



BC/Yukon Command

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Response to Mr. Rankin's article: 'My honour has been shredded': 94-year-old Vancouver vet fights legion expulsion"

Surrey, BC, Canada

Our volunteers and members are the heart of the Royal Canadian Legion. The range of skills and people needed to operate a branch demand responsibility. They take leadership roles in fundraising, promoting remembrance, visitation and care for veterans, creating community building events, and take roles on their local branch's board to give direction on finances and daily operations.

BC/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion values all our volunteers, and especially those who have served their country.

This situation is very unfortunate and the decision to expel any member is not taken lightly. Expulsion from the Legion is a rare occurrence and is only undertaken for serious offences such as theft or misappropriation of Legion funds or Poppy funds, cases of stolen valour or fraud. In addition to our previous statement, here is some more detailed information.

As mentioned in the release issued yesterday, there is a by-law requirement that a person whom has a complaint lodged against them get notification and a copy of the complaint sent to them within 7 days of receipt of the complaint by the branch. This did happen in the case and the letter was sent on January 29, 2018 via registered mail. Mr. Jackson signed for this letter on January 30, 2018. On March 1, 2018 a letter informing Mr. Jackson of the date and time of the complaint hearing was sent via registered mail to the same address. Canada Post cannot provide a delivery scan for this letter and no rejection was received. For reasons not communicated, Mr. Jackson did not attend the hearing.

The case will not be reopened. The requirement, as established by our members, is to send a letter by registered mail to the last known address as the Legion has no control over whether the recipient rejects or reads the notice. If he did not receive notice of the hearing this is something he would have raised in his appeal, which he did not. He appealed only the penalty imposed.

Sincerely,

Veronica Brown
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