

**Dominion Command  
Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee  
VIA ZOOM**

**24 February 2022, 1330 – 1530**

**Record of Discussion**

**File: 65-1**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Bruce Julian</b>	-	<b>Chairman</b>
<b>Owen Parkhouse</b>	-	<b>Vice-Chairman</b>
<b>Bill Chafe</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>John Mahon</b>	-	<b>Member</b>
<b>Dave Gordon</b>	-	<b>Homeless Veterans</b>
<b>George O'Dair</b>	-	<b>Seniors Advisor</b>
<b>Trevor Jenvenne</b>	-	<b>BSO Legion OSI Special Section</b>

**DOMINION COMMAND STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Raymond McInnis</b>	-	<b>Coordinator</b>
<b>Dwayne McCarthy</b>	-	<b>Assistant Coordinator</b>

**ABSENT**

<b>Larry Murray</b>	-	<b>Ex-Officio</b>
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**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

Comrade Bruce welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022 and provided an update on his meeting with the Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay. He mentioned the trucker protest and the Committee discussed the NWM incident, Comrade Carolyn advised that we received a few e-mails on the protest and sent to Corporate Services for information.

He advised that Comrade Ray is now attending the D&S Committee meetings as an Observer and extended a warm welcome to Comrade Carolyn, the Deputy Director, Veterans Services and the Coordinator, D&S Committee who will be an observer at our meetings.

He mentioned that Brian Sauve from the National Police Federation is a new member of the Defence and Security Committee - <https://npf-fpn.com/>

## 2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from 8 November 2021 were distributed on 21 November 2021 and forwarded again as an attachment with the agenda on 6 February 2022. Comrade Ray provided the following update on action items from these minutes:

**Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada** – DEC approved 75K for the foundation, due to the pandemic, the cheque was mailed and received by CLFC in January.

Comrade Bill asked how the Legion would commemorate the last WW II Veteran, like the commemoration of the last WW I Veteran. The coordinator forwarded the issue to the Membership, Marketing, Poppy and Remembrance Committees to put on their radar for consideration.

Comrade Owen asked how many provinces have MLA or MPP Military or Veterans' liaison representatives.

The coordinator conducted a website scan and found the following information:

**Nova Scotia** is Canada's only province with a Minister responsible for Military Relations. <https://novascotia.ca/iga/milrel.asp>

**New Brunswick** - The toll-free NB Veterans Information Line provides basic information about provincial programs and services and assists veterans to navigate their way through the various government departments and agencies. Call 1-855-550-0552.

[https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services\\_renderer.201361.NB\\_Veterans\\_Information\\_Line.html](https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services_renderer.201361.NB_Veterans_Information_Line.html)

**Manitoba** - The Manitoba government has appointed Scott Johnston, Member of the Legislative Assembly of Manitoba (MLA) for St. James, as Special Envoy for Military Affairs to ensure our CAF members and their families feel welcome and appreciated during their postings in our province, and to help them address the unique challenges of military life.

<https://residents.gov.mb.ca/moving/military/sema.html>

**Alberta** – have a military liaison to the CAF

**British Columbia** – have a military liaison to the CAF

The minutes were reviewed by the Committee with no observations. The Chair requested a motion to approve the minutes.

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded that the members approve the minutes of the last Committee meeting held on 8 November 2021.

**CARRIED**

### 3. VETERANS HOMELESSNESS - UPDATE

Comrade Dave provided the following report:

The following is a review of the 2021 Quarterly reports (numbers assisted) by Command which has been updated with additional numbers from Ontario Command.

**BC/Yukon** – over 100 from Cockrell House (I used the 100 number) a few females. Note there has been indication of Homeless Veterans being assisted in the interior, Comox Valley, however they were not reported through the Quarterly report. They have also began circulating posters and pamphlets throughout the Command.

**Alberta/NWT** – 9 – 1 Female

**Saskatchewan** – 30

**Man/NWO** – 3 -1 – Female

**Ontario** – 993 – 104 Females

**Quebec** – 150

**Nova Scotia** – 15 – 2 Females

**New Brunswick** - 2

**PEI** - 2

**Newfoundland** - 0

**Total: 1,204 of which 108 are Female.**

NOTE: Female numbers are included in the totals.

Other than Ontario Command there was not much information given to the monetary funds spent on the program and we will be asking for more detail in the future. Ontario Command has disbursed over \$ 2.8 million for their Operation Leave the Streets Behind program. He also noted that the numbers are not complete as there was no 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter or 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter report from Alberta/NWT.

The Toronto Police Services and OPP have finalized their Officer Training program regarding Homeless Veterans. He will speak to this program later in the meeting. A letter was sent to the RCMP Commissioner for their endorsement for the program and she endorsed the Homeless Veterans program. This was for Ontario only, however, her office contacted Comrade Dave prior to Christmas and asked if this program could be taken to the national level, we can take the program national and we are waiting for further information regarding their program outline.

Veterans House in Ottawa has 37 Veterans who have taken up residence with six female veterans and it will be full by the end of the month.

Point in Time counts were conducted across Canada and Ottawa has completed their count and there were discrepancies leading to only two Veterans being identified compared to 63 in the previous count. In the same month the count took place there were seven Veterans relocated to Veterans House. The reports had to be complete

and presented to the Federal Government by December 31, 2021. The full reports should be available by the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2022.

As previously noted, CAEH has been expanding their program and have been in contact with several regions in Ontario and across the country. CAEH is now establishing committees in more than 30 municipalities in Ontario and the Legion is playing a major role with committees being established in all communities as well and this program is moving across the country in due time, with committees being in St. John's, NL, Fort McMurray, Alberta to name a couple.

Late 2021 there was a directive from the Ontario Government that has since gone across the province and 66 Cities are under this mandate. A Homeless, By Name list is to be established whereby any Homeless person in the respective community will be placed on this list. His concern was that Veterans were placed on this list and there was no follow up, referrals to the Legion or other Veterans organizations did not occur thus leaving the veteran in limbo. Confidentiality was the main concern and reason given, however after review and education, there has been some change of heart.

There was some difficulty with VAC, but he believes the concerns are being corrected. With the VAC offices closed and staff not responding or asking Veterans to contact the Legion for assistance is causing delays in assistance being provided in a timely manner.

As you are aware there are many communities across Canada that are considering Tiny Homes for Veterans and others in their community. He has continuously been advising that Poppy Funds cannot be used for construction purposes and DC releasing the memo reinforcing this has slowed the questions.

A motion was made to go in-camera discussion for 15 minutes, and a motion table for out of camera.

**Carried**

## **MVWP – STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK**

Comrade Dave presented the attached Strategic Framework and Logic Model for the Military Veterans Wellness Program (MVWP) and requested the Committee's approval to continue working with the TPS, the OPP and the RCMP to bring this program national. Once the TPS and OPP launch in Ontario, Comrade Dave to provide regular updates on the progress.

**MOTION:** Recommend that Comrade Dave continue to work with TPS the OPP, and the RCMP with the intention to bring this program nationally.

**CARRIED**

#### **4. SENIORS REPORT**

Comrade George advised the new apparent acceptance that we're going to have to live with some version of dangerous viruses in our midst, Canadians must ensure that Governments learn from the mistakes of COVID and particularly as they relate to LTC. There have been lots of promises, especially from Ontario and hopefully, those will be remembered post-election.

Governments must fund more LTC beds and supply them with no-nonsense updated LTC care standards and qualified nurses and other caregivers with proper pay scales and sufficient safety equipment. Ontario has committed to hire 193 new inspectors to ensure that care rules are followed. There have been indications that the worst cases of neglect came from for-profit homes vis-à-vis public homes. That's not necessarily correct. In his geographical area, about 60% of COVID related deaths occurred in publicly funded LTC homes and he recalls that COVID related deaths in Quebec of residents in publicly funded homes were atrocious. Although it might give us comfort to think that Government owned homes are best, it might not really matter who owns the homes if they're properly operated, safe, clean and under heavy inspection protocol.

In Ontario, the Ministry of LTC has a program offering loan guarantees for not-for-profit homes to secure development loans from Infrastructure Ontario – part of a \$6.4 billion / 10-year investment for 30,000 new LTC beds.

320 new beds are confirmed for Ajax – 228 beds for Mississauga and 250 new beds in Cornwall and Lancaster. The last 2 being for profit homes.

There is some talk from various Ontario Health Coalition Alliance Chapters about the prospect of health care privatization in Ontario and that the province is considering private for-profit hospitals as well as handing more than 18,000 LTC beds to for-profit companies in 30-year contracts. He will follow up and advise further.

#### **5. BSO LEGION OSI SPECIAL SECTION REPORT**

Comrade Trevor advised since our last meeting, the ongoing Covid-19 Health mandates have continued to affect both their current major programs namely Buddy Check Coffee, and Operation Vetbuild. With the easing of restrictions on the horizon, they are in the process of getting both programs back up and running. As our Legion branches return to pre pandemic services and hours of operation, these programs will be our main priority. They are also implementing policy and procedures in relation to ensuring the safety of members attending these programs by ensuring the local organizers are properly screened.

These measures will include police criminal record checks and vulnerable sector screening. They are also looking at programming to better assist participants in delivering these programs. This could include mandatory courses such as the Mental Health First Aid Course or equivalent.

Mental Health First Aid - The Mental Health First Aid Course is still being offered in a virtual format. Unfortunately, he does not believe that this program will be offered in person going forward. He is also concerned that these courses seem to be harder and harder to organize.

The Mental Health Commission of Canada has been administering the program and have been implementing excessively strict timelines in relation to course loading and flexibility in terms of cancellation. In one instance they are still charging Veterans Affairs a cancellation fee if the serial is cancelled without 30 days' notice. He believes this is excessive especially considering this course is only offered online.

They also appear to have taken no responsibility in promoting the serials themselves and rely on interest groups to fill these serials. He can only report at this time that he will be seeking clarification from the Mental Health Commission to see if these rigid timelines can be loosened in the interest of accessibility to Veterans and Service providers.

Compassionate Listening Course - They are still examining the usefulness of this course in a broader Legion application. There are two serials being offered one for Western Canada in March, and another for Eastern Canada in April.

One of the concerns that they have currently is that while the developers are very knowledgeable in the field, the course is still in its infancy, and has not been peer reviewed. Further updates will be forthcoming as our examination of this course continues.

#### Dispatches Adventure Ride

You will recall that this initiative was brought up for discussion in early December of last year and was not supported by our committee. You may also recall that Comrade Trevor's nonsupport of the initiative was based on the ongoing pandemic regulations only.

Comrade Michael Terry the organizer was invited to the OSI Executive meeting on December 20th. The OSI Section agreed to financially support this initiative, on the understanding that it would be conducted in accordance with imposed public health mandates in the jurisdictions that Comrade Terry would be operating in. He in turn agreed to promote the OSI Special Section and its programs in his travels. Comrade Trevor will update on this initiative further as it progresses.

## **6. ADVOCACY – INCOME REPLACEMENT BENEFIT**

Comrade Ray advised that we have been requested by a Veteran to pursue a recommendation to advocate to VAC to amend the IRB. Essentially, a Veteran who is Diminished Earning Capacity (DEC) is raising the bell about the deduction of the CPP and OAS from their IRB after it is reduced from 90 to 70% at age 65. Comrade Ray has been in contact and discussion with the co-Chairs of the Ministerial Policy Advisory

Committee (MPAG) and the President of NCVA and It will be an issue the MPAG and the NCVA will review, and it is important that the Legion advocates as well. Veterans who can work can earn up to 20K annually before any claw back, unfortunately seriously disabled Veterans on DEC do not have the ability to work, yet they see not only a 20% deduction at age 65 but also see their CPP and OAS deducted as income from their IRB.

Recommendation is for the Legion to advocate for IRB review and possible changes to the policy.

**MOTION**: Recommend that the Committee further review this issue with the intention of advocating for changes to the IRB.

**CARRIED**

## **7. RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND POPPY FUND MANUAL**

Comrade Dave advised that for many years Branches have been making donations from their Poppy Funds to funds at the Zone and District level to assist Veterans and their families. Hospital Funds, Veterans Comfort Funds and most recently, Homeless Veterans funds.

Establishing these funds at the Zone and District level allow for generous donations in a larger amount for big ticket items that wouldn't be funded by an individual branch.

The Poppy Manual is restrictive in that Section 207 e. restricts Districts and Zones from collecting or maintaining a Poppy Trust Fund.

"Section 207 e. NOTE: This Section does not provide District or Zones the authority to collect or maintain a Poppy Trust Fund Account."

### **Proposal**

Delete the NOTE section from Section 207 e of the Poppy Manual.

### **Insert a new subsection 207 f. –**

Where deemed necessary to combine Poppy Fund resources for projects/programs beyond the capability of a single Branch Poppy fund, Zones and Districts may establish a separate Poppy Trust Fund for support of veterans in the area overseen by that Zone or District. The approval to provide Branch Poppy Funds for this collective purpose is at the discretion of the Branch (s) within that Zone or District. All financial accountability and reporting associated with Branch Poppy Funds apply. Additionally, the Application for Special Use of Poppy Trust Funds must be submitted to Provincial Commands for approval of any expenditure.

After considerable discussion on this issue, the motion was seconded, and a vote carried.

**MOTION:** Recommend to the Poppy and Remembrance Committee to amend the Poppy Manual to delete the note in 207e and insert a new 207f - Where deemed necessary to combine Poppy Fund resources for projects/programs beyond the capability of a single Branch Poppy fund, Zones and Districts may establish a separate Poppy Trust Fund for support of veterans in the area overseen by that Zone or District. The approval to provide Branch Poppy Funds for this collective purpose is at the discretion of the Branch (s) within that Zone or District. All financial accountability and reporting associated with Branch Poppy Funds apply. Additionally, the Application for Special Use of Poppy Trust Funds must be submitted to Provincial Commands for approval of any expenditure.

**CARRIED**

## **8. RECOMMENDATION - THE NEED FOR PEER SUPPORT FOR RCMP MEMBERS AND VETERANS WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SERVICE-RELATED SEXUAL TRAUMA**

Comrade Ray advised that this recommendation was with the D&S Committee, and forwarded to this committee as it is more with our ToRs. Background provided - In June the Office of the Veterans Ombud(OVO) released a report and recommended that the CAF and VAC establish a peer support program for CAF members and Veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma.

The OVO report did not examine the need for RCMP members and Veterans. The OVO focussed their effort on the CAF experience and requirement. Attached is the link to the report.

<https://ombudsman-veterans.gc.ca/en/publications/reports-reviews/Peer-Support-for-Veterans-who-have-Experienced-Military-Sexual-Trauma>

The report specifically states that peer support programs provided by the RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 2019) were outside of the scope of this investigation. The report further states that the OVO was advised that RCMP members and former members who have experienced sexual assault or harassment in the workplace are not referred away from the RCMP's peer support program. The program is available to members and former members who have a diagnosed mental health condition or who have symptoms which may indicate a mental health condition, as a result of their experience (Occupational Health and Safety Branch/Member Benefits, RCMP, correspondence, 2021). The OVO did not examine and did not assess whether those programs meet the needs of those members and former members.

RCMP members and Veterans are not officially included in the VAC/CAF OSISS program. A separate program, Support for Operational Stress Injury (SOSI), operated by the RCMP, serves RCMP Veterans, members, and employees. The OVO in their



report documented that discussions with stakeholders have suggested that RCMP members experience workplace gender and sexual based harassment and assault, similar to CAF members. The OVO concluded with regards to RCMP members: "We would hope that RCMP members and Veterans are extended dedicated peer support services in line with the recommendations we make in this report for CAF Veterans who have experienced service-related sexual trauma."

In consultation with the RCMP Veterans Women's Council, the Defence and Security committee is advised there is a similar deficiency/gap for RCMP members and Veterans regarding the need for a peer support for survivors who have experience service-related sexual trauma.

It is recommended that the RCMP develop and provide dedicated peer support program for survivors of service-related sexual misconduct.

After discussion, it was moved that we would continue review on this issue and recommend that the RCMP develop and provide a dedicated peer support program for survivors of service-related sexual misconduct.

**MOTION:** The Legion will continue to review this issue and recommend that the RCMP develop and provide a dedicated peer support program for survivors of service-related sexual misconduct.

**CARRIED**

## **9. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/ROUNDTABLE**

No additional agenda items were tabled.

### **ROUNDTABLE**

Comrade John requested that section reports be forwarded in advance of the meeting if available. The coordinator will forward all correspondence in advance of the next meeting.

**ACTION: Coordinator**

Comrade Trevor asked about the VIP for RCMP veterans. The coordinator provided some historical background on this issue.

Comrade Owen advised that they partner with the local MFRC and host a Veteran's Expo in PEI, 14-15 October 2022. Comrade Ray advised he would provide the contact information for the organizer of the NCR Family Day program; so they can share lessons learned from the event.

**ACTION: Coordinator**

## 10. NEXT MEETING

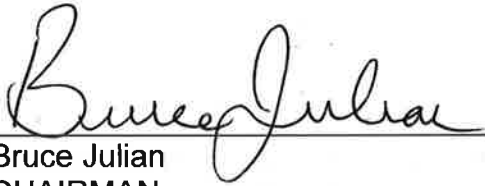
The next meeting for the VSS Committee is scheduled for **26 May 2022** via Zoom at 1330. Tentatively, meetings will be scheduled in September 2022 and November 2022.

## 11. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

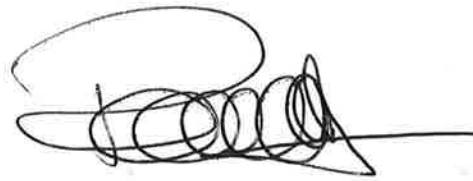
The Chair thanked all for their input, it was an excellent meeting. Stay safe and be well!

**MOTION:** It was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1530.

**CARRIED**



Bruce Julian  
CHAIRMAN



Raymond McInnis  
COORDINATOR

Dated 14 March 2022

# Military Veterans Wellness Program (MVWP) - Strategic Framework

## Ultimate Outcome:

Prosperity for all our Canadian Armed Forces Veterans and increased public safety for all communities across Canada

**Vision:** To be an integrated partner with Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion, Operational Stress Injury Social Support, and law enforcement agencies across Canada to improve the support to Canadian Armed Forces Veterans while they are in crisis, living without a home and / or having suicidal ideations

<u>Training</u>	<u>Referral</u>	<u>Policy and Planning</u>	<u>Collaboration</u>	<u>National Implementations Plan and Communications Plan</u>
<p><b>Strategic Effect:</b> <i>Canadian law enforcement officers have the knowledge and skills necessary to de-escalate and help Veterans in crisis</i></p>	<p><b>Strategic Effect:</b> <i>Law enforcement officers have the capacity to refer veterans to veteran social service agencies</i></p>	<p><b>Strategic Effect:</b> <i>Effective Military Veterans Wellness Program policy and support system</i></p>	<p><b>Strategic Effect:</b> <i>Integrated partnerships with national veterans service agencies, law enforcement agencies, and stakeholders</i></p>	<p><b>Strategic Effect:</b> <i>National awareness and implementation of the Military Veterans Wellness Program</i></p>
<p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b> Educate law enforcement officers to better understand veterans and how they can help Engage stakeholders and participants to evaluate the training program Integrate research with key partners into training material</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b> Streamline an effective referral process for all law enforcement agencies Optimize law enforcement services and resources by reducing repetitive calls for service involving Veterans</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b> Develop and maintain the program's policy, direction and performance measurement framework Inform program policy through an annual report Provide ongoing policy support and resources to external agencies</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b> Collaborate with stakeholders and partners to streamline the referral of Veterans to support services Collaborate with external police agencies to support national program delivery Maintain and establish new partnerships to improve the training and assistance provided to Veterans</p>	<p><b>Strategic Objectives:</b> Develop and deliver a national implementation plan with stakeholders Develop and deliver an internal and external communications strategy</p>

**Mission:** To improve the well-being of veterans by providing law enforcement agencies with a better understanding of veterans, de-escalation training, and a streamlined referral process to national support services

**Plans & Priorities, Guidelines, Strategies:** Toronto Police Service & Ontario Provincial Police Core Values and Service Governance

**Government of Canada: Societal / Legislative/ Regulatory:** Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Criminal Code of Canada, Police Services Act, and the Veterans Affairs Canada Mandate, and the Canadian societal agreement to take care of those who risk their lives to take care of us



# Logic Model for the Military Veterans Wellness Program (MVWP)

**Guidelines:** Core Values and Service Governance  
**Societal / Legislative / Regulatory:** Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Criminal Code of Canada, Police Services Act, and the Veterans Affairs Canada Mandate, and the Canadian societal agreement to take care of those who risk their lives to take care of us

## Inputs

### Training and Education

Educate police officers to better understand veterans and how they can help

Maintain and update the training course with integrated research

Track test results and provide completion certificates

Distribute Training Program

### Referral Process

VAC, OSSIS, and RCL contact the veteran to provide support services

Maintain and update assistance form

Maintain access to additional resources on assistance form

Distribute Assistance Form

### Policy & Planning

Develop and maintain program policy & routine orders

Implement and maintain the performance measurement framework

Produce Annual Report

### Collaboration

Collaborate with stakeholders & partners

Distribute Military Veterans Wellness Package with support to external police services

Establish new partnerships to improve and expand the program

### National Implementation and Communications Plan

Develop a TPS internal communications strategy to include month of remembrance epaulettes and Awareness Site.

Develop external communications strategy to include social media, news articles, podcast and video.

Coordinate with VAC, OSSIS, RCL, CACP and OACP to promote program.



## Outputs

Training Program

Course completion certificates

Information sessions for external police units

TPS 980 - Military Veteran Assistance Form in both official languages

Policy & Routine Orders Performance Measurement Framework Annual Report

External partnerships: VAC, Legion, OSSIS, Police Service Partnerships: OPP, RCMP, OACP, CACP and all national services

Communications strategy Media content TPS Awareness Page Month of Remembrance

## Outcomes

### Direct

1. Police officers have a better understanding of veterans, can assist them in crisis (including those who are homeless and/or suicidal), and refer them to support

2. Clear and effective direction, performance management, and reporting

3. Partners and Stakeholders work collaboratively with the TPS to help provide veterans with support

4. Police units across Canada implement the MVWP and are supported doing so.

5. Police officers and the Canadian public are aware of the MVWP values, vision, and progress

### Intermediate

6. Veterans receive support, optimizing the services provided by police services

7. The referral of veterans to support services is streamlined across Canada

8. There are integrated partnerships between National Veterans Service Agencies and Police Services across Canada

### Ultimate

9. Prosperity for all our Canadian Armed Forces veterans and increased public safety for all communities across Canada

