

Dominion Command Defence & Security Committee

Meeting Minutes 04 February 2025

*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.*

Legion 

**DOMINION COMMAND
DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
4 February 2025
MEETING MINUTES**

File: 82-27

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andrea Siew	-	Chair
Brendan Heffernan	-	Vice – Chair (absent)
Brian Sauvé	-	Member (absent)
Mindy Pearson	-	Member
Jeff McGowen	-	Member
Dean Young	-	Coordinator
Carolyn Hughes	-	VSS Committee Chair (absent)

1. OPENING REMARKS

The Committee Chair highlighted that it has been an interesting couple of months since our last meeting on 4 December 2024 with the announcement of new Ministers of Public Safety, David McGuinty, and Veterans Affairs, Darren Fisher, the announced resignation of the Prime Minister at the end of March and a possible federal election. These changes could impact a government response to our CAF and RCMP advocacy agenda including defence and security policy commitments, procurement initiatives, operational commitments, and support to personnel. In particular, on the CAF side – the report on the DND/CAF procurement process as committed in the 2024 Defence Policy Update - has not been released nor has the independent review of the Military Colleges which was launched last year. Both reports were anticipated in December 2024.

The Chair also highlighted that the first Women Veterans Council was officially announced on 28 January. The Council is comprised of 12 women Veterans – 4 RCMP and 8 CAF - and both the CAF and RCMP are represented as co-chairs.

2. REVIEW PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the previous minutes from the last meeting on 4 December 2024. No changes or concerns were noted.

3. UPDATES

CAF – Comrade Andrea advised that the Fall Economic Statement, which was announced on 16 December 2024, provided no additional financial commitments to support the CAF.

RCMP – Comrade Jeff discussed the impact of the threat of US tariffs on the RCMP related to the announcement of 10,000 personnel to secure the borders. Where will these personnel come from and what will be the impact on operational commitments, given the already overstretched RCMP personnel challenges? The Committee will monitor this activity.

Comrade Brendan was not able to attend the meeting; however, he provided an update on RCMP initiatives and activities. Please see ANNEX A.

VSS Committee – Comrade Carolyn, Director Veterans Services, has been working hard with an increase in files from Saskatchewan, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia due to staff shortages. Since the start of the year, they have received an additional 150 applications for VAC benefits.

Yearly statistics for Service Officer work on Applications, Appeals etc. are being verified and will be reported upon shortly.

There are also several Veteran Services' meetings on the horizon as follows:

- 26 February – Meeting with VAC about changes coming to the Entitlement Eligibility Guidelines.
- 5 March - Service Officer Monthly Zoom
- 6-7 March – Women in Defence and Security Breakfast and Women Veterans Forum. Veteran Services has a booth at the Women Veterans Forum.
- 13 March – Presentation to the Veterans Review and Appeal Board Members in Toronto.
- 20 March – Presentation to the Minister's Advisory Group for Service Excellence and Transition.

4. ADVOCACY ISSUE UPDATES

Comrade Andrea advised that there were no updates to the Committee's advocacy issues including:

- RCMP Cadet Training Allowance
- Requirement for a Canadian Public Safety Broadband Network
- ACVA Report – Experience of Women Veterans – Government Response
- RCMP Definition of a Veteran for Commemoration Purposes

- CAF Sexual Misconduct and Cultural Change
 - RMC – Independent Review
- The establishment of a National Women Veterans Monument

5. SPONSORSHIP

Comrade Dean provided an update to the Legion's support of the CAF and RCMP Indigenous Youth Programs. He will follow up with the CAF on the two CAF programs which have not yet come online and to ensure ongoing support for the two programs initiated last year. Action – Comrade Dean

Comrade Andrea briefed that the Legion is a sponsor of the Women in Defence and Security Breakfast on 6 March. This is a large event (over 1,500 people attend) recognizing the contribution of women in defence and security across the country. Alexa Pasha, a Dominion Command Service Officer, is being recognized as an outstanding leader and passionate advocate for Veterans and their families.

6. VISITS AND MEETINGS

Meeting with the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Carignan, at the April DEC. Action - Comrade Dean will follow up to confirm the date with the Dominion Executive Director's staff.

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- a. CDA AGM – 04 March 2025
- b. CDA Security Conference – 05 – 06 March 2025
- c. WiDS Breakfast – 06 March 2025
- d. Women Veterans Forum 06 – 07 March 2025
- e. DEC Meeting 26 – 27 April 2025

8. OTHER ITEMS

Comrade Mindy highlighted the Seamless Canada initiative and how it is helping CAF families access services as health care, employment and education supports between provinces. The Committee discussed that more needs to be done to ensure that CAF families have timely access to primary health care when they relocate between provinces and on release from service. This initiative is

not applicable to RCMP families. The Committee will continue to monitor improvements in providing access to services for both CAF and RCMP families. More information on the initiative is available here:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2022/06/seamless-canada-families.html>

Comrades Mindy and Jeff discussed the “marriage after 60 issue” clause in the RCMP and CAF pension plans and asked if changes are in progress to eliminate the clause. There is no indication at this time that the Government plans to eliminate the clause. The Committee will continue to monitor the issue.

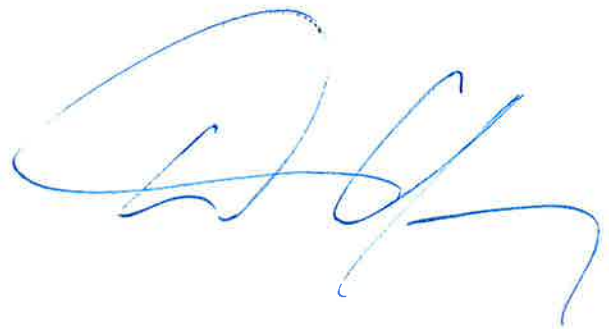
9. NEXT MEETING AND CLOSING

Date for next meeting will be confirmed in April 2025.

Meeting was closed at 1430 hrs.



Andrea Siew
Chair



Dean Young
Coordinator

Dated this day on 03 March 2025.

DISTRIBUTION LIST

DEC
Defence & Security Committee
Dominion Past Presidents
Provincial Executive Directors
Directors
Committee Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries

ANNEX A

RCMP UPDATE

DEFENCE AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

04 FEBRUARY 2025

BRENDAN HEFFERMAN

The following articles were distributed nationally via RCMP Communications. They speak to uniform and kit, public consultations and the release of the Final Report of the Foreign Interference Commission.

A) Release of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference Commission's Final Report

Today, Commissioner Hogue has released [the final report](#) of the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference Commission following over a year's worth of intensive work.

Throughout this past year, the Commission examined potential foreign interference, specifically by China, Russia, and other actors, and assessed the extent of their impact on the 2019 and 2021 federal elections. The inquiry also delved into the flow of information within the federal government on these matters, evaluating both the responsiveness of government actions and the capacity of federal departments, agencies, and institutional structures to detect, deter, and counter such interference. The report includes a number of recommendations for the RCMP and our partners across Canada, which I look forward to reviewing in depth and encourage all RCMP employees to familiarize themselves with.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the Commission's invaluable work in addressing the evolving threat of foreign interference. Additionally, I extend thanks to the RCMP's Project NODO team and RCMP employees that were involved in supporting our response to the inquiry, including managing the disclosure of thousands of classified and unclassified documents, handling information requests, and preparing RCMP members, including myself, to testify before the Commission.

The effort required to support the Commission was no small feat, and its outcomes will have a lasting impact on enhancing national security and safeguarding the integrity of Canada's electoral processes and democratic institutions for years to come.

Mike Duheme
Commissioner

B) RCMP Launches Second Public Consultation

Building trust together: Join our public consultation for our strategic plan

The RCMP, through the Open Government Office, launches its online public consultation to engage Canadians in shaping its strategic vision for the *Transparency and Trust Multi-Stakeholder Forum (The Forum)*. This initiative underscores the organization's commitment to fostering transparency, trust, and evidence-based decision-making.

Through the consultation, we are seeking feedback on the draft strategic plan to establish a RCMP *Transparency and Trust Multi-Stakeholder Forum*, which outlines the global, national, and organizational need for this advisory body. The Forum aims to bridge the gap between the public, civil society, non-governmental stakeholders, and the organization by promoting open dialogue, equitable decision-making, and shared priorities around transparency and trust.

Participants are asked to:

- read the draft *Transparency and Trust Multi-Stakeholder Forum Strategic Plan*
- provide opinions, feedback and answer several questions

By participating, you will help define the Forum's governance framework, and contribute to a culture of transparency, integrity, and accountability. Using a secure online tool, the RCMP, ensures secure and confidential participation by verifying the authenticity of participants while protecting their anonymity throughout the process. Only opinions and ideas are collected, not personal information, ensuring confidentiality and fostering credible, informed public engagement essential for policy development.

The consultation is open until **February 14th**, and we encourage all community members, partners, and stakeholders to take part in this opportunity to shape the future of transparency and trust at the RCMP.

For more details and to participate, visit [PlaceSpeak - Strategic Plan to Establish a RCMP Multi-Stakeholder Forum](#).

Together, we can build a stronger, more inclusive, and accountable organization. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the Open Government Office at EnterpriseTransparency-Transparenceauseindelorganisation@rcmp-grc.gc.ca.

Robyn Hulan
Chief Digital Officer

C) Commissioner Broadcast - Operational Needs Identification – Uniform, Equipment and Assets

The Senior Executive Committee (SEC) has approved a new way for employees to identify operational uniform and equipment needs and capability gaps, that will directly benefit all employees.

This is another step towards getting you the gear that you need in a more timely and streamlined manner.

Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, is the RCMP Champion on the Operational Needs Identification (ONID) initiative and his message to you explaining more about it, is immediately below.

Mike Duheme
Commissioner

A message from Deputy Commissioner Dwayne McDonald, RCMP Change Champion - Operational Needs Identification – Uniform, Equipment and Assets

Often, frontline and unit level employees are among the first in our organization to identify gaps or deficiencies in the equipment, uniforms, and assets essential to policing.

Once a capability gap or deficiency is identified, it is important to ensure that operational needs are met while protecting the safety of both the police and the public.

As the national champion for this initiative, I am pleased to provide employees with more details on what they can expect.

Uniform, equipment and assets are managed through four main lifecycle stages:

- Assessment and Planning
- Acquisition
- Operation and Maintenance
- Disposal

Unfortunately, the assessment and planning phase for uniform, equipment and assets has never been formalized. This has led to an inconsistent approach for identifying and assessing capability deficiencies, and an inability to prioritize our operational needs. It has also been a cause for some delays experienced when trying to advance requests.

Under the new Operational Needs Identification process, with the support of unit commanders or line officers, employees of all ranks and categories can both identify and help close gaps in equipment capabilities. This might include intervention options, surveillance equipment, operational uniforms, and vehicles, or other assets used by specialized teams.

When an employee identifies a gap, they can fill out the Statement of Capability Deficiency [form](#). Once supported, this will be submitted to the Needs Assessment Team where the request will be managed and tracked. You will also receive updates on the status of your request. The goal is a formalized, streamlined process that is financially viable and gets the right equipment into the field more quickly.

Details on the new process are available on the RCMP's national Operational Needs Identification [Infoweb](#) site. It provides you with information explaining the new process and contact information for the Needs Assessment Team.

It should be noted that the Operational Needs Identification process will not apply to information technology, ceremonial dress, or real property, for which there are already formalized acquisition requirements and processes in place.

We are committed to keeping you informed as this process evolves and there is a team in place at ONID_IDBO@rcmp-grc.gc.ca to provide answers to your questions.