

**Dominion Command
Veterans, Service and Seniors
Committee of the Whole Teleconference
9 January 2019, 1330 – 1430
Record of Discussion**

File: 65-1

IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|------------------|---|-------------------|
| Tom Irvine | - | Chairman |
| Bruce Julian | - | Vice-Chairman |
| Larry Murray | - | Ex-Officio |
| John Mahon | - | Member |
| Ronn Anderson | - | Member |
| Dave Gordon | - | Homeless Veterans |
| George O'Dair | - | Seniors Advisor |
| Frank Sullivan | - | NFLD/LAB VSS Rep |
| Gilles Painchaud | - | PEI VSS Rep |
| Daryl Alward | - | NB VSS Rep |
| Robert Cutbush | - | MAN/NWO VSS Rep |
| Keith Lockett | - | ALTA-NWT VSS Rep |
| Dwight Grieve | - | BC/YUKON VSS Rep |

ABSENT:

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Christopher Richardson | - | BSO Legion OSI Special Section |
| Richard Malin | - | NS/NUNAVUT VSS Rep |
| Kenneth Ouellet | - | QUEBEC VSS Rep |
| Carol Pedersen | - | SASK VSS Rep |

DOMINION COMMAND STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

| | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------|
| Raymond McInnis | - | Secretary |
| Dwayne McCarthy | - | Assistant Secretary |

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the VSS Committee of the Whole and he is looking forward to working with the Committee over the next two years. He provided some ground rules to assist in a productive teleconference, specifically to keep background noise to a minimum and to state your name prior to speaking and only one speaker at a time. Comrade Tom provided a little history on the Committee of the Whole and the importance of re-establishing the Committee now.

The VSS program is a complex program and it is essential that we focus our efforts, provide knowledgeable advice, direction and a need to communicate internally and externally. The Chair encouraged the Committee members to ask questions, provide their input and offer suggestions for action as that is the intent of the VSS Committee of the Whole.

2. COMMUNICATION

Comrade Ray informed members that all correspondence forwarded to you as a Committee member requesting your concurrence or non-concurrence should not be forwarded outside of our Committee to your Command until it is discussed at a VSS meeting and the Record of Discussion is promulgated.

Once promulgated, correspondence can be disseminated throughout the Commands down to Branch level and the membership. Re-establishing this Committee will improve communications and teamwork through the Legion.

All correspondence sent to Provincial VSS representatives will include the Command Executive Director as an information addressee.

ACTION: Members/Secretary

3. VSS PROVINCIAL REPORTS

Comrade Ray provided an update on the amended Provincial VSS Committee Report; the main amendment is the deletion of questions on Homeless Veterans as this topic will be a new monthly report. He requested that all members review the report and provide recommendations to the Secretary no later than 11 February 2019.

In addition, the reporting period for the Provincial VSS Committee Report has changed, it will now change to a calendar year. Reporting period will be from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, final reports due to the Secretary no later than 1 February 2020.

ACTION: Provincial VSS Reps

4. HOMELESS VETERANS REPORT

The Chair asked Comrade Dave to present the Homeless Veterans Report. Comrade Dave explained the report in detail and the importance of receiving the statistical information at Dominion Command. The information will greatly assist in our advocacy to various government departments and organizations with the intent to eradicate Veteran homelessness in this country. He mentioned that the information would be available to all Commands for their use at the Provincial Command level.

A discussion ensued on the validity of a monthly report; the Chair stated that the report will remain a monthly report for now and the Committee will review later. The first detailed

report will be the most important report to establish a baseline, if there are no changes on a monthly basis, an e-mail to the Secretary advising a nil return will suffice.

The monthly reports are due to the Secretary no later than the 15th of each month; the first report is due 15 February 2019.

Comrade Ray stated that there is no need to reinvent the wheel, Ontario Command has a very successful Leave the Streets Behind program and he asked Comrade Dave if he could share the information to the Commands. Comrade Dave will put together a package and it will be forwarded to the Committee.

ACTION: VSS Homeless Veterans Rep/VSS Provincial Reps

5. ROUNDTABLE

Comrade Frank advised that no homeless Veterans requested assistance from his Command. Comrade Ray provided the name of Mr. Bruce Pearce; he works for Community Development, End Homelessness in St. John's. In their last Point in Time (PiT) count, seven homeless identified themselves as Veterans. Comrade Ray provided Mr. Pearce with Paul Hillier's contact information.

Comrade Frank is concerned with long-term care in his province, post-Korea veterans are waiting for beds; he has contacted VAC but has not received a response. It would appear that VAC has not negotiated any agreements with the province for the preferred admission/access for veterans. Comrade Dave explained the situation in Ontario and their Coordinator, Comrade Earl Kish is compiling a report on the number of vacant Preferred Access Beds (PABs) in Ontario. Comrade Ray will contact VAC to request information on negotiations with NL.

ACTION: Secretary

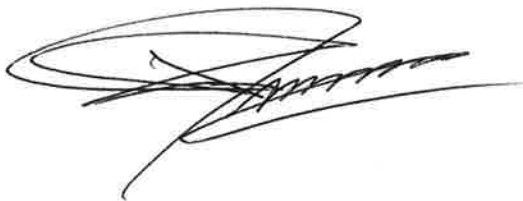
Comrade John requested a VSS Committee contact list.

Secretarial Note: The list was forwarded 10 January to the VSS Committee of the Whole.

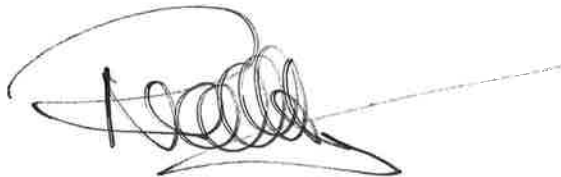
Comrade Rob mentioned that the new Veterans Family Coordinator for the Thunder Bay MFRC was expressing concern that releasing members were not contacting the MFRC for assistance. Comrade Ray explained that medical released members would normally transition through an Integrated Personnel Support Centre (now called Transition Groups) and members are provided the Veteran Family Coordinator contact information. Commands and Branches can assist the Veteran Family Coordinator by advertising their services as well, all part of outreach to our Veterans.

6. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS/NEXT MEETING

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair thanked everyone for calling in and contributing to the meeting. It was informative and he will notify the Committee of the next meeting, tentatively scheduled for the May/June timeframe. The teleconference concluded at 1430.



Tom Irvine
CHAIRMAN



Raymond McInnis
SECRETARY

Dated 11 January 2019