

**Dominion Command
Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee
VIA ZOOM
05 July 2024, 1100 – 1300
Record of Discussion**

File: 65-1

IN ATTENDANCE:

Bruce Julian	-	Chair
Berkely Lawrence	-	Vice Chair
Bill Chafe	-	Member
John Mahon	-	Member
Trevor Jenvenne	-	BSO Legion OSI Special Section
George O'Dair	-	Seniors Advisor
Dave Gordon	-	Homeless Veterans Advisor
Carolyn Hughes	-	Coordinator
Alexa Pasha	-	Assistant Coordinator
Dean Young	-	Defence and Security Observer

REGRETS:

Larry Murray – Ex-Officio

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Comrade Bruce welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES

MOTION: To approve minutes from previous meeting.

CARRIED

3. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Homeless Veterans / TPS Program

Comrade Dave noted he continues to meet with Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness quarterly as they expand throughout the country. Toronto Police Services MWVP program is now in over 50 police services across the country. For further information please see attached report written by Comrade Dave

Discussions of connecting with Veterans Ombud on concerns in the homeless Veteran community were presented as an option of advocacy.

b. Seniors

Comrade George noted there is a program in Kitchener expanding throughout Ontario called GeriMedRisk. The program aims to make it easier and faster for seniors living with complex medical needs to access coordinated care in their community. It connects primary care providers with an interdisciplinary team of geriatric for specialized services and information. For further information see attached report written by Comrade George.

c. BSO Legion OSI Special Section

Comrade Trevor noted updates are occurring in the bylaws for the Special Section. He is working closely with District C in Ontario and Comrade Darren Reid is looking for a replacement representative in this area. Comrade Trevor noted he is impressed with District E and their programming.

Comrade Trevor updated that Comrade Darren Reid is working with Ranger Command. Supporting Rangers and connecting with them, is an area which the BSO Legion OSI Special Section is passionate about getting involved with. This is an important part of our Veteran community which needs connection, services and supports.

d. The Burn's Way

The Legion continues to fully support the initiative but has declined a seat on the Board of Directors. We will continue to endorse through the Legion Dispatch and various social media as the program continues to grow.

Comrade Bruce noted that there will be a full report on The Burn's Way at DEC in Saint John.

e. Lawsuits

Below is a list of lawsuits occurring at this time. Individuals who are calling Veterans Services toll-free number are being directed to the appropriate contact. Links below to view further information.

- i. **SISIP Lawsuit** - <https://www.mcinnescooper.com/services/sisip-ltd-class-action/>
- ii. **Miscalculation of Disability Pensions** - <https://vetspensionerror.ca/>
- iii. **Racism Lawsuit** - <https://www.veterans.gc.ca/en/news-and-media/alerts/have-you-experienced-racial-discrimination-or-racial-harassment-canadian-armed-forces>
Proposed Settlement - <https://forcesaction.com/>

News Article - <https://globalnews.ca/news/10485793/canadian-forces-racism-class-action-settlement/>

- iv. **Discrimination due to Mental Health Lawsuit**
<https://nationalpost.com/news/canada/court-certifies-lawsuit-against-military-mental-health>

f. Third Biannual Report of External Monitor Jocelyne Therrien

The Third report regarding the Implementation of the Recommendations from former Supreme Court Justice Louise Arbour on Military Sexual Misconduct has been released by Ms. Jocelyne Therrien and can be found at:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/external-monitor-report-third-status-report.html>

Minister Blair's Statement regarding the Third Report can be reviewed at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/news/2024/05/statement-from-minister-blair-on-the-third-biannual-report-of-external-monitor-jocelyne-therrien.html>

4. VETERANS SERVICES UPDATE

a. Command SO's

Comrade Carolyn noted the upcoming hiring of a new SO in Veteran Service and the upcoming interviews. Veteran Services welcomed a new Service Officer Assistant, Will Royle, to the team.

b. WWII and Korean Veteran Identification

Comrade Carolyn spoke to Comrade Randy, and it was noted that the information is not collected in the data of membership. This information would be at the local Branch level. However, this information must not be shared without the consent of the Veteran, as it would be a privacy issue.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Poppy Fund Request for Programs

- i. **Heroes in Mind Advocacy & Research Consortium** requested an additional \$200K for 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.

MOTION: The Committee approved this request and moved to Poppy and Remembrance (P&R) Committee for review, with a caveat that this be the final amount given.

CARRIED

ii. Canadian Institute of Education and Research in Counselling (CERIC): CERIC is 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.

MOTION: The Committee approved this request and moved to the P&R Committee for review

CARRIED

iii. PepperPod: PepperPod is asking for funding for two program 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.

MOTION: The Committee approved both requests and moved to the P&R Committee for review.

CARRIED

iv. Ways to Wellbeing: They are asking for \$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. Comrade Carolyn will connect with P&R committee on this application and program to determine if it fits their criteria for the distribution of funds. It will be discussed further at the next VSS meeting.

ACTION: Comrade Carolyn

v. Concussion Legacy Foundation and Project Enlist (Operation Brain Health): They 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.

MOTION: Recommended this request be moved to P&R for review and funding.

CARRIED

vi, Project Athena -There is no financial request but came from the P&R Committee to review. It is an interactive mapping system where locations of significance in Afghanistan can be noted by veterans, such as IED explosions or other battles. The developer would like support and partnership in the initiative. At this time, it was decided amongst VSS members that this request would not be approved. There were questions surrounding liability and privacy risk at this point in time.

The P&R Committee will be advised.

MOTION: It was recommended this request be declined.

CARRIED

5. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS/ROUNDTABLE

Committee members thanked Comrade Bruce for all the support, leadership and guidance he has provided on the VSS committee over the years.

Comrade Bill noted that the Parkwood Veterans Institute in London has a COVID outbreak.

6. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The Chair thanked all for their input, and the discussion and being part of the VSS committee over the last three years. The next meeting will be set by the following Chair, who will be appointed in the coming months.



Bruce Julian
CHAIRMAN

Dated this day of July 2024



Carolyn Hughes
COORDINATOR