% of Gross Margin	0	106,180	164,277	106,119	87,500	100,500	102,500	2,000	2.0%
EXPENSE									
Salaries	410,626	443,681	533,947	569,179	573,222	599,733	616,359	16,626	2.8%
Retirement Allowance	8,569	9,604	10,974	11,045	11,183	11,649	11,993	344	3.0%
Other Benefits	62,943	59,971	64,928	65,032	57,715	57,141	69,698	12,557	22.0%
Temporary & Contract Staff	91,848	61,046	3,645	3,026	5,040	13,860	5,000	-8,860	-63.9%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	573,986	574,302	613,494	648,282	647,160	682,383	703,050	20,667	3.0%
Telephone	7,128	4,377	6,244	6,343	6,000	7,000	6,500	-500	-7.1%
Postage, Express	149,533	170,118	212,308	177,629	100,000	200,000	200,000	0	0.0%
Printing, Stationery	1,057	637	743	299	1,000	1,000	300	-700	-70.0%
Staff Travel	426	0	0	343	1,500	1,000	500	-500	-50.0%
Insurance	1,559	1,818	2,091	3,412	1,900	2,500	3,500	1,000	40.0%
Rent (CR to Building)	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%
Web Store - connectivity	15,045	12,462	15,072	14,836	16,000	18,000	16,000	-2,000	-11.1%
Advertising/Catalogue Distribution	69,767	66,851	68,589	76,964	70,000	90,000	70,000	-20,000	-22.2%
Wrapping Material	53,500	57,829	52,034	67,678	60,000	70,000	70,000	0	0.0%
Finance/Administration Support	54,225	55,681	69,852	62,801	71,752	69,408	93,491	24,083	34.7%
Office Supplies	5,607	2,004	1,083	1,073	1,500	1,500	1,200	-300	-0.4%
Computer Network Support	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,500	7,500	7,000	-500	-33.3%
Miscellaneous	3,160	1,434	637	3,271	3,500	3,500	3,500	0	0.0%
EXPENSE TOTAL	1,001,993	1,120,693	1,273,424	1,236,050	1,135,312	1,314,291	1,337,541	23,250	1.8%
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback	-285,844	-289,446	-295,235	-317,939	-317,939	-407,430	-247,445	159,985	-39.3%
NET EXPENSE	716,149	831,247	978,189	918,111	817,373	906,861	1,090,096	183,235	20.2%

Inflation rate in Ontario 1.85%

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

Other Program Expenses

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
RCEL							
Conference	5,144	18,807	0	0	0	0	0.0%
SCOWP	0	0	1,000	0	0	0	0.0%
RCEL TOTAL	5,144	18,807	1,000	0	0	0	0.0%
OTHER							
Request for Support	2,500	5,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	-5,000	-33.3%
Annual General Meeting	0	0	2,500	0	0	0	0.0%
Legion Representation on Local Boards	99	0	250	100	100	0	0.0%
Legal & Other	87,262	153,438	50,000	60,000	92,500	32,500	54.2%
EDI Assessment	58,897	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Charitable Foundation Start Up	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MBP Ads	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Translation	23,058	19,918	25,000	25,000	22,000	-3,000	-12.0%
TOTAL EXPENSE	176,960	197,163	93,750	100,100	124,600	24,500	24.5%

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

Legion House

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
REVENUE							
Rent - Tenants	82,920	82,920	92,920	92,920	92,920	0	0.0%
Rent - charged to Departments							
- Corporate Servies	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	108,000	0	0.0%
- Membership	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	54,000	0	0.0%
- Marketing	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- Veterans Services	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	0	0.0%
- Supply Dept	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	0	0.0%
- Finance	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	0	0.0%
- IT Section	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- P&R Division	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	0.0%
- LNF	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.0%
TOTAL REVENUE	413,920	413,920	423,920	423,920	423,920	0	0.0%
EXPENSE							
Salaries	30,793	32,194	31,778	32,969	35,054	2,085	6.3%
Retirement Allowance	633	625	618	641	659	18	2.8%
Other Benefits	5,241	5,542	4,667	5,073	5,400	327	6.4%
TOTAL PERSONNEL	36,667	38,361	37,063	38,683	41,113	2,430	6.3%
Elevator Maintenance	4,022	5,551	7,000	6,000	6,120	120	2.0%
A/C, Electrical, Plumbing	38,794	35,966	42,000	42,000	43,600	1,600	3.8%
Interior & Exterior	75,492	81,181	92,000	90,000	92,000	2,000	2.2%
Cleaning Contract & Supplies	50,602	57,427	52,000	54,733	60,000	5,267	9.6%
Fuel	18,398	16,032	15,000	20,000	20,000	0	0.0%
Light & Power	51,429	41,857	62,000	62,000	60,000	-2,000	-3.2%
Water and Sewage	7,771	8,433	6,000	7,000	9,000	2,000	28.6%
Taxes	63,191	64,556	60,000	66,200	67,000	800	1.2%
Insurance	5,933	9,790	6,000	6,000	10,000	4,000	66.7%
Reserve Fund	8,438	0	100,000	100,000		100,000	-100.0%
Other	29	28	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	360,766	359,182	479,063	492,616	408,833	-83,783	-17.0%

Added 2 percent
Increase due to HVAC contract higher for 2025
Increase based on 2024 and inflation
Increase due to Citron contract inflation costs

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

Committees & Elected Officers Expense

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE		
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%	
COMMITTEES								
Veterans, Service and Seniors	13,821	26,936	24,150	16,850	25,950	9,100	54.0%	
Poppy & Remembrance	15,920	29,213	2,950	20,300	0	-20,300	-100.0%	Covered by Poppy fund
Membership	3,087	7,855	3,000	3,000	4,000	1,000	33.3%	
Public Relations	62,311	97,921	105,776	80,696	79,294	-1,402	-1.7%	
RCEL	14,023	769	400	400	400	0	0.0%	
Sports	236,045	418,389	399,905	354,438	378,212	23,774	6.7%	
Ritual & Awards	24,625	1,817	270	270	1,620	1,350	500.0%	
Convention Committee	0	3,035	100	10,500	7,000	-3,500	-33.3%	
Constitution & Laws	1,138	760	1,200	1,350	850	-500	-37.0%	
Defence & Security	1,885	11,882	13,030	12,730	15,500	2,770	21.8%	
Veterans Consultation	1,000	1,291	2,000	1,200	1,450	250	20.8%	
(FOF) Going Forward	693	9,497	6,100	750	0	-750	-100.0%	
Leadership Development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%	
EDI Committee					5,500	0	100.0%	
Centenary Committee	5,916	0	0	0	0			Covered by Centennial fund
COMMITTEE TOTAL	380,464	609,365	558,881	502,484	519,776	17,292	3.44%	
Elected Officers	83,556	72,762	96,500	85,500	111,500	26,000	30.41%	
DEC/Senior Elected Officers	85,298	131,289	67,200	92,200	87,200	-5,000	-5.42%	
Dominion Convention	8,032	7,586	13,000	199,500	157,000	-42,500	-21.30%	
SUB-TOTAL	176,886	211,637	176,700	377,200	355,700	-21,500	-5.70%	
TOTAL EXPENSE	557,350	821,002	735,581	879,684	875,476	-4,208	-0.48%	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

	Dec					BUDGET VARIANCE	
	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	\$	%
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET		
<u>COMMITTEE</u>							
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Printing and Office	0	0	400	400	400	0	0.0%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0%
Miscellaneous	0	2,295	100	100	100	0	0.0%
	0	2,295	500	500	500	0	0.0%
<u>PRINTING & STATIONERY</u>							
Membership Forms	1,496	3,875	1,000	1,000	2,000	1,000	100.0%
Early Bird Stickers	1,591	1,685	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
	3,087	5,560	2,500	2,500	3,500	1,000	40.0%
TOTAL	3,087	7,855	3,000	3,000	4,000	1,000	33.3%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

PUBLIC RELATIONS

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
<u>COMMITTEE</u>							
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Printing, Stationery	0	0	100	100	100	0	0%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	500	500	500	0	0%
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Miscellaneous	113	0	100	100	100	0	0%
SUB-TOTAL	113	0	700	700	700	0	0%
<u>PR SECTION</u>							
<u>External</u>							
Media Monitoring	39,173	47,893	50,000	40,000	40,000	0	0%
Specialist Consulting	3,720	3,780	7,000	3,500	3,500	0	0%
Partnership/Event PR Support	26,045	42,867	50,000	40,000	40,000	0	0%
<u>Training/Liaison</u>							
- Per Diem	2,330	2,016	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0%
- Travel	930	10,719	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0%
- PR Training	0	5,069	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	100%
SUB-TOTAL	72,198	112,344	119,500	91,000	96,000	5,000	5%
TOTAL	72,311	112,345	120,200	91,700	96,700	5,000	5%
Less: Poppy Fund Chargeback/Grant	-10,000	-14,424	-14,424	-11,004	-17,406	-6,402	58%
GRAND TOTAL	62,311	97,921	105,776	80,696	79,294	-1,402	-2%

New DEC members

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGIOIN-DOMINION COMMAND

Veterans, Service & Seniors

	Dec					BUDGET VARIANCE		
	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	\$	%	
<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>			
Travel	71	350	0	200	300	100	50.0%	Increased mileage and travel costs to CIMVHR
Per Diem	801	0	0	0	2,500	2,500	0.0%	CIMVHR
CIMVHR Forum	12,603	26,044	15,000	15,000	20,000	5,000	33.3%	In Ottawa area for 2025 (Sponsorship was \$16K in 2024/to sponsor Networking Event (\$7K) and accommodations \$5K)
Printing, Stationery	0	340	1,500	500	500	0	0.0%	
Telephone & Fax	0	0	200	200	200	0	0.0%	
Postage	217	202	450	450	450	0	0.0%	
Business Transformation Initiatives	0	0	1,500	0	0	0	0.0%	
Homeless Veterans Summit	0	0	5,000	0	0	0	0.0%	
Miscellaneous	130	0	500	500	2,000	1,500	300.0%	Manual updates veteran's service
TOTAL	13,822	26,936	24,150	16,850	25,950	9,100	54.01%	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

RCEL COMMITTEE

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>	
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>
<u>Meetings:</u>							
<u>Committee</u>							
Expenses	14,023	769	400	400	400	0	0%
Total	14,023	769	400	400	400	0	0%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

SPORTS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	571	3,477	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
Per Diem	1,112	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
T & F - LAC							
- Spring Site Visit	7,092	4,076	7,500	10,500	10,500	0	0.0%
- Fall Site Visit	0	1,177	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	0.0%
Printing, Stationery	216	68	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	100	100	0	-100	100.0%
Postage	0	637	450	1,000	500	-500	-50.0%
Miscellaneous	1,009	1,305	1,565	1,565	1,300	-265	-16.9%
TOTAL COMMITTEE	10,000	10,740	17,115	15,665	19,800	4,135	26.40%

The 2025 Legion Nationals will take place in Regina, Saskatchewan so there is a requirement to conduct a Fall Site Visit in 2024.

Not required
Can be reduced based on 2024 costs

DARTS

Travel							
- Participants	0	22,681	25,100	25,200	24,000	-1,200	-4.76%
- Committee	0	1,681	2,640	2,640	2,500	-140	-5.30%
Awards & Prizes-participants	0	968	1,430	1,430	1,500	70	4.90%
Advance to Host Branch	0	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
Ground Transportation	0	2,100	1,500	2,100	2,100	0	0.00%
TOTAL DARTS	0	28,630	31,470	32,570	31,300	-1,270	-3.90%

CRIBBAGE

Travel							
- Participants	0	19,521	24,500	25,200	20,000	-5,200	20.63%
- Committee	0	1,453	2,200	2,200	2,000	-200	-9.09%
Awards & Prizes	0	968	1,430	1,430	1,000	-430	30.07%
Advance to Host Branch	0	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
Ground Transportation	0	2,100	1,500	2,100	2,100	0	0.00%
TOTAL CRIBBAGE	0	25,242	30,430	32,130	26,300	-5,830	18.15%

EIGHT BALL

Travel							
- Participants	0	21,802	21,700	25,200	22,000	-3,200	12.70%
- Committee	0	1,819	2,310	2,310	2,000	-310	13.42%
Awards & Prizes	0	968	1,430	1,430	1,000	-430	30.07%
Advance to Host Branch	0	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	0	0.00%
Ground Transportation	0	2,100	1,500	2,100	2,100	0	0.00%
TOTAL EIGHT BALL	0	27,889	27,740	32,240	28,300	-3,940	12.22%
TOTAL MEMBERS SPORTS	0	81,763	89,640	96,940	105,700	8,760	9.04%
TOTAL T & F	226,045	325,885	293,150	241,833	272,512	30,679	12.69%
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE	236,045	418,389	399,905	354,438	378,212	23,774	6.71%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Transportation	175,280	234,307	215,000	215,000	270,000	55,000	25.58%
Accommodations, Meals	179,848	260,440	257,450	234,433	241,112	6,679	2.85%
Committee - Travel	5,061	4,783	5,200	6,500	6,500	0	0.00%
Committee - Per Diem	19,655	18,467	23,000	18,000	18,000	0	0.00%
Local Committee	0	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Kits / Supplies / Medals	7,949	22,764	12,500	22,400	22,400	0	0.00%
Buses	15,472	15,872	17,500	17,500	17,500	0	0.00%
Honoraria	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%
Reception	1,500	2,098	1,500	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%
Athletic Facilities	1,000	1,913	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Equipment / Mtg Rooms	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Clinicians	500	575	1,000	500	500	0	0.00%
Officials	1,025	1,351	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
							-
Freight & Express	626	698	1,000	2,000	1,000	-1,000	50.00%
Miscellaneous	720	1,003	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSE	412,636	567,271	543,150	526,833	587,512	60,679	11.52%
Less Prov Cmd Portion	-115,685	-156,516	-100,000	-130,000	-150,000	-20,000	15.38%
SUB TOTAL	296,951	410,754	443,150	396,833	427,512	30,679	7.73%
RECOVERIES:							
Registration - Non Legion Athletes	-36,910	-52,869	-25,000	-30,000	-30,000	0	0.00%
Sponsorships	-40,000	-40,000	-20,000	-20,000	-20,000	0	0.00%
Grant-VAC	-5,000	-4,000	-5,000	-5,000	-5,000	0	0.00%
Centennial Fund	0	0	-100,000	-100,000	-100,000	0	0.00%
Total Recoveries	-81,910	-96,869	-150,000	-155,000	-155,000	0	0.00%
NET EXPENSE	215,041	313,885	293,150	241,833	272,512	30,679	12.69%

Based on flight costs from 2024 with a 5 percent increase typical of the airline industry. All the same teams will be flying and flights significantly increased. 2 percent inflation increase. Additionally, costs for the closing banquet increased by \$2,000 as per 2024

Most material will stay in Calgary from 2024 so shipping costs will be less

THE ROYAL CANADAIN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

RITUAL & AWARDS

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Printing, Stationery	24,077	0	120	120	120	0	0.00%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	150	150	0	-150	-100.00%
<u>Publications</u>							
RAP Manual Amendments & Translation	548	1,817	0	0	1,500	1,500	100.00%
TOTAL	24,625	1,817	270	270	1,620	1,350	500.00%

RAP Manual will require a lot of amendments directed by DEC to bring in line with EDI and the dissolution of the Chaplain Manual

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

CONSTITUTIONS & LAWS COMMITTEE

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Printing, Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	100	50	50	0	0.00%
Postage	1	330	100	300	300	0	0.00%
<u>Publications</u>							
- Revision to On-Line Manuals	1,137	430	1,000	1,000	500	-500	-50.00%
TOTAL	1,138	760	1,200	1,350	850	-500	-37.04%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

DEFENCE & SECURITY COMMITTEE

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	120	371	200	200	400	200	100.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Printing, Postage,	141	198	480	480	500	20	4.17%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	50	50	100	50	100.00%
Miscellaneous	9	3,202	300	0	1,000	1,000	100.00%
Annual Vimy Award & AGM	150	575	7,000	6,000	8,000	2,000	33.33%
Conference of Defence							
Association Fee& CIC Fee	0	6,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Comradeship Awards	1,465	1,536	1,000	2,000	1,500	-500	-25.00%
<u>CF Sponsorships</u>							
TOTAL EXPENSE	1,885	11,882	13,030	12,730	15,500	2,770	21.76%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

VETERANS CONSULTATION

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	101	0	1,000	200	200	0	0.00%
Per Diem	274	0	500	250	250	0	0.00%
Printing & Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	625	1,291	500	750	1,000	250	33.33%
TOTAL	1,000	1,291	2,000	1,200	1,450	250	20.83%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

(FOF) Going Forward Committee

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	265	5,478	4,000	500	500	0	0.00%
Per Diem	428	3,894	2,100	250	250	0	0.00%
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	0	125	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	693	9,372	6,100	750	750	0	0.00%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

ELECTED OFFICERS & DOMINION PRESIDENT

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>		
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>	
ELECTED OFFICERS:								
Travel	0	1,282	8,000	1,500	1,500	0	0.00%	
Per Diem	0	1,572	3,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%	
Telephone & Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	
Miscellaneous	1,305	20	500	500	500	0	0.00%	
SUB-TOTAL	1,305	2,874	11,500	3,000	3,000	0	0.00%	
DOMINION PRESIDENT:								
Travel	23,115	24,054	45,000	45,000	48,500	3,500	7.78%	Added costs to travel from originating gateway
Per Diem	24,701	19,572	24,500	25,000	27,500	2,500	10.00%	Expect increase in travel days to attend events
Hospitality	9,341	15,151	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%	
Telephone & Postage	1,607	1,898	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	0.00%	
Miscellaneous	5,083	1,975	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0.00%	
SUB-TOTAL	63,847	62,650	82,000	82,500	88,500	6,000	7.27%	
PROVINCIAL CONVENTIONS:								
Travel	8,737	3,844	2,000	0	14,000	14,000	100.00%	Provincial Conventions in 2025
Per Diem	9,666	3,394	1,000	0	6,000	6,000	100.00%	Provincial Conventions in 2025
SUB-TOTAL	18,403	7,238	3,000	0	20,000	20,000	0.00%	
TOTAL	83,555	72,762	96,500	85,500	111,500	26,000	30.41%	

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
D.E.C. MEETINGS:							
Travel	34,551	44,886	35,000	35,000	40,000	5,000	14.29%
Per Diem	36,600	67,319	25,000	45,000	35,000	-10,000	-22.22%
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Telephone, Fax & Postage	51	14	100	100	100	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	8,214	11,431	3,000	8,000	8,000	0	0.00%
SUB-TOTAL D.E.C. MEETINGS	79,416	123,650	63,100	88,100	83,100	-5,000	-5.68%
SENIOR ELECTED OFFICERS MEETINGS:							
Travel	4,222	6,609	6,000	6,000	6,000	0	0.00%
Per Diem	7,361	6,326	4,000	4,000	4,000	0	0.00%
Telephone, Fax & Postage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Printing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	298	704	100	100	100	0	0.00%
	11,881	13,639	10,100	10,100	10,100	0	0.00%
LESS:							
Canvet Board and Shareholders Meetings	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	-6,000	0	0.00%
TOTAL	85,298	131,289	67,200	92,200	87,200	-5,000	-5.42%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Dominion Convention

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET	VARIANCE
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
DEC							
Travel	0	0	0	25,000	0	-25,000	-100.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	65,000	0	-65,000	-100.00%
Staff							
Travel	2,182	4,334	0	25,000	0	-25,000	-100.00%
Per Diem	2,765	554	0	65,000	0	-65,000	-100.00%
Past President							
Travel	0	0	0	7,500	0	-7,500	-100.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	15,000	0	-15,000	-100.00%
DC Zone Commanders							
Travel	0	0	0	5,000	0	-5,000	-100.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	6,000	0	-6,000	-100.00%
Other							
Travel	0	0	0	5,000	0	-5,000	-100.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Entertainment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Credentials	0	0	0	2,000	0	-2,000	-100.00%
Printing & Design							
Convention Reports	2,384	0	0	25,000	0	-25,000	-100.00%
Other	0	0	0	2,000	0	-2,000	-100.00%
Translation & Interpretation	0	0	0	1,000	0	-1,000	-100.00%
Postage	18	0	0	20,000	0	-20,000	-100.00%
Freight	0	0	0	15,000	0	-15,000	-100.00%
Social Activities							
President Reception	0	0	0	5,000	0	-5,000	-100.00%
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Convention Centre	0	0	5,000	60,000	0	-60,000	-100.00%
Convention Operation	373	-581	5,000	200,000	0	200,000	-100.00%
Transportation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Ceremonies	0	0	0	1,000	0	-1,000	-100.00%
Local Arrangements Committee	310	3,279	3,000	0	0	0	0.00%
Supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
	8,032	7,586	13,000	549,500	0	549,500	-100.00%
Revenue	0	0	0	-5,000	0	5,000	-100.00%
Delegate Fees	0	0	0	-75,000	0	75,000	-100.00%
SUB-TOTAL	8,032	7,586	13,000	469,500	0	469,500	-100.00%
Provision	0	0	0	-200,000	150,000	350,000	-175.00%
SUB TOTAL	8,032	7,586	13,000	269,500	0	269,500	-100.00%
Recoveries	0	0	0	-70,000	0	70,000	-100.00%
Total	8,032	7,586	13,000	199,500	0	199,500	-100.00%
COMMITTEE (FROM 15A)	0	3,035	100	10,500	7,000	-3,500	-33.33%
TOTAL CONVENTION AND COMMITTEE	8,032	10,621	13,100	210,000	157,000	-53,000	-25.24%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Convention Committee

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	1,362	0	8,000	5,000	-3,000	-37.50%
Per Diem	0	1,674	0	2,500	2,000	-500	-20.00%
Printing, Stationery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Postage	0	0	100	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	0	3,036	100	10,500	7,000	-3,500	-33.33%

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Poppy & Remembrance Committee

<u>COMMITTEE</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>BUDGET VARIANCE</u>			
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>%</u>		
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Postage & Office	4,519	4,721	4,500	0	5,000	5,000	100.00%	New partners - more poppy sent out	
Telephone and Fax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%		
Miscellaneous	197	338	500	500	500	0	0.00%		
TOTAL	4,716	5,059	5,000	500	5,500	5,000	100.00%		
<u>EUROPE ZONE</u>									
<u>NATIONAL CEREMONIES</u>									
Travel	5,248	4,502	0	5,500	5,500	0	0.00%		
Per Diem	1,490	9,449	0	8,500	9,500	1,000	11.76%		
Printing, Stationery	529	536	500	600	600	0	0.00%		
Telephone, Postage	346	509	500	500	550	50	10.00%		
Meeting, Planning	0	0	200	500	500	0	0.00%		
St. John's Ambulance	0	0	500	500	500	0	0.00%		
Ceremonies Operations	3,591	9,158	1,000	3,700	4,500	800	21.62%		
TOTAL	11,204	24,154	2,700	19,800	21,650	1,850	9.34%		
Remembrance Reception	22,623	12,128	12,000	12,600	14,700	2,100	16.67%		
P&W & Other Commemorative Items	50,750	63,569	0	0	68,000	68,000	100.00%	Poppy Drop	
Silver Cross Mother	6,750	8,286	5,000	6,700	8,700	2,000	29.85%		
Cadet of the Year	15,210	15,046	8,000	17,000	25,000	8,000	47.06%	New this year - Junior Canadian Rangers	
Total	95,333	99,029	25,000	36,300	116,400	80,100	220.66%		
Total - Committee & National Remembrance Ceremony	111,253	128,242	50,450	56,600	143,550	86,950	154%		

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

Centenary Committee

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Projects						45,000	0	100%
Travel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Printing & Office	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Telephone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	45,000	45,000	100.00%

2025 Forecasted Budget Total (Total of \$100,000 allocated to the committee for project initiation) - \$25,000 budget for each year leading to 2026

Completion of Centenary Documentary CANVET - \$5,000 (early 2025)

Centenary Website Timeline CANVET - \$5,000 (2025)

Centenary Medal Sample funding - \$5,000 (2025)

War Museum Exhibit - \$25,000 (2025)

Centenary Merchandise Sample - \$5,000 (2025)

Centenary Book - \$10,000 (2025-2026)

Legion Gala - \$25,000 (2026)

Legion Anniversary Day - \$10,000 (2026)

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

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION-DOMINION COMMAND

EDI Committee

	2022	2023	2023	2024	2024	2025	BUDGET VARIANCE	
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	BUDGET	\$	%
Travel	0	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0.00%
Per Diem	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
Other								
Projects	0	0	0	0	2,000	2,000	0	0.00%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	500	500	0	0.00%
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	5,500	5,500	0	0.00%

*Additional training might be required

Event Attendance Report Bruce Julian

Runup Events and DEC Nov. 20th – 25th , 2023

A series of events and meetings concluding with a successful DEC. Along with the usual discussions, reports, and protocols

RCEL inspections in conjunction with the “Legion Presidents Cruise” Feb. 7th – 26th 2024

Conducted RCEL inspections, visits and ceremonial events in Jamaica, St. Lucia, Tobago, Grenada and Antigua along with hosting the “Dominion Presidents Caribbean Cruise” organized by Blowes & Stewart.

DEC along with pre and post activities April 18th – May 1st

Attended various ceremonial events pre-DEC. Attended what I thought at the time was a very successful DEC, also attended by most PED’s and DEC members spouses. However subsequent events have significantly “tarnished” those thoughts.

Conducted interviews and completed the hiring process for the position of “Director of Supply Services”

Royal British Legion & Royal British Legion (Scotland) Conventions May 08th-19th, 2024

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

Installation Of Officers Wasaga Beach Br.645 (new charter) May 26th, 2024

D-Day Commemorations Normandy France May 31st – June 10th

At the invitation of Veterans Affairs, I attended as a member of the Canadian Delegation, the commemoration ceremonies and related events of the D-Day landings and Normandy Campaign.

Videotaping at Legion House & Rideau Hall networking invitation June 12th – 14th

Indigenous Remembrance Ceremony and CIMVHR meeting Ottawa June 19th – 22nd

RCEL/RCL Convention “recie” Ottawa June 26th – 29th 2024

Attended along with RCEL representatives and Legion House participants convention planning sessions and potential convention participant activities.

St. Johns Newfoundland Commemoration June 30th – July 2nd 2024

Attended 100th anniversary commemorative ceremonies at the National War Memorial and the re-interment at the tomb of the unknown warrior and associated events.

Legion Nationals, Calgary Alberta August 8th- 12th, 2024

This was an incredible, well-organized, well-run event...local participation was excellent, the athlete’s level of competition was of the highest level and their sportsmanship was outstanding. Everywhere I went the RCL was thanked for our sponsorship. The commemorative events were well attended and appreciated.

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

Warriors Day Parade CNE Toronto Aug 17th, 2024

Dominion Convention Saint John NB Aug. 22nd – 29th

Finance, Budget, and Investment Committee Meetings. Sept. 26th-29th, 2024

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

Emergency DEC meeting Oct. 15th – 16th

Interviews and selection for National Executive Director Oct. 17th – 19th

Interviews were held and a new National Executive Director was selected.

Congratulations Randy

Grand Opening and Dedication
The Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

Comrades, it was an honour and a pleasure to represent our Dominion President at the grand opening of Br. 25 in Sault Ste. Marie on Friday, November 1 of this year. Our then Dominion Vice President, Comrade Garry Pond, had been scheduled to attend and there were last minute extenuating circumstances that prevented Comrade Garry from attending and I was asked to represent our President and Dominion Command at this very special and memorable event.

As I was a last minute replacement I made arrangements to meet with the Branch President and Project Leader, Comrade Pierre Breckinridge on the evening prior to the opening and he briefed me on the events and provided me with a brief history of events that led to the construction and opening of the new complex. Comrade Pierre was very appreciative of having a Dominion representative in attendance for their event and provided me with a verbal history as to how they made it to this point. I went back to the hotel and prepared my notes for my address to those in attendance the next day.

On Friday, we arrived at the Branch plenty early and it was fortunate that we did as parking was at a premium. I met many of the Branch members and members of the Building Committee, all of whom were very excited about the upcoming opening and dedication. I was introduced to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland, PC, MP and Official Party, other local politicians, other invited guests and Mr. Sam Biasucci, owner of the construction and development company that undertook this very extensive project. We toured the complex, including one apartment unit that is occupied by a couple who are both Veterans. With all that I was shown, I was absolutely impressed with what the Branch had undertaken and accomplished. This final result is a perfect example of what can be accomplished when you put together the right people, for the right reasons with one mutually beneficial goal in mind.

Comrades, I will pass around a photo of the building for you to see and the building is nine floors tall, has 108 units, is fully occupied and has a waiting list in the hundreds. They have a huge club room, meeting room, museum, office facilities and multi-purpose rooms. During my presentation, I brought greetings from Dominion Command, thanked the Veterans, thanked the members and thanked all others in attendance and I then spoke of the amazing facilities that they were now occupying and the efforts of all involved in getting to this point.

In closing, it was very nice for Laurie and I to meet with and reminisce with former Dominion Vice President, Comrade Andre Paquette and his wife, who are residents of this new facility.

Bill Chafe

Dominion Chair

ITEM 9: NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. National Headquarters Staffing

Category	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Permanent	35	42	45	42	41
Long-term Contract	7	4	4	2	2
Short-term Contract	0	3	1	0	0
Temp/Casual	1	0	0	0	0
Total	43	49	50	44	43

a. Notes:

- Permanent personnel:
 - One vacancy: Poppy & Remembrance
 - One on maternity leave: Financial Services (not included in totals)
 - One on paternity leave: Supply (not included in totals)
- Long-term contract personnel:
 - One in Financial Services to cover a maternity leave
 - One in Supply to cover a paternity leave
- New personnel:
 - Veterans Services: Amanda Case, Assistant Service Officer

b. Retirements

- Joan Elliott (2024)
- Steven Clark (2025)

c. Resignations

- Will Royle accepted the position as Service Officer with ON Command (Eastern Ontario region)

d. Significant Staff Anniversaries in 2024:

- Karen Taylor Lopez, 15 years
- Dion Edmonds, Marketing & Communications, 10 years
- Randy Hayley, Corporate Services, 10 years
- Shelby Sutherland, Poppy & Remembrance, 10 years
- Melissa Griffin, Financial Services, 10 years
- Jordan Strathearn, IT, 10 years
- Tiffany Patterson, Financial Services, 10 years

- e. Christmas Leave Period.** Legion House will close for the Christmas / New Year's period on Friday, 20 December 2024 and reopen for business on Wednesday, 2 January 2025.

3. **Legion House**

- a. **Legion House Maintenance Plan, 2022 – 2024.** Since April 2024, Legion House has completed 11 preventative or planned maintenance projects and 6 corrective maintenance projects. These unplanned maintenance projects were mostly the result of an aging HVAC system. The building department will re-evaluate the Legion House Maintenance Plan with the understanding that the building has reached an age in its life cycle which will require more repairs.
- 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
HVAC / Plumbing Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned: Repair Boiler • Unplanned: Repair AC • Planned: Replace leaking seals on heating system • Planned: Replace 3 actuators • Unplanned: Replace seals on heating system • Unplanned: Emergency heating system repair • Unplanned: Flooding in warehouse – heavy rain • Planned: Repair Urinal in Men’s Washroom 	\$396.40 \$678.23 \$2,353.65 \$1,305.82 \$3,707.16 \$1,751.50 \$1,988.80 \$1,028.30	Completed
Door Repair	Planned: Repair several doors (locks and closure systems) in building	\$3,193.31	Completed
Window Repair	Planned: Repair windows in CANVET that experienced water intrusion and damage	\$2,712.00	Completed
Interior Repairs	Unplanned: Significant water damage in the 3 rd and 1 st floor washrooms due to leaking seals in the heating system. Required to open up the ceiling and walls	\$12,000 (estimate)	In Progress

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
Exterior Repairs	<p>Preventative / Planned (although costs were much more than anticipated): Exterior building repairs were completed to prevent water from intruding in the building and causing greater damage. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof and re-caulk areas around front entrance • Repair front steps • Sand and re-paint metal staircase • Catch Basin Cleanout 	\$12,189.88	Completed
Electrical Repair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned: Replaced outdoor light fixture for front monument. • Planned: Replace outdoor light fixtures due to water damage. • Unplanned: Repair Inuksuk light fixture • Planned: Replace 4 new canopy LED pot lights in entrance 	<p>\$1,574.09</p> <p>\$4,319.43</p> <p>\$2,610.30</p> <p>\$1,240.02</p>	Completed
Flagpole	<p>Planned: Replace flagpole ropes with new ropes</p>	\$3,248.00	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 2025.

AC Conditioning Replacement. As outlined below, the Legion House AC unit is overdue for a complete replacement. The contract has been secured and replacement will take place in the Spring of 2025. Johnson Controls will complete the replacement at a reduced cost (in comparison to other suppliers).

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	COST / ESTIMATE	STATUS
A/C Unit Replace	Scheduled for Spring 2025	\$156,230.17 + electrical & HST	Scheduled
Backflow Prevention Program	The City of Ottawa is conducting a review of our buildings (and surrounding buildings) backflow prevention systems. A survey has been completed and we are waiting on a report from the city. *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.	\$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	2025

4. **Supply**

- a. Sales as of the end of October 2024 are:

	2021	2022	2023	2024
	Sales	Sales	Sales	Sales
JANUARY	\$ 91,288.70	\$ 84,406.45	\$ 128,218.01	\$ 152,780.57
FEBRUARY	\$ 84,834.67	\$ 99,299.60	\$ 147,935.97	\$ 148,231.99
MARCH	\$ 114,830.20	\$ 169,073.14	\$ 227,715.07	\$ 157,056.35
APRIL	\$ 140,054.47	\$ 164,223.14	\$ 195,650.46	\$ 241,885.64
MAY	\$ 126,255.75	\$ 194,899.36	\$ 229,400.72	\$ 245,681.45
JUNE	\$ 142,272.51	\$ 193,236.83	\$ 217,031.46	\$ 209,525.24
JULY	\$ 190,924.32	\$ 122,392.90	\$ 123,548.45	\$ 149,572.78
AUGUST	\$ 195,464.24	\$ 152,550.21	\$ 220,693.15	\$ 173,802.69
SEPTEMBER	\$ 375,110.08	\$ 317,162.05	\$ 364,945.40	\$ 354,298.43
OCTOBER	\$ 659,387.14	\$ 596,039.25	\$ 860,098.27	\$ 837,216.46
	\$ 2,120,422.08	\$ 2,093,282.93	\$ 2,715,236.96	\$ 2,670,051.60
				-2%
NOVEMBER	\$ 724,252.80	\$ 574,155.62	\$ 740,888.69	\$ -
DECEMBER	\$ 172,793.30	\$ 160,152.41	\$ 157,245.28	\$ -
	\$ 3,017,468.18	\$ 2,827,590.96	\$ 3,613,370.93	\$ 2,670,051.60

b. Year to date Update:

Branch

- 2023 (Jan-Oct): 8,277 orders generating \$1,495,712.42
- 2024 (Jan-Oct): 7,741 orders generating \$ 1,522,235.71 (+2%)

Member (including Poppystore orders)

- 2023 (Jan-Oct): 3,350 orders generating \$210,576.73
- 2024 (Jan-Oct): 3,033 orders generating \$201,525.57 (-4%)

Poppystore (excluding Member orders)

- 2023 (Jan-Oct): 22,674 orders generating \$1,048,317.50
- 2024 (Jan-Oct): 23,301 orders generating \$947,042.46 (-3%)

- c. Poppy, Wreath and Promotional material sales were up 4.5% (\$3,293,583) year over year.
- d. 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.
- e. New products added this year included Battle of the Atlantic, Italian Campaign, cross bags, seed cards, apron, ornament, mug, jackets, blue cardigan, toque and lawn signs.

- f. Supply worked very closely with other departments on the launch of Amazon which has provided us with \$125,000 in revenue to date. Currently getting ready to send more products to catch the holiday season.

5. Marketing and Communications

a. Communications

The final quarter focused on communications and media needs related to the Remembrance period including the First Poppy presentation to the Governor General, the National Poppy Campaign and Remembrance Day: prepared speaking notes, created and disseminated media releases, wrote Remembrance notes for regional tailoring, speeches for the President, handled interview preparation and timely responses for media, provided media relations support and public materials for the National Silver Cross Mother, created a new efficient editable template for the national Remembrance Day Ceremony media backgrounder, and produced quotes, written items or information reviews for partner communications.

The department also supported key events such as CIMVHR and the Dominion Convention. National letters were written for events like welcoming the new head of the Royal British Legion and introducing Legion Week 2024.

The department successfully launched the PR campaign for Amazon storefront, helping distribute over 20K lapel Poppies and generating over \$200K in total revenue (poppies and store merchandise) during the Poppy Campaign.

b. Direct Mail Marketing

The third Direct mailer of the year was sent in October to past members. The campaigns are driving renewals as seen by membership being up over 6% (over 2K members) year over year. Mailers also solicit member email which continues to grow (65% of membership).

c. Email Marketing

Email renewal reminders continue to be sent to members with an email on file on a consistent basis throughout the year. Legion HQ currently has 168K emails on file. The department also continues to issue branch and member newsletters via email each month. Emails are proving to be quite successful: the 2024 industry average for non-profit emails show a 27% open rate for large organizations (46% for small orgs) and 3% click rate vs ours which have a 56.5% open rate and 7.1% click rate. Records indicate an additional 8300 members have invalid emails in our system. 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 general revenue through membership acquisition as well as Poppy Store Sales. The final quarter focused on promotion of remembrance and driving online Poppy Donations. As of 20 November, we surpassed the total online donations from all of 2023 and expect to finish up 20% year over year.

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 October, over 40K new/reinstated members have joined! We also leveraged TV and Radio spots to promote remembrance ceremonies from 1 October to 11 November. With nearly 900 branch ceremonies uploaded to Legion.ca, ads assisted in generating over 52k website visits and 35,500 ceremony searches between 25 October and 11 November.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 November 2024**

File: 65-1

B. Lawrence	-	Chair
B. Chafe	-	Member
C. Pederson	-	Member
G. Pond	-	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: 5 July 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

There are no action items for consideration.

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 mandated priority "Elimination of the Marriage Over 60 Clause", for details on the Veterans Survivor Fund, for increased access and improvements to Veterans Independence Program and long term care, that VAC immediately grant four-fifths or full disability entitlement for any awarded or pensioned disabilities in keeping with the updated Adjudication Manual from 23 February 2018, and various other departmental benefits and programs.

2. Legislation

VAC benefits come under the purview of the *Pension Act*, the *New Veterans Charter* and now the *Well-Being Act*. The resulting layers of legislation in multiple different and overlapping benefits and programs, depending upon when a Veteran applies for a disability benefit, creates many differences and much confusion for Veterans and their families. Recommendations for fairness for all Veterans, from the Minister's

Advisory Groups have largely been ignored. We continue to advocate for all Veterans to receive lifelong financial stability.

INFORMATION ONLY ITEMS

For information, the Committee has supported five Poppy Funds requests and forwarded them to Poppy and Remembrance for approval. They include:

- Heroes in Mind Advocacy & Research Consortium for an additional \$200K for the extension to complete program, Resilient Parents Resilient Communities. Given the aftermath of COVID, deployment and exercise schedules of 3rd Canadian Division, forest fires in Alberta, and socio-economic pressures the development and implementation were delayed. The Committee supported as a one-time request for additional funds.
- The Canadian Institute of Education and Research in Counselling (CERIC) requested \$5000. They are an organization dedicated to advance education, research and advocacy in career counselling and development. They have developed a guide for career practitioners regarding hiring veterans and have asked for \$5,000 for printing. They will have free printed copies of the guide to handout to 1,000 career professionals at Cannexus.
- PepperPod had two funding requests. The first is the BuildHERS Program for \$46,200 for the material construction of an Outdoor Classroom. The second is the EmpowHER Program for \$49,900 per year for three years for various physical, social and mental health programs.
- Ways to Wellbeing requested \$12,500 to distribute their documentary, Healing Trauma documentary. In 2021, they received \$15K from Dominion Command towards filming the documentary. This funding would allow them to edit, add images, videos and music and purchase movie posters and other promotional material to ultimately play the documentary at various film fests.
- The Concussion Legacy Foundation and Project Enlist (Operation Brain Health) requested \$450K over three years (\$150K a year). The goal of the program is to develop a national strategy to support and improve brain injury awareness, prevention, and treatment as well as the rehabilitation and recovery of persons living with a brain injury.

CONCLUSION

This is my report and I move for its adoption.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 35-1

Derek Moore	- Vice-Chair
Dave Velichko	- Member
David Doucette	- Member
Craig Thomson	- Member
Sharon McKeown	- Member
Lia Taha Cheng	- Coordinator
Nicole Thomas	- Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 6 November 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Spring 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – THE PEPPER POD

The Pepper Pod supports women in the Canadian Veteran community—including women Veterans, soon-to-be Veterans, and spouses of Veterans. Founded by Sandra Perron, Canada’s first female infantry officer, The Pepper Pod offers a safe space for women to come together, bond over shared experience, and find support tailored especially for them. They have requested support for two programs: BuildHERs and EmpowHER.

The BuildHERs program aims to teach women Veterans basic building and landscaping skills, enhance the confidence, pride, sense of belonging, and personal wellness of women Veterans through learning new skills and coming together, and build a stronger community of women Veterans.

The EmpowHER program will invite and encourage women Veterans to participate in a variety of physical, social, and mental program options throughout the year aimed at supporting and enhancing their wellness. The program is a combination of regular events, workshops, and activities offered throughout the year to women Veterans, serving women, and for some events, their families.

The Pepper Pod has requested \$46,200 for the BuildHERs program and \$49,900 per year for 3 years for the EmpowHER program. The Pepper Pod previously received \$5,000 in 2023 for life jackets to support a stand-up paddle boarding event.

These applications were reviewed by the Veterans, Service and Seniors (VSS) Committee who recommended that both requests for funds be approved. The

Poppy and Remembrance Committee concurred with this recommendation. However, it was noted that BuildHERs program was completed over the summer; therefore, the funding commitment is contingent on the actual financial needs of the project.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$46,200 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the BuildHERs program be approved for 2024 only if the funds are still required at this time. If the full requested amount is no longer needed, the Committee is recommending to only approve the balance of funds that were not able to be raised through other sources.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Veteran Support Partnership Program funding request of \$49,900 per year for 3 years from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the EmpowHER program be approved for 2024, with ratification required for each of the two successive years.

2. REQUEST FOR FUNDING – CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM

The Canadian War Museum is Canada's national museum of military history. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the Museum is developing a new exhibition: Last Voices of the Second World War. This exhibition will build on the In Their Own Voices project and will feature recently conducted interviews, allowing the public to hear personal stories and experiences in firsthand accounts.

The Canadian War Museum has requested \$100,000 to support the development of the content and display for the Last Voices of the Second World War exhibition. The War Museum previously received the following funds from The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion Command:

- 2023: \$50,000: Witness to History program
- 2022: \$50,000: Witness to History program
- 2021: \$100,000: In Their Own Voices project
- 2020: \$50,000: Online Remembrance module

The Committee reviewed the application and determined that they would like to provide \$50,000 to support the Last Voices of the Second World War exhibition.

RECOMMENDATION: That \$50,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for the Canadian War Museum's Last Voices of the Second World War exhibition be

approved.

3. REQUEST FOR FUNDS – POPPY STORIES 2025

For a third 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 on PoppyStories.ca, Canadians were introduced to a fallen Veteran with a story to remember. The 2024 iteration of Poppy Stories paid homage to fallen members of the Royal Canadian Airforce (RCAF) to recognize its 100th anniversary.

The Poppy and Remembrance Division requested \$50,000 to continue with Poppy Stories by making it available again in 2025 and exploring the possibility of incorporating videos. 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 for 2025 be approved.

4. REQUEST FOR FUNDS – MARKETING THE POPPY CAMPAIGN 2025

The marketing department will once again actively promote the Poppy Campaign through a series of social media and on-line initiatives as part of the 2025 marketing plan.

Below are the details on the initiatives taking place between October and November 2025.

- Social media paid ads (X/Facebook): \$100,000
- Paid media buy (Connected TV) which will air the Legion’s TV ad on streaming sites like Corus, Bell Media, Bloomberg, CBC Gem, and more to encourage moment of silence/visit a local Ceremony on November 11: \$75,000

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is in support of this request.

RECOMMENDATION: That the funding request of \$175,000 from the Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund for marketing the Poppy Campaign be approved.

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 to ensure we continue to expand the reach of

Remembrance. Following a new collaboration with Amazon and existing partnerships with TD Bank and Starbucks, the committee will evaluate their effectiveness and determine the way ahead for 2025. As the Pay Tribute contract with RBC is coming to an end, the Committee is looking at redesigning the tap-enabled Poppy boxes for 2025. The Committee is also working on launching cardboard Poppy boxes in 2025 to continue to reduce the Legion's environmental footprint.

2. POPPY TRADEMARK

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is continuing to work 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. BRANCH STATUS REPORT

The Poppy and Remembrance Committee is continuing the 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**

23 NOVEMBER 2024

File: 23-1

S. McKeown	-	Chair
R. LaRose	-	Member
D. McCumber	-	Member
L. McClellan	-	Member
R. Cutbush	-	Member
R. Taylor	-	-Member
J. MacIsaac	-	-Member
D. Redden	-	-Member
A. Black	-	-Committee Coordinator
R. Hayley	-	-Assistant Committee Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: October 30th, 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Last week of February 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

1-RECOMMEDATION: To offer a complimentary one-year membership to any new member joining the Legion during the 2026 centenary year. For these new members, no per capita tax or membership fees would be collected or remitted at any level of the organization, including Dominion Command, Provincial Command, Local Branches, and Legion Magazine for the first year.

Please Note: This Centenary member acquisition strategy will require a one-time Dominion Command investment of approximately \$650,000 with a projected full return on investment in 2028. This investment to be funded from current Dominion Investments.

This program is projected to contribute an additional \$563,000 in new revenue by the end of 2030.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. LEGION CENTENARY YEAR 2026

The Membership Committee reviewed and concurred with the proposal to offer a complimentary one-year membership to new members joining during the 2026 centenary year. This initiative is recommended to DEC for approval as an acquisition

strategy to attract and engage new members, with existing members continuing to benefit from programs like Member Perks.

The committee reviewed the following resolution that was passed on August 2024 Convention:

2-DOMINION CONVENTION – RESOLUTION REVIEW UPDATE

At the August 2024 Convention, a resolution was passed regarding the **Online Membership Application** process. This resolution addresses the issue of members joining online and selecting the incorrect membership category.

RESOLUTION FOR SUBMISSION TO DOMINION CONVENTION 2024 ONTARIO COMMAND - Branch #133 SUBJECT: Online Membership Application DOMINION COMMAND NO: ONT 3

WHEREAS members joining on-line are arriving at their branch in the wrong membership category.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the online application be revised so that proof of service be provided for Ordinary membership and proof of relationship be provided for Associate membership.

The Membership Committee discussed privacy concerns related to this resolution and has sought legal counsel to ensure compliance with privacy laws. The committee is currently awaiting further guidance before proceeding.

I move approval of this report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 November 2024**

File: 42-2

G. Pond - Chair
B. Underhill - Member
H. Defazio - Member
K. Andrews - Member
Serge Thibaudeau - Technical Advisor
S. Van Muyen - Coordinator
K. Therien - Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 11 October 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: December 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

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

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

2. **DOMINION MEMBER SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

The Sports Committee has distributed the host instructions for all 2025 Dominion Sports Championships and detailed planning has commenced. The details for the 2025 Dominion Championships are as follows:

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

2026 Dominion Member Sports Championships Bid Process

The Host Branch Call for Applications process for the 2026 Dominion Member Sports

Championships concluded in August 2024. The sports committee will review the submissions and make a selection in January 2025.

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

The 2024 Legion Nationals took place in Calgary, Alberta from 7 - 13 August 2024. A detailed summary of the event can be viewed at the end of this report. In general, post-event surveys and after-action reports indicated that the event was a huge success. The event registered the highest number of athletes at a Legion Nationals ever! A major highlight of the event was welcoming back Mike Trauner as the Legion Nationals Ambassador. Mike once again told his inspirational story to the athletes and participated in the activities throughout the event. In summary, the event delivered and demonstrated the values of the RCL to Canada's youth through the power of sport and the creation of meaningful life experiences.

2025 Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships

The 2025 Legion Nationals will take place in Calgary, Alberta from 6-12 August. The competition will occur at Foothills Athletic Park. The Legion Teams will be housed at the University of Calgary. The Remembrance theme for the 2025 Legion Nationals is under development.

Future Legion Nationals

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

- A. August 6 - 12, 2025. Calgary, AB
- B. August 5 - 11, 2026. Regina, SK
- C. August 4 – 10, 2027. Regina, SK

2028/2029 Legion Nationals Bid Process

The sports committee will be running a bid period for the 2028/2029 Legion Nationals in the Spring / Summer of 2025. The bid handbook for a Legion Nationals, including the bid selection criteria and analysis process, was updated for the last bid proposal. The new bid process was extremely efficient and allowed the sports committee to conduct a fair and objective bid analysis / selection. Therefore, this same process will be conducted for the 2028/2029 Legion Nationals Bid Process.

4. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Sport Committee continues to maintain close liaison with Provincial Command sports representatives by encouraging a reciprocal flow of information and requesting feedback to enhance the Legion's Sports Program.

I move approval of this report.

2024 LEGION NATIONAL YOUTH TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS ***Post – Championship Report***

The 46th Legion National Youth Track and Field Championships took place 7-13 August 2024 in Calgary, Alberta. The total registration was 968 athletes, including 327 Legion sponsored athletes, representing all 10 Provincial Commands, and 641 open category athletes. This was highest number of athletes to attend a Legion Nationals ever! The athletes were supported by 36 Legion sponsored chaperones and 31 Legion sponsored coaches, as well as 121 open category coaches. There were approximately 2,000 spectators, officials, and volunteers from all parts of Canada in attendance which included veterans, both retired and serving, covering all branches of service.

The program continued to consist of, for Legion athletes, instructional clinics, practice sessions, social activities, and the actual meet. For 2024, a remembrance theme of the 10th Anniversary of Afghanistan was prominent throughout. For Provincial Command teams, the highlight of the event was having the opportunity to listen to Mike Trauner, Canadian Forces and Afghanistan Veteran, speak about his experience in Afghanistan and going on to become a decorated athlete.

The Royal Canadian Legion Dominion President attended the event and was the official guest of honour. Additionally, the Royal Canadian Legion Vice-President and Sports Committee Chair, Comrade Brian Weaver, was present throughout the event. In attendance as well was Comrade Rosalind LaRose, AB/NWT Command President. The opening ceremony began with a parade led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Stu McCann, and his Colour Party. The music was provided by piper Jim Ross. Legion teams representing the participating Provincial Commands made for a wonderful opening. Immediately following the ceremony, Dominion Command hosted a reception on-site at Foothills Athletics Park. Further receptions were held at Branch #238 Bowness for the coaches and chaperones on Saturday and Sunday respectively. The closing banquet was hosted at the MacEwan Hall at the University of Calgary on Sunday evening. During the closing banquet, the President's Award, which recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, support, and service to the Legion Nationals program, was presented to Mr. Norman Shelton.

From the opening ceremony through to the closing banquet, Canada's contributions to freedom and the sacrifices of our veterans formed the cornerstone of this event. This was projected through the content of speeches, event publications, local and national media outlets and event paraphernalia sporting the 10th Anniversary of Afghanistan (i.e., on volunteer t-shirts, event bags, hats, bibs, event booklets, etc.). Other areas of remembrance were the medals presented which featured silhouettes that paid tribute to the Afghanistan Veterans. On-site, numerous Afghanistan Veterans were in attendance and were provided an opportunity to present medals. Additionally, two minutes of silence, the act of remembrance, and the laying of a wreath by the guest of honour, were all done during the opening ceremonies.

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

The meet was held from 9-11 August under favourable weather conditions. The facility at Foothills Athletics Park was in excellent condition and enhanced the overall competition. The meet itself was carried out over a full three-day period under the excellent organization of the meet director, Kim Cousins, and the technical advisor, Serge Thibaudeau. Five meet records were broken. The top Legion female athlete, receiving the LeRoy Washburn trophy, was Kiana Charest from Ontario and the top male athlete, receiving the Jack Stenhouse trophy, was Gursher Gabri from British Columbia/Yukon.

Logistically, the cafeteria from the University of Calgary provided all food for the Legion Teams while food trucks provided food at the track. The food provided to the Legion Teams from UofC was excellent throughout the entire week. The quarters used to house the Legion teams were in adequate condition at the University of Calgary.

The Calgary community led by the LAC Chair (Paula McKenzie) and Co-Chair (Jessica Steinbach) worked extremely hard to provide the best possible experience for the athletes, coaches, chaperones, and guests. Additionally, Legion Branch #238 provided exceptional support and hospitality during the chaperones and coaches reception. The entire Calgary community rallied around the program providing a volunteer base of approximately 200 people. Additionally, the Southern Alberta Area, Regional Cadet Support Unit provided support during the opening ceremony, the medal presentations, the closing banquet, photography, and recruitment. Athletics Canada, Calgary Track Council, Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, and Programmed Insurance Brokers Inc. were diamond level sponsors, along side many other local sponsors, who made the event possible.

In summary, the 2024 Legion Nationals was a great success, and the Dominion Sports Committee looks forward to building upon that success during the 2025 Legion Nationals.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
RITUAL AND AWARDS COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
4 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 51-2

B. Kiley - Chair
M.A. Latimer - Vice Chair
E. Tester - Member
T. Chevalier - Member
G. Budden - Member
C. Gendron - Committee Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 31 October 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 28 November 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The Ritual and Award Committee request a formal decision to include the Closure of Conventions as part of the list of events where Legion Dress is to be worn.

Amendment to Section 101 of the RAP manual to read:

Section 101. Legion Dress will be worn while attending any formal Legion function that would include:

- a. Commemorative ceremonies such as Remembrance Day parades, all ceremonies held at Cenotaphs, Decoration Day and Memorial Day, Church Parades;
- b. All Tributes and/or funerals of Legion members.
- c. At installation ceremony by those comrades participating in the installation. (i.e. The installing officer, the comrade(s) being installed, the Sergeant-at-arms and members of the Colour Party.
- d. Visits by Command Officers to Branches.
- e. Legion banquets, especially Remembrance banquets.
- f. When representing the Legion at meetings or events other than those of the Legion.
- g. Other occasions where, in the opinion of the body issuing the invitation or instruction.
- h. All Officers or Executive members occupying a position at the Head Table of any Legion function.
- i. Members of the Colour Party, including the Party Commander and Parade Commander.
- j. Convention business sessions, opening **and closing ceremonies**.
- k. Where appropriate.

a. Business Occasions - Convention business sessions, excluding the opening **and closing ceremonies**. - Various Legion meetings, i. e. Executive, General and Special (Note: Shirt must also be worn with black shoes, grey trousers for males and black shoes, grey hose, grey knee length skirts or slacks for females.) b. Informal Occasions - Informal Branch events. - Hospital visitations to Veterans.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

Amendments to the Ritual and Award manual to include a Memorial Decommissioning ceremony under Chapter 6.

Award submissions since last report for RCL convention Jul 2024:

COMMAND	MSM	Palm to MSM	MSA	Palm to MSA
BC/Yukon		2		
Man & NW Ont		1		
NL & Labrador	1			
NS/ Nunavut	1			
Ontario	2		1	
Saskatchewan	1			

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

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 17-2

**D. Gordon - Chair
D. Eaton - Vice Chair
J. Boone - Member
B. Chafe - Member
G. Della Valle - Member
R. Hayley - Committee Coordinator
T. Backer - Assistant Committee Coordinator**

DATE OF LAST MEETING: October 30, 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

There are no action items for consideration.

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.

ARTICLE III

The Committee is launching the communication pieces for the updated Article III bylaws ratified at Dominion Convention.

The Committee continues to review all aspects of our General Bylaws including our Article III process to ensure they remain current with the requirements of our evolving organization.

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

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
RCEL COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 26-2-4

**B. Lawrence - Chair
B. Julian - Vice Chair
S. McKeown - Member
V. MacGregor - Member
G. Pond - Member
S. Clark - Coordinator
C. Racine - Assistant Coordinator**

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 27 September 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 21 November 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The committee will bring forward a funding envelope recommendation for approval for the Individual Assistance Grants, administration grants and Poppy Material needs for Caribbean countries that receive such support. The overall budget forecast for 2025 is \$210,000 which is slightly lower than the 2024 budget of \$223,000.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. The distribution of benevolent payments to Veterans in widows will continue with direct support to Antigua, Bahamas, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
2. Discussions surrounding the end of the RCEL mandate continue to take place along with consideration as to how the role and participation of RCL may evolve when this occurs post 2027.
3. As previously confirmed, RCL will be hosting the 2025 Conference between 29 June 2025 to 3 July 2025. This is anticipated to be the last conference RCEL conducts. Planning is well underway to ensure this event is a success as it will bring significant worldwide attention the Royal Canadian Legion.
4. Monitoring and welfare visits to Jamaica and Bahamas took place in February and March 2024. Other islands in receipt of financial assistance and poppy materials were visited in February 2023. Future visits to the islands we support may be considered. Should RCEL find itself unable to continue support to the Caribbean nations, further discussions would then take place for RCL to resume its full support to the Caribbean which has been the case historically from 1966 and up until 2020.

5. The Legion's President Cruise will be scheduled for 2026 to coincide with bi-annual visits, to include official visits with dignitaries and to officiate wreath laying ceremonies in memory of the WWII Veterans and all fallen Veterans.
6. The RCEL Annual Report is attached for further information.

I move the approval of this report.

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Message from the Grand President

General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux
GCB CBE DSO DL

At the time of writing, it is a year since the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, watched by millions around the world, and particularly across the Commonwealth.

I had the honour and privilege to participate in the Coronation carrying the Sword of Spiritual Justice, which signifies the Monarch's role as a spiritual figurehead to uphold spiritual values, promote justice and serve as a guiding force for their subjects. Following a review of Royal Patronages, I was delighted to be informed that His Majesty had accepted the Patronage of the League marking the first anniversary of Their Majesties' Coronation. I am both proud and honoured that His Majesty wishes to continue the incredible link between the League and The Royal Family over the last century.

The other highlight of the past year has been successfully securing a 3-year extension to the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office's (FCDO) Commonwealth Veterans Programme to March 2027 and just under £6M of further Government support. This positive outcome has only been possible with the unstinting work of our Member Organisations to ensure that lifesaving grants reach veterans and widows, often in difficult circumstances. I highlight particularly our volunteer Caseworkers who are on the front line of the League's operations, and I thank them all for the selfless work they undertake every day.

The £12.3M of funds we received from the Government over the initial 5 years of the Commonwealth Veterans Programme has made a wonderful difference to the lives of so many veterans and widows across the Commonwealth, lifting thousands out of poverty and providing a nutritious diet.

This enhanced support could not have come at a more important moment given both the Coronavirus Pandemic and the subsequent inflationary cost of living crisis affecting us all for the past 4 years.

I would also like to record my personal thanks to Lieutenant Colonel Chris Warren, our previous Secretary General for his exemplary leadership and commitment, successfully steering the League through a pivotal time in its history. I was delighted with the news that he had been recognised for his sterling service with the award of a thoroughly well-deserved Officer of the Order of The British Empire (OBE) for services to Commonwealth Veterans.

I look forward to Chairing the 35th Conference in Ottawa in the summer of 2025, hosted by The Royal Canadian Legion, which will be a key decision point as the Member Organisations determine the future of the League beyond 2027. Preparations are already underway, and you will have received the initial instructions and programme.

I conclude by thanking our generous supporters, particularly those that make up the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee: The Royal British Legion, The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, The Army Benevolent Fund and The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund. They have stood shoulder to shoulder with us over many years and this moral and financial support was a key factor in securing our FCDO extension.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lord Richards'.



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

I begin by thanking our Grand President, General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL, for his message opening this Annual Report and for both his and Lady Richards ongoing, deep commitment to the League. That ongoing guidance and influence has, once again, helped us maintain the Commonwealth Veterans Programme going forward beyond 2025.

This report covers the fifth and final year of the original Commonwealth Veterans Programme culminating in our fifth A grade. For a challenging UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Aid programme this is a remarkable achievement. An achievement which again would simply not be possible without the remarkable energy and dedication of you, the Member Organisations across the Commonwealth, and our small but perfectly formed London staff. Since 2019, with UK Government and the Service Charities support, we have now succeeded in lifting out of absolute poverty, 7,290 veterans and their widows. This is the quantitative impact of all our 'aid' and higher than our forecast of 7,000 back in 2018. Indeed, the number of beneficiaries supported is greater than this as three of the countries we have funded are not in the Commonwealth Veterans Programme. Together we have worked to reduce poverty and tackle hunger and malnutrition, in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. This is an achievement which we should be proud of and demonstrates the power of UK Aid when working in partnership to deliver a programme across the Commonwealth. It also demonstrates vividly that we have not forgotten those who served our Nation many years ago, nor their widows.

As the Grand President has reported, a major achievement, and it has to be said a huge relief, in the last few months has been the successful award of a 3-year extension to our Commonwealth Veterans Programme funding out to 2027. This will allow us to continue to support

our veterans and widows with the enhanced 2 meals a day grants that they have benefitted from over the past 5 years.

Of the utmost importance now is we focus firmly on how we continue to support our beneficiaries beyond 2027. We have, as you all know, begun planning options for our future beyond 2027 whether that be some form of merger, or a drawdown and closure of the League. Key to any successful merger will be to ensure that our governance and structures are resilient. We have made progress in this area over the last year and have reduced the number of Trustees to 11 from 15 and the size of the Executive Committee to 12 from 21, composed of voting Trustees, to provide a smaller and more agile decision-making body. This leaner and even more effective Board of Trustees is a significant step in the right direction and comprises Trustees elected by Founder Members as well as Trustees elected by the wider membership. I should like to take this opportunity to thank a few individuals who after many years of dedicated service to the League have retired as Trustees: Colonel Mike Bowles; Colonel Paul Davis; Lieutenant Commander Martyn Hawthorn; Mr Andrew Holmes; Colonel Maggie Slattery and Brigadier David Williams. I am delighted that all remain as Council Members for their respective countries so that we can continue to benefit from their wisdom.

Finally, I would like to thank the Senior Management Team, Executive Committee and the core League staff for their incredible commitment and wise council steering the League through a crucial period in its history. I join the Grand President in looking forward to the 35th Conference in Ottawa in 2025 when I shall have the opportunity to thank many of you in person for everything you have done over the past 5 years enabling us to secure the Commonwealth Veterans Programme extension.



Report of the Secretary General Major David Thompson

In March 2024, we successfully completed the fifth and final year of the original Commonwealth Veterans Programme in conjunction with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the detail is covered in this Annual Report. As my predecessor wrote last year, the Deputy Grand President applied in April 2023 for a 3-year extension from April 2024 to March 2027.

We received the news in the summer that our application had been successful and the agreement for the 3-year extension with FCDO was duly signed in October 2023. The FCDO and their team supporting the programme could not have been more encouraging, and we are very grateful to the Government of the United Kingdom for this extension which enables us to continue to support those remaining veterans and widows with the same level of individual grants they have had over the past 5 years. This is fantastic news and is testimony to the hard work of our Member Organisations, many of whom are staffed by volunteers, who have risen to the challenge of additional reporting, governance requirements and online training. I thank them all for rising to this challenge. The financial contribution from our supporters of the Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee has been vital in securing this ongoing support from FCDO and we are very grateful. Had there not been an extension this would have been detrimentally life changing for the thousands of beneficiaries we support.

As we enter the first year of the 3-year extension, we must consider the future of the

League beyond March 2027. There are likely to be some 2,000 beneficiaries, mainly widows, remaining at this point and the League must plan to ensure they continue to be supported either with, or without a further FCDO extension. The first step is to shape options for either a form of merger at some point beyond March 2027, or potentially a drawdown and closure of the charity if this is not possible, to plan for an orderly handover of beneficiaries to the relevant major Service Charities. Planning these options will begin this year with the aim of bringing some firm resolutions to the 35th Conference in Ottawa in 2025. With a firm mandate from the Conference, plans can be developed and implemented over an 18-month period in the run up to March 2027.



The Secretary General with the RCL SCOWP Committee



RCEL HQ Team (minus Camilla) bidding farewell to outgoing Secretary General, Chris Warren

We said a fond farewell to my predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel Chris Warren OBE, after 18 years with the League. He provided outstanding leadership at a demanding time in the League's history and was pivotal in prolonging and enhancing the lifesaving support to thousands of veterans and widows across the Commonwealth. Further details of his tenure at the League are covered separately in the report. His departure has driven several changes in the HQ team. I have stepped up to replace Chris as Secretary General and Colonel Pasan Kularatne has replaced me as Controller Finance. We welcome Dean Burditt to the team as the new Programme Manager having retired from the Army after a career of 26 years. Tim Burt, Controller Welfare and Grants, Camilla John, Finance and Welfare Officer and Harriett Young, our Office Manager all remain in their current posts helping to provide strong continuity in the HQ team.

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III took place on Saturday 6th May at Westminster Abbey. Following the State Funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II last year, the League were again honoured and proud to be invited to parade our Standard along the route of the procession. Colonel Pasan Kularatne, our Standard Bearer,

joined over 100 Royal British Legion Standard Bearers positioned opposite Westminster Abbey and represented the League on both historic occasions. Inside the Abbey our Grand President, General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux GCB CBE DSO DL, participated in the Coronation ceremony carrying the Sword of Spiritual Justice which signifies the Monarch's role as a spiritual figurehead. The Grand President witnessed, first hand, the major historic events of the past 2 years.

I conclude by thanking our Grand President and Deputy Grand President for their commitment and leadership. Very ably supported by our Senior Management Team and Executive Committee we have built a very strong position to take the League forward into the 3-year extension.



Standard Bearer, Pasan Kularatne at the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III



A Lasting Legacy

In January 2024, after 18 years, Chris Warren retired from the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League. During his time with the League - first as Controller Finance and latterly as Secretary General for ten years, Chris oversaw unprecedented change and growth.

It was his transformation of the Charity's structure, efficiency, effectiveness, and governance which enabled the RCEL to secure funding from the, then, Department for International Development (DFID) and subsequently the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which has delivered a life changing enhancement for the elderly and frail Commonwealth veterans and widows. It has enabled them to sustain a nutritious diet, increased their lifespan and provided comfort and dignity in the evening of their lives.

Chris visited 38 countries supported by RCEL over the last 18 years and frequently influenced Heads of Government, Ministers,

High Commissioners, and senior members of the Armed Forces to provide national support for the beneficiaries, solving intricate, often delicate, issues along the way.

Chris was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List 2024 for services to Commonwealth Veterans. This is richly deserved for his significant contribution to RCEL. He leaves RCEL in strong health and with a very capable team led by new Secretary General, David Thompson.

We would like to thank Chris for 18 years of steadfast leadership, commitment, dedication, and friendship and wish him well for his next chapter. Anyone who knows Chris, will not be surprised to hear that this next chapter involves plenty of endurance challenges, starting with trekking in Nepal.

The many messages Chris received from across the Commonwealth on announcing his departure were testament to the respect and admiration he garnered during his tenure.

Chris (right), pictured with his climbing partner and guide, at the summit of Lobouche Peak in Nepal, over 6,000 m in height





Chris in Cameroon, 2010

"Chris Warren has devoted himself to a lifetime of 'service before self', providing exemplary and invaluable service for many years to the RCEL's work throughout the Commonwealth."

Steven Clark, National Executive Director, Canadian Legion

"Throughout his 18 years with RCEL, Chris performed with loyalty and selflessness that went way beyond what would suffice. His devotion to bettering the lives of Commonwealth veterans and their widows has been unstinting and inspirational."

General The Lord Richards of Herstmonceux



Chris meeting veterans and widows in Uganda, 2023

"I have known Chris since his appointment at the League and I must say that his only objectives have been working towards the wellbeing of veterans and widows of the Member Organisations. And he has done this with passion and dedication."

Ex-Service Association of Mauritius

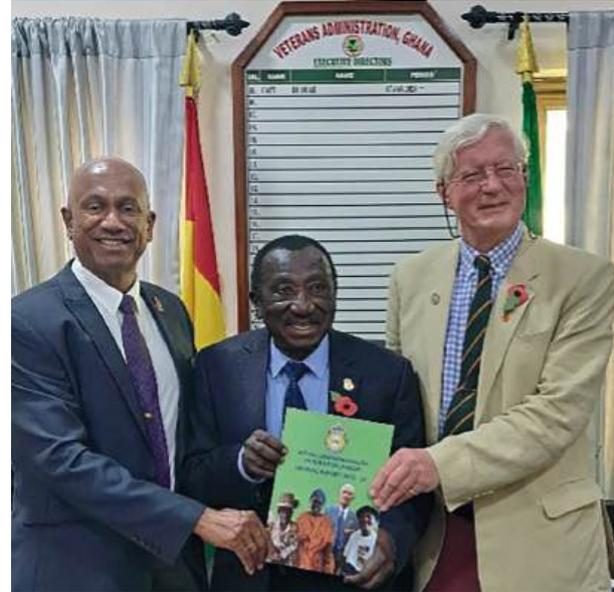


Report of the Honorary Treasurer Mr Jeremy Archer

This report covers the 12-month accounting period to March 2024, the final year of the original Commonwealth Veterans Programme (CVP), into which we entered in partnership with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) (formerly the Department for International Development (DFID)) and signed an Accountable Grant Arrangement (AGA) five years ago.

During the year the HQ Staff conducted 6 Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) visits to Member Organisations to satisfy the contractual requirements of the AGA. The visits were focused on countries which harbour particular risks, require specific assistance or have not been visited for some time. I was privileged to accompany the then-Programme Manager, Pasan Kularatne, on M&E visits to Sierra Leone and Ghana. By doing so, I witnessed how these two Member Organisations operate on the ground and the challenges they were facing. The first-hand experience I gained from these visits has been invaluable. Furthermore, it gave me the opportunity to meet beneficiaries, including some Burma Star Veterans, as the visits coincided with payment tours in both countries.

A significant spend deficit in the first two years of the CVP – borne by our own reserves – was then offset by an underspend in the following two years. The fifth and final year, however, necessitated a higher SCOWP spend than those of the previous two years so that we could deliver on our funding contribution commitment to the CVP over the full term of the original 5-year programme, which ended in March 2024. A key target for this year was



Visiting Veterans Administration Ghana

to carefully manage the total 5-year FCDO/ CVP budget whilst maintaining the same level of support to all our eligible beneficiaries. This has been successfully achieved and we are well placed as we enter the first year of the 3-year extension. Over the last five years, 7,290 veterans and widows have been supported by the CVP.

Due to a decline in external donations, RCEL's income decreased this year compared with the previous year. All the major Service Charities have experienced increased demand for their services, coupled with a decline in income due to economic challenges, including cost of living increases, and geo-political events. This background necessitated a drawdown of £240,000 of our own funds this year versus £175,000 last year to meet our increased proportion of SCOWP grants. Ultimately, we have been able to support more beneficiaries than initially forecast, providing them all with the promised two nutritious meals a day. Other cost lines were tightly controlled and delivered under budget.



I am pleased to report the following progress for 2023/2024:

- Global distribution (including Founder Members) exceeded £2.79M.
- Total income exceeded £2.98M.
- Under the heading of Agency Work, the League distributed £430,409.
- 485 individual welfare cases were met.

We are fortunate to have financially stable, steadfast, and sympathetic supporters, despite the ongoing economic impact of the pandemic across the Service Charity sector. Our two key supporters are The Army Benevolent Fund, who donated £195,000, and The Royal British Legion (TRBL), who donated £240,000. We are not only extremely grateful for TRBL's financial support but also for the provision of office space, associated technological and administrative support in Haig House and the supply of poppies, seals and wreaths to RCEL and our Member Organisations. In addition, we received grants of £30,000 from The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, £20,000 from The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and £20,000 from The Queen Mary's Roehampton Trust.

As reported elsewhere, we were successful in securing a 3-year extension to the CVP from 2024 to 2027 from FCDO for a value of £5.99M. The contribution from the League and major Service Charities to the CVP over this period will be £1.21M. The Commonwealth Veterans Review Committee (CVRC) – chaired by Sir Malcolm Rifkind and General The Lord Richards – was updated by the Deputy Grand President on this success story at the CVRC meeting held in October last year. The Service Charities, the principal supporters of Commonwealth veterans and their widows overseas, agreed in principle to support the CVP extension up to 2027.

I would like to highlight the following key financial milestones of the League in the recent past:

- a. 2015 - LIBOR Grant of £5M.
- b. 2018 - FCDO CVP (Commonwealth Veterans Programme) £11.8M, later increased to £12.3M in 2022.
- c. 2024 - FCDO CVP 3-year extension of £5.99M.

Agency Work, conducted on behalf of UK service charities with a more limited geographic reach than that of the League, comprises a significant proportion of our workload and this will continue, albeit at a declining rate. A decrease in the number of Agency grants disbursed from 544 in 2022/2023 to 485 in 2023/2024 was directly attributable to the increasing age and frailty of those receiving support. Controller Welfare and Grants spends some 40% of his time in direct support of the 26 or so charities to reach their beneficiaries in 20 Commonwealth countries.

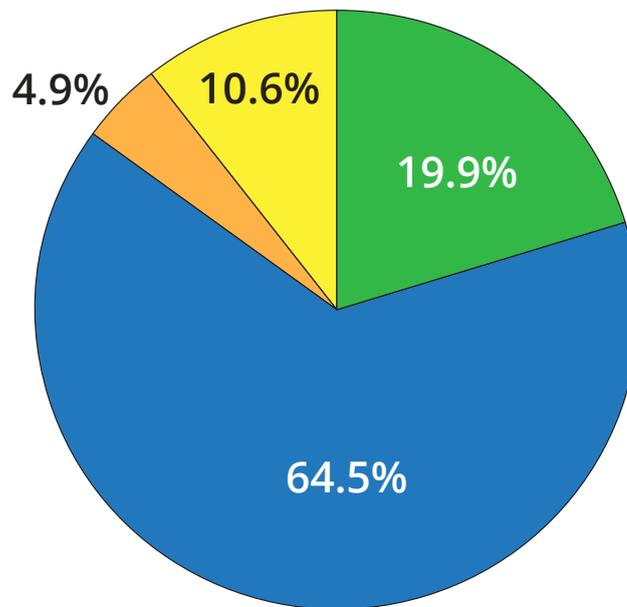
The decline of cases will be exacerbated in coming years as we are in the process of handing back some agency cases to their respective organisations. There will be a further decline in cases as we continue to hand back some agency work to their respective organisations. We have already handed back some 80 Royal Air Force and Royal Navy Agency cases to the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and Royal Naval Benevolent Trust respectively and this will be reflected in Agency numbers in the next financial year.

The contract with our previous auditors, Mazars, ended last year. Following an Audit tender process, we appointed Buzzacott for a 3-year period as our new auditors, and they conducted their first audit on this year's accounts.

Our key objective – to 'help our veterans now, in their hour of greatest need' – remains unchanged. Whilst beneficiary numbers fluctuate, the overall trend is inevitably downwards; nevertheless, a significant number will require our support through to 2025 and beyond. In all our endeavours, we continue to rely on our staunch network of supporters and benefactors.

Welfare Distribution

April 2023 to March 2024



WELFARE DISTRIBUTION for 2022 - 2023

	£	%
1. Africa	1,805,228	64.5
2. Indian Sub Continent	557,411	19.9
3. Caribbean (2)	137,043	4.9
4. Rest of the World (2)	297,358	10.6
TOTAL (1)	2,797,039	100.0

The total of funds distributed to those in need was £2,797,039 and the total number of ex-Service men and women helped by in 2023/2024 was 3,958

Notes:

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

Thank You

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

We would like to particularly acknowledge the following generous supporters:

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



At the heart of Scotland's veterans community

QUEEN MARY'S ROEHAMPTON TRUST
for Disabled Ex-Service Men and Women

Statement of Financial Activities

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Total funds Year ended 31 Mar 2024	Total funds Year ended 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies					
Donations, grants and appeals	563,282	-	505,372	1,068,654	1,211,687
FCDO grant	-	-	1,868,835	1,868,835	2,552,398
Legacies	-	-	-	-	5,000
Income from investments	39,471	135	3,560	43,166	24,930
Total income	602,753	135	2,377,767	2,980,655	3,794,015
Expenditure					
Expenditure on raising funds					
Fundraising costs	43,743	-	-	43,743	52,098
Poppy supplies and freight charges	14,855	-	-	14,855	14,436
	58,598	-	-	58,598	66,534
Expenditure on charitable activities					
RCEL welfare grants	870,591	15,849	558,467	1,444,907	1,228,761
FCDO grant	-	-	1,869,086	1,869,086	2,541,944
Total expenditure	929,189	15,849	2,427,553	3,372,591	3,837,239
Net (expenditure) before investment gains	(326,436)	(15,714)	(49,786)	(391,936)	(43,224)
Gains/(losses) on investments	36,545	-	-	36,545	(22,932)
Net (expenditure) before transfers	(289,891)	(15,714)	(49,786)	(355,391)	(66,156)
Transfers between funds	(30,000)	30,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(319,891)	14,286	(49,786)	(355,391)	(66,156)
Total funds brought forward	1,712,244	36,069	165,245	1,913,558	1,979,714
Total funds carried forward	1,392,353	50,355	115,459	1,558,167	1,913,558

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Intangible assets	2,092	-
Investments	1,202,148	1,373,131
	1,204,240	1,373,131
Current assets		
Debtors	3,740	13,403
Cash at bank and in hand	410,061	577,285
	413,801	590,688
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(59,874)	(50,261)
Net current assets	353,927	540,427
Net assets	1,558,167	1,913,558
Represented by:		
Unrestricted funds	1,392,353	1,712,244
Designated funds	50,355	36,069
Restricted funds	115,459	165,245
	1,558,167	1,913,558



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

Brigadier John King MBE

In April 2023, SCOWP began the fifth and final year of our Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded Commonwealth Veterans Programme, a targeted food-purchase programme to deliver the highest-ever level of welfare grants to our in-poverty beneficiaries. However, the continuing need to deliver our vital food grants and the good work of our Member Organisations across the Commonwealth was recognised by the FCDO and I am pleased to report RCEL was awarded a three-year programme extension to March 2027.

For many veterans and widows in the 23 countries within the programme (and the four outside) our grants, equivalent to the cost of two meals a day in their country, have meant a significant increase in their welfare, beyond RCEL's previous aim of providing one meal a day. Our needy veterans and widows having suffered the restrictions of Covid now continue to endure stubbornly high cost of living, in particular, food.

During 2023, our two-meals-a-day grants were made to 3,473 beneficiaries, a reduction of 15.5% from the 4,114 veterans and widows supported in 2022. RCEL global welfare distribution to Member Organisations exceeded £2.79M including those of other Founder Members and UK Service Charities. This sum included 485 grant payments totalling £433,175 on behalf of some 26 UK-based service charities as Agency work. Our disbursement of grants to Blind Veterans UK (BV UK) continues. Some 81 veterans were supported, a decline since 2022 but this £120 annual grant is highly valued by beneficiaries. BV UK's continued support to blind and partially sighted Commonwealth veterans is gratefully acknowledged.

The Royal Canadian Legion is also gratefully acknowledged for its generosity in 2023, contributing over £118,000 of welfare,

Remembrance supplies and IT services support to Member Organisations in the Caribbean, directly funding 35 beneficiaries in Antigua, The Bahamas, Tobago, and Trinidad & Tobago and part-funding 26 veterans and widows in Jamaica. Our other Founder Members, The Returned & Services League of Australia, The Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association and The South African Legion also contributed significantly to beneficiary welfare.

Although the worst of Covid has passed, the threat of natural disasters is ever present to our beneficiaries so many of whom live in poor, often self-built housing and rely on subsistence farming. Sadly, Cyclone Freddy, an exceptionally long-lived, powerful, and deadly tropical cyclone that traversed the southern Indian Ocean hit southern Malawi during February – March 2023 where incessant rains caused catastrophic flash floods, especially in the south around Blantyre where the majority of our beneficiaries live. Whilst our Member Organisation in Malawi, the Kings African Veterans Trust reported no beneficiary



Malawi: Cyclone Freddy wrecked houses and destroyed crops. SCOWP recovery grants helped veterans and widows rebuild and replant



Malawi: At Zomba, Maj Gen Mitch Mitchell helps a veteran of the Kings African Rifles collect his welfare grant

fatalities, they did ask us to assist veterans and widows whose homes were damaged and crops washed away. I was pleased to approve modest recovery grants to these veterans and widows to repair their homes, replant their crops and get them back on their feet.

In 2023, the Deputy Grand President, Hon Treasurer and office staff undertook several Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) visits to Member Organisations to meet our increasingly aged and less mobile beneficiaries.

During October, Secretary General Chris Warren visited Guyana and Jamaica, his last M&E visit on behalf of RCEL. In these two nations live some 40 of our 75 Caribbean beneficiaries. The work of the Guyana Veterans Legion, the Jamaica Legion and the RCEL Caribbean Project Officer, Major Johanna Lewin provide the means for us to deliver our welfare grants and the grants by other UK service charities to their beneficiaries too. Chris's meetings with British High Commission staff, Prime Ministers and military service chiefs reflect the high regard RCEL is held, much of which is due to his hard work over the years benefitting pre-independence veterans and widows throughout the Caribbean.

Also in October, Deputy Grand President, Maj Gen Mitch Mitchell and Controller Welfare, Tim Burt visited Malawi to review the work of the Kings African Veterans Trust after Cyclone Freddy and to witness the payment of our welfare grants to over 160 veterans and widows. The visit underlined the desperate need for our work to continue, to give a helping hand to veterans and widows without any other means of support.

Tim Burt later went on to Kenya where he met with the Defence Forces Comrades Association, British Legion (Kenya) and staff of the Defence Section, British High Commission, Nairobi. The smooth working of these partners ensures RCEL

welfare grants reach over 500 pre-independence veterans and widows, though sadly but inevitably few WWII veterans remain.

During November, RCEL Honorary Treasurer Jeremy Archer and Programme Manager Pasan Kularatne visited Sierra Leone and Ghana. Sierra Leone Ex-Servicemen's Association delivers grants to over 140 pre-independence veterans and widows with the assistance of RCEL Sierra Leone representative Sam Sahr. Travelling on to Ghana, Jeremy and Pasan were fortunate to visit Accra during Remembrance, taking part with Veterans Administration Ghana in the commemorations attended by several of our beneficiaries, before heading north to Kumasi a former centre of British army recruiting.



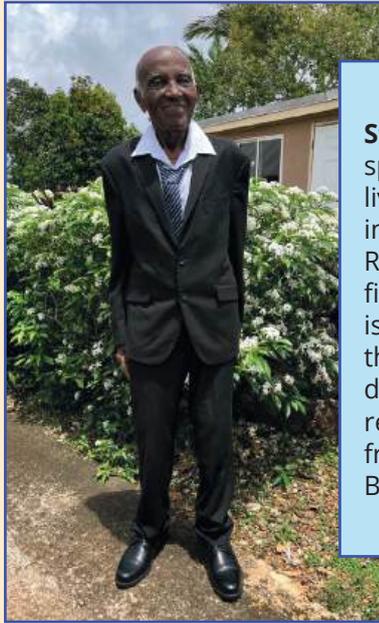
Ghana: Gold Coast Regiment veteran Gustav Ebenezer Amoeteng at home

A summary of all visits can be read in later pages.

Throughout 2023, RCEL's unique network of Member Organisations and partnership with UK Service charities once again delivered vital welfare benefits to our beneficiaries.

SCOWP welfare grants, maintained for a fifth year by FCDO funds, continue to deliver life-changing funds to over 3,400 needy pre-independence veterans and widows throughout the Commonwealth. I am pleased our Member Organisations have put Covid behind them and continue to deliver RCEL welfare grants to beneficiaries, providing reassuring food-security, practical recognition in their later years of those who served the Crown.

Case Studies



Stanley Francis is a sprightly 102-year-old living in the Curphey Home in Jamaica. Stanley was a RAF WWII radar direction finding operator. Stanley is engaging and has the energy of someone decades younger. He receives an annual grant from the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund via RCEL.



Peter Lamboi, 102, was born on Christmas Day 1921 in Sierra Leone. He enlisted in March 1942, and it was through the Army that he learned to read and write. In late 1944, he was shot in the back whilst part of frontline duty in the Arakan campaign in Myanmar during WW2. He spent three months in hospital in India recovering from his wounds. He returned to Sierra Leone in 1945 and was discharged from the Army in 1946.

He later worked for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food as a messenger, retiring in 1999.

"My RCEL grant is very important - without it, I would not have food."

Emeh Lufino, 80, was married to Shadrack Lufino in 1958. He joined the Rhodesian African Rifles in 1945 and was discharged in 1956. He worked as a driver in Lusaka, Zambia but had to retire early after a bad accident. Emeh worked as a domestic assistant and has had a challenging life - all nine of her children have died. She uses her SCOWP grant to buy food. She has problems with her kidneys but cannot always afford the medication required to treat the condition.



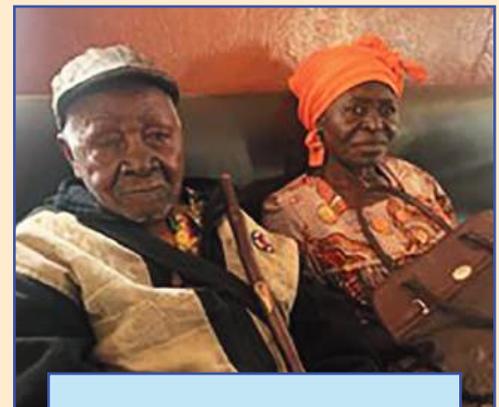
"Thank you for remembering my husband's service. The grant means I can buy food to keep me healthy."



Aamna Khatoon, 85, is the widow of Muhammad Qasim and lives in Karachi, Pakistan. Three years ago, she had a brain haemorrhage which left her partially paralysed and unable to walk. She lives with her daughter who takes care of her.

Mrs Khatoon married at the age of 10 in 1949. She has 9 daughters and 2 sons. Her husband was originally from India and migrated to Pakistan after partition. Her husband joined the Royal Indian Army in August 1942 and discharged in July 1946.

Her welfare grant is spent on food. She has a little support from her widowed daughter who makes clothes at home for living.



Lawan John, 108, (pictured with his wife) is Cameroon's oldest surviving veteran. He was recruited in Enugu Nigeria in 1942 and discharged in 1946. He served in Enugu, Jerusalem, Burma and Bamenda. He lives in Bamenda with his second wife and has four children.

Case Studies



Muhammad Sadiq is 100 years old. He served in the British Army between 1943 and 1947 and the Pakistan Army between 1949 and 1964. He received a Burma Star Medal, but this was destroyed when his house collapsed.

"I use these funds to purchase food. The life is passing in a good manner with the help of these funds. Best wishes and prayers to you all."

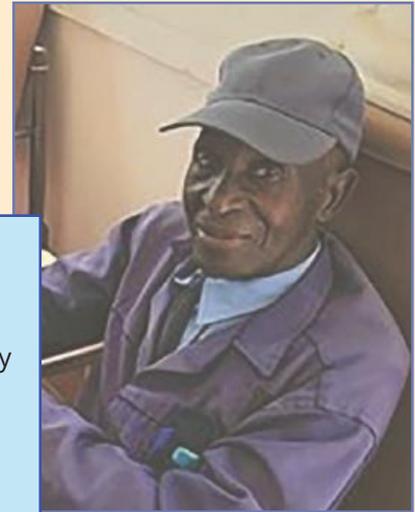


Mary Brown, 99, was married to Frank Brown who was a Captain with the Royal Artillery between 1939 and 1946 when he was demobbed. Sadly, he died at the age of 60 in 1977.

When Mary turned 17, she started her probation as a nurse at Tadworth Court, a country house outside London which had been set up as a hospital.

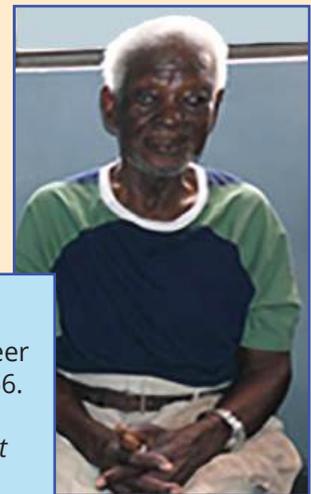
She married Frank in 1944 and they left England in 1946 to settle in Zimbabwe (then Rhodesia) and start a family. Mary is remarkably sprightly for 99-year-old and has a keen sense of humour, loves to talk about her life and is well-read. She still enjoys going out for tea and shopping fortnightly with her granddaughter but admits it leaves her feeling rather tired.

Mary receives a grant from the Royal Artillery Charitable Fund via RCEL which helps towards her care home fees. She is looking forward to receiving a telegram from King Charles when she turns 100 later this year.



James Mathoniza, 78, enlisted into the Rhodesian African Rifles in 1967 at Mbalabala at the age of 21. He first became a quarter master and eventually a colour sergeant. He remembers one incident during the bush war where he was driving in a convoy with three other army vehicles. He was in the last vehicle, and they hit a mine. He said that of the five soldiers in the vehicle, only two survived. James suffered a leg injury and damage to his hearing. After leaving the Army in 1989, James worked as a security guard in Bulawayo. He is widowed and has no surviving children.

"My welfare grant means I can survive. Without it, I don't know what I would do."



Herbert Wilson, 95, was born 29 December 1929 and served in the British Guyana Volunteer Force between 1962 and independence in 1966. His Uncle was torpedoed by a German U Boat in WWII. He remembers Churchill's 'we will fight them on the beaches' speech and the Bismark being sunk in 1941. He was also deployed as a guard protecting the bauxite mines during the unrest in the 60s. Herbert's wife died in 2016. He has been living in the Guyana Veterans Home for four years and is well cared for and grateful that his grant allows for his food to be purchased in the Home.

Case Studies



Josephine Fikelephi Ngozo, 75, is the widow of Pte Josiah Ngozo and lives in Manzini in Eswatini. Pte Josiah served in the African Pioneer Corps from 1942 to 1945 in the US Unit 42. After his military service he worked as a warden in the Correctional Services (prison services). Pte Josiah died in 2022. Josephine has two sons and two daughters. She lives with her extended family and has struggles communicating, punctuated by memory loss. The welfare grant enables her to maintain a balanced diet.

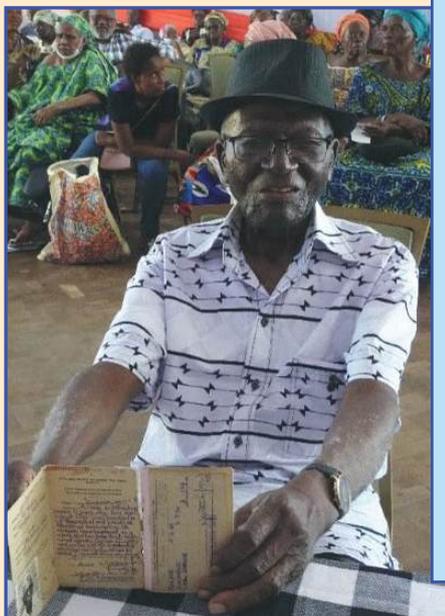


Moses Mbugua Muiru turned 100 in January 2024. He served with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers between 1942-1949. As a Driver/Mechanic, Moses saw service in Burma, Ceylon and British Somalia. After basic training and trade training in Kenya, his first service was in Burma, part of the 14th Army. Moses remembers being proud his personal kit was always in good order and being ready to do his job.

Antonio Kyeyune, 99, was a driver in the East African Pioneer Corps and lives in Uganda. He believes that he was selected because he was the tallest boy in the school when the recruiting team arrived. He trained at Bombo Barracks, then went on to Tanzania and then Nairobi in Kenya. Thereafter to India and deployment in Burma. He remembers that most of his friends died in Burma fighting the Japanese, but he made it home and was discharged in Nairobi in 1946. On discharge he became a painter and decorator until retirement. His wife died in 2020 and he is cared for by his daughter. Antonio's happiest memories were of being well treated, trained and fed. He said the food he received was far better than at home and consisted of rice, meat and fish which helped keep him fit and strong.



After Army service, Moses married and had a family of 8 children, 3 sons and 5 daughters. Moses' service was recognised by award of the Burma Star campaign medal. Sadly, Moses discarded his British medals in fear of Mau Mau reprisals. Post-war, Moses was employed for 30 years as a manager on the Kiru coffee estate. He is hugely grateful for his welfare grant which he depends on to purchase food.



Wisdom Kudowor, 96, joined the Army when he was just 15 years old. Having completed his formal education at the EP Senior High School, he decided to fulfil his ambitions by joining the Army. Although he had only just left school, as his Army records attest, he recalls: *"I wanted to enlist and, if you looked 18, then they would accept you."*

He enlisted in Kibi, Ghana in 1943 and attended the city's Army Training School, before passing his Trade Test as an 'Electrician Group 'B' Class II'. Wisdom Kudowor was discharged from the Army on 6 August 1946. His military conduct was described as 'exemplary' while his testimonial read: *'A really outstanding Sapper in every way. Very intelligent. First class knowledge of theoretical and practical electrical engineering.'*

He went on to have a successful career and is well travelled. Now in the evening of his life, he is very grateful for the welfare grant he receives which makes life *'a little more comfortable.'*

Please Donate

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

A donation of **£15** will provide two meals a day for a veteran or widow for a week in Kenya

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

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

A donation of **£97** will provide weekly meals for nine veterans in Bangladesh



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

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

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

OR

Donate online at: www.justgiving.com/commonwealthveterans

Please contact:

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

www.commonwealthveterans.org.uk

FCDO (UK Aid) Commonwealth Veterans Programme 2023/24

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

RCEL is the only NGO which globally provides Commonwealth veterans and widows with welfare grants. There is no other NGO that specifically focusses on these beneficiaries, over 50% of whom are widows, and therefore has a unique understanding of the eligibility process, beneficiary requirements, and grant delivery mechanisms.

One of this year's key challenges for the CVP was the crucial management of the planned budget especially the FCDO funds, as this was the final year of the initial five-year programme. This year's money equating to £2.5M has been fully utilised, demonstrating the hard work and dedication of the previous Programme Manager (Pasan Kularatne) and the wider RCEL team during this period. I am happy to report that we have supported every eligible beneficiary without reducing the value of the individual grant amount.

The table below provides an overview of funds distributed and associated expenses for the previous 5 years. It is worth highlighting the minimal disbursement costs, displaying the cost effectiveness of the Programme and the commendable success of the RCEL network cultivated and upheld over the past 103 years.

Period	Grants Disbursed			Cost	% of Cost to Grants
	FCDO Funds	RCEL/Service Charities	Total		
Year 1	£2,027,385	£1,112,927	£3,140,312	£472,853	15.06%
Year 2	£2,163,869	£899,613	£3,063,482	£419,627	13.70%
Year 3	£2,492,399	£463,916	£2,956,315	£366,491	12.40%
Year 4	£2,155,161	£413,953	£2,569,114	£387,828	15.10%
Year 5	£1,526,217	£683,957	£2,210,174	£346,673	15.69%
Total	£10,365,031	£3,574,366	£13,939,397	£1,993,472	14.30%

In year 5 of the Programme, RCEL disbursed a total of £2.5M to FCDO countries through the CVP. This expenditure included operational costs amounting to £346,673. The Programme received £1,526,217 in welfare funds from FCDO, and an additional £683,957 from RCEL and Service Charities. These funds were distributed among 3,155 veterans and widows across 24 countries. During the first half of this financial year, the CVP aided beneficiaries in 24

countries. However, due to Malaysia no longer being on the FCDO Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) list, the programme will now support 23 countries moving forward. This change will not impact the support provided to the one remaining widow in Malaysia who will continue to receive the same level of assistance, which will be funded solely by RCEL.



Veterans and widows waiting to receive their welfare grants at the Greater Accra Regional Centre

The cumulative number of beneficiaries the Programme has supported over the five years is 7,290 - more than the 7,000 predicted in the Business Case in 2018.

As reported elsewhere, we can confirm that the programme has been extended for a further three years. We take great pride in being able to offer thousands of impoverished widows and veterans from the Commonwealth the same

degree of welfare assistance as in previous years. The extension of the programme will continue from 2024 to 2027, during which time we will provide aid to some 3,355 beneficiaries. An additional £5.9 million has been provided in support by FCDO. The three-year extension will undoubtedly protect our veterans and widows from unimaginable hardship, for which I know they are grateful.



Kumasi beneficiaries waiting to receive welfare grants

A substantial portion of welfare payments are funded from public sources or taxes, and therefore our MOs are subject to an increased annual due diligence review prior to funding being distributed. Enhancing the capacity and capability of our Member Organisations is paramount to the programme's success. The RCEL Controller compliance, in collaboration with The Royal British Legion (RBL), created and introduced three online training courses in 2020/21: Safeguarding Essentials, IT & Data Security, and Fraud Awareness. The progress made in 2023/24 is detailed below:

Module	No of Countries Completed	% of No of Countries Completed
Safeguarding Essentials	24	100%
IT and Data Security	24	100%
Fraud Awareness	24	100%

Commencing from the 3-year extension period (2024/25), the FCDO has mandated that this online training is to be conducted annually. To ensure continued compliance, the RBL have assisted RCEL to launch its online training programme via a new platform that enables our Member Organisations (MO) to adhere to the new policy.

The Covid pandemic caused the Asia Safeguarding Seminar, which was originally scheduled for 2021, to be postponed. It was eventually and successfully held in Sri Lanka in September 2023 and was attended by 14 representatives from 10 different nations. The Level 2 safeguarding training was led by Tracy Woolston, the Royal British Legion's Safeguarding Lead, while Pasan (Controller Finance) and Tim (Controller Welfare & Grants) delivered presentations on governance, FCDO reporting guidelines, and policies further underlining our commitment to enhancing capability. Our MOs submit quarterly reports which allows us to track monies received and disbursed, as well as gathering other data required for our Annual Review and Quarterly Report, each of which are submitted to FCDO in compliance with the Accountable Grant Arrangement.



Tim Burt and Pasan Kularatne with Lieutenant General H L V M Liyanage RWP RSP, Commander of the Army (centre) and delegates during the Safeguarding Seminar in Sri Lanka 2023

During this financial year 6 Monitoring and Evaluation Visits (M&E Visits) were successfully completed. Below is a summary of the countries visited.

#	Country	By Whom	Date
1	Guyana	25 - 28 Sep 2023	Secretary General
2	Jamaica	29 Sep - 4 Oct 2023	Secretary General
3	Malawi	22 - 31 Oct 2023	Deputy Grand President/Controller Welfare & Grants
4	Kenya	23 - 31 Oct 2023	Controller Welfare & Grants
5	Sierra Leone	5 - 8 Nov 2023	Honorary Treasurer/ Programme Manager
6	Ghana	9 - 16 Nov 2023	Honorary Treasurer/ Programme Manager

For the fifth consecutive year, the CVP has received an 'A' grade in the Annual Review. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the exceptional support and guidance provided by the Senior Management Team and the RCEL Board. Additionally, the hard work and dedication of our MOs, the HQ RCEL Staff, Project Officers, and Honorary In-country Representatives have been instrumental in our success. We are also grateful for the invaluable contribution of FCDO staff based in Whitehall and East Kilbride, as well as the Mannion Daniels team led by David Bailes. Lastly, we extend our gratitude to our auditors, Buzzcott for their diligent work. It is through the collective effort of all these individuals and teams that we have achieved this outstanding outcome.

We would like to record our sincere gratitude to FCDO and in particular John McGinn, the current Programme Manager and Senior Reporting

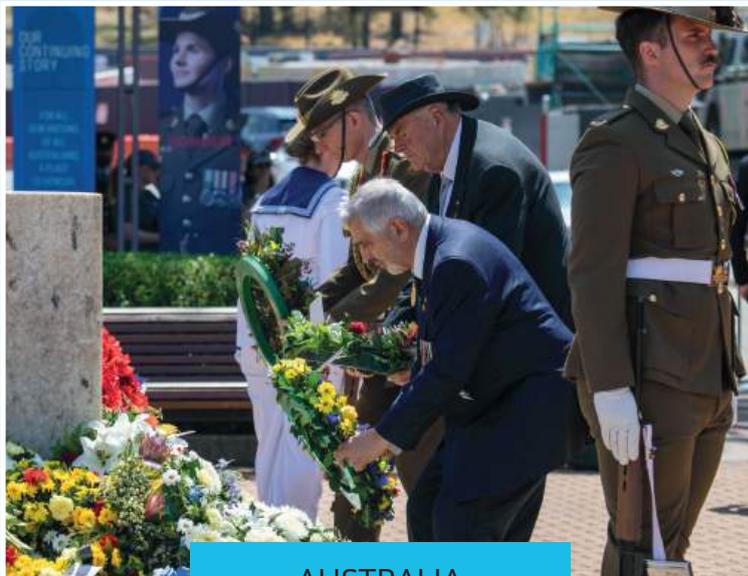
Officer from FCDO, along with all FCDO staff who are involved with the Programme. Their continued commitment to make a difference to the lives of thousands of Commonwealth veterans and widows, particularly during a challenging time for public expenditure is much appreciated by all across the Commonwealth.

RCEL would like to thank its CVRC partners for their continued matched funding. The principal supporting UK Service Charities are represented on the Committee, which is presided over by our Grand President, General the Lord Richards, and Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind KC. We are grateful to The Royal British Legion, The Army Benevolent fund, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, and The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund on behalf of the veterans and widows assisted by the Commonwealth Veterans Programme.

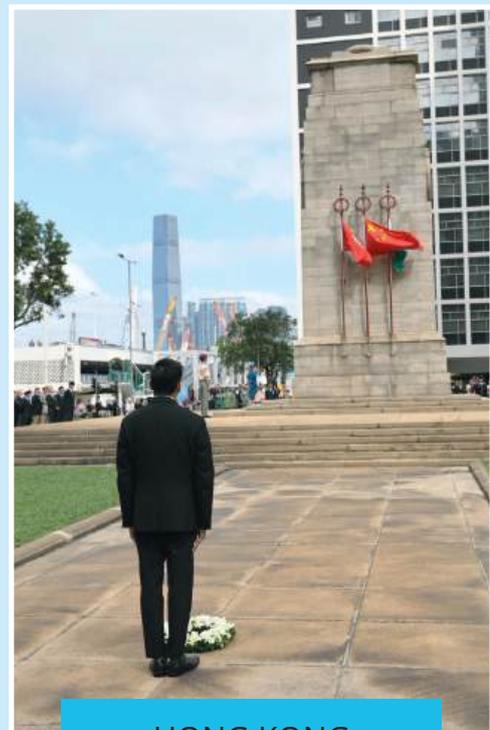


JAMAICA

REMEMBRANCE across the Commonwealth



AUSTRALIA



HONG KONG

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



ANTIGUA



BAHAMAS



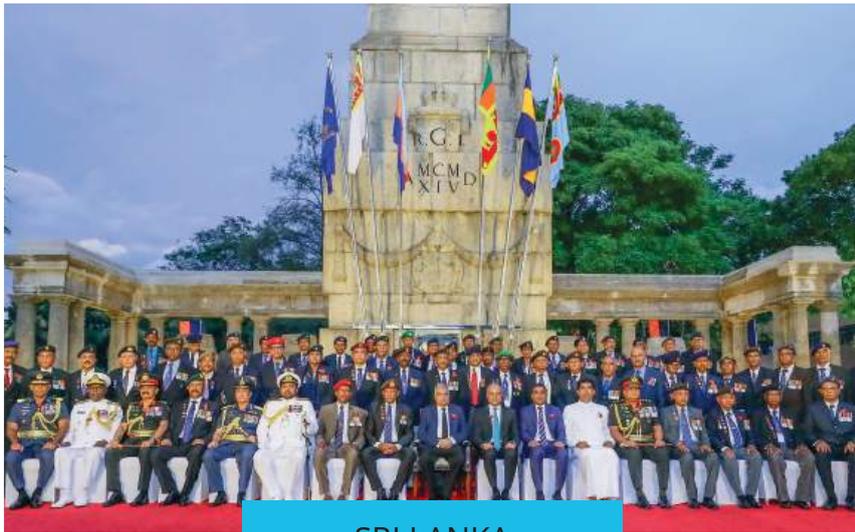
INDIA



GRENADA



CAYMAN ISLANDS



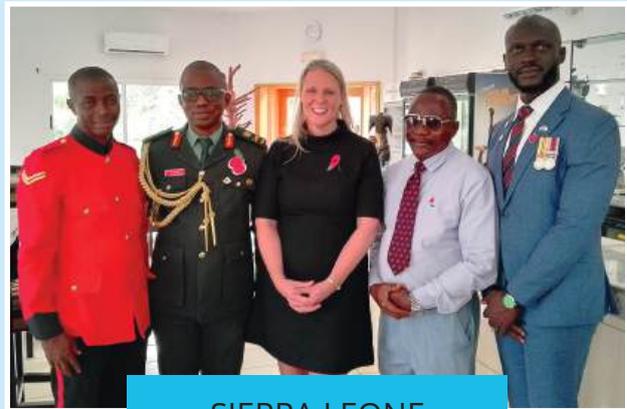
SRI LANKA



PAKISTAN



LESOTHO



SIERRA LEONE



ST LUCIA

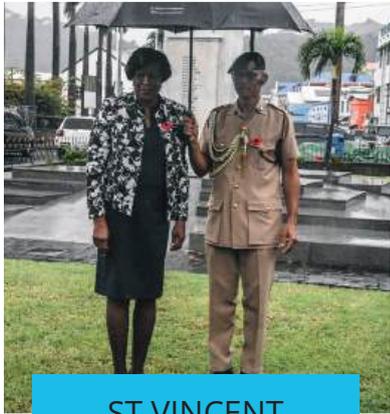


SEYCHELLES

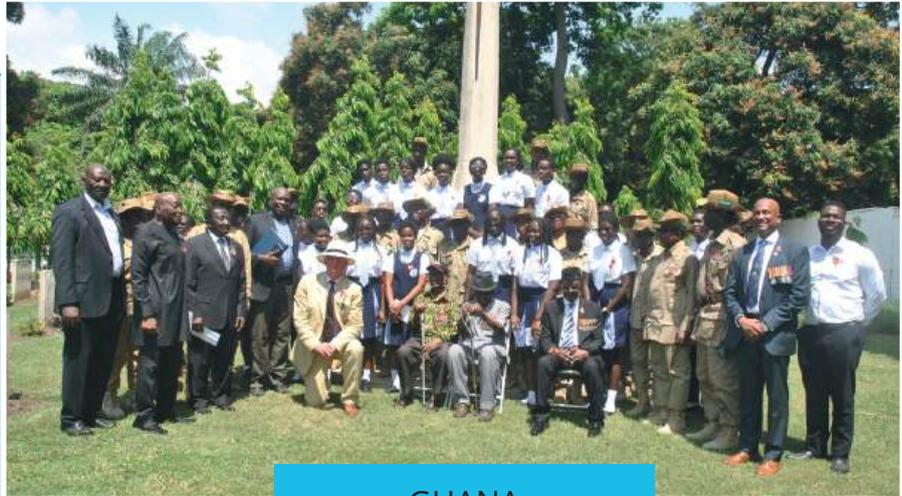
MALTA



REMEMBRANCE across the Commonwealth



ST VINCENT



GHANA



GUYANA



ZAMBIA



SCOTLAND

Monitoring & Evaluation Visits

**Secretary General
GUYANA
25 – 28 September 2023**

This was the first visit to Guyana since 2012 and alongside Jamaica, was the final trip undertaken by RCEL Secretary General, Chris Warren before his retirement in 2024.

Chris was accompanied throughout by Lt Col George Gomes and Mr Arno Solomon, President and Secretary General of the Guyana Veterans Legion (GVL). George has excellent relations with government and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) and he contributes a significant amount of time and expense on behalf of the GVL.

Chris attended several meetings during his visit to Guyana: He met with Her Excellency Jane Millar OBE at the Residence; with Brigadier Mark Phillips, the Prime Minister of Guyana and with the Chief of Staff and Head of the GDF. All were very supportive of GVL and the Commonwealth Veterans Programme.

Whilst in Guyana, Chris attended a management committee meeting with nine GVL members present. Lt Col Gomes chaired with key members in attendance being Lt Col Lelon Saul (1st Vice President), WO1 Arno Solomon (General Secretary), WO2 Randolph Reynolds (Chaplain) Sgt Walter Thomas (Treasurer) and Cpl Joy Fraser (Admin Asst). Chris took the opportunity to thank them for their hard work supporting the Commonwealth Veterans



Outside Coghlan House: Secretary General and Guyana Legion members including Lt Col George Gomes (Left of SG) and Mr Arno Solomon (Right of SG)

Programme and assisting with the continuation of a 3-year extension to 31 March 2027.

Chris had the opportunity to meet with many veterans and widows whilst in Guyana including Private Victor Bushe, 97. Victor joined the British Guyana Battalion in 1943 at the age of 18 and



Victor Bushe

trained at Tacama Battle School in Guyana. He was deployed as a guard to protect the bauxite mines, as bauxite is the most common ore of aluminium and was used to make aircraft for the RAF. He was demobilised in 1946 but did not join the Guyana Defence Forces. Victor is one of the oldest surviving WW11 veterans supported by RCEL. He is very grateful for the support he receives

which he uses to purchase food. He is looked after by his wife, Geneva at home in Guyana.

Cpl Kenneth King, 98 enlisted in 1942 and trained as a Radio Operator in Guyana, instructed by British Signallers. He was demobilised in 1946. He was posted to Trinidad during the War and worked with

the Royal Navy and reported German ship deployments in the Caribbean, working in morse code and semaphore. He became Guyana's first Parliamentary Mace Bearer and very much enjoyed his Parliamentary business, particularly the opening of Parliament. He proudly holds the photo of him in his formal dress as Mace Bearer. His wife died 8 years ago, when he was 90 and he is now cared for at



Kenneth King on the veranda of his home, proudly showing a photograph of his appointment as Guyana's first Mace Bearer

MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

GUYANA continued

home by his daughter Lorraine. His son sadly died of Covid in 2020 whilst working as a nurse in one of Guyana's hospitals. He is very grateful for the grant he receives as it allows him to enjoy a healthy two meals a day.

This was a timely visit to Guyana and Chris was able to interview five potential new beneficiaries whilst there, though verification of service remains problematic.

Secretary General **JAMAICA** 29 Sep – 4 Oct 2023

This was the first visit to Jamaica since 2018. Secretary General, Chris Warren was greeted on arrival in Jamaica by RCEL Caribbean Project Officer, Johanna Lewin. RCEL Commonwealth Council Member for Jamaica, Dr Erica Myers-Davis was in Jamaica at the time and joined Chris and Johanna for some meetings during the visit.

The Jamaica Legion is well supported by its government and there is a British Defence Adviser on the island. The Executive Director of the Royal Canadian Legion (RCL), Steven Clark accompanied Chris throughout his visit to Jamaica to understand RCEL operations in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, which RCL largely fund.

Steven was able to witness at first hand the excellent work Johanna undertakes for RCEL and RCL. Her networks are extensive and her commitment admirable.

Representational meetings were held with the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen and the Deputy British High Commissioner, David Shepherd. Other meetings took place with the Jamaica Defence Force CDS, Vice Admiral Antonette Wemyss-Gorman and the British ADA, Sqn Ldr Craig Pearson.

Johanna Lewin, Erica Myers-Davis and Chris Warren also met with the key members of the Jamaica Legion to discuss the current position and progress made with audited accounts. Attending the meeting



Chris Warren with Patrick Allen

from the Jamaica Legion were Andrew Sewell (Chairman), Errol Mackenzie (Deputy) and Michael Anglin (General Secretary).

Whilst in Jamaica, Chris had the opportunity to meet with several veterans and widows including Pte Arnold Atkins, 90. Arnold served with the 1st Bn the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and the Jamaica Regiment. He transferred to the Jamaica Defence Force in 1962 and served until 1968 when he retired as a SSgt. His happiest memory was when Jamaica received Independence and the JDF was formed.



SSgt Arnold Atkins

His wife, Gloria is 88 and they have been married 61 years. Arnold's welfare grant enables him to purchase food and maintain a healthy diet.

Chris also met with Doreen Jones-Rickard who is 99 and a WWII veteran. She was originally from the Bahamas and moved to Jamaica in 1944 and served until 1949 when she married. She lives at home with her daughter, 70. Doreen has excellent mobility and is in remarkably good health, mobile, had good hearing and was completely coherent in conversation. She was trained in Newcastle, Jamaica, one of 11 women recruited at the time and was a LCpl on discharge.



Doreen Jones-Rickard



To conclude his visit, Chris attended the Festival of Remembrance and Poppy Launch alongside Steven and Donna Clark, Erica Myers-Davis and Johanna Lewin. Pictured below, Johanna Lewin spoke and ensured that the Jamaican Legion and WWII veterans' case studies were highlighted.



MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

Deputy Grand President and Controller Welfare & Grants **MALAWI**

22 – 27 October 2023

This visit provided a great opportunity for the Deputy Grand President, Major General Mitch Mitchell to gain first-hand experience of RCEL and KAVT operations in Malawi. It was also a timely visit to discuss a long-term solution for future RCEL operations in Malawi from 2024 onwards when Denis Lewis, Kings African Rifles Trust (KVAT) Honorary Advisor, steps down from his role.

Mitch arrived in Malawi a day ahead of RCEL Controller Welfare & Grants, Tim Burt and spent his first day with Denis. Accompanied by KAVT Chairman, Maj Gen Buxton Namwali, they made an office call to Zomba Garrison Commander, Colonel Kamanga at Cobbe Barracks and later visited the nearby Kings African Rifles Memorial.

Mitch and Tim's visit was timed to coincide with the distribution of the second welfare grant payment of the year. Veterans throughout the region gathered at the Memorial Homes in Zomba to receive their grants. KAVT Chairman, Maj Gen Namwali, introduced Mitch to the assembled veterans and their carers and with the assistance of WO1 (Ret'd) Sword Chiwengo and Debora, his daughter, veterans received their grants.

Mitch and Tim had the opportunity to meet and chat with several veterans including Colour Sergeant James Maputa, 86. Known at the homes as 'The Chief', James served with 1st Battalion, Kings African Rifles between 1949-62. As a signaller, James learnt good English which remains fluent and he was keen to talk of his Army service, remembering being in Malaysia on peace-keeping duties and hearing of King George VI's death and Princess Elizabeth's accession. He happily remembers playing as a full-back for the battalion football team.



CSgt James Maputa chats with Deputy Grand President.

Watching on, (L) KAVT Chairman, Gen Buxton Namwali and RCEL Hon Adviser, Denis Lewis



Deputy Grand President meeting RCEL beneficiaries, veterans of King's African Rifles at Zomba Memorial Homes

Post-war, James served as a policeman in Zambia. Following retirement from the Zambian police and faced with little employment prospects, James and family took to market gardening to sell fruit and vegetables. In 2011, James and family were allocated one of the Zomba retirement bungalows. With little military or police pension, James needed assistance from the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League and now receives a modest welfare grant sufficient to purchase food to provide two meals a day.

MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

They also met Private Ibrahim Jali, 86, who served with 1 Bn, Kings African Rifles between 1955-1977. Ibrahim greatly enjoyed his military service especially duties in the Officers Mess. After service he was employed as a security guard at a mine in South Africa. He has lived at the Homes for many years, along with his wife and three adult children.



Private Ibrahim Jali talking with the DGP

Following Mitch's departure, Tim undertook a challenging drive to Matambo Estate to meet with Denis and Mary Lewis at their farmhouse home. During 2024 after 16 years, Denis will retire from the RCEL Honorary Adviser role. A way forward was discussed to ensure RCEL maintains an independent in-county oversight of KAVT to assist them to complete the annual welfare grant application and quarterly reporting. Whilst the KAVT executives complete their day-to-day tasks well, they would find it difficult to complete RCEL application and reporting tasks without Denis Lewis.

It was suggested the future for RCEL operations in Malawi lay with the Veterans and Ex-Servicemen's League of Malawi (VELOM). Since its creation in 2017 from its predecessor Commonwealth Ex-Services League of Malawi, VELOM is the only official organisation for all veterans and ex-service members in Malawi. Discussions and implementation of this plan are ongoing.



Whilst in Malawi, Tim also visited Balaka where he met with many widows who had undergone recent eligibility checks. KAVT's assistant, Debora Chiwengo (pictured above) was pleased to inform 45 widows that they would be in receipt of a welfare grant in April 2024.

Whilst in Balaka, Tim also met several veterans, including Sergeant Sonny Phiri, 80. Sonny served as a Signaller in 1st Battalion, Kings African Rifles enlisting in March 1963. Post-independence, Sonny continued in the Malawi Rifles (King's African Rifles), based at Cobbe Barracks, Zomba which had become the headquarters of the Malawi Army.

During Army service Sonny was a keen footballer, playing at Number 9 for the Signals Squadron. After military service, with good spoken and written English language skills, Sonny was able to find employment in Blantyre, firstly as a wages clerk with a bottling company, later moving as a vehicle parts order clerk and finally as a parts supervisor.

Despite good employment there were no pension or savings scheme, and Sonny is now reliant on RCEL welfare grants to afford food. He grows what vegetables he can beside his house to supplement his grant.

This was a very productive visit, enabling the Deputy Grant President and Controller Welfare and Grants to meet several veterans and widows and to initiate the complex discussions regarding succession planning, to ensure continuity of welfare grant delivery in 2024.

MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

Controller Welfare & Grants **KENYA** 27 – 31 October 2023

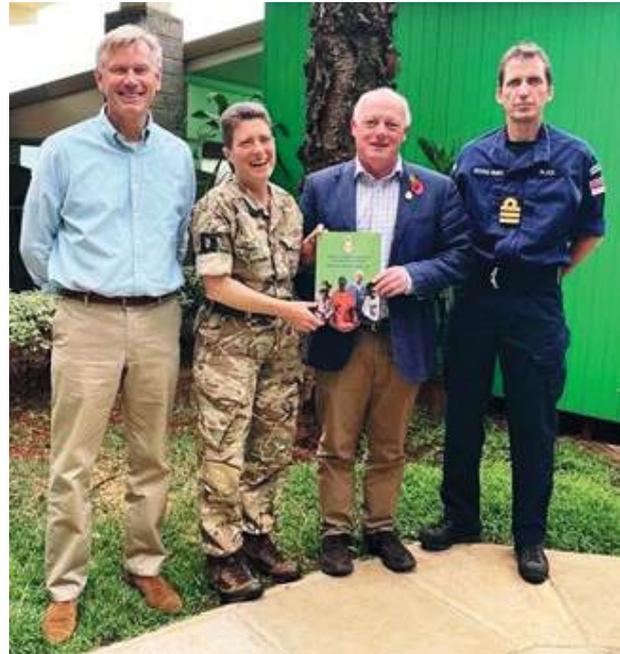
There have been a number of changes within both the Defence Forces Old Comrades Association (DEFOCA) and British Legion Kenya (BLK) since the last visit by Controller Finance so this was a timely visit.

Controller Welfare & Grants met with the BLK committee. The new Chairman, former Army officer, Iain Brewster leads the team with a renewed focus on Askari welfare. The Askari were locally recruited east African soldiers serving in the armies of the European powers, in British forces they mostly served with the King's African Rifles. BLK Secretary, Jenny Larby will soon be retiring and will hand over the role to her daughter, Kerin, an existing committee member. This excellent arrangement will ensure a seamless transition of SCOWP and Agency administration and relationship with DEFOCA.

Whilst in Nairobi, Jenny, Kerin and Tim visited the Nairobi War Cemetery. This beautiful site was opened in 1941 and now contains 1,952 Commonwealth burials of the Second World War.



Accompanied by Iain Brewster, Chairman, BL(K), Tim met Brigadier Ronnie Westerman (Defence Advisor) and Cdr Ed Black (Deputy Defence Advisor & Chairman, Joint Committee) at the British High Commission to thank them for their leadership of the Joint Committee and support to the Askari in Kenya.



British High Commission, Nairobi – (L-R) Iain Brewster, Brig Ronnie Westerman, Tim Burt, Cdr Ed Black

During his visit to Kenya, Tim was accompanied by DEFOCA Managing Director Brigadier Willy Wesonga, to Kiambu County, around one hour north of Nairobi. Here Tim met with several veterans including Kiarie M Njoroge, 97, a British Army veteran who served in the East African Army Service Corps during 1942 – 1948. The EAASC were part of the 11th East African Division, 14th Army in Burma and India.

Training as a Signaller, Kiarie recalls his time on duty, transmitting and receiving messages in morse code and remembers some morse letters and messages he used to send to and from other units. His happiest memories whilst serving were playing his guitar to his army friends along with tunes on the piano and accordion.

After Army service, Kiarie married and had a family of 11 children, 3 sons and 8 daughters. As a telegrapher, Kiarie was employed by the East Africa Post Office. After retirement from the post office Kiarie farmed land to provide for his family.



Kiarie still plays a tune on his guitar

**Programme Manager
& Honorary Treasurer
SIERRA LEONE
5 – 8 November 2023**

Sierra Leone is a complex country requiring greater oversight than many others, so this was the second visit in a 12-month period. The RCEL Programme Manager, Pasan Kularatne was joined by the Honorary Treasurer, Jeremy Archer.

The visit began with a meeting at the headquarters of Sierra Leone Ex-Servicemen’s Association (SLESA) in Freetown. Lt Col Fatorma Gottor is the current General Secretary of SLESA – but he is looking to retire. SLESA is still trying to achieve full recognition from the government, but the finances are proving a stumbling block while elections are continually delayed.

The political situation in the country is complicated: although there were Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections as recently as 24 June 2023, the results are still a matter of dispute. The Sierra Leone People’s Party (Green) is currently in power while the principal opposition party is the All-People’s Congress Party (Red).

Pasan and Jeremy were able to spend time with Fatorma going through the records and accounts held in the office and check the records of veterans

and widows. This was a lengthy process but reassuring to see that accurate paperwork was in place and the correct procedures had been followed.

Later the same day, Pasan and Jeremy met with four veterans and 20 widows, who received their welfare grants with much gratitude.

The next morning, they met with a further four veterans and 10 widows at Waterloo, around two hours from central Freetown.



Staff-Sergeant Tenkeh Mansaray

These included Staff-Sergeant Tenkeh Mansaray. Having enlisted in 1954, Tenkeh underwent basic training at Moa Barracks, Daru. He was also a member of the Second Contingent to serve in the Congo in 1962, where he spent six months. He is in receipt of a Long Service and Good Conduct

medal. Although he attended a driving course, he apparently didn’t obtain a licence so spent the

majority of his military career in barracks’ maintenance, with responsibility for the grass-cutters. With no pension and no other money, he simply couldn’t manage without this welfare grant.

They also met with Foday Korona, 83. Foday enlisted at the age of 18 and after training was posted as a weapons training instructor to Nigeria



Seven very happy widows at the SLESA Office

MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS



Foday Korona

for three months. He attended three training courses in the UK during his military career, including a month-long Officers' and Warrant Officers' Order Arms course.

For a year, in 1983-84, he was a member of the Sierra Leone contingent of the Commonwealth Military Training

Team Uganda. After 44 years in the Army, he retired with the rank of Captain.

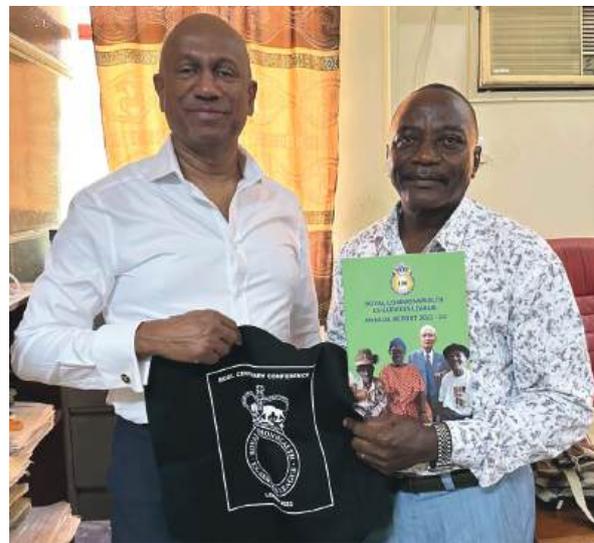
"The good thing about the Army is that it enabled me to travel a lot. Without RCEL's funds, I would struggle, and I really appreciate the money."

Whilst in Sierra Leone, Pasan and Jeremy met with the Deputy Minister of Defence, Colonel (Retd) Muana Massaquoi who assured them that he is committed to the SLESA election process and was confident that it would be resolved in a short period of time.

They also visited the British High Commission (see photo below left) and met the High Commissioner, Lisa Chesney MBE (third from right), and the Defence Adviser, Lieutenant Colonel Gary Wolfenden, Royal Yorkshire Regiment (left). They

emphasised their support for the Commonwealth Veterans Programme and stand by to assist if needed. Accompanying them were Honorary Advisor Sam Sahr (second from left) and Acting National President SLESA, Lt Col Abu Bakarr Kamara (far right).

Sierra Leone remains a challenging country, as highlighted by the attempted coup just two weeks after this visit. RCEL is fortunate to have Lt Col Fatorma as Secretary General and Sam Sahr as the Honorary Advisor. They ensure veterans and widows are well cared for and received the much-needed welfare grants in a timely manner.



Pasan with SLESA Secretary General Lt Col Fatorma Gottor



**Programme Manager
& Honorary Treasurer
GHANA
9 – 16 November 2023**

This was the first visit to Ghana since 2019, when the then Programme Manager, David Thompson visited. Ghana has a very solid veterans' support network, funded by the Ministry of Defence. Veterans Administration Ghana (VAG) has ten regional offices and three were visited during this trip.

On the first day of the visit, RCEL Programme Manager, Pasan Kularatne and Honorary Treasurer, Jeremy Archer met with Hon Kofi Amankwa-Manu, Deputy Minister of Defence, and Dr Evans A Daikam, Chief Director, Ministry of Defence who expressed their gratitude to RCEL for its support of veterans and widows in Ghana. Accompanying them were VAG Chairman General Yacche, VAG Executive Director, Captain Duah, Gabre Jerriff, Derrick Cobbinah and Bright Segbefia – pictured below.

Pasan and Jeremy were privileged to sit in the front row at the Remembrance Day Service at the Christiansborg Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery, Osu-Accra on 11 November. They later attended a Remembrance Day lunch hosted by the British High Commissioner.

Pasan and Jeremy met with many veterans and widows during this visit and were able to assist with the disbursement of the second welfare grant payment to 15 veterans and 59 widows at the VAG Hall in Accra. These included Fanny Anthonio, 87 who is the widow of GC 18906 Sergeant Joseph

*GC 18906 Sergeant Joseph
Crosay Anthonio*



*Mrs Fanny
Anthonio
with her son*



MONITORING & EVALUATION VISITS

Crosay Antonio. He enlisted in the Royal West African Frontier Force at Akwatie on 1 October 1939, less than a month after war had been declared, served with 37 (West Africa) General Hospital and took part in the East African Campaign 1940-41. Having served for a total of 5 years and 360 days, Sergeant Antonio was discharged on 25 September 1945.

They also met with Christian Woode, 104, (pictured below). Christian enlisted in 1942 and was posted to 5th Field Ambulance, Royal West African Frontier Force (RWAFF), part of 82nd (West Africa) Division. He told me: *"I was a footballer and represented the RWAFF. I wore the number 7 and they used to call me 'The Butterfly'. I served in Burma and was discharged from the Army on 17 February 1946. After the war, I taught nursing at Korlebu Teaching Hospital in Accra. I retired first at the age of 50, but they re-engaged me, and I finally retired in 1999. I am grateful for my welfare grant. I manage to get three meals a day and eat rice, plantain, yam and a little fish."*



Christian Woode



RCEL Honorary Treasurer and Programme Manager laying a wreath

Towards the end of the visit, Pasan and Jeremy drove to Kumasi – a five-hour journey to the central region. They were greeted by 6 veterans and 14 widows at VAG Hall in Kumasi. In total during this visit, they were able to assist with the payment of welfare grants to 94 beneficiaries in Ghana. A final meeting with VAG concluded the visit, which was an opportune time to thank Derrick Cobbinah, RCEL West Africa Project Officer whose contract had ended. Derek's in-country connections and military experience proved invaluable in enhancing RCEL's relationships with The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon and Uganda, the countries within his remit.

RCEL is fortunate to work alongside VAG in Ghana, an organisation that prioritises the welfare of its veterans and widows.

Looking Ahead to Canada 2025



National War Memorial

RCEL's 35th Conference will take place in Ottawa in 2025. Likely to be the final RCEL conference, it will run over five days between 28th June – 3rd July which includes Canada Day on 1st July.

The Conference will be hosted by The Royal Canadian Legion, and we are grateful to them for their support and input. This is a particularly significant Conference as the Member Organisations determine the future of RCEL beyond 2027.



Rideau Canal, Ottawa



A Conference Steering Group has been formed and is finalising the programme and will select the Resolutions to be discussed. The Programme will follow a similar format to the 34th Conference held in London. Member Organisations will not be asked to present a report on their activities, but instead will be asked to contribute to Regional Discussions.

Alongside a full two days of business sessions, there will be a Remembrance ceremony at the National War Memorial, the opportunity to view the Changing of the Guard, a visit to the Senate and participation in Canada Day celebrations.



The Senate of Canada

In partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion, we look forward to welcoming Member Organisations to Ottawa for what promises to be one of the most memorable and pivotal Conferences in the League's history.

Please direct any Conference queries to hyoung@commonwealthveterans.org.uk

Founder Members Reports



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA



Left to right:

*National President:
Major General Greg Melick AO RFD
FANZCN SC (Retd)*

*Chief Executive Officer:
Brigadier Philip Winter AM CSC ADC*

The Returned and Services League (RSL) of Australia continues to lobby for enhanced benefits, treatment and the welfare of veterans and serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

The RSL remained actively engaged with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide throughout 2023. Since July 2021 until submissions closed in October 2023, the Commission received over 5000 submissions. RSL Australia welcomes the release of the Commissioners final report in late 2024.

A key activity, following the success of the inaugural National Ex-service Organisations (ESO) Forum held in 2022, was the facilitation of two further National Forums for ESOs, bringing the ESO sector together to discuss collaborating to form a Peak Body to better support Royal Commission outcomes.

The RSL continues to place a significant importance on policy priorities that concern the veteran community. This year we advocated for and lodged submissions to the Australian Government on new Aged Care Legislation, addressing specific gaps in the proposed legislation to improve outcomes for veterans, widow(er)s and their families, and a joint submission in support of the extension of non-liability health care to all those serving in the ADF reserve forces. We also reconstituted our Defence and National Security Committee, to

provide input to the national security conversation, amidst the changing geopolitical situation.

RSL Australia continued to proudly support the Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF) Care Packages initiative. Twice during the year, RSL Australia with volunteers from RSL sub-branches, prepared hundreds of care packages for members of the ADF and the Australian Federal Police deployed overseas on military operations.

A strong focus for the RSL is in the promotion of wellbeing opportunities for veterans and families. This was achieved through the expanded roll out of the RSL Active initiative by supporting various events including the RSL Remembrance Ride, an annual cycling event that provides an opportunity for veterans to challenge themselves in a supportive environment.

The RSL supported many key anniversaries and commemorations including the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War. Our commitment to the major observances of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day remains strong and as the nation's largest ESO, we proudly continue to lead and support these commemorative services around the country.

We look forward to supporting our veteran community throughout 2024.



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION



Left to right:

*National Chairman RBL:
Jason Coward*

*Director General RBL:
Mark Atkinson*

Since joining the Royal British Legion in early 2024, I have been impressed by the breadth and support for veterans of His Majesty's Armed Forces and their loved ones. Our global network of partners, and in particular the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League (RCEL), ensures that much needed and deserved aid is delivered to those who need it most.

It is important and appropriate to celebrate the good work of RCEL last year, and in particular their pivotal

role in the UK Armed Forces-charity sector. Without their assistance, we would not have been able to support beneficiaries in 59 countries.

On behalf of our trustees, Members, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries, I am pleased to offer my congratulations and gratitude for another year of life-changing partnership.



**THE ROYAL
BRITISH LEGION
SCOTLAND**



Left to right:
*National Chairman: Lieutenant
Commander Martyn Hawthorn MBE RN
Chief Executive: Dr Claire Armstrong OBE*

2023 was another exceptionally busy year for Legion Scotland with a strong focus on reviewing our current strategy for a more sustainable future. Alongside the full strategic review undertaken, the day-to-day business of Remembrance, comradeship and support for our veterans and their families continued.

We were incredibly honoured to be involved in the Kings Coronation in London on the 6th of May 2023 with our National Parade Marshal and Area Standard Bearers in attendance for the occasion and saw many of our Branches and Clubs across Scotland mark the Bank Holiday weekend with great dignity and pageantry.

Throughout this year we have focused on continuing to deliver support to veterans and their families through our comradeship activities, pensions and advocacy service and our Veterans Community Support Service. We have also been examining our Governance practices, Trustee skills and training and how the organisation needs to evolve to ensure it remains relevant and viable. With the formation of our Strategic Transformation Committee a full review of the organisational structure and its effectiveness is now underway and will continue into 2024 and beyond.

Support and training for our Branches and Clubs has also been a focus this year and we have over the last 12 months be surveying them all to gather information on the current challenges and successes they are all

facing. The feedback received has helped shape the strategy approved by the Trustees in September 2023 and will form the basis for a series of online training sessions in 2024.

We have delivered a full and varied programme of events throughout this year including, Remembrance 2022, the Best Kept War Memorial Competition Anzac Day, Scottish American Memorial Service, National Standard Bearing Competitions and marking key military commemorations including the Korea 70th Anniversary. It is truly a collaborative effort to ensure that we are annually delivering the events our community wish to support and attend.

Our relationship with Poppyscotland and our collaboration on Remembrance, commemorations and fundraising has continued. Our membership once again provided excellent support for the annual Poppy Appeal in November 2022 raising more than £596,000. This money ensures that vital support and services for our veterans and their families in Scotland can continue all year round.

We have continued to reach out to those facing isolation and loneliness and are ensuring that we recognise the part we must play in a wider national network of military and other charities.

It remains our pleasure and privilege to be part of the wider Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League community.



**THE ROYAL
CANADIAN
LEGION**



Left to right:
*Dominion President:
Mr Bruce Julian
National Executive Director:
Mr Steven Clark CD*

The commitment of The Royal Canadian Legion's RCEL Committee continues to be the support of Veterans and widows in the Caribbean countries whose organizations and governments are unable to provide full care for their needs. In addition to this direct benevolent support, the Legion also provides remembrance supplies to member organizations to assist with their local Poppy Appeal campaigns.

Our ability to fulfill the needs of Caribbean veterans and widows directly correlates with the remarkable generosity of Legion branches, who consistently contribute to our fund annually. In 2023, these contributions amounted to \$242,182.20 CAD (£145,000), a commendable figure considering that donations in non-dominion convention years typically tend to be lower. For context, in our last dominion

convention year, 2021, we received \$348,289.05 CAD (£208,000). With this consistent support, our fund is well-positioned to sustain assistance to beneficiaries for the foreseeable future, as long as there remains a need to aid pre-independence veterans and widows. In 2023, we disbursed \$133,691.82 CAD (£89,000) in direct benevolent aid to a total of 35 Commonwealth veterans and widows in the Caribbean, spanning regions such as Antigua, Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, and Tobago. Additionally, the Legion allocated \$22,132.27 CAD (£13,000) towards Poppy and Remembrance materials, along with \$15,795.74 CAD (£9,500) for shipping, aiding Caribbean branches in conducting their own Poppy fundraising campaigns and organizing Remembrance Day ceremonies. Continuing our commitment, we maintained our annual grant of \$5,500.00 (£3,300) to the Curphey Home in Jamaica. Furthermore, we allocated \$15,950.00 CAD (£9,600) in grants to branches to assist with administrative equipment costs, enhancing their technological capabilities and reporting efficiency.

Site visits were conducted by Legion representatives to Antigua, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. These visits included interactions with beneficiaries and branch administrators, ensuring the proper allocation of funds. Additionally, via a Legion cruise, visits were made to St. Lucia and Barbados, where coordination of Poppy campaigns and the administration of raised funds were reviewed with branch representatives. Each visit revealed profound appreciation and gratitude from beneficiaries and administrators alike.

The Legion, alongside its leadership, branches, and members, takes immense pride in the ongoing support provided to the RCEL and the assistance extended to Commonwealth veterans and widows in the Caribbean. Furthermore, the Legion is honoured to support RCEL in the coordination of the 35th conference for The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League, scheduled for 28 June – 2 July 2025 in Ottawa, Canada. Planning and coordination efforts are well underway to ensure this event is not only memorable but also a resounding success.



**THE
SOUTH AFRICAN
LEGION**



Left to right:
National President:
LGR Brian Smith
National Secretary:
Izelle Potgieter

The South African Legion continues our work through our branches & members all over South Africa and provides Communication and assistance to our twelve Royal Commonwealth Ex-service League & forty-three National War Fund (NWF) beneficiaries by way of monthly payments, welfare applications and moral support when needed. Starting from April 2024, the shift to collaborate directly with the RAFBF and RNBT for their beneficiaries was initiated, following their departure from the RCEL. The remaining beneficiaries for these charities are thirteen for the RAFBF and three for the RNBT. Our commitment to these charities and their remaining beneficiaries residing in South Africa remains steadfast.

We eagerly anticipate our upcoming Congress, scheduled for September 2024. Following the

retirement of Lt Col Christopher Warren, we are also excited about the forthcoming visit of David Thompson to South Africa, in his new role as the Secretary General of the RCEL.

South Africa continues to grapple with persistent power outages, known as "Loadshedding", and other unexpected power disruptions. These interruptions occasionally impact our office operations and branch work. However, the hardest hit are our beneficiaries, particularly the elderly, who face the approaching winter.

Despite any challenges we may encounter, we, as South Africans and members of the SA Legion, are resolute in maintaining our strength while traversing any challenges.



**THE ROYAL
NEW ZEALAND
RETURNED AND
SERVICES' ASSOCIATION
(INC)**



*National President: Sir Wayne (Buck) Shelford KNZM, MBE (left)
Board Chair: Major General (Retired) Martyn Dunne CNZM QSO (middle)
Chief Executive: Colonel (Retired) Marty Donoghue*

The last 12 months have represented a year of realisation for the Royal New Zealand RSA. Starting with National Council where as an organisation we came together and identified the need for change, and developed the concept of RSA 2030.

RSA 2030 is the blueprint for our future. It sets the direction for our organisation and will ensure we remain viable, relevant and that we are delivering on our core purpose – improving the wellbeing of veterans and their whānau. Everything we do must be underpinned by the pillars of remembrance, support and advocacy.

The National President represented New Zealand at a number of significant commemorations. Some of the highlights include the ceremonies held at Pukeahu (New Zealand's National War Memorial and the where the Unknown Warrior rests) for Vietnam Veterans' Day, for veterans of Malaya, Malaysia and Borneo, for the Merchant Navy and for a number of visiting heads of state. The National President attended the rededication of the Citizens War Memorial in Christchurch.

The National President also took part in presentations of medals to the families of the 28th Māori Battalion members. These were incredibly moving ceremonies and an important part of making amends for the poor treatment of these servicemen on their return from World War II.

Overseas the National President represented the RSA at the opening of the Le Quesnoy Museum in France

which honours the actions of New Zealanders during the liberation of their town near the end of World War One. He also attended the Invictus Games in Dusseldorf and as Patron of NZDF rugby, supported the NZDF Rugby Team at the World Military Rugby tournament hosted by France.

The RSA established a Veterans' Employment Service, which is a pilot programme in conjunction with the Ministry of Social Development. Our support volunteers have been hard at work delivering the Veterans Health and Wellbeing Framework leading to the Minister of Veterans publicly acknowledging our role in the practical delivery of the framework within the community.

The RSA has continued to develop opportunities to represent the interests of New Zealand's veterans of military service. Our advocacy has been focused on improving and encouraging the government to revise the discriminatory legislation in place for veterans. The RSA also had the privilege to present to the Defence Review Board, providing input into the review of conditions of service for those currently within the Defence Force.

The RSA was very privileged to receive formal acknowledgement from Buckingham Palace that His Majesty, King Charles III has announced patronage of the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association.

Member Organisations of RCEL

and their UK based representatives on the Commonwealth Council

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA EX-SERVICEMEN ASSOCIATION

HE The High Commissioner for Antigua
and Barbuda -
The Revd Canon I St C Richards JP BA (Hons)

RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

* Brigadier AW Freemantle CBE DBA
Colonel K Farrar

BRITISH LEGION - BAHAMAS BRANCH

Mrs M Gordon-Roe MBE

BANGLADESH ARMED SERVICES BOARD

Defence Adviser, Bangladesh High
Commission

BARBADOS LEGION OF RCEL

Lieutenant Colonel DA Sullivan

BELIZE EX-SERVICES LEAGUE

* Colonel JM Bowles MBE (to 06/12/23)
Miss Y Best

BERMUDA LEGION

Mrs C Everson MBE

BOTSWANA VETERANS LEAGUE

Colonel I Mills MBE

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Ms L Atkins

* Mr J Coward

FRATERNAL UNION OF CAMEROON EX-SERVICEMEN OF THE CROWN

Defence Adviser, Cameroon High
Commission

Mr J Hombo

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

* Mrs E Watkins DL

CAYMAN ISLANDS VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Lieutenant Colonel L R Rotchell

DOMINICA LEGION OF RCEL

Mr H Moore MBE

ESWATINI EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Mr P Gooday

RETURNED SOLDIERS AND EX- SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF FIJI

HE The High Commissioner for Fiji

RCEL (THE GAMBIA LEGION)

* Mr T Case

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, GHANA

Defence Adviser, Ghana High Commission
* Colonel PA Davis CBE (to 06/12/23)

FORCES HELP GHANA (FHG)

* Colonel PA Davis CBE (to 06/12/23)

GRENADA LEGION OF RCEL

Mr N Hamilton

GUYANA VETERANS LEGION

Ms C Taylor

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (HONG KONG AND CHINA BRANCH)

Mr A Liardet

* Colonel MJ Winarick OBE

INDIAN EX-SERVICES LEAGUE New Delhi

Colonel AAA Beattie

* Mrs E Strouts

EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATIONS OF INDIA Chennai (incl Bangalore & Deccan) and Mumbai

Captain R Sale OStJ

EAST INDIA CHARITABLE TRUST Kolkata

JAMAICA LEGION RCEL

Doctor E Myers-Davis DBA FRSA MBus

* Captain P Chambers LLB MBA
(from 13/02/24)

DEFENCE FORCES COMRADES ASSOCIATION (DEFOCA) KENYA

Defence Adviser, Kenya High Commission
Mr O Marsh

BRITISH LEGION KENYA

Lieutenant Colonel ADT Barkas

AFRICA PIONEER CORPS (LESOTHO)

Major U Cleminson CBE BEM TD

Mrs M Gordon-Roe MBE

THE KINGS AFRICAN VETERANS TRUST (MALAWI)

* Brigadier DA Williams MBE (to 06/12/23)

MALAYSIAN EX-BRITISH ARMY ASSOCIATION

* Brigadier JCL King MBE

* Colonel MM Slattery RRC (to 06/12/23)

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION MALTA

Lieutenant Colonel JF Falzon BEM

EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF MAURITIUS

HE The High Commissioner for Mauritius

Captain LJ Gill

HELP FOR FORGOTTEN ALLIES (MYANMAR)

Mr R Bruce

Mr PCC Mitchell

MOTHS IN NAMIBIA

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND RETURNED & SERVICES' ASSOCIATION INC

* Colonel AJ Martin ONZM

Mr S Fitzpatrick ONZM

NIGERIAN LEGION

General Dr Yakubu Gowon

COMMONWEALTH EX-SERVICES TRUST (PAKISTAN)

Brigadier AE Berry OBE

Brigadier BP Edwards OBE

PAKISTAN ARMED SERVICES BOARD

Army & Air Adviser, Pakistan High
Commission

ST. LUCIA EX-SERVICE LEAGUE OF RCEL

Mrs E Mullings-Smith MSc BSc (Hons) FRSA

Warren Officer 2 L S Cadet

ROYAL ST. VINCENT LEGION RCEL

Mr H Moore MBE

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION SCOTLAND

* Lieutenant Commander MR Hawthorn

MBE RN (to 20/05/24), Doctor C Armstrong

SEYCHELLES EX-SERVICEMEN FUND

Mr B Silver

Lieutenant Colonel C N R Preira

SIERRA LEONE EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Mr P Manion

Major General AR Freer OBE

SOUTH AFRICAN LEGION

* Major General CH Elliott CVO CBE

Major R Mattushek

SRI LANKA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Captain (Doctor) C S Nanayakkara

Lt Cdr Kapila De Alwis

TANZANIA EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION

Colonel AEW Stormer

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO LEGION

* Mr A Holmes OBE (to 06/12/23)

TURKS & CAICOS EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEGION

UGANDA EX-SERVICEMEN'S ASSOCIATION IN RCEL

Major GF Correa MBE

Major RD Patrick MBE

EX-SERVICEMEN'S LEAGUE OF ZAMBIA

Defence Adviser, Zambia High Commission

ZANE (ZIMBABWE A NATIONAL EMERGENCY)

Major General AI Ramsay CBE DSO

Brigadier P Lawless SCR

THE LEGION, ZIMBABWE

Major General AI Ramsay CBE DSO

Brigadier P Lawless SCR

* Denotes Trustee of the League and
member of the Executive Committee

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CONVENTION COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 19-1

B. Lawrence - Chair

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 was recently held 24-28 August 2024 in Saint John, NB. The first in person convention held in 6 years witnessed the introduction of electronic registration for in person attendance, an electronic convention report and resolution book, and electronic voting for senior elected officer positions.

2026 DOMINION CONVENTION

The 2026 Convention is scheduled for 22-26 August 2026 in Winnipeg, MB. This convention will celebrate our centenary. Contractual agreements are finalized, and a pre-convention site visit occurred in September. Next scheduled site visit will be the Fall of 2025.

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 currently being considered as the site for the 2032 Convention but remains in stages of research.

I move acceptance of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 82 - 27

A. Siew - Chair
B. Heffernan - Vice Chair
B. Sauvé - Member
M. Pearson - Member
D. Young - Committee Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 26 September 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 5 December 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The Defence and Security (D&S) Committee has two action items for decision.

1. Increase the RCMP Cadet Training Allowance

The current RCMP cadet training allowance is insufficient not only to ensure cadets have sufficient compensation but also to attract qualified recruits. RCMP cadets who are undergoing training currently receive an allowance of \$525 per week, a rate unchanged for over 15 years, despite having the longest police training program in Canada. To keep the RCMP competitive in attracting qualified recruits, the training allowance for cadets should increase to be competitive with other police services.

Police Service	Cadet in Training Compensation per Week	Salaried Cadet Training
Vancouver	\$1,642.15	yes
Toronto	\$1,324.30	yes
Halifax	\$1,291.02	yes
Ontario Provincial	\$1,286.92	yes
Winnipeg	\$1,236.60	yes
Regina	\$1,125.42	yes
RCMP	\$525.00	no

Increasing RCMP cadet training allowances is crucial to ensure:

- **Support for Financial Responsibilities:** Many RCMP cadets are older, averaging 29 years, and often have financial obligations like mortgages and family support. The current \$525 weekly allowance falls short, discouraging applicants with such responsibilities.

- **Competitiveness in Recruitment:** Most police services in Canada offer full salaries during training, making them more attractive to recruits. Without competitive allowances, the RCMP risk losing qualified candidates to other agencies that provide immediate financial stability.
- **Attracting Experienced Candidates:** With other police forces offering signing bonuses and financial incentives, an increased RCMP allowance would better attract experienced officers from other agencies, sustaining momentum in RCMP recruitment.

Aligning compensation with other services will help sustain recruitment momentum and meet growing demand for officers. The Government should increase the RCMP cadet allowance while they attend Depot for training to align with compensation provided by other police services in Canada.

Recommendation - The Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada increase the RCMP cadet training allowance to align with other police service's cadet training in Canada.

2. The Requirement for a Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN)

A PSBN is crucial in Canada, where vast geography, diverse populations, and complex emergencies require robust and reliable connectivity. A PSBN is critical for the provision of:

- **Enhanced Communication for First Responders:** During emergencies, standard cellular networks are often congested, causing delays in communication. A dedicated PSBN provides first responders with priority access to network bandwidth, ensuring they can communicate seamlessly even during high-demand events.
- **Interoperability Among Agencies:** Emergencies typically require collaboration across multiple jurisdictions and agencies, from local police to federal services. A PSBN offers a unified platform where all public safety entities can communicate and share data in real time, improving coordinated responses.
- **Real-Time Data and Situational Awareness:** A PSBN enables the use of data-driven tools like real-time mapping, live video feeds, and sensors, enhancing situational awareness. First responders can access critical information, such as live video from drones, environmental monitoring, and geolocation data, helping them make informed decisions swiftly.
- **Resilience in Remote and Rural Areas:** Many regions in Canada lack reliable connectivity, but a PSBN could provide the infrastructure needed to extend coverage into remote and rural areas. This would ensure that first responders can communicate effectively across Canada's diverse terrains and during natural disasters.

- **Disaster Recovery and Redundancy:** A PSBN offers redundancy, allowing communication to remain operational when other systems fail due to natural disasters or cyber-attacks. This resilience is crucial for maintaining public safety efforts and coordination throughout any crisis.
- **Technological Advancements in Public Safety:** With a PSBN, Canada could leverage technologies such as artificial intelligence, the Internet of Things (IoT), and advanced mobile applications for public safety, pushing emergency response capabilities into the future.

A recent example of communication challenges during a domestic emergency occurred during the 2023 British Columbia wildfire season, which saw extensive evacuations and the need for rapid response across multiple agencies. Reports revealed that connectivity issues, particularly in rural and Indigenous areas, limited information sharing and coordination among first responders. This hindered evacuation efforts and delayed real-time updates to the public. A dedicated PSBN would have provided a stable, high-priority communication network, ensuring that emergency teams and community members received critical updates seamlessly, even in remote regions. Enhanced PSBN capabilities could address these gaps, supporting a more efficient response in future disasters.

Implementing a Canadian PSBN would support a more coordinated, efficient, and resilient approach to domestic emergencies, ultimately strengthening national security and public safety capabilities.

Recommendation: The Royal Canadian Legion request that the Government of Canada establish a Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network (PSBN). A PSBN is essential to support domestic emergencies, offering a secure, high-speed communications network dedicated to public safety organizations.

3. Advocacy

- a. **Women Veterans** - The Committee is monitoring the implementation of the recommendations of the ACVA report on Experience of Women Veterans, titled *Invisible No More. The Experiences of Canadian Women Veterans*. The report is available here:

b.

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/441/ACVA/Reports/RP13177333/acvarp15/acvarp15-e.pdf>

The Government response to the recommendations was published on 10 October and it is currently being reviewed.

- c. **RCMP Definition of Veteran for Commemoration Purposes** – There has been no response to the 26 October 2023 follow-up letter that the Dominion President sent to the Minister of Veterans Affairs to request that the Government change the

definition of a Veteran to formally include the RCMP for commemoration purposes. The Committee continues to engage on the issue.

- d. **CAF Sexual Misconduct and Cultural Change** - The Committee continues to monitor the progress of the cultural change initiatives in the CAF and participates as part of ongoing stakeholder engagement. The next key milestone is the completion of the independent review of the military colleges in December.
- e. **National Women Veterans Monument** – The Dominion President sent a follow up letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs on 31 May 2024. The Legion has not received a response to this second letter. Of note, the recent ACVA Report, *Invisible No More. The Experience of Canadian Women Veterans*, recommendation two states that *“given such resistance to recognizing women’s military service and their full status as Veterans, one would expect the Canadian government to provide some counterbalance and strive to make them more visible. However, there is no public representation or monument specifically dedicated to the contribution of women.”* The Report recommends that Veterans Affairs Canada pay tribute to women Veterans with a work of art worthy of their commitment.

4. Visits and Meetings

- a. Meeting with RCMP Commissioner – A meeting with Dominion President and the RCMP Commissioner has been confirmed for 19 November at 1300 hrs at Legion House. The Commissioner will also be installed as an Honorary Vice President at this time.
- b. Meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) – The Committee is engaging with the CDS Office to request a meeting with the CDS at the April DEC.

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

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
VETERANS CONSULTATION ASSEMBLY
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 10-2

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

DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): 26 October 2024
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Fall 2025 (TBD)

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

The committee has no action items at this time.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

Seventeen Veterans organizations were represented at the October 2024 meeting of the Veterans Consultation Assembly.

The Chair of the Veterans Review and Appeal Board, Chris MacNeil, presented an update on the VRAB; its mission and priorities for the coming year. This was followed by The Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada, presented by Executive Director Tim Fleiszer, who spoke of Project Enlist, Operation Brain Health and brain injury in the Canadian military. The third presentation was an update on the Heroes Mending on the Fly initiative, by National Director Gervais Jeffrey and Orest Babij, National Secretary.

The consensus of the attending organizations was to issue a letter to the Minister of Veterans Affairs to outline the areas of priority focus as determined by the group:

- Recognize, adopt and implement into policy the available medical research on brain injuries, including creating an entitlement eligibility guideline for TBI
- Conduct a review of all previous disability partial entitlements to provide an immediate increase
- Address and resolve the key financial deficiencies between the Pension Act and the Veterans Well Being Act

In addition, separate correspondence will be issued to the Minister of Veterans Affairs endorsing the Heroes Mending on the Fly initiative, recommending funding consideration through the Veterans and Family Well-Being Fund be considered.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
GOING FORWARD COMMITTEE TO THE
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 10-1-1

**B. Lawrence - Chair
G. Pond - Vice Chair
B. Julian - Member
V. MacGregor - Member
S. McKeown - Member
J. Carleton - Member
B. Chafe - Member
L. Murray - 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

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (EDI) COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 32

V. MacGregor	-	Chair
M. Emery	-	Vice-Chair
B. Chafe	-	Member
M. Fryday-Cook	-	Member
G. Pond	-	Member
E. Poissant	-	Committee Coordinator
M. Ouellette	-	Assistant Committee Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 30 October 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

No action items at this time.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

1. The committee will continue to promote our National EDI Statement at all levels of the organization.
2. The committee is investigating methods of delivering EDI training; budget and method of distribution to be determined.
3. Consultation is in progress with Dominion Marketing & Communications staff regarding creation of a web link on the Legion.ca portal to share EDI documents and information within the RCL.
4. Development of a strategy to implement the National EDI policy at Provincial, District/Zone and Branch levels in coordination with Provincial Commands.
5. The committee will continue Update the action priorities.

I move approval of my report.

**REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND
CENTENARY COMMITTEE TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File: 48-20

V. MacGregor	-	Chair
M. Fryday-Cook	-	Vice-Chair
C. Thompson	-	BC-YK Representative
D. Bolduc	-	AB-NWT Representative
C. Pederson	-	SK Representative
G. Conrad Davey	-	MB-NWO Representative
G. Pond	-	ON representative
J. St-Laurent	-	QC Representative
T. McEvoy	-	NB Representative
D. MacEwen	-	PEI Representative
B. Meadus	-	NL Representative
K. Merola	-	TVS Representative
C. Cook	-	OSI Representative
S. Clark	-	Ex-Officio
L. Murray	-	Ex-Officio
B. Lawrence	-	Ex-Officio
T. Backer	-	Committee Coordinator
J. Ryan	-	Assistant Coordinator

DATE OF LAST MEETING: 24 August 2024

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: TBD 2024

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECISION

No action items for consideration.

THE WAY AHEAD: COMMITTEE PLANS / GOALS

The Committee continues to advance its major initiatives for the 100th anniversary of the RCL. This next year is crucial for getting plans and resources in place for the Centenary year of 2026. The committee is planning to meet before the end of the year to revisit ongoing plans as well as to ensure that respective project timelines are met throughout 2025.

I move approval of my report.

**REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD. TO
DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
23 NOVEMBER 2024**

File:

**B. Lawrence - Board Vice-Chair
B. Chafe - Secretary
T. Bursey - Director
S. Clark - Director
B. Julian - Director
V. MacGregor - Director
S. McKeown - Director
G. Pond - Director**

**DATE OF LAST MEETING(S): April 24, 2024, August 29, 2024
DATE OF NEXT MEETING: November 22, 2024**

INTRODUCTION

In 2024, Canvet will see a modest surplus. The publishing industry has remained stable and with the subscription increase beginning in 2025, Canvet is well positioned for the future.

SUBSIDY REVENUE

Once again, Canvet received the Canada Periodical Fund (CPF) subsidy in 2024. The funding was awarded for *Legion Magazine* and *Canada's Ultimate Story (CUS)*.

In 2023, Canvet received \$939,269. This year, the CPF awarded a combined cheque for \$914,431, 2.64 per cent (\$24,838) lower than last year. The reason for this decrease in funding is due to the CPF phasing in a new formula to calculate the maximum amount of subsidy for Canadian publications. In the past, the formula was based on the publication's Canadian circulation, but it is now based on Canadian content. This new formula is being phased in over a four-year period. Twenty-five per cent of the new formula was applied in 2021, 50 per cent in 2022, 75 per cent in 2023 and 100 per cent in 2024. Canvet's publications consist of 100 per cent Canadian content, so with this new formula, Canvet received another slight decrease in 2024 but then should stabilize at the maximum subsidy. This bodes well for the future of Canvet's subsidy under the new formula.

The subsidy comes with clear rules for inclusion and the Department of Canadian Heritage must continue to be confident that *Legion Magazine* and *CUS* are independent publications and that Canvet is an independent publisher. Any periodicals "that primarily

reports on the activities or promotes the interests of the organization” will be excluded from receiving funding.

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

EDITORIAL

In 2024, Canvet published six issues of *Legion Magazine*, four issues of *CUS*, six French inserts and a French and English eBook titled *Veterans Benefits Guide* (56 pages) which is free to all veterans and their families.

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

In 2025, *Legion Magazine* issues will showcase coverage of Remembrance Day and articles about the Heroes of the empire, The last bombers, Battle of Fish Creek, Victory 1945, and much more.

Again, four *CUS* issues are scheduled: Canada and liberation of the Netherlands – 80 years on; Victory!; Canada’s unheralded battles and O Canada – War and hockey.

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.

Canvet will also publish its first hard cover military history book later this year. It is titled *On War: Exploring how and why we fight*. War correspondent Stephen J. Thorne, with more than 40-years of award-winning words and pictures, delves into what has been described as humankind’s greatest failure. This book was fully produced within Canvet’s 2024 Operating Budget.

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, which includes more than 210,000 names to date. Canvet continues to produce videos in the Military Milestones series with three more published this year.

MEMBER BENEFITS PACKAGE

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

Memorial, Canadian Safe Step Walk-in Tub Co., ChipReverse Mortgage by HomeEquity Bank, HearingLife Advantage, belairdirect car and home insurance, Blowes and Stewart Travel Group Ltd., Ultramatic Adjustable Beds and Mattresses, Red Wireless – Rogers Authorized Dealer, and Upper Canada Wills & 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.

CONCLUSION

This report is for information only.

**REPORT OF THE
LEGION NATIONAL FOUNDATION
TO THE DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
October 2024**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

T. Irvine	-	Chair
B. Julian	-	Vice-Chair
L. Murray	-	Director
A. Siew	-	Director
B. Burnham	-	Director
S. Clark	-	National Executive Director
R. Hayley	-	National Coordinator
B. Ngarachu	-	Director of Development

GENERAL

This report is provided for the information of the Dominion Executive Council. The Foundation's Board of Directors last met on 22 October 2024.

FUNDRAISING

The Legion National Foundation continues to garner support and raise funds through a variety of channels, including gifts from institutional partners, foundations, and corporations. A significant portion of funds raised are through one-time and monthly contributions. Legacy Giving remains a key focus giving area with the LNF having been the beneficiary of two bequests.

The Legion Magazine appeal card continues to attract donors. In the latest French edition of the magazine, a targeted appeal was featured, helping to expand LNF reach and engage new audiences.

The signature fundraiser of the year, Digital Poppy, returns October 25 to November 11, with the goal of generating significant support for the work of the LNF. This year, the process for obtaining a Digital Poppy has been streamlined to encourage participation from Canadians of all ages. Additionally, new dynamic assets have been created to boost online engagement, while the campaign has welcomed four corporate sponsors, furthering visibility, and fundraising efforts.

The Pilgrimage program has been expanded to include a Highlight Tour, which is open to both Legion and non-Legion members. This new 8-day condensed version of the Pilgrimage of Remembrance offers a unique and meaningful experience. Participants will be responsible for their own travel expenses, in addition to a \$4,000 donation to the LNF. The inaugural tour, scheduled for May 2025, will welcome 30 participants.

DISBURSEMENTS

The Board of Directors has approved a disbursement of \$200,000 to Veterans House Canada, along with a \$25,000 contribution to the Juno Beach Centre Association and a \$17,000 donation to King's University College.

The Legion National Foundation Board of Directors is scheduled to meet next, in December 2024.

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

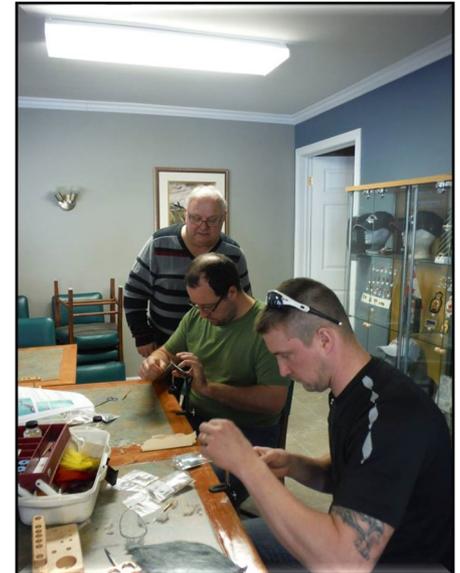


A Journey of Healing



Who are we?

- A group of serving and retired CAF members who are passionate about fly fishing and passionate about helping other members and veterans overcome illness and injury
- A registered Not For Profit Corporation (CRA: 73685-1338 RC0001)
- Over 75 volunteers across Canada
- Since 2019, we have worked with over 1200 veterans across the country—currently 120 going through the program





MISSION

Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada (HMFC) is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings.





Why Fly Fishing?

Fly fishing is used as a therapy because it combines physical, mental, and emotional elements that can help people cope with trauma and stress. Here are several reasons why it's effective:

- Calming and Mindful Activity.
- Connection with Nature
- Gentle Physical Activity
- Sense of Accomplishment
- Social Connection and Camaraderie
- Therapeutic Rhythm
- Focus on Problem-Solving



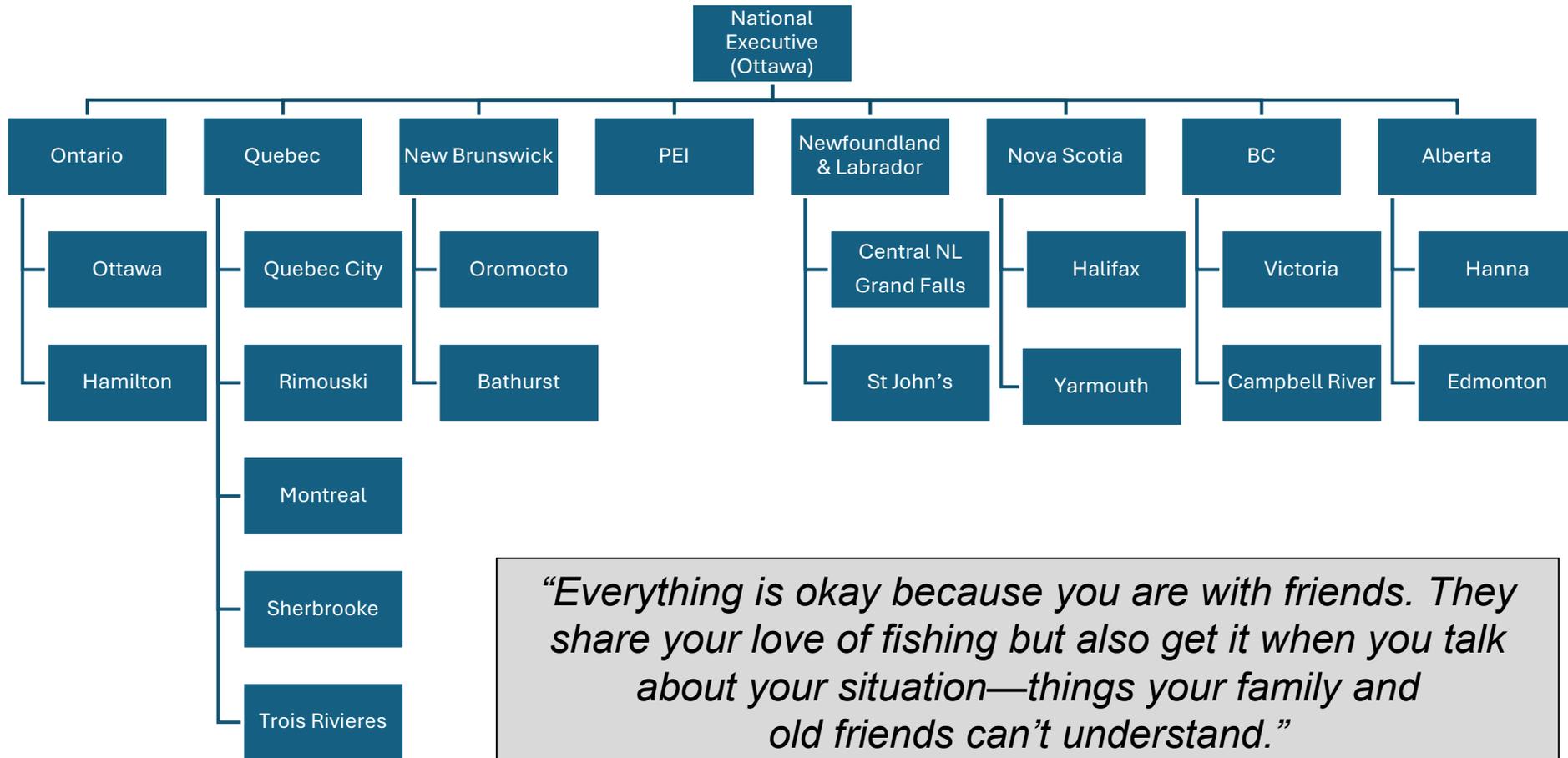
The holistic benefits of fly fishing—its physical, emotional, and social aspects—make it a powerful tool for rehabilitation, especially for those dealing with PTSD or recovering from injuries.



Our emphasis is on providing these activities to existing and retired members of the Canadian Armed Forces. Participants from other organizations such as the RCMP, other Canadian Police Members, Firefighters and EMS personnel, may be included in the activities promoted by Heroes Mending on the Fly Canada if resources allow.



Structure





Our Basics

- Administratively lean organization
 - No paid staff---all volunteers
 - No offices or permanent infrastructure
 - No “trophy” trips
- Bottom up, decentralized execution
 - Provincial and local chapters have a great deal of leeway to plan their activities, conduct outreach and find support
 - National Executive provides oversight and coordination
- All activities, equipment and material provided at no cost to the participants
- Emphasis is on protracted engagement with our participants
 - Year-long plan of activity, not just “one off” trips
 - Build a community, establish friendships

“This program is wonderful; it helped me to meet other people who have the same kind of problem and experience as me. Mainly the fly-tying course, I would even be willing to pay a minimum to live this experience.”



Program Activities

- **Continuous instructional sessions (Fall-Spring)**
 - Fly-tying 101, 201 and 301 (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
 - Fly fishing for beginners, intermediate and advanced
 - Fly rod building (to be added)
- **Fly fishing outings (Spring-Fall)**
 - Day trips
 - Multi-day fishing outings





Funding

- 2023 Program Delivery Cost: ~\$235,000
 - 271 participants in fly-tying classes
 - 315 participants in 26 outings
- Largest source of funding was the Royal Canadian Legion
 - Dominion Command (\$35,000), Provincial and local chapters (\$109,000)
 - 2023: Canada Legacy Project provided \$20,000 (one off)
 - Individual donors: ~\$9,000/year
- Provincial and local HMOTF chapters have established relationships with local legions and receive support
- We are always looking for opportunities to seek funding elsewhere

“Any day on the river is a good day—even if it’s raining and the fish aren’t biting. It doesn’t matter because you have the perfect peace you need to get through the day and take away the stress.”



Corporate Supporters



These companies donate equipment and/or fly-tying material or provide it at a discount to HMOTF

Activities: Margaree River



- Multi-day Atlantic Salmon fishing experience on the world-famous Margaree River in Cape Breton Island
- Culminating activity for the year-long Nova Scotia program
- Has received support from the Cheticamp Legion

Activities: Scotsman's Point Resort



- Family long-weekend fishing experience in Ontario
- Includes:
 - Non-fishing activities for non-fishing family members
 - Engagement with a local First Nation
 - Social activities
- Featured in the New Fly Fisher program (available on YouTube)

RECOGNITION



Questions?



“When you’re on the river, you don’t worry. You forget about all of the things that are wrong in your life. You don’t think about your next surgery or your next therapy session.”

ITEM 17: MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

DOMINION COMMAND MEETINGS AND INVITATION LIST

2024

19 Nov	RCMP Commissioner visit to Legion House (1300 hrs)
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)

2025

2-4 May	Alberta-NWT Command Convention, Stony Plain, AB
10-13 May	Ontario Provincial Convention, London, ON
17-19 May	Quebec Provincial Convention, Quebec City, QC
17-19 May	NS/NU Command Convention, Antigonish, NS,
23-25 May	PEI Provincial Command Convention, Wellington Station
5-8 June	BC/Yukon Command Convention, Kamloops, BC
13-15 June	MAN&NWO Command Convention, Winnipeg, MB
23-27 Aug.	NLFD/LAB Command Convention, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL
19-21 Sep.	NB Provincial Convention, Branch #58 -Kennebecasis, Saint John
27-29 Sep.	Saskatchewan Provincial Convention, Saskatoon, SK