



1180-1 (President)

2 February 2022

Distribution List

HOME STATION REGIMENTAL SENATE (HSRS) MEETING:
TUESDAY 11 JANUARY 2022

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

Members in attendance:	Members unable to attend:
LGen M.K. Jeffery (Ret'd)	MGen R.W. Goodyear
Col S.G. Haire	Col S. Taylor
Col T.R. Young (Ret'd)	LCol D.Y.G. Brassard – CO 1RCHA
LCol U.J.F. Wolanski (Ret'd)	LCol J. Cochrane
LCol C.A. Wood – Commander Home Station	LCol R. Stimpson
Maj A. Curr – 2IC 1RCHA	Maj L. Jackson
Maj J.R. Fisher (Ret'd)	Maj H.B. Nelson
Maj S. Kiropoulos (Ret'd)	Maj S.D. Youngson – COS CFB Shilo
Maj I.K. Van Dyke - Treasurer	
CWO C. Rigby – RSM 1RCHA	
CWO J. Abrahamse – RSM Home Station	

References: A. Agenda for a Meeting of the Home Station Regimental Senate
 B. The Constitution of the Home Station Regimental Senate, The Royal Regiment
 Canadian Artillery, Revised January 2022

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

1. The meeting was called to order at 1000 hours Central Standard Time by the Chair.

DISCUSSION	ACTION BY
2. <u>Item 2 -Confirmation of Agenda.</u> The President confirmed the agenda as published.	No action required
3. <u>Item 3 – 1 RCHA Update.</u> Maj Curr provided the following update:	
a. 1RCHAs parade state is essential manning only as a means to limit exposure to COVID-19.	
b. The Regiment is currently in high readiness and will shortly transition to the Consume Phase for 12 months (three phases to managed readiness – Build (The Road to High Readiness), High Readiness (not deployed, but ready), and Consume (deployed)).	
c. 2 PPCLI is the lead for the next rotation to Operation ASSURANCE.	
d. 1 RCHA was the Divisional Immediate Reaction Unit (IRU) for the month of December reflecting a change to designating a unit in the divisional area of operations to always be on IRU. The Regiment will return to IRU in the spring for a six-month period as HQ 2 PPCLI will be deployed. The IRU area of responsibility is Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Northwestern Ontario.	
e. The Regiment has conducted 13 of 63 Regimental School courses over the current training cycle. The number of courses is three times more than an infantry battalion.	
f. Planning for Exercise FROZEN GUNNER continues as the Regiment is working to apply COVID-19 safety measures to a winter warfare training regime – tent groups and other measures.	
g. Holiday regimental traditions, the soldier’s appreciation dinner and the Officer/Senior NCOs at home continued	

	despite the cancelling of a mess dinner. The St Barbara's Day Kingston Cup hockey game was won by B Battery.	
h.	The Battery Commanders Course will not be coming to Shilo this coming spring. It will be replaced by a Computer Assisted Exercise, as there is a severe ammunition restriction.	
i.	The Regiment's vaccination status is currently 90% and six to eight unvaccinated personnel are facing an administrative review and possible release for breaching a Chief of Defence Staff directive.	
j.	The incoming Command Team arriving this spring/summer will be LCol J. O'Donnell and MWO S.A. McGowan (on promotion).	
k.	Visits to the Regimental Facebook page in the month of December were approximately 1,500. There are approximately 4,800 followers and, in some months, there are as many as 10,000 views of the page. These statistics reflect that the Regiment's Facebook page could be a good vehicle for communicating Home Station Senate's messages.	
l.	CWO Rigby added that St Barbara's Day Sr NCO/Officer hockey game was won by the Sr NCOs and that "the skate" now resides in the Commanding Officers Office.	
m.	LGen Jeffery (Ret'd) heard on his network of personnel shortages in the Canadian Army and asked Maj Curr to comment on the manning of the Regiment. The Regiment is currently at an overall strength of 80%, while the Officers are at 67%. The bands of personnel where there are critical shortages are Senior Captains and NCO middle managers. There is a shortage of 25 Master Bombardiers and 15-20 Sergeants.	
4.	<u>Item 4 – Commander Home Station Update.</u> LCol Wood provided the following update:	No action required
a.	a. Within the region of CFB Shilo, the proportion of the general population infected with COVID-19 and who are potentially infectious or incubating was 29% : this measure is currently higher in Shilo than in Edmonton.	

	The desired regional measure is less than 3%. Consequently, CFB Shilo has approximately 20% of personnel in the office.	
b.	The Base is preparing to support the BMQ course later this winter. The mess will remain closed until February.	
c.	The Museum is currently open, and it is subject to provincial COVID-19 restrictions. The arrival of the Afghanistan Memorial has been delayed until February.	
d.	A drive through style Christmas Dinner was conducted for base staff.	
5.	<u>Item 5 – C Coy, 3rd Canadian Division Training Centre Update.</u> Major Van Dyke provided the following update:	No action required
a.	The fall training period was slower than normal. The Training Center completed a Primary Leadership Qualification (PLQ) and all the prerequisite instructor courses to run the Basic Military Qualification (BMQ) course. The last serial of BMQ-L (SQ) will run 17 Jan to 11 Feb and consist of 50% of artillery students coming from the Artillery School. Two serials of BMQ will be run in Shilo, the first starting in Feb and the second in May.	
d.	The Company is 100% vaccinated against COVID-19. Their current challenge is to modify the BMQ course to include five days of isolation without changing the duration of the course.	
e.	Forecasted courses to be conducted this coming summer include a Development Period 1 (DP 1) Gunner and a PLQ course. There is also potential to conduct a Detachment Commanders and a second BMQ course.	
6.	<u>Item 6 – Approval of the Previous Minutes.</u> The Chair stated that the previous minutes have been approved and posted on the RCA website in both English and French.	No action required
7.	<u>Item 7 – Actions Arising from the Previous Minutes.</u> The Chair outlined a three-stage communications strategy that will leverage social media through the 1RCHA Facebook page to communicate the messages of the Senate.	Chair

a.	<u>Stage 1 – Definition.</u> Develop a line of communications to express who the Senate is and what the Senate does.	
b.	<u>Stage 2 – Engagement.</u> Seek NCO involvement.	
c.	<u>Stage 3 – Solicit Support.</u> Seek contributions to the Fund.	
8.	Maj Curr noted that the Regiment's Facebook page is an official Government of Canada means of communication, and as such all communications must be in both official languages. He further added that Capt N Romkey is the administrator of the platform, and that he also had administrative rights to it.	
9.	<u>Secretarial Note.</u> Are there other social media or communications platforms used by the units of the senate where messages could be communicated? The Shilo Stag newspaper, MFRC, CANEX and the CAF Personnel Support Programme website (https://www.cafconnection.ca/Shilo/In-My-Community/Special-Events.aspx)?	1RCHA Home Station C Company
10.	<u>Item 8 – Election/Appointment of Executive Members.</u> No points.	
11.	<u>Item 9 – Home Station Regimental Fund Update.</u> Maj Van Dyke provided a financial update as follows:	
a.	The current balance of the fund is \$4762.90. It does not include the military auction funds. There was a \$500.00 donation received in the month of December. Secretarial Note: with the receipt of the auction cheque (\$2451.25) on 21 January, the Fund balance is now \$7124.15.	
b.	The Treasurer confirmed that the donation was received by paper cheque and not e-transfer. The Chair noted that he will send a bilingual message to the Editor of the Canadian Gunner Newsletter expressing that the Senate is able to receive donations through e-transfer.	Chair
12.	<u>Item 10 – Future Activities Potentially Meriting Senate Support.</u>	
a.	<u>Cases for Need.</u> The Chair expressed that there were two recent “cases for need” in which the Senate supported with a financial contribution. He briefly outlined the situation regarding Sergeant Smith and	1 RCHA

	<p>Sergeant Mathieu and asked if any of the three units had any other “cases for need”. Maj Curr expressed that there may be another case in 1 RCHA. Maj Kiropoulos (Ret’d) added that Sgt Smith could seek replacement medals through Rideau Hall.</p>
<p>b. <u>Exercise Heavy Loader</u>. The fifth annual powerlifting fitness event has now expanded to encompass the entire royal Regiment and it will be conducted this winter/spring. There is potential that the Home Station Regimental Fund could support this event with prizes, t-shirts for the competitors, and possibly a small trophy. 1RCHA will scope out the need and report back to the Chair. Secretarial Note – With respect to a trophy, I recommend that an old Non-Public Property (NPP) silver trophy be repurposed as the event trophy. Gunners working in the Regimental carpentry shop could make another trophy base in which the old trophy could be attached to without changing the integrity of the original trophy. Further, as this is now a Royal Regiment event, a piece of the Royal Regiment’s NPP could be sought after to repurpose as the trophy.</p>	<p>1 RCHA</p>
<p>c. Secretarial Note. I recommend that this standing item be forecasted against unit activity and reported upon by each of the three units at each Senate Meeting. Support is manifested in many forms and is not limited to just monetary support.</p>	<p>1 RCHA Home Station C Company</p>
<p>d. <u>RCA Reunion 2022 – Shilo</u>. Maj Kiropoulos (Ret’d) suggested that the RCA Reunion this coming summer is one possible venue for Senate support. Secretarial Note: Based on discussions Maj Kiropoulos (Ret’d) had with the Reunion organizers, the go/no-go date for a decision to proceed with a 2022 Reunion is Fri 1 Apr 22.</p>	<p>Chair 1 RCHA Home Station C Company</p>
<p>13. <u>Item 11 - Expansion of Senate Role to Include Advocacy for Home Station Issues</u>. Maj Curr noted that one of the best roles for the Senate is advocacy to ensure greater awareness of CFB Shilo by stakeholders and decision-makers. The Chair noted that the Regimental Senate must be surgical with any advocacy as it cannot be seen to circumventing the chain of command.</p>	
<p>a. LGen Jeffery (Ret’d) in response to Maj Curr’s comment noted that the Senate membership needs clarity on the issues, underlining three questions:</p>	<p>1 RCHA Home Station C Company</p>

(1)	Is Shilo being unfairly disadvantaged vis a vis other Canadian Army Bases?	
(2)	Has the chain of command done anything to address the issue?	
(3)	What is the best opportunity to reinforce the chain of command?	
b.	Col Young (Ret'd) suggested that the three units look for synergies in their calendars for an event or an activity that would encourage greater engagement by stakeholders and decision-makers. Four possible examples include deployments, courses, changes of command, and reunions.	
c.	The Chair further suggested that the Joint Terminal Attack Controller capability could be used to encourage greater engagement by stakeholders and decision-makers. Maj Curr added that there are two occasions within the year that the US Air Force with B-52's from Minot, North Dakota use the ranges to drop ordnance. Secretarial Note: Following the meeting, the Chair discussed advocacy options with Col Haire. Col Haire provided documents written by past unit commanders in CFB Shilo, and which were also provided to CO 1 RCHA, Comd Home Station, and OC C Coy.	Chair
14.	<u>Item 12 – Communications Strategy.</u> See item 7.	
15.	<u>Item 13 – Update on Militaria Auction.</u> Maj Fisher (Ret'd) provided the following update on the results of the Militaria Auction:	
a.	Quality items were received despite the limited number of items that were donated. Greater success could have been gained if more people would have donated.	
b.	The auction made \$2,451.25. A cheque was mailed to the Treasurer.	
16.	In response to LGen Jeffery's (Ret'd) question regarding if there were any lessons learned or barriers to make this endeavour a success, the following points were highlighted.	President with Major Fisher

a.	Greater overall assistance is needed to support Jim with the initiative.	
b.	A contact list should be used to canvas key people to donate.	
c.	The movement of the donated articles to Jim was identified as barrier to success. The RCA Reunion in Shilo this coming summer was targeted as an event to both leverage support for the auction and be a key centralized hub to move donated items. Gunners attending the reunion from different regions in Canada could be OPIs to gather and bring donated items to the reunion.	
d.	Militaria auctions are conducted every March, August, and December. The earliest time that the Senate could participate in an auction is December. The decision point on whether to conduct another Militaria Auction fundraiser will be whether the RCA Reunion takes place as planned this coming summer. There is potential for it to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
e.	The Chair thanked Maj Fisher (Ret'd) for all his support in making this event such a success, reiterating that he would like to make this form of fundraising a regular event.	
17.	<u>Item 14 – Revised Constitution.</u> At Reference B, a draft revision to the Constitution was written to provide clarity to the Non-Public Funds Office regarding withdrawing funds to support a memorial gift to the estate of a former soldier. Paragraph 56 of the current constitution was too ambiguous for this specific type of support. As a result, an amendment to the constitution was drafted to specifically account for this support initiative.	
18.	The Chair called for a motion to adopt the amendment as written. The motion was made by LCol Wood and seconded by LCol Wolanski (Ret'd). The Chair called for the vote, and it was passed without any opposition. The Chair will send the new constitution to CO and RSM 1 RCHA for signature.	President
19.	<u>Item 15 – Other Business.</u> The following points were raised:	

<p>a. LCol Wolanski (Ret'd) asked whether 1 RCHA was in the process of releasing members for refusing to be vaccinated given the current personnel shortages in the CAF. Maj Curr provided the following information:</p>	
<p>(1) Personnel are undergoing an Administrative Review and given Medical Employment Limitations for not following the CDS Directive by either refusing to be vaccinated or by not divulging their vaccination status.</p>	
<p>(2) Grievances and requests for accommodation are being accepted on the grounds for medical, human rights, and religious reasons.</p>	
<p>(3) This is affecting a very small minority of the Regiment.</p>	
<p>b. The Chair asked Maj Curr if there are any more 1 RCHA Ubique 150 belt buckles being ordered. Maj Curr informed the group that a minimum of 25 or 50 orders were needed to make a purchase from the supplier. Orders can be placed on the Regiment's Facebook page.</p>	
<p>(1) The point of contact for the belt buckle is Sgt Michael Allary, 1 RCHA NPF NCO. michael.allary@forces.gc.ca, Phone 204-765-3000 extension 3601. Secretarial Note: Based on subsequent discussions with Sgt Allary, as UBIQUE 150 is over, the one-time price of \$151.22 is no longer applicable. As they will be sold through the 1 RCHA kit shop, the price is likely to go up to about \$160 - \$170. If the buckle needs to be shipped, then there will be a charge for that as well.</p>	
<p>20. <u>Item 16 – Next Meeting.</u> The next meeting will be tentatively set for June based on consultation with CO 1 RCHA regarding his Change of Command.</p>	
<p><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></p>	
<p>21. <u>Item 17 – Adjournment.</u> The Chair called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was called for by LGen Jeffery</p>	

(Ret'd), seconded by LCol Wood. The motion was passed with no one opposed. The meeting adjourned at 1120 Central Time.	
--	--

APPROVED NOT APPROVED



P.J. Williams
Colonel (Ret'd)
President

Distribution List

All Home Station Senate Members (Including Ex-Officio non-voting members)