



1180-1 (President)

18 November 2021

Distribution List

HOME STATION REGIMENTAL SENATE (HSRS) MEETING, TUESDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021

Chair: Col P.J. Williams (Ret'd) – President

Members in attendance:

LGen M.K. Jeffery (Ret'd)
Col T.R. Young (Ret'd)
LCol D.Y.G. Brassard – CO 1 RCHA
LCol U.J.F. Wolanski (Ret'd)
LCol C.A. Wood – Commander Home Station
Maj J.R. Fisher (Ret'd)
Maj I.K. Van Dyke – Treasurer
Maj S.D. Youngson – COS CFB Shilo
CWO J. Abrahamse – RSM Home Station

Members unable to attend:

MGen R.W. Goodyear
Col S.G. Haire
Maj S. Kiropoulos (Ret'd)
Maj H.B. Nelson, COS CFB Shilo

1. Item 1 – Welcome Opening Remarks
 - a. The meeting was called to order at 1000 hrs Central Standard Time (CST) by the Chair.

b. The Chair welcomed all in attendance to the meeting, which was conducted as a teleconference, using Microsoft Teams (MS Teams) for the second time. He also welcomed the new Comd Home Station, LCol Wood and the RSM Home Station, CWO Abrahamse. He noted the following:

- (1) effective 23 Oct 21, BGen J.J. Selbie (Ret'd) will be succeeded as Col Comdt RCA by BGen D.A. Patterson (Ret'd);
- (2) the RCHA memorial in Kingston was re-dedicated at a ceremony on 15 Sep 21. The memorial now reflects the names of fallen Gunners from Korean War and Afghanistan. The Fund provided \$100.00 in support of this initiative; and
- (3) the Chair thanked those Senate members who provided support to a member of C Coy, 3rd Cdn Div Trg Centre Det Shilo who suffered the loss of personal effects and military kit due to a fire. The soldier concerned is doing well and some \$1700.0 had been raised by donations from various sources to assist him.

2. Item 2 – Confirmation of Agenda. There being no additions, the President confirmed the Agenda as published.

3. Item 3 – 1 RCHA Update. LCol Brassard provided the following update:

- a. Sgt Mathieu, the i/c of the 1 RCHA Electro-optical Technician Section was tragically killed in an accident near Brandon. He was on an imposed restriction posting to 1 RCHA and his family live in Edmonton. An Assisting Officer has been appointed in Edmonton, where the funeral will eventually take place. On the Senate's behalf, the Chair offered condolences and pledged the readiness of the Senate to support Sgt Mathieu's family;
- b. 1 RCHA has been on High Readiness since late Jun 2021;
- c. the unit is on standby at Div level for domestic operations;
- d. the unit will run a Developmental Period (DP) 1.1 Course with Royal Canadian Artillery School (RCAS) support;
- e. Ex LIMBER GUNNER focused on B Bty;
- f. Ex FROZEN GUNNER in Mar 22 will focus on regimental level training;
- g. the unit is expecting to support a BCs Course in May 2022;
- h. training challenges exist in terms of access to certain natures of ammunition;
- i. the unit's COVID-19 vaccination rate is approximately 95%;
- j. the unit will be the lead mounting unit for Op IMPACT¹ from Sep 21-Feb 22, and will send approximately 90 personnel as individual augmentees;
- k. from Jul 22, the unit will provide support to Op REASSURANCE²;

¹ Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) role in the international coalition to assist local security forces who are fighting against Daesh in the Republic of Iraq and in Syria.

² CAF support to NATO's defence and deterrence measures in Central and Eastern Europe.

- l. the unit generated over \$18,000.00 in support of the National Defence Workplace Charitable Campaign (NDWCC), more than any other unit on base;
 - m. the unit will be providing increasing support for Op LENTUS³ in future, more so for firefighting support and less so for flood control. This will have an impact on individual training, both from a soldier skills and an artillery perspective;
 - n. the unit continues to generate Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) capability for the Brigade;
 - o. the unit is regenerating its targeting capability;
 - p. the unit is regenerating parachute capability for OP parties; and
 - q. the UK Public Duties (PD) task is nearing completion with troops redeploying to Canada on 25 Oct 21. The task went very well and included engagements with the Captain General, the Master Gunner St James's Park. Linked to tis, by the 2023 Annual Posting Season (APS), 1RCHA plans to resurrect reciprocal officer and NCO exchange postings with its affiliated unit 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (1st RHA) of the British Army.
4. Item 4 – Commander Home Station Update. LCol Wood provided the following update:
- a. Capt Little from RHQ RCA deployed in support of the UK PD tasks;
 - b. in APS 2023, Maj Michelsen (Regt Maj RCA) will be posted out and Capt Jesseau (Regt A/Adjt RCA) will retire;
 - c. for UBIQUE 150 the RCA Museum had a display on site and also provided a travelling exhibit, which went to La Citadelle in Québec City. An Afghanistan legacy display start in Dec 2021;
 - d. the portrait of the outgoing Col Comdt, BGen Selbie (Ret'd) will be on display in the RCA Officers Mess shortly;
 - e. the Museum had recently acquired the medals of BGen Dodds, who served as Col Comdt from 1928-34; and
 - f. the Museum was in the process of updating its Korean War display.
5. Item 5 – C Company, 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre Update. Major Van Dyke provided the following update:
- a. C Coy supported the 2021 Reserve Summer Training (RST) period by running the following courses:
 - (a) Gun Tow Driver;
 - (b) Observation Post (OP) Det member
 - (c) Reconnaissance Technician;
 - (d) OP Det 2IC; and

³ CAF response to forest fires, floods and natural disasters in Canada.

- (e) DPI Gunner.
 - b. a Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) serial is currently running and will complete on 26 Oct 21;
 - c. In Nov and Dec, C Coy will be conducting training in preparation for running two serials of Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) next year, specifically 2x ground moving target indicator (GMTI) serials, internal security (IS), and FORCE (physical fitness test) evaluator;
 - d. C Coy will run a BMQ-Land (BMQ-L) serial in Jan 22 and then transition to BMQ to run two consecutive serials; and
 - e. Other courses C Coy is likely to run in FY 22/23 are multiple PLQ serials, Infantry Section Commander Course (ISCC), DP1 Infantry, as well as supporting RST 22.
6. Item 6 – Approval of Previous Minutes. As noted by the , the minutes of the previous meeting had been approved and posted to the RCA website in both English and French.
7. Item 7 – Actions arising from previous Minutes. The Chair stated that in terms of getting a ‘Donate’ button on the RCA website (www.rca-arc.org) for the Home Station Regimental Fund, this option will no longer be pursued for the moment for reasons described at the 22 Jun 21 meeting. However, the Chair was very pleased to report that after discussions with representatives of the Canadian Forces Morale and Welfare services (CFMWS), the Fund is now able to receive donations by ETransfer. This is a new capability for NPF and it will be incorporated into the revised Constitution.
8. Item 8 – Election/Appointment of Executive Members.
- a. The Chair reported the election of members to the following Senate Executive appointments, as a result of votes held prior to the meeting:
 - (1) Col P.J. Williams (Ret’d) as President; and
 - (2) Maj I.K. Van Dyke as Treasurer; and
 - b. No candidates came forward for the positions of Viced-President or Secretary and these posts continue to remain vacant. The Chair encouraged members to consider putting themselves forward as candidates for these positions.
9. Item 9 – Home Station Regimental Fund Update. Maj Van Dyke stated that the Fund now stands at \$4262.90, as a result of a \$2000.00 donation and accrued interest since the last meeting. No funds were disbursed from the Fund since the last meeting. **Secretarial Note:** following the meeting the Treasurer reported that a donation of \$500.0 had been received, bringing the Fund balance to \$4762.90.
10. Item 10 – Future activities potentially meriting Senate support. The Chair mentioned stated that such activities could include:
- a. corporate sponsorship for Ex HEAVY LOADER on 20 Oct 21. This is a weightlifting competition hosted by 1 RCHA, involving participants from all Regular RCA units; and
 - b. support to members of the Home Station Regiment in need, including the C Coy member referred to earlier and to the family of Sgt Mathieu;

11. Item 11 – Expansion of Senate Role to Include Advocacy for Home Station Issues. There are no issues requiring Senate attention at this time;

12. Item 12 – Communications Strategy. The Chair stated that communications will continue to be effected primarily via the *Canadian Gunner News* e-newsletter and other interactions such as letters, emails, etc. Anything beyond that such as social media engagement will be deferred until a person with this competency is identified. In the meantime, the President encouraged Senate members to try and find such a person. LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) what the Senate believed its communications objectives were. In response, the Chair stated that he saw the following as the objectives:

- a. to increase engagement in the Senate, by recruiting more members, particularly to fill vacant Executive posts;
- b. to increase awareness of the Senate so as to be able to identify potential cases of need which the Senate could consider supporting; and
- c. to increase the financial resources available to the Fund in order to advance Senate initiatives.

Secretarial Note: following the meeting, Col Young (Ret'd) suggested that the Senate might wish to leverage extant social media sites, such as 1 RCHA's Facebook page. The Chair stated that he would discuss this with CO 1 RCHA.

13. Item 13 – Update on 150th Anniversary of A & B Bty (UBIQUE 150). CO 1 RCHA provided the following update:

- a. members of B Bty will attend a Winnipeg Jets hockey game, showcasing the history of the RCA in the province;
- b. the annual Kingston Cup hockey series between A and B Btys will be played in Shilo in Dec;
- c. two UBIQUE 150 events, which were postponed due to the pandemic will be postponed to 2023:
 - (1) Ex WESTERN GUNNER, adventure training on Vancouver Island; and
 - (2) a Freedom of the City of Brandon parade in Spring/Summer 2022.

14. Item 14 – Revised Constitution

- a. In advance of the meeting, the Chair circulated a draft, revised Constitution for member's consideration. Amendments included better defining a member of the Home Station Regiment, an "immediate family member" and clarifying certain financial aspects including how ETransfers would be effected, spending limits and causes which the Fund could support;
- b. the Chair called for discussion. LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) suggested removing a clause which referred to the "inaugural Senate meeting"; and
- c. the Chair called for a motion to vote on the revised Senate. As motioned by LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) and seconded by CO 1 RCHA, the Senate approved the revised Constitution, including the point raised by LGen Jeffery (Ret'd). In the subsequent vote, it was unanimously agreed to adopt the revised Constitution. The Chair stated that he would

have the revised Constitution translated, signed by himself and CO 1 RCHA, posted on the RCA website and included in the *Canadian Gunner News* newsletter. **Secretarial Note:** in separate correspondence, Maj Kiropoulos (Ret'd) stated he wished to vote in favour of adopting the revised Constitution.

15. Item 15 – Any Other business

- a. Maj Fisher (Ret'd) briefed on the auction of militaria items. Approximately 30 items had been received. The auction is being run by a private auction house and will take place on 11 Dec 21. We will issue tax receipts to the donors only, for the fair market value of the item they donated, and the shipping cost. We will not issue tax receipts to the bidders but will instead get a lump sum cheque from the auction house to deposit in the Fund. It is anticipated that this amount could be approximately \$2000.00;
- b. the Chair indicated that depending on the success of the auction as a fund-raising activity, this might become an annual activity for the Senate. It was important to learn lessons from the experience of this auction so that it might be better advertised in future; and
- c. CO 1 RCHA stated that he would keep the Senate apprised of when a new order for commemorative belt buckles would be placed.

16. Item 16 – Date/time of next meeting, January 2021, to be confirmed. The Chair stated that he would coordinate a date with 1 RCHA and inform the Senate. **Secretarial Note:** after discussions with 1 RCHA it was determined that the next meeting will be on Tues 11 Jan 22 at 1000 CST. The President will send out an MS Teams invitation in advance.

17. Item 17 – Adjournment. As motioned by LGen Jeffery (Ret'd), seconded by CO 1 RCHA, and unanimously supported, the meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 1100 hrs CST.

~~Approved~~ Not Approved



P.J. Williams
Colonel (Retired)
President

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