



# **REPORT OF THE 56<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION**

**BC/Yukon Command  
The Royal Canadian Legion  
56<sup>th</sup> Convention**

**June 6-8, 2025  
Kamloops, British Columbia**

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## **Provincial Executive Council 2022-2025**

### **Officers**

#### **Provincial President**

C. Thomson

#### **Provincial First Vice President**

R. Underhill

#### **Provincial Vice Presidents**

K. Kuzek

D. Johnston

#### **Provincial Treasurer**

🇨🇦 J. Diack

G. Hodge

#### **Provincial Chair**

G. Peters

#### **Immediate Past Provincial President**

V. MacGregor

#### **Honourary President**

D. Sinclair

### **Zone Commanders & Representatives**

#### **Cariboo**

J. Spencer

#### **Central BC**

J. Scott

#### **Central Vancouver Island**

A. Sen

#### **East Kootenay**

D. Black

#### **Fraser Valley**

B. Higdon

#### **New Westminster & District**

S. Jeske

#### **Nicola Thompson**

G. Cooke

#### **North Okanagan**

G. Hill

#### **North Shore & Howe Sound**

B. Croft

#### **North Vancouver Island**

C. Slack

#### **Northwestern**

🇨🇦 G. Hutchinson

#### **Peace Arch**

B. MacMillan

#### **Peace River**

B. Young

#### **South Okanagan and Similkameen**

P. McKenna

#### **South Vancouver Island**

N. Scott

#### **Sunshine Coast**

K. Wishlow

#### **Vancouver Burnaby**

R. Wangen

#### **West Kootenay**

B. Brommeland

#### **TVS Representative**

L. Lindsay

#### **OSI Representative**

T. Orser

## BC/Yukon Command Past Presidents

☛ 1926-1927	H.J. McDonald	☛ 1981-1983	T.G. Harris
☛ 1928-1930	W.W. Foster	☛ 1983-1985	J.W. Jolleys
☛ 1931-1932	T.A. Barnard	☛ 1985-1987	J.K. Winn
☛ 1933-1937	W.S. Buell	☛ 1987-1989	D.J. Eyles
☛ 1938-1940	W. McKinsty	☛ 1989-1991	C.A. Murphy
☛ 1941-1943	T.A. Barnard	☛ 1991-1993	A.D. Whitteker
☛ 1944-1946	J. Henderson	1993-1995	M.A. Burdett
☛ 1947-1950	B.M Isman	☛ 1995-1997	V. Bridavalli
☛ 1951-1952	D.S. McTavish	1997-1999	B. Coldwells
☛ 1953-1956	A.H. Gibson	☛ 1999-2001	M. Cook
☛ 1957-1958	R. Macnicol	2001-2003	A. Phillips
☛ 1959-1962	J. Potheary	☛ 2003-2005	J.G. Alcorn
☛ 1963-1965	W.E. Martin	2005-2007	G. Vowles
☛ 1966-1967	J.C. Hall	☛ 2007-2008	L.R. Thibodeau
☛ 1967-1969	D. Hunter	2008-2011	D. Sinclair
☛ 1969-1971	H.E. Harns	☛ 2011-2013	B. Brady
☛ 1971-1973	J.H. Broadhurst	2013-2015	A. Stanfield
☛ 1973-1975	R. Harrison	2015-2017	M. Tremblay
☛ 1975-1977	H.C. Keys	2017-2019	G. Hodge
☛ 1977-1979	R. Harrison	2019-2022	V. MacGregor
☛ 1979-1981	D.M. Cullen	2022-Present	C. Thomson

☛ *Designates deceased*

## **BC/Yukon Command President Report**

Comrades,

A lot has transpired since we last met in Nanaimo 3 years ago. Most has been positive, with some issues not so positive, and I will elaborate on both.

The past 3 years have seen many of our Branches still showing signs of recovery from the COVID era. Recovery has been slow in some circumstances, but overall this past term positive progress has been shown by most Branches. This steady recovery is due to the continued commitment of our members, and the desire to serve our Veterans and communities.

Over the past term, I have tried to visit as many Branches in our Command as I could. I will say I was successful in visiting Branches from one end of Vancouver Island to the other, including Port Hardy. I visited Branches from Prince Rupert to Valemount, from Fort St John to Osoyoos and Cranbrook. There is a caveat here; many of the Branches I visited were not open at the time, I passed through the community, but I made it a point to at least drive-by and see the Branch from the outside.

We have had some major accomplishments over the past term. Although I was the fourth President involved in the Project, it was my honour to officially open Legion Veteran's Village, which houses Whalley Branch 229, and the Center for Clinical Excellence. This was a truly successful project, and is the envy of other Commands.

We also purchased a new office to house BC Yukon Command. When Command sold the Command office building in Burnaby a number of years ago, the intention was always there to purchase another space, but Trusteeship and COVID delayed the process for several years. In 2024, we went on the hunt for a building, and with the assistance of our Branch Operations Advisors, we found a location in the Cloverdale area of Surrey, not far from the old office.

The new office not only provides a modern and comfortable working environment for our staff but saves us money in the long run as we are no longer paying a lease for space.

More recently, BC Yukon Command signed a "Friendship Agreement" with the Korean Veteran's Association (Western Division) to work together to support all Veterans, but to recognize the Canadians that served in Korea, as well as the 200 thousand Korean war veterans living in Canada. This "Friendship Agreement" is unique within the Legion, and I am sure you will hear more about this partnership agreement in the future.

Accolades go out to the Command Membership Committee who were instrumental in bringing our membership numbers for 2024 over the 50 thousand mark, the second highest numbers in the organization, and with that, we are able to share we had the highest renewal number of all Commands in 2024.

Our Blazer Newsletter has been circulating now for over 3 years and is a wonderful addition to the way Command is able to share info and stories with our membership and Branches. But I will say, not as many members are getting the Blazer as we would like to see. If you are not getting the Blazer, you are missing out on a lot of information. To be included on the email list for the Blazer, send an email to [info@legionbcyukon.ca](mailto:info@legionbcyukon.ca) and ask to be put on the list. Please include your full name and email address.

Thanks to the Poppy Trust Fund levy, Command imposed last year, we were able to hire a third Command Service Officer. Our Service Officers have been working to capacity this past term and showed their workload was affecting some services to our Veteran clients. With the new addition, all three have a full workload, and our clients are getting faster service. Remember, service to our Veterans is our mandate, and the better we can service their needs, the better off they are.

The 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Royal Canadian Legion is fast approaching in 2026, and many of our Branches will be celebrating that centenary birthday as well. Dominion Command will be marking this milestone with the 2026 Dominion Convention in the birthplace of the Legion, Winnipeg. Many events and programs are in the planning stages for our 100<sup>th</sup> year, so stay tuned and please take part.

On a sour note, the past couple of years has seen a dramatic increase in Article III complaints nationally, and BC Yukon Command has not been spared. Most of the complaints are based on personal differences between members, particularly at the Executive level. Most complaints center around the way people are treating each other, lack of respect and the failure to follow the rules and regulations of the organization.

I remind all members, our Mission Statement is to serve Veterans, their families and our communities. With constant in-fighting and bickering, we are not doing that. As I said to a Branch membership earlier this year, if our Mission Statement is not the reason for you being a Legion member, you should rethink why you are a member.

If this trend continues, it could erode all the hard work the Legion has accomplished over the past 100 years.

Comrades, it has been a pleasure being your Command President for the past term. I truly enjoyed representing you, getting to know more of you, visiting your Branches and promoting programs within the Command that will keep us strong for the next 100 years.

In comradeship,

Craig Thomson

## **BC/Yukon Command Treasurer Report**

The role of Treasurer for the BC/Yukon Command is both an honour and a challenge. It requires a careful balance between providing sound financial guidance, ensuring fiscal accountability, and supporting the long-term growth and sustainability of our organization.

Since our last Convention in 2022, our organization has faced complex and often unpredictable circumstances. In 2024, we sadly lost Comrade Jim Diack, who served as BC/Yukon Command Treasurer from 2015 to 2023. Comrade Diack went above and beyond in his role. Under his leadership, we successfully navigated the COVID-19 pandemic, restructured the Branch Operations Advisory Program, and redefined the Command's financial operations to emphasize ongoing cost savings and diversified revenue streams. I extend my deepest thanks to Comrade Diack for his outstanding service and dedication. He will be greatly missed.

I was elected as the BC/Yukon Command Treasurer in January 2024. Since that time, I have remained committed to continuing and enhancing the financial strategies developed under Comrade Diack's leadership — specifically our focus on cost savings, revenue diversification, and long-term financial resilience.

One of our most significant achievements has been the purchase of our Command office building. This strategic move, driven by our cost-saving mandate, will save BC/Yukon Command more than \$145,000 annually in lease expenses. On the revenue side, both Command and Branches have focused efforts on expanding Legion membership. These efforts have yielded impressive results: as of December 31, 2024, we reached a membership of 50,719. Our target for 2025 is 55,000 members. This marks a reversal of the long-standing decline in per capita numbers. Growing our membership is vital—not only to ensure continued operations at the Branch and Command level, but to strengthen our presence in the communities we serve.

In June 2024, BC/Yukon Command realigned its strategic objectives to prioritize expansion of the Service Bureau to better assist veterans, enhance Branch training, and provide more robust operational support to Branches. In line with this vision, a new Service Bureau Officer was hired in 2025 to help meet the growing needs of our veteran community.

Ensuring the sustainability of the Branch Operations Advisory Program remains a key focus. To that end, we have successfully restructured the Branch Assistance Fund and the Command Care Trust Fund, providing financial stability for the program. We are also proactively seeking new sources of revenue through grants and government funding. As of March 2025, we secured \$21,000 through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, which will support Branch training initiatives. We are committed to offering high-quality training and operational support to help Branches remain viable in increasingly challenging economic conditions.

BC/Yukon Command's investment portfolio continues to be managed by Vancity Investment Management. While the portfolio has achieved a return of 8% since inception, recent geopolitical tensions and ongoing trade disputes have led to short-term declines in investment values. In light of this market volatility, we urge both Command and Branches to reduce reliance on investment income and instead focus on strengthening core operational revenues to support ongoing activities and services.

Since 1990, BDO Canada LLP served as BC/Yukon Command's external auditor. However, due to rising audit costs, Command transitioned to Clearline CPA in 2023. This change has resulted in significant cost savings, and Clearline has delivered exceptional service. I will be recommending

their continued appointment as our external auditors for 2025.

As Treasurer, my responsibility is to oversee and guide the financial strategies of both BC/Yukon Command and our Legion Branches throughout the region. My goal is to ensure that our operations remain sustainable, that we continue to serve our veterans—including military and RCMP members and their families—and that we uphold the values of remembrance and community service.

Although the role is not without its challenges, I find it deeply fulfilling because I believe wholeheartedly in the Legion's mission—and I am proud to stand beside comrades who share these same values.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Provincial Council of Zone Commanders and the members of the Admin/Finance Committee for their outstanding leadership and unwavering commitment. I also thank our Branch Executives and dedicated volunteers, whose efforts are making lasting impacts in their communities. To our Command staff—thank you for your professionalism, dedication, and hard work in ensuring that our strategic goals are implemented and achieved.

Finally, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our members for the opportunity to serve as your Command Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Hodge



## **BC/Yukon Command Honourary President Report**

Comrades,

It is an honour to serve as your Honourary President and to follow in the footsteps of the previous three Honourary Presidents, “Smokey” Smith (our last living VC recipient), General Herb Pitts, and Rear Admiral Roger Girouard. I knew each of these gentlemen personally and I hope that I have been as committed and as enthusiastic as these special individuals.

The position of Honourary President is mainly a ceremonial position, so I have been on hand at various functions such as change of command ceremonies for the senior military commands. I met with the Lt. Governor to give her an overview of the activities of the BC/Yukon Command in helping our veterans and the cadets programs throughout this great province. As Honourary President I have also presented various awards and when asked I facilitated elections for some branches. The Honourary President is also available to attend or preside at any ceremonial activities that the President and the Admin Finance Committee request of me.

Also, during this past three-year period, I have been actively involved in the Military and Government Liaison Committee meeting regularly with the Commander Maritime Forces Pacific, the Fleet Commander, and the Base Commanders of both CFB Esquimalt and CFB Comox. Our Executive Director asked that I arrange meetings with various BC Provincial ministers and MLAs of which I was happy to oblige.

The other committee that I have been actively involved in is Branch Advisory as far as any development of our branches is concerned. I have experience in this area and am still a member of the board of the BCYC Development Corp., which worked on the Legion Veterans Village development.

I am currently a co-chairperson of Veteran’s House Victoria located in Colwood. Veterans House is transition house for veterans who are homeless and suffering with various OSI’s. We deliver the program in partnership with the Legion Foundation.

In addition, I am on the Board of Directors of Legion Manor Victoria in Central Saanich which provides veterans and seniors with affordable housing. The Manor presently has 144 suites of independent and assisted living and are optimistic that we will have a new building with 57 additional independent suites under construction this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Sinclair

## **BC/Yukon Command Executive Director Report**

Dear Comrades,

In May of 2023, I assumed the role of Executive Director of BC/Yukon Command. It has been an immense honour and a privilege to represent you in this capacity over the last two years. During this time, the Command has accomplished much that our members can take pride in. We achieved remarkable growth in membership, ending 2024 with over 50,000 members! Below is a summary of some of the key highlights over the past term.

### **Office Move**

After over ten years at the office location in downtown Cloverdale, the decision was made not to renew our lease and instead to look at purchasing an office using funds from the replacement reserve fund. After six months of viewing many properties in the Surrey/Langley area, a location was purchased in Cloverdale, roughly five minutes from the old location. In September of 2024, after a summer of renovations and upgrades, the Command moved into its new home at 503-17665 66A Avenue in Surrey. The space is right sized for our operational needs and includes a warehouse for storing all of our promotional supplies and merchandise.

### **Strategic Plan**

Our Strategic Plan was updated in 2024 to identify three key areas of focus for the Command:

1. Expand the Provincial Command Service Bureau to help more Veterans
2. Training for Branches
3. Operational Supports for Branches

A key component of the mission statement of the Royal Canadian Legion is to serve Veterans and the Service Bureau is one of our most valuable programs in support of this. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen an increase in the amount of mental health and complex cases managed by our Service Bureau. In the fall of 2024, a special levy on the Poppy Fund was approved to allow BC/Yukon Command to hire a third Provincial Service Officer, based at our headquarters in Cloverdale.

Training is an important component for branch success. We continue to explore avenues that will allow us to deliver training in person, all across the Command. Through grant opportunities and cost sharing with zones and branches, command officers and staff have been able to deliver training in person on a variety of topics in many places across BC. Our goal is to continue to expand our ability to deliver training in every corner of the Command. PEC members also receive training at the fall council meeting on a variety of topics.

The Command feels strongly in its mandate to help branches be successful in their operations. Through cost saving measures such as the building purchase which allowed us to stop paying a lease, and careful cash management, we were able to retain our two Branch Operations Advisors, after the initial funding for the program was depleted. We continue to see the success of this program with branches improving their financial positions through property transactions, revenue generating business models and an increased understanding in their overall financials to improve their bottom lines. Maintaining a physical presence in our communities is an important facet in serving our mission.

We have also used part of the poppy fund levy to hire a Poppy Fund Coordinator to assist branches in maintaining compliance and understanding of the Poppy Fund. The annual Poppy Campaign is one of the most recognizable fundraising initiatives in the country, and our obligation to ensure its proper use to maintain public trust is high.

## **Advocacy**

The Command President and I have worked closely together on raising the profile of the Command through the continued building of relationships and partnerships with government, Dominion Command and other like-minded organizations. Over the course of the term, we have hosted the Dominion President and the VAC Minister, met with MLA's both in the governing party and on the opposition and continue to work with industry associations such as ABLE BC on important issues such as the \$220.00 liquor licence change of director's fee. We continue to push for the removal of this fee as it was a recommendation of the BC Government's Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services to do so.

## **Centenary**

In 2026, the Royal Canadian Legion will turn 100 years old. Many branches will celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> year over the coming term, and some have already celebrated 100 years through their affiliation with Veteran serving organizations prior to the Royal Canadian Legion. This is a unique once in a lifetime opportunity for the Legion to showcase its place in the community and I encourage every branch to think about how to celebrate and commemorate this achievement. The organization only exists because of members like you who continue to volunteer your time and energy to ensure that our Veterans are never forgotten, and that Canada never forgets.

In closing, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the incredible Command staff team at BC/Yukon Command who come to work every day engaged and ready to serve; to every member who volunteers their time, on committees, on the branch executive, or as a branch president. And to our members of PEC, our Zone Commanders, and Senior Elected Officers, thank-you for all the time you spend in service of our members, branches and BC/Yukon Command.

I look forward to all of the challenges and opportunities over the next term and wish everyone a successful convention, full of debate and comradeship. The decisions that are made here will help shape the future of our Command.

In comradeship,

Michelle

## **BC/Yukon Command 56<sup>th</sup> Convention Proceedings**

### **Tradeshow**

A tradeshow for convention attendees was held on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre. A total of 23 exhibitors participated:

<i>Axis Insurance</i>	<i>Honour House Society</i>	<i>Royal Bank of Canada</i>
<i>BC Lottery Corporation</i>	<i>HR West</i>	<i>Superior Propane</i>
<i>BC/Alberta Guide Dogs</i>	<i>Legion Foundation</i>	<i>Universal Chairs</i>
<i>BC/Yukon Command</i>	<i>Main Street Fire &amp; Safety</i>	<i>Veterans Food Bank</i>
<i>BCIT Military Skills</i>	<i>McConnan Bion O'Connor</i>	<i>Veterans Ombudsman</i>
<i>Conversion Program</i>	<i>&amp; Peterson</i>	<i>WorkSafe BC</i>
<i>Belair Direct</i>	<i>Military Family Resource</i>	
<i>Fenety Marketing</i>	<i>Centres</i>	
<i>Flying Colours</i>	<i>Orca Dynamics</i>	
<i>International</i>	<i>Red Wireless</i>	

### **Workshops**

A full day of workshops took place on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, with 14 sessions offered throughout the morning and afternoon.

*Effective Volunteer Engagement and Retention Strategies (Presented by Tony Rushworth)*  
*Liquor Due Diligence Requirements for BC Legions (Presented by Tony Rushworth)*  
*Governance 101: By-Laws (Presented by Amber Stewart)*  
*Governance 101: How to Hold Effective Meetings (Presented by Amber Stewart)*  
*BC Lottery Corporation (Presented by Allen Ko (2 sessions))*  
*Service Officer Training (Presented by Lori Castle (2 sessions))*  
*Poppy Fund Compliance (Presented by Emily Yuan & Lance Jenn)*  
*WorkSafe BC (Presented by Tim Pryde)*  
*Article III Complaints (Presented by Karen Kuzek)*  
*Membership Portal Training (Presented by Brenda Thomson & Lindsay Petrie)*  
*Veterans Ombudsman - Town Hall (Presented by Nishika Jardine & Jamie Morse)*  
*BC/Yukon Command: Meet the Staff (Presented by All Staff)*

### **Convention Committees**

Committees for General Resolutions, Poppy Poster & Literary Resolutions, Credentials, and Procedures met via zoom prior to the opening of convention.

### **Parade and Opening Ceremonies**

On Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, a special *Freedom of the City* ceremony was held at Kamloops City Hall. This was followed by a parade and wreath laying ceremony held at Riverside Park.

Delegates gathered back at the Coast Kamloops Hotel & Conference Centre to participate in opening ceremonies, which started at 7:00pm.

A moment of silence was observed for our fallen comrades: Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, Inga Kruse, Past Executive Director BC/Yukon Command, Doug Misfeldt, Past Zone

Commander Northwestern Zone, Brian Kirkaldy, Past Zone Commander Northwestern Zone, Al Turner, Past Zone Commander Central BC Zone, Lesley Maudsley, Past President LA to BC/Yukon Command, Bev Mansell, Zone Commander Sunshine Coast Zone, Bill MacGuire, Past Zone Commander West Kootenay Zone, Jim Diack, BC/Yukon Command Treasurer, Tony Moore, Deputy Zone Commander Peace Arch Zone, Lila Wing, Past Treasurer LA to BC/Yukon Command, Richard Walker, Member, BC/Yukon Command Constitution and Laws Committee, Al Ridgway, LA to BC/Yukon Command Trustee, Stan Granda, Past Zone Commander Northwestern Zone, Richard Steele, Deputy Zone Commander South Vancouver Island Zone, Geoff Hutchinson, Zone Commander Northwestern Zone.

Delegates heard remarks from Frank Caputo, MP Kamloops Thompson-Nicola, Mike O'Reilly, Deputy Mayor, Lt. Col Tory White, Rocky Mountain Rangers, and Superintendent, Jeff Pelley, Kamloops RCMP. Delegates were honoured to have Dominion Command First Vice President, Sharon McKeown declare the 56<sup>th</sup> Convention officially open.

### **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> - Morning Session**

Business sessions began at 8:30am.

#### **LAC Announcements**

Chair Brenda Thomson welcomed delegates and provided housekeeping reminder, including details about the silent auction located in the Command Store. Delegates were advised that the silent auction would close at 11:00am Sunday. She also highlighted dinners hosted by the local Legion Branch.

#### **Chair's Remarks**

Provincial Chair Gary Peters reviewed the rules and procedures of Legion meetings and referred delegates to the Standing Rules of Convention. He outlined the protocols for Questions of Privilege and Points of Order, which were to be handled through the designated Whips. He also reminded delegates that no new business may be introduced at Convention and reviewed procedures for address non-concurred resolutions and voting on ballot issues.

#### **Resolution of Loyalty**

Command President Craig Thomson read the Resolution of Loyalty response.

#### **Adoption of 2022 BC/Yukon Command Convention Report**

A motion was made to adopt the 2022 BC/Yukon Command Convention Report. M/S/C

#### **Confirmation of Convention Committees**

Provincial Chair Gary Peters referred to the list of convention committees and their appointed members: General Resolutions, Poppy Poster & Literary, Credentials, and Procedures. Motions were made to accept all the members of the convention committee. M/S/C

#### **Appointment of Whips, Scrutineers & Election Officer**

Command President Craig Thomson appointed Dominion First Vice President Sharon McKeown as Elections Officer and BC/Yukon Command Controller Emily Yuan as Chief Scrutineer. M/S/C

Prior to the opening of convention, Zone Commanders were asked to provide names of Whips and Deputy Whips. A motion was made to accept the list of Whips and Deputy Whips. M/S/C

### **Procedures Committee**

A copy of the agenda was placed at each table and shown on the screen.

A motion was made to adopt the agenda as shown. M/S/C

Motion to vary from the agenda as necessary. M/S/C

### **Credentials Committee Interim Report**

Kathy Wishlow presented the committee interim report for Friday and Saturday. As no questions were asked, the final report will be moved on Sunday.

### **Dominion Command Greetings**

Dominion Command First Vice President brought greetings on behalf of Dominion Command President, Berkley Lawrence.

### **Elections Procedures**

Election Officer Sharon McKeown reviewed the procedure for elections and declared nominations open for the officers of President, First Vice President, Vice President x2, Treasurer, and Chair. Nominated candidates were displayed on the screen and read out. Delegates participated in two test votes using the electronic voting system facilitated by ImpactAV.

### **Election of Command President**

Bob Underhill and Craig Thomson was nominated for this position. Craig Thomson declined nomination. Bob Underhill accepted the nomination. Elections Officer Sharon McKeown declared Bob Underhill President by acclamation.

### **BC/Yukon Command President Report**

Craig Thomson presented his President's report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. Craig moved his report. M/S/C

### **BC/Yukon Command Honourary President Report**

Dave Sinclair presented his Honourary President's report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. Dave moved his report. M/S/C

### **BC/Yukon Command Executive Director's Report**

Michelle Courtney presented her report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. A motion was made to adopt her report. M/S/C

### **Service Bureau Report**

Lori Castle presented her report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. A motion was made to adopt her report. M/S/C

### **BC/Yukon Command Treasurer's Report**

Glenn Hodge presented his Treasurer's report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. He also made the following motions:

Motion to adopt Clearline CPA to continue to be auditors for BC/Yukon Command. M/S/C

Motion to increase per capita in 2026 to \$19, in 2027 to \$21. M/S/Defeated.

Glenn moved his report. M/S/C

### **Guest Speaker – Colonel (Ret'd) Nishika Jardine, Veterans Ombud**

Presentation on the role of the Veterans Ombud's office and the services it provides.

### **Election of First Vice President**

The nominees for First Vice President were Dale Johnston, Gary Peters, John Scott, Norman Scott. All candidates accepted the nomination and addressed the delegates. Gary Peters was elected as First Vice President on the second ballot.

### **Lunch Break 12:00 to 1:00pm**

## **Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> - Afternoon Session**

### **LAC Announcements**

Delegates were reminded about the BC/Yukon Command Convention challenge coin on sale and available at the Command Store and prize draws.

### **Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI Committee Report)**

Valerie MacGregor presented her EDI report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolution book. Valerie moved her report. M/S/C

### **Election of Vice Presidents**

The nominees for Vice President were John Scott, Dale Johnston, Norman Scott, Bev Croft, Dwight Grieve, Bill Higdon, Steve Jeske, Karen Kuzek, Peter McKenna, and Terri Orser. All candidates accepted the nomination and addressed the delegates. After seven ballot vote rounds, Karen Kuzek and Dwight Grieve were elected as the Vice Presidents.

### **Guest Speaker – Axis Insurance – Clive Bird & Johnny Luu**

Presented an overview of the insurance industry and shared risk mitigation strategies for branches.

### **Standing Committee: Branch Advisory & Development Report**

Bob Underhill presented his Branch Advisory & Development report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Bob moved the report. M/S/C

### **Standing Committee: Membership Report**

Barry Young presented his Membership report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Barry moved his report. M/S/C

### **Standing Committee: Sports Report**

Bill Higdon presented his Sports report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Bill moved his report. M/S/C

Bob Underhill provided a special presentation on National Track and Field. Donations were solicited from the convention attendees (total of \$3190 was generated).

### **Convention General Resolutions Report**

Bob Underhill presented the concurred resolution.

### ***Branch #114 Lynn Valley***

### ***Legion Dress to include Indigenous Regalia***

***WHEREAS ... Indigenous communities have a rich cultural heritage that includes traditional attire and ceremonial items that hold deep spiritual and cultural significance, and,***

**WHEREAS** ... we promote inclusivity within the Legion, showing a commitment to acknowledging and valuing the diversity of the membership and thereby reflecting our recognition of Indigenous cultural practices as an integral part of the broader cultural tapestry, and,

**WHEREAS**... the Legion's public image would be strengthened by showing cultural awareness and sensitivity in its representation of diverse groups, setting a positive example for other organizations in embracing cultural diversity, and,

**WHEREAS**... we recognize the importance of ceremonial items in fostering a sense of belonging and pride for Indigenous members and ensuring that their cultural rights and practices are respected while they fulfill their roles within the Legion,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** ... the Legion amend its current Legion Dress code to allow Indigenous members to wear ceremonial items of cultural significance as part of their Legion Dress when representing the Legion at public functions and events. The items may include, but are not limited to, items such as feathers, beaded jewelry, clothing and other culturally appropriate ceremonial accessories, in accordance with the individual's cultural practices.

Report will be moved tomorrow after any non-concurred resolutions which may be brought back are dealt with.

### **Convention Poppy Resolutions Report**

Dale Johnston presented the concurred poppy resolutions.

#### **Branch #118 North Vancouver Youth Remembrance Contest - Junior Video Category**

**WHEREAS** the Video category for the Youth and Remembrance Contest started in BC/ Yukon Command and included a Junior Category.

**WHEREAS** the National Youth and Remembrance Contest does not include a Junior Level Video category.

**WHEREAS** the BC/Yukon Command Video Junior Category had several entries each year.

**WHEREAS** the Youth start early using various media including making videos.

**WHEREAS** we should be encouraging our youth to pay homage to our heroes whenever we can.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Youth and Remembrance National Contest be changed to include a Junior Videos Category.

M/S/C

#### **Branch #118 North Vancouver Youth Remembrance Contest – Videos Time Limit**



**WHEREAS** the Youth and Remembrance Contest Video Category is currently limited to videos less than 2 minutes.

**WHEREAS** s students entering are not professional and may need more than 2 minutes for their tributes.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the time limit be increased to 3 minutes.

M/S/C

**Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest – Photography Category for BC/Yukon Command**

**WHEREAS** teachers have reached out to our Youth and Remembrance Contest Committee and requested to add a Photograph Category to the Contest.

**WHEREAS** we should encourage the youth to pay tribute to Veterans whenever and however they want to no matter the media they choose.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon Command institute a Photography Category And be it further resolved that guidelines are to be drawn up for entries and judging And be it further resolved that all the entries be submitted directly to BC/Yukon Command for judging.

M/S/C

**Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest – Promoting and Funding**

**WHEREAS** it can be costly to run the Youth and Remembrance Contest.

**WHEREAS** the contest is not highly known outside of the Legion.

**WHEREAS** seeking partners to promote the contest will have a two-fold effect of broader awareness of the contest as well as a possible source of funding for the program.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon Command explore the possibility of partnerships while maintaining control of the program.

M/S/C

Dale moved the Convention Poppy Resolutions Report. M/S/C

**Centenary Presentation**

Val MacGregor presented on the upcoming Legion Centenary.

**Standing Committee: Government & Military Liaison Report**

Craig Thomson presented his Government & Military Liaison report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Craig moved his report. M/S/C

**Standing Committee: Tuberculous Veterans' Section (TVS) Report**

Lizz Lindsay presented her TVS Rep report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Lizz moved her report. M/S/C

**Victory Square Banner Program Presentation**

Bob Underhill presented on the Victory Square Banner Program.

**Standing Committee: Constitution & Laws Report**

Karen Kuzek presented her Constitution & Laws report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Karen moved her report. M/S/C

**Presentation of MSM Award to Terri Orser**

Dave Sinclair presented Terri Orser with her MSM Award.

**Standing Committee: Rituals & Awards Report**

Peter McKenna presented his Rituals & Awards report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Peter moved his report. M/S/C

**Presentation of Branch Anniversary Certificates**

Branch #	Branch Name	Anniversary
294	UBC Campus	5
289	Tsawwassen	30
288	Westbank	35
286	Tumbler Ridge	40
276	Slocan Valley	50
273	Mackenzie	55
265	Aldergrove	60
266	Valemount	60
256	Mount Benson	65
257	Seaview Centennial	65
258	Chetwynd	65
259	Vavenby & District	65
260	100 Mile House	65
261	Forest Grove	65
262	Bella Coola	65
242	N. Thompson Valley	70
244	Masset	70
249	Pleasant Valley	70
250	Kitimat	70
228	Hope	75
229	Whalley	75
232	Texada Island	75
236	Westwold	75

237	Port Hardy	75
170	Castlegar	80
171	Ladysmith	80
172	Esquimalt Dockyard	80
173	K. Knudston	80
176	Billy Bishop	80
177	Mount Pleasant	80
178	Shalom	80
180	Port Alice	80
99	Sicamous	85
128	Wells & District	85
154	Quadra Island	85
155	Greenwood	85
160	Comox	85
162	Lytton	85
164	Powell River	85
127	Public Service	90
133	Port Coquitlam	90
134	Malahat District	90
137	Campbell River	90
139	Williams Lake	90
140	Sechelt	90
142	West Point Grey	90
147	Sayward Valley	90
1	Dawson City	95
61	Delta	95
84	Gulf Islands	95
96	Merritt	95
97	Oliver	95
98	Enderby	95
102	Fort St. John	95
107	Chase	95
109	Gibsons	95
112	Pender Harbour	95
113	Ashcroft	95
114	Lynn Valley	95
295	Chilliwack Vedder	95

### **LAC Announcements**

Reminder of silent auction items available in the Command Store and prize draws.

### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn at 4:06pm until 8:30am tomorrow morning. M/S/C

## **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> - Morning Session**

Business sessions reconvened at 8:30am.

### **Invocation**

Lizz Lindsay delivered the invocation.

### **LAC Announcements**

Chair Brenda Thomson advised the 50/50 draw is sold out and reminded attendees that the silent auction will close at 11:00am and challenge coins are still available. Conducted prize draws.

### **Chair's Announcements**

Members who are interested in serving on a Provincial Standing Committee are encouraged to notify Command staff of their interest.

### **Credentials Committee Final Report**

Kathy Wishlow presented the Credential Committee's final report. Kathy moved the report. M/S/C

### **Guest Speaker – Lynn McClellan, President, Ontario Command**

Addressed the convention attendees with a few remarks from Ontario Command.

### **Guest Speaker – Ernie Tester, President, Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Command**

Addressed the convention attendees with a few remarks from Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Command.

### **Election of Treasurer**

The nominees for Treasurer were Glenn Hodge and Denise Young. Both candidates accepted the nomination and addressed the delegates. Glenn Hodge was elected as Treasurer.

### **Standing Committee: Marketing & Public Relations Report**

Dale Johnston presented his Marketing & Public Relations report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Dale moved his report. M/S/C

### **Standing Committee: Poppy Operations Report**

Glenn Hodge presented his Poppy Operations report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book.

Motion to approve an increase to the poppy assessment to 8% starting January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026. M/S/C  
Glenn moved his report. M/S/C

### **Standing Committee: Ladies Auxiliary Liaison Report**

Valerie MacGregor presented her Ladies Auxiliary Liaison report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Valerie moved her report. M/S/C

### **Election of Chair**

The nominees for Chair were Brenda Thomson, Micheline Sen, and John Scott. All candidates accepted the nomination and addressed the delegates. Brenda Thomson was elected as Chair.

Motion to destroy the all ballots (electronically). M/S/C

### **Health Break 10:00am to 10:15am**

#### **Guest Speaker – Darryn Langstaff, Branch Operations Advisor, BC/Yukon Command**

Presentation on alternative revenue streams for Legion branches.

#### **Standing Committee: Veterans and Seniors Report**

John Scott presented his Veterans and Seniors report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. John moved his report. M/S/C

#### **Standing Committee: Veteran Homelessness Report**

Valerie MacGregor and Terri Orser presented their Homelessness report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Valerie moved her report. M/S/C

#### **General Resolutions**

Bob Underhill presented the concurred and non-concurred resolutions.

#### **Concurred Resolutions:**

##### ***Legion Dress to Include Indigenous Regalia Branch #114 Lynn Valley***

***WHEREAS...Indigenous communities have a rich cultural heritage that includes traditional attire and ceremonial items that hold deep spiritual cultural significance, and,***

***WHEREAS...we promote inclusivity within the Legion, showing a commitment to acknowledging and valuing the diversity of the membership and thereby reflecting our recognition of Indigenous cultural practices as an integral part of the broader cultural tapestry, and,***

***WHEREAS...the Legion's public image would be strengthened by showing cultural awareness and sensitivity in its representation of diverse groups, setting a positive example for other organizations in embracing cultural diversity, and,***

***WHEREAS...we recognize the importance of ceremonial items in fostering a sense of belonging and pride for Indigenous members and ensuring the cultural rights and practices are respected while they fulfill their roles within the Legion,***

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED...the Legion amend its current Legion Dress code to allow Indigenous members to wear ceremonial items of cultural significance as part of their Legion Dress when representing the Legion at public functions and events. The items may include, but are not limited to, items such as feathers, beaded jewelry, clothing and other cultural appropriate ceremonial accessories, in accordance with the individual's cultural practices.***

*The General Resolutions Committee concurs with this resolution, however, as it pertains to the national policy, it must be approved at the next Dominion Convention and therefore can only be submitted as a recommendation if passed.*

M/S/C

**Non-concurred Resolutions:**

***Lifetime Membership  
Branch #32 Agassiz***

*As Per Section 705c: Provincial Command approval is required for all life applications*

**WHEREAS** prior to submission to Dominion Command. Approval must be shown on the document forwarded to Dominion Command with per capita tax.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** To change the wording and the requirement of the

*Lifetime Member Criteria to Legion Branch Approval only. Provincial and Dominion Command do not know the member, how much they have contributed toward the running and everyday operation of the Legion they support. Only the members are aware of how much the member has done. In most cases, there is no paper documentation of the aforesaid. You cannot quantify the amount of volunteer work each member has contributed. At the Legion Branch Level you are required to vote, both at the Executive and General Meeting. If approval from your Membership is obtained, that will satisfy the nominating and supporting of the Lifetime Membership.*

*The General Resolutions Committee does not concur with this resolution. Removing the oversight of Provincial and Dominion Commands from the approval process could lead to inconsistent standards across branches. The current process ensures fairness, consistency, and oversight, and any change to this would require approval at Dominion Command.*

Point of Order: Resolution was not approved at Fraser Valley Zone Caucus. Therefore, the resolution will no longer considered at this time.

Bob moved the Convention General Resolutions Committee report. M/S/C

**Motion for Reconsideration:**

Representative from the Central Vancouver Island Caucus made the following motion for reconsideration regarding Membership Per Capita Increases:

Motion to bring back the original motion regarding membership per capita increases for this Command back for reconsideration. M/S/C

**Lunch Break 11:30am to 1:00pm**

## **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> - Afternoon Session**

Continued discussion regarding the motion for reconsideration:

Motion to increase per capita on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 to \$19, on January 1, 2027 to \$21.

Motion to amend motion:

Motion to amend increase per capita an additional \$1.50 in 2026, and additional \$1.50 in 2027, further move BC/Yukon Command institute annual increases of per capita tax as agreed upon by convention. M/S/Defeated

Motion to amend motion:

Motion to amend increase per capita an additional \$1.50 in 2026, and additional \$1.50 in 2027, further move BC/Yukon Command institute annual increases of per capita tax as agreed upon by convention. M/S/Defeated

Motion to amend motion:

Motion to amend increase per capita an additional \$1.00 in 2026, and additional \$1.00 in 2027, and review per capita at the next BC/Yukon Command convention if required. M/S/Defeated

Motion to increase per capita on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 to \$19, on January 1, 2027 to \$21.

M/S/C

### **LAC Announcements**

50/50 draw, announced silent auction winners, and additional prize draws.

### **RCEL Presentation**

Dominion Command First Vice President, Sharon McKeown gave a presentation on the RCEL and made a call for donations. \$8861.00 was raised by branches including cash donations collected from the room.

### **Standing Committee: Poster & Literary Report**

Bev Croft presented her Poster & Literary report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Bev moved her report. M/S/C

### **Standing Committee: OSI Representative Report**

Terri Orser presented her OSI Representative report, as included in the Standing Committee Reports and Resolutions book. Terri moved her report. M/S/C

### **BC/Yukon Command Legion Foundation Report**

Valerie MacGregor presented the Legion Foundation report, as included in the Standing Committee and Resolutions book.

### **Future Convention Update**

Michelle Courtney thanked the Kamloops Local Arrangements Committee for their hard work and encouraged branches/zones to consider hosting the next convention. A circular will be issued shortly with more information.

### **Outgoing President's Remarks**

Craig Thomson reflected on the past term.

Motion to adjourn convention business sessions. M/S/C

**Installation of Officers**

Dominion Command First Vice President, Sharon McKeown installed the new PEC members and Executive Council for 2025-2027.

Closing ceremonies concluded the convention at 3:40pm.



## Credentials Committee Report – Kamloops 2025

Zones	June 6 <sup>th</sup>		June 7 <sup>th</sup>		June 8 <sup>th</sup>	
	Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy	Accredited	Proxy
Cariboo	8	10				
Central BC	5	9				
Central Vancouver Island	25	26				
East Kootenay	6	17				
Fraser Valley	17	16				
New Westminster & District	19	35				
Nicola-Thompson	15	10	2	1		
North Okanagan	22	14				
North Shore & Howe Sound	5	17				
North Vancouver Island	7	9				
Northwestern	1	4				
Peace Arch	13	43				
South Okanagan & Similkameen	22	19				
South Vancouver Island	22	53	1	4		
Sunshine Coast	3	12				
Vancouver Burnaby	12	19				
West Kootenay	13	7				
Peace River	3	5				
Unattached	7	2				
<b>TOTAL</b>	225	327	3	5		
Observer Count	28		2			

## Summary of Resolutions to BC/Yukon Command Convention

Concurred Resolutions		
Branch Name	Resolution	Status
Lynn Valley #114	Legion Dress to include Indigenous Regalia	Passed
North Vancouver #118	Youth Remembrance Contest – Junior Video Category	Passed
North Vancouver #118	Youth Remembrance Contest – Video Time Limits	Passed
North Vancouver #118	Youth Remembrance Contest – Photography Categories for BC/Yukon Command	Passed
North Vancouver #118	Youth Remembrance Contest – Promoting and Funding	Passed
Non - Concurred Resolutions		
Branch Name	Resolution	
North Vancouver #118	Gaming Requirements	
Agassiz #32	Life Membership Criteria	
Mount Arrowsmith #49	Group Insurance Policy	
Port Coquitlam #133	Legion Magazine	
Port Coquitlam #133	Homeless Veteran Information	
North Burnaby #148	Legion Magazine	
Kitimat #250	Membership	
Chilliwack-Vedder #295	Legion Week	



**Convention Resolutions Committee Meeting  
General Resolutions  
April 15, 2025**

Committee Members  
Bob Underhill – Chair  
Craig Thomson  
Glenn Hodge  
Dale Johnston  
Valerie MacGregor  
Gary Peters  
Denise Young

Meeting called to order at 12:00pm

The following resolutions were considered by the committee:

**1. Branch #114 Lynn Valley  
Legion Dress to include Indigenous Regalia**

**WHEREAS** ... Indigenous communities have a rich cultural heritage that includes traditional attire and ceremonial items that hold deep spiritual and cultural significance, and,

**WHEREAS** ... we promote inclusivity within the Legion, showing a commitment to acknowledging and valuing the diversity of the membership and thereby reflecting our recognition of Indigenous cultural practices as an integral part of the broader cultural tapestry, and,

**WHEREAS**... the Legion's public image would be strengthened by showing cultural awareness and sensitivity in its representation of diverse groups, setting a positive example for other organizations in embracing cultural diversity, and,

**WHEREAS**... we recognize the importance of ceremonial items in fostering a sense of belonging and pride for Indigenous members and ensuring that their cultural rights and practices are respected while they fulfill their roles within the Legion,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** ... the Legion amend its current Legion Dress code to allow Indigenous members to wear ceremonial items of cultural significance as part of their Legion Dress when representing the Legion at public functions and events. The items may include, but are not limited to, items such as feathers, beaded jewelry, clothing and other culturally appropriate ceremonial accessories, in accordance with the individual's cultural practices.

***The committee concurs with this resolution, however, as it pertains to the national policy, it must be approved at the next Dominion Convention and therefore can only be submitted as a recommendation if passed.***

## **2. Branch #118 North Vancouver Gaming Requirements**

**WHEREAS** BC Gaming now requires that all winners of meat prizes, regardless of the dollar value, must disclose personal information including name, email/ mailing address and telephone number.

**WHEREAS** many people are reluctant to disclose personal information especially when the prizes are low dollar values.

**WHEREAS** this requirement has had a negative impact on sales for meat draws.

**WHEREAS** lower sales directly effect the amount of donations the Legion Branches can distribute to Charities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon approach BC Gaming to address the concerns and eliminate this requirement.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. While this issue falls outside the Legion's parameters and authority, BC/Yukon Command staff are already engaging with BC Gaming to address the issue.***

## **3. Branch #32 Agassiz Life Membership Criteria**

As Per Section 705c: Provincial Command approval is required for all life applications

**WHEREAS** prior to submission to Dominion Command. Approval must be shown on the document forwarded to Dominion Command with per capita tax.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** To change the wording and the requirement of the Lifetime Member Criteria to Legion Branch Approval only. Provincial and Dominion Command do not know the member, how much they have contributed toward the running and everyday operation of the Legion they support. Only the members are aware of how much the member has done. In most cases, there is no paper documentation of the aforesaid. You cannot quantify the amount of volunteer work each member has contributed. At the Legion Branch Level you are required to vote, both at the Executive and General Meeting. If approval from your Membership is obtained, that will satisfy the nominating and supporting of the Lifetime Membership.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. Removing the oversight of Provincial and Dominion Commands from the approval process could lead to inconsistent standards across branches. The current process ensures fairness, consistency, and oversight, and any change to this would require approval at Dominion Command.***

#### 4. Branch #49 Mount Arrowsmith Group Insurance Policy

**WHEREAS** the BC/Yukon Command has the duty to administer the Group Insurance Policy for all branches in the Command;

**WHEREAS** Each Branch and City have entirely different Insurance Criteria Requirements within their communities;

**WHEREAS** The Branches have limited input into their insurance requirements or costs;

**BACKGROUND** In these times when many Branches are struggling to maintain operations, the increase in expenses has made it very difficult. For instance, and only for the purposes of this resolution, insurance costs seem exorbitant with no ability to inquire or independently acquire the protections required. Branch 49 presently pays approximately \$1504 per month and although we have unique criteria for assessing insurance premiums that would suit ourselves, we would never know if there could be cost saving when dealing locally, nor would those criteria of other communities fit our requirements.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** That British Columbia Command endorse the following resolution for submission to the Provincial Command 2025 Annual General Meeting; With the following options (a) Branches have permission to investigate costs particular to them; (b) If Branches have discovered a possible cost saving that Branches be able to opt out of the Group Plan; (c) Amend and Accept, (d) Dismiss recommendation.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. The current Group Insurance Policy provides consistent and adequate coverage for all branches. Allowing individual branches to secure their own policies could lead to underinsurance or coverage gaps. Branches are encouraged to review their current coverage and request assessments to ensure it reflects their needs. In some cases, updates or reassessments may result in cost savings or improved coverage within the existing group plan.***

#### 5. Branch #133 Port Coquitlam Legion Magazine

**WHEREAS**, for the most part Canadian wages and pensions have not kept pace with inflation over the past five years;

**WHEREAS**, years of rising costs have combined with the current fiscal instability to force people to re-evaluate discretionary spending;

**WHEREAS**, two of more copies of Legion magazine sent to the same address does not increase awareness of veteran issues, military history nor expand the advertising base than does a single issue;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Legion member homes with two or more members should be limited to paying for one Legion magazine subscription.

***The Committee does not concur with this resolution. This matter was previously considered and voted on at Dominion Convention. Implementation is not feasible due to administrative and logistical challenges, such as how membership data is managed and privacy considerations between individual members residing at the same address.***

**6. Branch #133 Port Coquitlam  
Homeless Veteran Information**

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary for Branches to have timely and accurate information on potential homeless veterans within their area of influence in order to better support Legion 'Leave the Streets' and related programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon Command approach the Provincial Government to explore the possibility of adding veteran-related queries to their homeless in-take/census queries, and pass that information on in an appropriate fashion to the Command Service Officer for selective dissemination.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. While the intent to better support homeless veterans is commendable, there are significant privacy concerns that limit the sharing of personal information. Self identification is already a part of existing programs, though due to privacy legislation, this information cannot be directly shared with organizations.***

**7. Branch #148 North Burnaby  
Legion Magazine**

**WHEREAS** The price of the Legion Magazine subscription is included in the annual membership dues payment paid by all Legion members in good standing.

**WHEREAS** Not all members in good standing, although entitled, choose to receive the Legion Magazine. This choice is the member's prerogative.

**WHEREAS** There are a variety of reasons why members chose not to receive the Legion magazine. One of the main reasons for choosing not to receive the Magazine is that in many instances, there is more than one Legion member already receiving the Magazine in their household. Another outstanding reason is that eco-conscious members would rather not receive the physical Magazine as they can read it at the Legion Club or borrow a copy from another member thereby cutting back on paper consumption and waste.

**WHEREAS** Even if a member voluntarily chooses not to receive the magazine, the subscription payment that is paid per member through their annual dues is still paid to Command, even though the magazine is not being delivered.

**WHEREAS** Most Legion Branches are struggling to maintain or increase their membership and hesitate to increase the annual dues as our reasonable annual membership rates make membership attractive to prospective members

**WHEREAS** In this economic climate, many Legion Branches are challenged financially and can always use any and all additions into their General Funds.

**WHEREAS** in a brief perusal of our Branch 148 Membership Portal report (Report Date: 2025.02.22) it indicated that fully one quarter or 25 % of our Branch members DO NOT to receive the magazine.

**WHEREAS** Each BC Yukon Command Branch member's magazine subscription costs \$ 13.11 per subscription annually.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that an annual review of the membership rolls be performed in December of each year and the number of members that do not receive the magazine be noted for that year.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the amount of each Legion magazine subscription (\$13.11) that is paid for by the member but not received by the member should be allocated to the Branch annually for use in General Funds to assist each Branch with operating expenses.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the subscription amount allocated to the Branch, match any revision of the amount by Command and/or the Legion Magazine if or when this revision takes place.

***The Committee does not concur with this resolution. This matter was previously considered and voted on at Dominion Convention. Implementation would not be feasible. The subscription fee is part of a larger national agreement that support production and distribution of the Legion magazine, and individual branch level rebates are beyond the authority of the Provincial Command.***

## **8. Branch #250 Kitimat Membership**

**WHEREAS** the Royal Canadian Legion has a proud tradition of supporting veterans and fostering camaraderie among those who have served in the armed forces;

**WHEREAS** American veterans share a common bond of service, sacrifice, and commitment to the principles of freedom and democracy having fought in two World Wars, and many United Nations sanctioned Peace Keeping duties alongside members of the Canadian Armed Force, and share values upheld by the Royal Canadian Legion;

**WHEREAS** many American veterans reside in Canada or maintain close ties with Canadian veterans through shared experiences and partnerships in international military operations;

**WHEREAS** extending membership to American veterans would strengthen the relationship between Canadian and American veterans, fostering greater unity and mutual support;

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of American veterans would expand the Royal Canadian Legion's capacity to advocate for veterans' issues, enhance community service initiatives, and enrich the cultural and social fabric of its membership.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Royal Canadian Legion amend its bylaws to permit membership eligibility for veterans of the United States Armed Forces who meet the following criteria: a. Honorably discharged from service or currently serving in good standing; b. Willing to uphold the mission, values, and objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion.

2. The Royal Canadian Legion promote this new membership opportunity to American veterans residing in Canada and abroad through outreach and collaboration with American veterans' organizations.

3. The Royal Canadian Legion work closely with American veterans to identify and address shared issues, such as mental health support, transition assistance, and recognition of service.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The Royal Canadian Legion maintain its commitment to serving all veterans while preserving the unique traditions and identity of the organization.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. The eligibility for members in the Royal Canadian Legion already includes veterans of allied forces, including the United States. The Royal Canadian Legion maintains strong and positive relations with the American Legion across the country.***

**9. Branch #295 Chilliwack-Vedder  
Legion Week**

**WHEREAS** Legion week currently occurs annually during the autumn of each year (September/October).

**WHEREAS** Many Legion members and volunteers are getting back to Legion Business after summer break, and are also busy getting prepared for Annual Membership/Renewals drives and recruiting, and the Annual Poppy Campaign, including making lists and shift schedules for poppy tagging volunteers, arrangements for various locations for poppy tagging like malls, grocery stores and local community businesses, inside poppy trays, and community routes, or outside with tables and volunteers tagging, arranging for liability insurance certificates for all locations, supplies including chairs tables and info for tables at all locations, ordering supplies such as pins, wreaths, stickers and other supplies, including brochures, pamphlets and various Legion information for the members of the community, and launching Public relations to promote the Poppy Campaign and the local Legion branch,

**WHEREAS** Legion Week falls around the same time in the fall, September/October,



**WHEREAS** with a limited volunteer base at many Legions, and with most of the manpower being directed to Legion Membership drives and the Annual Poppy Campaign and the Remembrance Day ceremonies and events,

**WHEREAS** it is a struggle to plan, arrange volunteers for, host and promote another large event around the same time of year,

**WHEREAS** Previously it was in June leading up to Canada Day, and was a less busy time for Legion Volunteers to arrange and launch a big event

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the annual Legion Week event is moved back to the last week June, when volunteers and resources are more readily available to plan, host and promote the aims and objects of the Legion to our communities.

***The committee does not concur with this resolution. This matter was previously discussed and voted on at Dominion Convention, where it was decided that Legion Week would be observed nationwide during the third week of September. This standardized timeframe ensures consistent promotion and messaging for the organization. However, branches are welcome to host additional event or activities at other times of the year to bring more awareness and support to the Legion.***

Meeting adjourned 1:15pm



British Columbia/Yukon  
Command

**Convention Resolutions Committee Meeting  
Poppy Poster & Literary Resolutions  
April 15, 2025**

Committee Members  
Dale Johnston – Chair  
Craig Thomson  
Steve Jeske  
Krista Smith  
Tanya MacNeill

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm

The following resolutions were considered by the committee:

**10. Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest - Junior Video Category**

**WHEREAS** the Video category for the Youth and Remembrance Contest started in BC/Yukon Command and included a Junior Category.

**WHEREAS** the National Youth and Remembrance Contest does not include a Junior Level Video category.

**WHEREAS** the BC/Yukon Command Video Junior Category had several entries each year.

**WHEREAS** the Youth start early using various media including making videos.

**WHEREAS** we should be encouraging our youth to pay homage to our heroes whenever we can.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Youth and Remembrance National Contest be changed to include a Junior Videos Category.

***The committee concurs with this resolution, however, as the Youth Remembrance Contest falls under the jurisdiction of the Legion National Foundation, this resolution can only be sent as a recommendation if passed.***

**11. Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest – Videos Time Limit**

**WHEREAS** the Youth and Remembrance Contest Video Category is currently limited to videos less than 2 minutes.

**WHEREAS** students entering are not professional and may need more than 2 minutes for their tributes.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the time limit be increased to 3 minutes.

***The committee concurs with this resolution, however, as the Youth Remembrance Contest falls under the jurisdiction of the Legion National Foundation, this resolution can only be sent as a recommendation if passed.***

**12. Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest – Photography Category for BC/Yukon Command**

**WHEREAS** teachers have reached out to our Youth and Remembrance Contest Committee and requested to add a Photography Category to the Contest.

**WHEREAS** we should encourage the youth to pay tribute to Veterans whenever and however they want to no matter the media they choose.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon Command institute a Photography Category And be it further resolved that guidelines are to be drawn up for entries and judging And be it further resolved that all the entries be submitted directly to BC/Yukon Command for judging.

***The committee concurs with this resolution.***

**13. Branch #118 North Vancouver  
Youth Remembrance Contest – Promoting and Funding**

**WHEREAS** it can be costly to run the Youth and Remembrance Contest.

**WHEREAS** the contest is not highly known outside of the Legion.

**WHEREAS** seeking partners to promote the contest will have a two-fold effect of broader awareness of the contest as well as a possible source of funding for the program.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that BC/Yukon Command explore the possibility of partnerships while maintaining control of the program.

***The committee concurs with this resolution.***

Meeting adjourned 5:15pm



## **Standing Committee Reports**

## **Branch Advisory and Development Committee Report**

The Branch Advisory Committee is established under the authority of the Command President and is accountable to the Admin/Finance Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to deal with branch matters as outlined in the Act of Incorporation, The General By-laws, and BC/Yukon Command By-laws, including:

- Branch operations, including bar and kitchen operations, routine renovations and building improvements;
- Branch development, meaning new construction, substantial building additions that increase the footprint of the branch, purchase or lease of new property, sale of properties and demolition.

In addition, the Branch Advisory Committee has the following responsibilities that are part of their Terms of Reference:

1. Review and approve the following branch requests:
  - a. Financing (including unsecured lines of credit, branch credit card, equipment term loans or leases, and other financing).
  - b. Renovations or equipment purchases in excess of \$10,000 and up to \$50,000.
2. Identify if a branch needs to be placed under Performance Management using the Performance Standards Policy. In the case of Trusteeship, the Branch Advisory committee will make a recommendation to Admin/Finance. Once action is taken the committee will receive updates from the Trustees and will provide regular updates and recommendations to the Admin/Finance Committee.
3. Using the Redevelopment Policy and Requirements for Branch Advisory Approval, review branch redevelopment submissions and updates for the following:
  - a. Ensure that by-laws and legislation are being followed and that the best interest of the branch is being considered.
  - b. Evaluate for potential risks to the branch and, if requested, work with the branch to mitigate them.
  - c. Refer documents to lawyers or other development experts for input as required.
4. Refer to the Admin/Finance Committee:
  - a. Those problems identified that pose a risk to either a branch or the organization as a whole, or those renovation projects in excess of \$50,000.
  - b. Branch development proposals, with recommendations, when requesting approval.
5. Work in-cooperation with Zone Commanders to address governance issues in a branch as they arise. Refer issues to the Constitution & By-Laws committee as needed.

Throughout this term, the Branch Advisory & Development Committee met bi-weekly to provide guidance and support to branches requiring assistance and to respond to branch-related concerns. Reports and updates from Branch Operations Advisors, Zone Commanders, Probationary Managers, and Trustees were reviewed regularly, and their recommendations were discussed and considered collectively.

### *Branch Oversight & Development*

The committee provided varying levels of support and oversight to **19** branches over the course of the term. An additional **14** branches were supported with redevelopment guidance based on the scope and complexity of their projects.

### *Approvals*

31 - approvals for financing and expenditures over \$10,000 requests  
5 - lease agreements approvals  
3 - liquor license transitions approved

### *Policy Updates*

The *Performance Standards* policy was revised to streamline performance standards categories and introduce a two-tiered trusteeship system. These changes were approved at the Spring 2025 Provincial Executive Council meeting.

A new *Branch Development Policy* was created to clarify when BC/Yukon Command approval is required for major redevelopment/renovation projects. It ensures these complex projects fall under the appropriate level of oversight and that branches receive the necessary support needed. This policy was approved at the Spring 2025 Provincial Executive Council meeting.

The committee also developed and updated a range of operational support materials to assist branches, including: various operations checklists, a new Probationary Management Manual, updated Trusteeship Manual (currently in progress), and a Real Property Development and New Construction Handbook.

Currently there are **21** branches actively being monitored by the committee, categorized as follows:

Flagging: 0 branches  
Probationary Management: 8 branches  
Trusteeship: 8 branches  
Development Oversight: 5 branches

I would like to thank Mai for her support and the Committee Members of the committee's work. I would also like to commend all of the members of the Legion who have taken on the added responsibility and often thankless task of overseeing a Trusteeship. Your work on behalf of these Branches is most appreciated. And one last thank you to all the Zone Commanders who help the Committee in understanding what is happening with each Branch of this Command. Their assistance is invaluable and they deserve an applause for the work they do to help the branches succeed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Underhill  
Chair, Branch Advisory & Development Committee

**Committee Members:** Val MacGregor, Karen Kuzek, Dale Johnston, Norm Scott, Cliff Slack, Dave Sinclair

## Constitution & Law Committee Report

It has been quite busy in C&L since the last Convention. There have been quite a few changes and updates in C&L over the last few years! The steady increase in Article III complaints and the ongoing issue of interpersonal conflicts is definitely concerning post-COVID, as people adjust back to in-person environments. Bylaw change requests have been relatively consistent over the term.

Below is a summary of by-law change requests and complaints received in the last 3 years.

BC/Yukon Command Article III Complaints (2022-2025)			
Year	Complaints	Appeals	Annual Total
2022	3	0	3
2023	11	4	15
2024	34	6	40
2025	9	3	12
End of Term Total	57	13	70

Branch By-Law Amendment Requests (2022-2025)	
Year	Number of Amendment Requests
2022	23
2023	32
2024	27
2025	6
End of Term Total	88

### Highlights from the 3-year term:

- Introduced updates to the By-law Pro Forma, including the polling station option for branch elections.
- The Committee provided feedback to Dominion Command on proposed changes to Article III. The most notable change being mandatory Arbitration for 304.a under i. Breach of clubhouse rules and ii. Profane or disorderly conduct Implemented a new reporting structure for branches to track Article III complaints at the branch level.
- Initiated the development of a provincial list of mediators and complaint/appeal teams.
- Will be delivering an Article III workshop at convention.
- Approved changes to the LA By-Laws Pro-Forma.

Thank you to all the committee members for their work in the last 3 years and special thanks to Mai Hansson for her dedication & hard work for the committee!

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kuzek, Chair

**Committee Members:** Gary Peters (Vice Chair), Doug Hadley, Daniel Martin, Marc Swanson, Glenn Hodge, Joni Guenther, and the late Richard Walker.

## **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Report to BC/Yukon Command Convention**

Comrades, it's my pleasure to speak to you today and to provide an update on our National EDI Strategy.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Dominion Executive Council approved a strategic plan which embedded Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in all levels of the Legion. An Action plan was approved on November 23, 2023, which identified the requirements, framework and responsible office to ensure the Strategic Plan was implemented.

The Royal Canadian Legion National EDI policy was formally adopted at our Dominion Convention in August 2024 as follows:

***The Royal Canadian Legion strives to embed Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) into the culture at all levels of The Royal Canadian Legion from our Branches and members to Dominion Command and from Dominion Command to our Branches and members.***

***We empower members, Branches, Provincial Commands/Special Sections and Dominion Command to build EDI plans and initiatives, not only for our members, but also for our employees and clients that may or may not be Legion members.***

***Our ultimate goal is to ensure that The Royal Canadian Legion projects a culture where all Veterans and Legion members, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, nationality, disability, economic status, gender identity, sex and sexual orientation feel welcome and included. Failure to meet that goal will indicate that we are not supportive of all Veterans, nor all non-Veteran Legion members.***

All Provincial Commands have been asked to appoint a provincial committee who will assist their Zones and Branches with implementation of the National strategy.

It is recommended that all branches familiarize themselves with the full National EDI statement which is available on Legion.ca, and that branches begin to discuss adopting a policy for their Branches.

The Dominion Command EDI Committee is currently seeking proposals for training options at all levels of the organization, and more information will be provided as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie MacGregor



## **Government & Military Liaison Report**

Comrades,

The Government & Military Liaison Committee exists to foster relationships with various levels of government and military personnel within the Command.

During the term we have seen many changes, with a change of Command at both CFB Esquimalt and CFB Comox. The Honourary President attended the Change of Command ceremony at CFB Esquimalt and we have since met the new Base Commander on a couple of occasions and maintain a good rapport. Prior to the new Base Commander at CFB Comox assuming command, the Executive Director met with the transition group at CFB Comox to discuss working together to support Veterans in the Comox Valley area.

We were pleased to welcome the Minister of Veterans Affairs on multiple occasions to British Columbia and were able to showcase many of our branches and programs in service of Veterans.

A provincial election occurred during the course of the term, and while the governing party did not change, some MLA's and cabinet positions did. We were pleased to meet with Premier David Eby in fall of 2023 to present him with a ceremonial first poppy and showcase the Legion to our provincial leader. He was very receptive to all that the Legion does. Due to the timing of the election, we were unable to do this in 2024.

The Command office continues to keep in contact with the local MLA in Cloverdale where the office is located. The MLA changed during the 2024 election, however, the new MLA Elenore Sturko is committed to helping the Legion wherever she can. We are currently working with her office on gaining more clarity around gaming requirements and pushing for the removal of the \$220.00 liquor license change of director's fee.

In March of 2024, I attended a moving Remembrance Ceremony to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the end of Canada's efforts in the Afghanistan War. The ceremony was held at the BC Afghanistan War Memorial in Victoria and was attended by many dignitaries including the VAC Minister, Veterans Ombud, and the CFB Esquimalt Base Commander. 158 Canadian Soldiers lost their lives in the war, and 7 civilians. The ceremony paid tribute to their great sacrifice and all of the Canadian Soldiers who bravely fought in pursuit of peace.

Command has been working with the Provincial government on liquor license fees, property tax exemptions, and increasing gaming revenues. This work has been done primarily by the ED, and Michelle has done a wonderful job in making contact and continuing dialogue. As with anything involving government, results are slow in coming. These discussions will be continued in the next term.

Over the past term, we met with both government and opposition officials at the Provincial level, and have had conversations with Members of Parliament and municipal officials. My experience in these meetings has been positive, and all levels of government know what the Legion stands for, and are all appreciative of how the Legion serves our communities.

In comradeship,

Craig Thomson

## Homeless Veterans Committee Report

The Homeless Veterans Committee was struck following our 2022 Provincial Convention, with a mandate is to investigate and pursue programs to benefit and improve the quality of life for homeless and near homeless Veterans within BC/Yukon Command. Our priority was to establish an “Operation Leave the Streets Behind” program for BC/Yukon Command. The challenges we faced in setting up this program were upstart costs, staffing and the need for volunteers to sustain the program.

We reached out to the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command offering the opportunity to partner with BC/Yukon Command on a program which matches the objectives of the Foundation. I’m pleased to report that we successfully transitioned the “Operation Leave the Streets Behind” program to the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command and the program officially launched in July 2023.

The program directly supports Veterans experiencing homelessness or near homelessness and is based on the program run by Ontario Command for more than 14 years. Command wide the uptake and support has been tremendous. The program provides Comfort bags (backpacks) with essential items for Veterans who are waiting for housing and Apartment kits which include everything a Veteran would need when moving into permanent housing.

Completion of quarterly “Operation Leave the Streets Behind Surveys” has been a high priority this term. We thank the Branches and Service Officers who take the time to complete these reports which enable Dominion Command to compile more accurate estimates on the number of Homeless or near Homeless Veterans across Canada. Your participation is what allows the program to succeed, and the committee is grateful for your participation.

The committee continues to track the significant progress at Veterans House Victoria. As of this writing VHV is operating at full capacity. Please reference the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command report for details.

The 2024-25 Point in Time Homeless Counts in BC are currently in progress and scheduled to be completed by the end of April. Results are not available as of this writing, but may be tracked on the Homeless Service Association of BC website: [https://hsa-bc.ca/2024\\_25\\_Homeless\\_Counts.html](https://hsa-bc.ca/2024_25_Homeless_Counts.html). The National Point in Time count is expected to take place in the Fall of 2025, date to be announced.

The Yukon Territory conducted their most recent Point in time Count on October 22, 2024 in Whitehorse. 145 people experiencing homelessness were identified, however no statistics are available on how many identified as Veterans. Additional information on the Yukon Territory count is available using the following links:

<https://yapc.ca/news/reaching-home-community-advisory-board-releases-results-of-2024-point-in-time-count>

[https://yapc.ca/assets/documents/PiT\\_Infographic\\_2024\\_-\\_8-5x14.pdf](https://yapc.ca/assets/documents/PiT_Infographic_2024_-_8-5x14.pdf)

In September 2024, the Government of British Columbia announced a partnership with Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Built for Zero to provide expanded housing opportunities in BC. The initial focus is on the Victoria area, with proposed expansion of services to be implemented using a phased approach, beginning with Abbotsford, followed by Kelowna, Nanaimo, Prince George, Chilliwack, Greater Victoria, Cowichan Valley, Kamloops, Nelson and Penticton. All B.C. communities have received access to the CAEH online training modules free as a resource to

leverage and support the work in their communities. To learn more on Provincial housing opportunities please use the following resource links:

<https://news.bchousing.org/more-shelter-beds-coming-to-victoria/>

<https://www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/homelessness-services/HEART-HEARTH>

<https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/housing>

The Military Veterans Wellness program was launch in 2023 by the Toronto Police Service in collaboration with Ontario Command and the Royal Canadian Legion. The uptake and endorsement of this program by the Canadian Police Services/Associations is rapidly expanding and is currently endorsed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Armed Forces Military Police and the Canadian Association of Chief's of Police. This program is endorsed by the following associations in BC/Yukon Command:

- Delta Police Service
- Nelson Police Department
- New Westminster Police Department
- Port Moody Police Department
- West Vancouver Police Department
- Vancouver Police Department

We continue to work closely with the Legion Foundation BC/Yukon Command to track the progress of their programs supporting Veterans homeless and transitional housing. We acknowledge the amazing achievements taking place through their Rent Supplement Program. Please reference the Legion Foundation report for details of the number of Veterans who have accessed the program for support.

In closing I acknowledge and thank our committee Vice-Chair Terri Orser who has anchored our work on Vancouver Island this term. Terri presented to the RESPECT forum in October 2022 speaking on the “Leave the Streets Behind” program and handing out information. Along with Dave Sinclair, she has given similar presentations to various Military leaders at CFB Esquimalt and met with the Commodore and Fleet Chief, Base Commander and Rear Admiral. She has upcoming presentations planned with the Wing Commander, in Comox, the Commander of the 59<sup>th</sup> Brigade and the CO of the Regional Support Unit (Pacific). Terri has travelled to Nanaimo several times to meet with the Salvation Army and a restaurant owner who takes in homeless people to work, sleep and also provides food. She has taken in Veterans in the past and is grateful that she now has a resource to support her efforts. Additionally, Terri works tirelessly collecting clothes, bedding, dishes, toiletries etc., from friends and community supporters in Langford, which are donated to “Our Place” a homeless shelter in Victoria. Veterans do not always wish to be identified but Terri knows her efforts to support the greater homeless community are worth the effort. If even one Veteran gets a blanket and clothing, it’s making a difference.

I sincerely thank all our committee members, and our staff support team for their input and efforts this term. It takes a special group of dedicated volunteers to move these programs forward. I know we are making a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable Veterans, and I thank each of you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
Valerie MacGregor, Chair

**Committee members:** Terri Orser (Vice Chair), Logan Hedstrom, Kim McLeod, Jonathan Hall, John Scott (VSS Chair), Michelle Courtney, ED, Amber Stewart, Foundation ED (Ad hoc).

## Ladies Auxiliary Liaison Committee Report

The Ladies Auxiliary Liaison Committee was struck in June 2023, with a mandate to provide support and guidance to the Ladies Auxiliary by fostering strong relationships with branches, promoting effective communication and working together positively in support of our shared mission and the values of the organization.

Our Committee Terms of Reference include oversight of matters related to Ladies Auxiliary membership records, to offer support and guidance on governance and procedural issues, and to develop reporting requirements which ensure transparency and accountability.

Additionally, we were tasked to collaborate with the Command committees to facilitate granting of honours and awards, life memberships and by-law changes.

Working closely with the Trustees and the LA Command Executive we assisted with the coordination of LA Zones to ensure the proper closure and disbursement of remaining LA Zone funds. On behalf of the committee, I acknowledge the LA Command for their generous donation of \$159,355.48 which was disbursed to many worthy partners and community organizations.

The last weekend in September 2023, the LA Command gathered in Penticton for one last time, to celebrate their many achievements and to honour their long serving members. We thank them for their many years of dedicated service to the Royal Canadian Legion, our Veterans and our communities.

In 2024 the Committee developed a membership/per capita tax structure which was put in place for the remaining Auxiliaries and is administrated by the Command Staff. The LA Branch and Zone Closure Checklist has been updated and recommended amendments to the LA Branch Pro Forma have been approved.

Since 2023 we have seen a continued decline in the number of Ladies Auxiliaries and members, as reflected in this chart.

	2023	2024	2025
<b>Number of Branches with a Ladies Auxiliary</b>	34	34	24
<b>Number of LA Members</b>	916	720	560

We currently have active Ladies Auxiliaries supporting the following Branches.

Trail	Rossland	Courtenay
Revelstoke	Mt. Arrowsmith	Kaslo
Qualicum Beach	South Burnaby	Maple Ridge
Prince Edward	Quesnel	Ashcroft
Quadra Island	Castlegar	Chilliwack-Vedder
Clinton	Salmo	Whalley
North Thompson	Pleasant Valley	Kitimat
Forest Grove	Aldergrove	Trafalgar-Pro Patria

The alliances between the Ladies Auxiliaries and their Branches are strong and the committee acknowledges the hard work, dedication and commitment of these amazing volunteers.

On behalf of the LA Liaison Committee, we honour the memory and service of Comrades Jim Diack and Marilyn White who both believed passionately in the value of our Ladies Auxiliaries and were committed to building strong relationships between our Branches and Auxiliaries. May they rest in peace.

In closing I thank the members of the committee, and our staff support for their efforts. We trust that going forward this committee will continue providing much needed support to the Ladies Auxiliaries, in the hope that they will continue their legacy of service to the Branches of BC/Yukon Command.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie MacGregor, Chair

**Committee Members:** Glenn Hodge (Vice Chair); Nancy Fitzpatrick; Karen Crashley (AdHoc); the late Jim Diack; and the late Marilyn White.

## **Marketing and Public Relations Committee Report**

In my report I will review the exciting programs that have been introduced over the last three years to help your branch be more cost efficient and helping to advertise your upcoming events.

### **Legion Week:**

Legion week was voted on at the 2022 B.C. Convention to be held in the last week of June 2023. However, it was voted on at Dominion Convention to hold a National Legion Week in the third week of September, Dominion Command is hoping that all commands will jump on board, this will have a greater impact if all commands get together and hold Legion week at the same time. We at B.C. and Yukon Command changed our Legion week to coincide with Dominion Command and hold ours in the third week of September. This year's National Legion Week is September 14<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup> there will be some information and media release leading up to Legion Week. It is hoped that all Branches will support and back this National Legion Week.

### **Mailchimp**

We are excited to say that the Legion has partnered with Mailchimp, a leading provider in email marketing. Their easy, efficient, and affordable email service can help you send out newsletters to your members with the click of a button. Plus, you'll have access to Legion branded newsletter templates to help support the Legion brand. This program was launched in 2023.

### **Entegra**

The Royal Canadian Legion has teamed up with Entegra to bring cost savings on everything your Branch needs to run your restaurant and hospitality services. A free membership with Entegra provides rebates and savings through your current and new suppliers on food and beverages, furniture and equipment, maintenance, and repair services, and more!

### **Moneris**

We are pleased to inform you that The Royal Canadian Legion has partnered with Moneris, Canada's leading payment processor, to offer Branch locations preferred rates for credit and debit card payment processing.

### **Intuit QuickBooks**

Dominion Command are excited to announce that Intuit Canada is offering special partner rates for Royal Canadian Legion branches looking to streamline their bookkeeping using QuickBooks Online!

Intuit's cloud-based accounting and bookkeeping software offers tools and automation that help you save time and stay organized by keeping your books at your fingertips anytime, anywhere!

QuickBooks Online helps thousands of businesses and nonprofits:

- Track Expenses
- Manage Bills
- Scan Receipts
- Pay Employees
- Create Financial Reports

QuickBooks Online helps organizations like yours stay connected with App integrations for the tools you're already using like:

- Clover
- Square

- Stripe
- Shopify
- Lightspeed
- And hundreds more!

If you're currently using another accounting system and would like to make the switch, we offer free migrations from QuickBooks Desktop, Sage 50 and Xero. If your data is on another platform our product experts can advise you on the best way to migrate financial data into QuickBooks Online.

If you'd like to learn more about partnership pricing options and see which products make the most sense for your branch, book a 15-minute consultation with one of our product consultants using the link below. \*

#### *Book 15 Minute Consult*

*\*The Royal Canadian Legion Partnership Pricing is an exclusive offer not available on the QuickBooks Website. You must speak with a product consultant using the link above to qualify.*

#### **Burns Way**

The Burns Way is a virtual safe space connecting Veterans with Veteran Peer Advocates who share similar lived experiences. Through the online chat platform, advocates are ready to listen, offer support, and share resources. Access to peer support services is free and completely anonymous – there is no need to share your personal information, and chats are deleted once complete. The Burns Way can be downloaded as an app on your mobile device. Please see Terri Orser's OSI Special Section report for more information on Burns Way.

#### **Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)**

This Strategic Plan aims to embed Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) into the culture of all levels of the Royal Canadian Legion from the grass roots to the highest echelons at Dominion Command. This plan sets out strategic direction and accountability that are intended to empower members, Branches, Provincial Commands and Dominion Command to develop and implement EDI plans and initiatives, not only for its members, but also for its employees and clients that may or may not be Legion members. It includes Strategic Objectives and Key Goals that will support efforts across the Royal Canadian Legion as we seek to become more equitable, diverse, and inclusive. However, this is not intended to be a top-down, one size fits all, plan. To achieve our goals, every member of the Royal Canadian Legion has a role to play.

#### **Oppenheimer**

In 2023 Dominion Command set up a Legion ad to preview at the beginning of the movie "Oppenheimer" for the first two weeks that the movie ran, we at BC Command jumped on board, with the ads running in all BC movie houses where Oppenheimer was playing.

#### **The BC/Yukon Blazer**

I must give a big shout out to our Marketing and Communications Assistant, Lindsay Petrie for putting together, The BC/Yukon Blazer. This once-a-month publication includes branch stories, valuable information regarding upcoming events, important dates, convention updates, Legion Foundation just to name a few and to boot you could also win a \$50 gas gift card just for reading it. If you are not receiving this, please let the command office know so you can get yours.

### **B.C. Yukon Command Branch Corner**

If you log into the Command Branch Corner and click on the Marketing and P.R tab there is a lot of useful information at your fingertips right now there are: Flyers, Facebook Posts, Membership Posts, Springtime and Summer posts these will change as the year goes by.

### **Dominion Command Portal**

Full details of each branch support partner can be found on the Legion Portal at:

**<https:portal.legion.ca/branch-and-command-resources/operational-supports>**

In this portal you will find everything you need to have a successful branch, some of the topics that are in there are Legion Brand Logos, Recruitment Materials, Images, Templates, P.R. Resources, social media and a lot more. For questions or assistance, please contact B.C. and Yukon Command, or contact Dominion Command Marketing and Communications at [marketing@legion.ca](mailto:marketing@legion.ca). They will be happy to help!

In closing Dominion Command has decided to retire the National PR committee and there will no longer be a PR chairperson at Dominion Command going forward, I am uncertain how this will affect not only our command but all the commands.

Respectfully submitted

Dale Johnston, PR Committee Chair

**Committee Members:** Stephen Tresidder, Lizz Lindsay, George Dixon, Bruce Lyster, Rick Lundin, and the late Tony Moore.



## Membership Committee Report

Comrades - *We did it!*

I must admit about having misgivings of being the Membership chair for BC Yukon Command, little did we realize the magnitude and drive our membership chairs have to full fill and exceed all expectations. Since the last Convention BC Yukon became number 1 in membership renewals and new members, and the future is just our stepping stone to out shine. The experience has been most beneficial.

The thanks goes to all the membership chairs, volunteers and of course the membership committee: Darryn Langstaff, Brenda Thomson, Mike Landry, Pauline White, Kerri-Ann Scholz, Val Macgregor, Leona Smith, Rosanne Mitchel, Lindsay Petrie and a special thank you to Linda Candelaria.

I would also like to take a moment to remember two of our committee members we lost. Bev Mansell who was the Vice Chair in December 2024 and Richard Steele in April 2025.

Over the last few years there have been notable changes to entice members to stay and draw new members to our organization. To embrace the modern technology Dominion created the ability for members to renew or new members to join via an online tool. They created "Member Perks" in conjunction with Venngo.com, giving participating vendors an avenue to pass along savings.

### Statistical Analysis

Following are statistics as of April 10, 2025 for BC Yukon Command:

- Paid memberships 86.56% (43,549 paid members within the Command)
- Renewals 76.54% (38,558 members)
- New membership 46.09% which generates to 4,991 new members

Considering this is only April, the statistics indicate that we are well on our way to exceeding our previous year's goals, and we are looking forward to achieving them.

Holding Branch #000

- Paid membership 85.15% (84 paid members)
- Renewals 83.17% (83 paid members)
- New member(s) 1

Holding Branch #039

- Paid membership 100% (22 paid members)
- Renewals 86.36% (19 renewals)
- New members 50% (3 new members)

### Synopsis

The Membership Committee will be approaching Dominion Command regarding the membership portal to expand fields for members to include honours, awards and other pertinent information, along with a concern about the portal's privacy.

We need to raise awareness of the email address that each branch has on the portal, not many realize the benefits. Dominion posts regularly to these emails with information, transfers, new members, etc. Our Command Achieved nearly 75% of up-to-date email addresses and a stunning 92.6% portal processing rate, with nearly 24% of the members to auto renew.

Working with our Zone Commanders, command staff and marketing we are endeavouring to increase our training videos and education for branch's executive new and existing.

## **Initiatives**

BC Yukon Command Membership Committee is continually working on new initiatives to assist branches in drawing in new members or retaining their existing membership. With the creation of flyers and social media graphics, branches can download and use.

### ***Find the Poppy***

A new contest in conjunction with Legion Blazer, increases readership and new content. As of April the newsletter reaches 2,500, the goal is to reach all our members.

### ***Social Media Graphics***

Found on Branch Corner, branches can download and use on their Facebook, website or other social media avenues. These materials created in the fall of 2024 include information on Legion membership and Poppy Campaign.

## **Dominion Command**

As with everything else today, Dominion Command in the fall of 2024 approved the increase in per capita by \$1.51 and the Legion Magazine increase by \$3.00. This increase became effective January 31, 2025, the new rate payable to Dominion Command is \$44.51. Branches were/and are encouraged to review their membership dues and revise accordingly.

Dominion Command is working on updating the membership manual, target is mid-June. The next convention for Dominion Command is in 2026, the following motion made in 2022 will be presented at convention – ***Motion:*** grandparents as Associate Members.

In short, *effective communication is key* – letting everyone know we are here and want them to join us. We'll use every available means to get the message out.

In conclusion, I want to express my gratitude to everyone once more; your commitment and effort are truly inspiring.

In comradeship,

Barry Young  
BC/Yukon Command Membership Chair

**Committee Members:** Brenda Thomson, Mike Landry, Pauline White, Kerri-Ann Scholz, Val MacGregor, Leona Smith, Rosanne Mitchell, the late Bev Mansell, the late Richard Steele.

## OSI Committee Report

Comrades,

This is the final report for the 2022-2025 Term regarding the OSI Section, I would like to take a few moments to highlight some of the things going on with this section.

There are approximately 2,600 homeless veterans in BC. OSI falls under the OSI National Section as there is no OSI branch in BC.

**Historical Information - PURGE Program:** This program became known as the LGBT Purge Program. Between the 1950s and mid 1990s LGBT members of the CF and RCMP were systematically discriminated against, and many were interrogated, abused, and traumatized. They estimate that about 9,000 member lives were damaged and many still have irreparable psychological trauma. They were victimized solely because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Many lost their careers, some committed suicide, have PTSD, others continue to live in isolation.

**OSI Committee:** OSI National Section wants all Commands to have their Provincial OSI Rep to be a voting member of PEC. BC/Yukon Command is compliant with this request.

The OSI executive has a new mandate. Not only are they focusing on looking for new ways to end mental health stigma, but also on the administrative processes, programming accountability, and transparency. More focus on programs for families is being done as well.

This will be accomplished by strict adherence to the Legion General By-laws, revamping their Special Section By-laws, and the use of standing committees as follows:

- Administration Committee
- By-Laws, Constitution, and Procedures
- Poppy Funds Accountability
- Program Development and Advocacy
- Administration and Membership Committee
- Past Presidents Committee

The OSI Section is working on getting another level of BSO-OSI section outreach into place. They are hopeful to work out the details before the Dominion Convention where they will make the announcement. They are also doing a trial run on blacksmithing and are running an all-female workshop now.

The outreach person must be proactive and some of the tasks will be promoting and mentoring their initiative programs. They will also be working with Command, VSS and Poppy. It is vital that this person is not just occupying the seat.

Once the terms of service and tasks are approved, they are getting the Ontario Command constitution and laws committee to update their bylaws and then it is just a matter of sharing with other commands to incorporate the concept.

### **Operations Coffee Check Buddy and VetBuild:**

The two main initiatives that the OSI supports are Buddy Check Coffee and Operation VetBuild.

- Buddy Coffee Check is regular scheduled get together for veterans that is coordinated and marketed by a local host who is a veteran and a member of the OSI Special Section. The get togethers do not have to be limited to coffee check. Fishing, hiking, campfire gatherings etc. are great ways for getting outdoors in fresh air. It is not limited to veterans only but is another way for spouses to get together to get support from others going through similar experiences. It obviously makes sense to have separate groups for veterans and their spouses / significant others.
- Operation VetBuild is also hosted by a OSI Special Section veteran and member and gives veterans the opportunity to get together to build scale models in a supportive atmosphere but is not limited to building scale models. Some groups get together to make fly fishing lures, others do puzzles but the bottom line is to follow the rules but be creative.
- Many of the VetBuild and Buddy Coffee Checks are done at local legions throughout Canada and veterans do not need to be Legion members to attend.

BC/Yukon Command Memo #32.23 para 11 is a new addition that shows that the BSO-OSI Veteran's initiative at the branch level (VetBuild and Buddy Check Coffee) has been added to the SUE application. Branches can submit their receipts and report on an annual, bi-annual, or quarterly basis; however, the receipts must be included. The process however still must follow the rules for submitting SUE applications.

OSI National Section have agreed that there needs to be more administrative control over the Coffee Check Buddy and VetBuild programs. It has come to our attention of a few things that are occurring at some Branches that are unacceptable:

- the host is not a veteran;
- the host is not an OSI member;
- the host allows alcohol at their OSI events;
- SUE funds not being properly used; and
- VetBuild has turned into a model making event rather than an event to rebuild the veteran.

Buddy Check Coffee and Operation VetBuild programs need to be overseen by an OSI rep that is a veteran. They are required to provide quarterly reports to the National body. OSI Special Section is trying to figure out how many branches are running Buddy Check Coffees and VetBuild programs. I would also like to know and somehow keep track of how many OSI members there are in BC and how many of our Branches are running the programs. I think that would be a great step in keeping some sort of control of the programs as in ensuring that we are complying with the National rules.

Operations VetBuild and Buddy Check Coffee are named in the poppy manual (prior Provincial Command approval is required). Provincial Commands will be responsible to maintain a list of qualifying programs within their respective commands.

One form which I do not think any of us knew about is "the Legion BOS/OSI Vet Build and Buddy Check Coffee public release of photo/name permission form" which needs to be filled out if any pictures are being taken. Form is attached.

OSI section programs under the guidelines require quarterly host reporting reports which include the number of people attending, inventory of supplies, monies on hand and whether it is donated, or poppy funds were used. The document is attached.

It is important to note, these programs are not just for Veterans who have retired, they are for serving members and their families as well. These programs are always free, and you do not need to be a Legion member to access these services.

### **Mood Disorder Society of Canada (MDSC):**

The Mood Disorder Society of Canada (MDSC) has seemingly dropped the Mental Health First Aid, specific to Veterans. They are however doing a 16-hour pilot course in Ontario for “Peer Support Coordinators”. The hope is if the results are successful, it will also become a national program. I have reached out to them to and told them we have interested individuals/groups at the Legions in BC and to see how they can accommodate that. More information to follow.

Memo #06.25

**Burns Way Program:** can help the OSI section with another means to assist veterans in need and guide Service Officers to this resource. It was established based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2022 by representatives of the Royal Canadian Legion and the Saskatchewan First Nations Veterans Association.

The Burns Way provides a new way for Veterans to connect with Veteran Peer Advocates quickly and safely through an anonymous chat platform. Peer Advocates are real people, Veterans with lived experience in service.

Peer Advocates are not mental health professionals. They are Veterans who have been honourably discharged or have retired from service in the Canadian Armed Forces or RCMP. They are trained to listen, reflect, provide comfort, offer guidance, or direct guests to resources for assistance. They use their own experiences to support Veterans seeking help, providing a safe space for conversation.

The Burns Way can help with:

- Mental health and wellness;
- Anxiety, worry, stress;
- Depression and loneliness;
- Trauma, including Operational Stress Injuries;
- Grief and loss;
- Work and relationships; and
- Navigating access to entitlements from Veterans Affairs Canada or other sources

**How it Works:** The Burns Way offers Veterans an anonymous, virtual space to connect with volunteer peer advocates—fellow Veterans ready to listen and support. This service is free and requires no personal information.

Veterans can find peers with similar experiences, such as service type, regiment, era, language, or gender identity, ensuring personalized support. Access the app or use the website to get started anytime.

No personal information is needed—no account setup, usernames, logins, or wait times. Chat

history is deleted automatically, and personal data is never collected, stored, or sold.

If anyone is interested in volunteering the website is [theburnsway.ca](http://theburnsway.ca). Required documents for the two programs plus the new OSI Brochure are available at BC/Yukon Command.

In closing, from the bottom of my heart, I sincerely thank you all for your support for our Veterans and their families.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri Orser

## **Poppy Operations Report**

The annual Poppy Campaign remains one of the most significant functions of the Legion. The collection, management, and disbursement of Poppy Funds must always be conducted in strict accordance with our by-laws and the guidelines outlined in the Poppy Manual.

Since our last convention report in 2022, we have experienced two strong campaign years in 2023 and 2024, supported by the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions. During this period, our Branches collectively raised an impressive \$8,353,361 in Poppy Donations. Of this amount, \$5,402,943 was disbursed in the form of grants to Veterans and their families, bursaries, donations, and Special Use Expenditures (SUEs). This represents a 13% increase in total Poppy Donations raised compared to what was previously reported in 2022 Convention.

As public trust in our Poppy operations continues to grow, so does our responsibility to ensure the proper stewardship of Poppy Funds. It is essential to remember that neither the BC/Yukon Command nor individual Legion Branches own these funds. We are entrusted by our donors to manage them with integrity and to use them to assist and support Veterans and their families. To further strengthen oversight and support, BC/Yukon Command has hired a Poppy Fund Coordinator in 2025. This new position will work closely with Branches, providing training, guidance, and monitoring to help ensure compliance and best practices in the management of the Poppy Fund.

The Poppy Fund Assessment rate remains at 4.5%, a figure that has not changed since June 2015. However, the effects of ongoing inflation have led to operational deficits within BC/Yukon Command's Poppy Fund. As such, we intend to propose an increase to this rate at the upcoming Convention. An adjustment will help us address inflationary pressures while allowing us to improve oversight and maintain the integrity of the Poppy Campaign and related operations.

Legion Branches are reminded that Poppy Fund Statements must be submitted by January 31 each year, covering the previous calendar year. These reports are critical, not only for internal assessment but also in enabling BC/Yukon Command to advocate on behalf of Veterans by demonstrating our collective impact to government bodies and key stakeholders.

Starting in 2025, Dominion Command will implement a revised Branch Poppy Fund Statement form. This updated format will allow for more detailed reporting of disbursements by SUE categories. This change reflects a national effort of enhancing transparency and control in the administration of Poppy Funds.

I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our Poppy Committee members, Norm Scott and Steve Jeske, as well as to all Legion Branch Executives and volunteers. Your dedication and tireless efforts are key to the continued success of our Poppy Campaigns and to serving Canada's Veterans with honour and compassion.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Hodge  
Treasurer, BC/Yukon Command

## **Ritual and Awards Committee Report**

Comrades,

It has been a busy three years, I want to thank all the branches who submitted award applications. It is great to see so many wonderful and deserving people be recognized.

I would like to take a moment to mourn the very sad loss of two very exceptional Comrades. Comrade Michael Cook. He was a wealth of knowledge and wisdom, he will be missed. Also beloved Comrade Jim Diack. He was a strong and vibrant man, his wealth of knowledge and wisdom can never be replaced, he will be missed.

There have been a couple things that branches should be aware of that Dominion Command is requiring before approving any major awards (MSM, MSA, Palm Leaf). All minutes submitted must include signatures to make them official. Any unsigned minutes will be returned to the branch before our committee reviews the application(s). All minutes must include notation of a motion, second and vote approval of all nominees and must include the name of the nominee(s). If the meeting is moved to an “in camera” session, the minutes from the “in camera” must also be included with the submission and make note of the name(s) of the nominee(s).

Meeting minutes MUST include the date and type of meeting where the award was approved. A copy of the minutes where the application was approved must be attached to the application and include the name(s) of the member(s) being applied for. The full name of the nominator and seconder and must be signed to make them official. Any unsigned minutes will be returned to the branch before our committee reviews the application(s). If the meeting is moved to an “in camera” session, the minutes from the “in camera” must also be included with the submission and make note of the name(s) of the nominee(s) and the nominator and seconder.

Due to some minor issues regarding citations for all the awards, circular #17.23 went out on March 17, 2023 outlining the new requirement for meeting minute records. Attached to the circular was the checklists for Life Membership, MSM/MSA and Palm Leaf. Sample citations are available from Command. Please encourage your branches to use the checklist(s) when putting forth individuals for these awards. Following these checklists will help with the process.

There is something new for everyone to be aware of regarding the Ladies Auxiliary Life Memberships. Please let your branches know, the procedure is still the same, the life membership application, citation and meeting minutes must be provided. The paperwork package will be sent to BC/Yukon Command for review and approval. Once the committee has reviewed the application, they will provide their recommendation to approve or not approve the application. When the application is approved, BC/Yukon Command will forward the LA Branch a Life Membership Award Package. The package and an invoice will be sent to the LA Branch. The cost of the Life Membership for a Ladies Auxiliary member will be determined and cheques should be made payable to BC/Yukon Command.

We encourage all branches to consider honouring their outstanding members both within the branch and the ladies auxiliary members with one of these awards.

We would like to encourage branches to read the awards section of the Rituals & Awards Manual completely, this will help determine which award to apply for. We’ve seen a few life memberships that could have been MSM based on the information. Reminder that members do not require to be a life membership before getting an MSM. If the person has a minimum of 15 years and meets



all the other requirements, then they could be given an MSM award instead of the life membership.

Something to remember, when an applicant is awarded a life membership, there is an opportunity for the branch to purchase a life membership plaque. This is not part of the life membership package from Dominion, but is separate. To help inform branches about this, when a life membership application is approved, an electronic copy of the congratulations letter and information regarding the plaque is sent to the person making the application. If a branch chooses to purchase the plaque, it must be done through BC/Yukon Command.

The table below shows the award applications reviewed and processed by this committee from June 2022 until April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Award	Received	Approved	Denied	Pending	Withdrawn
Life	99	79	3	15	1
MSM	22	19	1	1	1
Palm Leaf	9	9	0	0	0
Friendship	19	12	7	0	0
Media	0	0	0	0	0
LA Life	6	6	0	0	0
LA MSA	1	1	0	0	0
LA Palm Leaf	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	156	140	11	3	2

I would like to thank my committee members for their dedication and commitment to this committee. Without your support and diligence, there would not be any awards given to the members.

Respectfully,

Peter McKenna  
Ritual & Awards Chair, BC/Yukon Command

**Committee Members:** Kathy Wishlow, Warren Beatty, Donna Downs, Sharon Paterson, Bonnie O'Neill, George Cooke, Kathy Stanton, and the late Michael Cook.

## Service Bureau Report

The Royal Canadian Legion Service Bureau is made up of Service Officers at the Branch and Command level. It is active in every Provincial Command as well as in Dominion Command. While each Command is slightly different in terms of structure, at the Service Bureau there are three main tasks:

1. Assisting Veterans with Applications for Disability Benefits
2. Administering Benevolent Assistance through the Poppy Fund
3. Training Branch Service Officers and educating Serving Members of the Military on our Services

We cannot control the quantity or quality of claims brought forward to us for Application for Disability Benefits or Benevolent Assistance; it is therefore difficult to use statistics to measure our level of success. That being said, below is a breakdown of what the BC/Yukon Command Service Bureau has accomplished to date in these three categories since the last Convention:

### Application for Disability Benefits

During the reporting period of 2022, 2023 and 2024 the Service Bureau for BC/Yukon Command received 737 Applications for Disability Benefits Applications. Of these, 126 were withdrawn either because there was no evidence to support the claims or that the client did not submit any of the required paperwork to RCL. In some instances, the client sent everything directly to VAC. In total, 356 applications were completed and submitted to Veterans Affairs Canada for adjudication. The following breakdown represents the claims that were submitted.

2022 Stats – Full Year			
	1st Application	Appeal	
Totals	107	1	

2023 Stats – Full Year			
	1st Application	Appeal	
Totals	97	7	

2024 Stats – Full Year			
	1st Application	Appeal	
Totals	152	4	

Results are yet to come in for claims that were recently submitted or those that were extremely complex. VAC is behind with adjudication for some of the more complex claims dating back to January 2024. However, not counting claims for which results have not yet been received—during the reporting period, the combined total of Pain and Suffering Compensation and Disability Pensions won by BC/Yukon Command Service Officers for BC Veterans is in excess of **twenty-two and a half million dollars**. Once a Disability Claim is approved, it opens the door to benefits and Services with Veterans Affairs Canada which can easily double if not triple the figures reported.

## The Poppy Fund

Rendering Benevolent Assistance to Veterans using the Poppy Fund is primarily the responsibility of the local Legion Branch. Therefore, most Veterans who seek this type of assistance will have their needs met at the Branch level without having to contact BC/Yukon Command. However, if the amount of money being requested is large, or if the Branch does not have enough in their Poppy Fund to meet the request, BC/Yukon Command Service Officers will use the Command Poppy Fund in conjunction with a Branch contribution in order to fulfill the Veteran's need. There are times where, BC/Yukon Command Service Officers approach the Dominion Command Poppy Fund as well as outside organizations such as the Royal Canadian Naval Benevolent Fund, Canadian Forces Personnel Assistance Fund for support, Veterans Affairs Canada; Veterans Emergency Fund, VETS Canada and other agencies.

Below is a breakdown of Benevolent Assistance rendered when BC/Yukon Command became involved in requests during the 2022, 2023 and 2024 reporting period:

Benevolent Assistance Distributed			
Branch	BC/Yukon Command	Dominion Command	Other
\$9,900.00	\$12,748.00	\$4,670.00	\$8,202.00

## Outreach and Training

During the reporting period BC/Yukon Command Service Officers have conducted Service Officer training seminars in person both on Vancouver Island as well as on the Mainland and will continue to do so. The Command Service Officers remain available at any time to discuss training needs on a one- on-one basis or over the telephone with all Branch Service Officers.

The Command Service Officers met with the John Howard Society as well as the RCMP Veterans Association with respect to assistance for any and all former serving Military and RCMP Members. Both are actively engaged in providing support as needed.

There is also ongoing collaboration with the Veterans Homelessness Program, funded by the Legion Foundation, to support Disability Claims, encourage individuals to apply for Rent Subsidy, and connect with Maria Serna; Program Coordinator for housing support.

During the reporting period, BC/Yukon Command was able to conduct outreach to serving military personnel in the following ways:

1. **SCAN Seminars:** Second Career Assistance Network (SCAN) Seminars that were put on by CFB Comox and CFB Esquimalt twice yearly are no longer held. This has been replaced with a "Transition Seminar".
2. **MARPAC Exhibition:** This "expo" is held yearly at CFB Esquimalt and is an opportunity for the Legion to advertise itself and encourage membership as well as to interact directly and informally with Veterans. The BC/Yukon Command Service Officer continues to attend each year.
3. **Family Fun Day:** BC/Yukon Command Service Officer as well as a Branch Service Officer continue to hold a booth at Family Fun Day at CFB Esquimalt in order to interact

with Veterans and their families and advertise the services rendered by the Legion. In addition, the Command Service Officer along with the Program Coordinator for the Legion Homelessness Program had a booth at the Health and Wellness Expo.

## **Conclusion**

Staffing in the Service Bureau has fluctuated. The Assistant Service Officer position has been vacant for several months. Recently, Amy McFee was hired to work as a Command Service Officer and is located in Surrey. Amy will be working on files for both Vancouver Island as well as the Mainland.

As, outlined, it is difficult to use statistics to measure the level of success of the Service Bureau. We see fluctuations in the demand for services. At times, addressing the needs of our clients is a challenge. There has been a significant increase with a variety of requests. We endeavor to try to meet the needs as best as we can while maintaining a high level of service. The figures provided demonstrate the undeniable fact that the BC/Yukon Command Service Bureau, in conjunction with Branch Service Officers, have made and continue to make a huge impact in the lives of hundreds of Veterans and their families. All three Command Service Officers are committed to providing exemplary service and look forward to continuing to serve our Veterans both now and in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Castle, Randall Stewart and Amy McFee, Command Service Officers.

## Sports Committee Report

This has been a very rewarding experience for me as the Provincial Sports Committee Chair. My committee has worked hard over the term to ensure that members have the best time playing Legion sports.

Some of the changes we implemented are as follows:

In 2022 we implemented a \$50 per event increase to the Zone Intent to Participate, unfortunately, with the costs of everything going up, we had to move with the inflation. This was well received with all the zones.

Zone Intent to Participate stats:

2022-2023	Cribbage – 10	Mixed Darts – 11	Eight Ball – 5	Euchre – 5	
2023-2024	Cribbage – 11	Mixed Darts – 13	Eight Ball – 6	Euchre – 6	Ladies Darts – 8
2024-2025	Cribbage – 11	Mixed Darts – 13	Eight Ball – 5	Euchre – 7	Ladies Darts – 10

In 2023 the committee decided to try Ladies Darts at the singles and doubles level. These games were played on the Friday of the Mixed Darts Tournament. The response was very overwhelming and this was so well received that in 2024 we added the teams category and provided the ladies with an entire weekend dedicated to them. All the ladies had a wonderful time, moving forward we will continue to offer ladies darts (up to Provincial level only) on their own weekend.

With this in mind, originally it was pre-set that 5 zones were required to participate in order for a tournament to take place, however this was changed to only requiring 4 zones for Euchre and Ladies Darts. The reason behind this change is that both Euchre and Ladies Darts only play up to the Provincial level. There is no national Euchre or Ladies Darts.

Cribbage continues to be a very popular Legion sport. One of the things that came to light recently is the format of playing. We play singles and doubles concurrently, whereas Dominion Command plays them separately. Therefore, starting in 2026 our Provincial cribbage will follow the same format as Dominion Command and we will play the singles and doubles separately.

Mixed Darts and Eight Ball still remains the same, there were no changes to these particular Legion sports.

There are a few other changes to sports overall, the biggest thing for competitors to be aware of is that when they advance to the Provincial level, it will be mandatory for them to participate for the entire event. Therefore, travel and accommodations should be planned accordingly. Also, all teams advancing to the Provincial and National levels MUST be from the same branch. A four-person team can't be split into two different branches. This will also follow suit to the format and rules that Dominion Command enforces.

Euchre, the biggest change to this is that starting in 2026 the Provincials will be played in late June, rather than the middle of September. This will allow all sports to be played between April-June and allows branches plenty of time to plan for branch, zone and provincial tournaments.

Communication is very important when dealing with Legion sports, therefore, new forms have been implemented. These forms require teams to include email addresses and phone numbers. Please make sure that when submitting winner forms that the newest ones are being used.

Track & Field: where do I start, when I first heard about the track & field, well I was very skeptical of why we have this and if it was worthwhile. I had the great honour of being the BC/Yukon Rep

in Calgary in 2024. Let me tell you, it was one of the most rewarding things I have been part of. The dedication and commitment of the athletes, coaches, chaperones and Dominion Command is overwhelming. Getting to know some of these kids, they are truly remarkable. Over the many years this has been running, the Royal Canadian Legion has been the pathway to many Worlds Record holding athletes and Olympic athletes. This is definitely a very worthwhile and deserving cause.

In closing, I would like to thank my committee for all their support and knowledge to making Legion sports a fun and exciting event for everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Higdon, Sport Committee Chair

**Committee members:** Bob Brommeland (Vice Chair), Bonnie MacMillan, Bob Paterson, Peter McKenna, Karen Hobbis, Rick Nickerson.

## **Tuberculous Veterans' Section (TVS) Committee Report**

It has been a pleasure to represent the TVS section at PEC and Nationally since the last convention. I would like to remind all delegates that dual memberships are available. You are invited to join and support the good work that we do.

### TVS National

Congratulations to Comrade Danny Redden, President of Shalom Branch 178, on his election as President of TVS National at the Dominion Convention. There are currently five TVS Branches across Canada, two in BC.

### TVS Branch 44

Branch 44 is very active in their support of the community through its various initiatives including supporting students with bursaries, track and field through donations and the local cadets and sports teams. The gaming grant provides very tangible help to many community groups.

The Branch has hired a social medial consultant to get the message of what they do out to the local community. Membership continues to increase, and meetings are well attended. They are pleased to welcome Comrade Valerie to the position of immediate past president. She brings unparallel knowledge and expertise to the executive and Branch.

### TVS Branch 178

More congratulations to Comrade Danny Redden and his Branch for the outcome of their Supreme Court case. This battle reached a crisis after eight years of push back as the housing society they initially funded was claiming the Branch owed a fortune in back and current rent. The Court determined that there never was a lease, no money is owing, and that the Branch can stay in their premises for \$100/month. The ruling may be appealed. Their current focus is to build up their membership and continue serving Veterans.

On behalf of TVS we extend our congratulations to the newly elected Executive members and wish you a successful term of office.

Respectfully submitted,

Lizz Lindsay  
TVS Representative to PEC

## Veterans & Seniors Services Committee Report

There has been very little to report on the seniors this year. As you know we were hunkered down because of the Country wide pandemic that finally has subsided. This had a great effect on our vulnerable seniors.

Unfortunately, in some places you could not even visit. Since that subsided most branches have insured their Veterans and seniors have been recognized with dinners and events. If your Branch has not reached out and welcomed the seniors back to the Branch please do that.

I know my branch has a Seniors Dinner every other Friday and make the seniors welcome. Many are widows or widowers and need the companionship. Reach out to your senior members and invite them to volunteer on committees and even as servers for your dinners and special occasions.

Think of a senior special on certain days to draw them to the Branch. I myself am expected to pick up one of the senior ladies to bring her to our Friday dinners and take her home. It is a privilege for me and my wife and always makes me feel good.

Your branch should put together a list of drivers to help our seniors go to Legion events and assist seniors to get to appointments if possible. On occasion I have used the services of the Council of Seniors. They man the phone and have direct contact with Doctors and the hospital. Their reaction time is amazing, find their number and keep it handy.

It has been a pleasure to serve these people in need of people.

Respectfully,

John Scott CD, MGC

**Committee members:** David Black, Jim Spencer, Ron Bannister, Dwight Grieve, Achim Sen.



## Youth Remembrance Committee Report

Comrades,

Anyone who has ever participated in the judging of the Youth & Remembrance Contest knows that feeling of astonishment when they see just how gifted the students are. From the smallest detail on the posters, the moving tributes of the written word, and the remarkable videos, it tugs at one's heart as our youth are grateful for everything Canada's true Heroes sacrificed to keep them free. That kind of respect can't be faked.

This past term, the entries did not disappoint. The kids didn't make it easy on the judges and it was so hard to pick just the top three in each category thus we had numerous honourable mentions. As each entry moves on from Branches to Zones and then Command, it does get more difficult as by the time it gets to my committee, we are indeed judging the best of the best.

The committee has implemented a practice to have outside sources judge the written work. We have involved RCMP Officers at several detachments as well as various Fire Departments. With the help of my Vice Chair Grant Anderson, the poems were judged in Port McNeill with the help of Mayor James Furney, a retired schoolteacher, an RCMP office worker, and a businesswoman. This helps two-fold, as outside judges can take more time to judge, usually a week or two, and most importantly, it helps to promote the contest.

For the second year in a row, we enlisted RCMP "E" Division Community Police Services, Youth Strategies from Surrey to judge the essays. The first year they were so amazed with entries that immediately after finishing the judging, they volunteered to do it the next year and have since committed to continue judging as long as they are needed.

We also instituted a policy to hold the judging of the posters at different local Branches in the Lower Mainland with this past year being held at Delta Branch 61. Delta Councillor Dylan Kruger joined us in the judging. He had not heard of the contest thus it came as a complete surprise to him, and he was not sure what to expect. At his next city meeting he talked about the contest and in part said, "A number of really incredible paintings and drawings were recognized". He has committed to continue to promote the contest from here on.

The moral of this story is asking non-members, especially those in the public eye to help with the judging. They can and will get the word out there about the contest. You never know unless you ask.

The committee was very disappointed that we did not have any video submissions in this year's contest. We started the category and until this year, we always had plenty of entries. We hope that with more promotion this will turn around.

I take great pride in chairing this committee. Such talented students. To even play a small role in this process makes my heart exceed its capacity. This year was even more joyful knowing that this committee did everything in their power to locate the missing poster, details of which are not important. What is important is that it was found, and the student was able to enter it this year. I share with you the words of Racine's dad, "I sincerely appreciate your dedication in finding the lost poster. Your efforts have truly paid off, and we are so grateful to have it back. God bless you for your perseverance. Your unwavering spirit has deeply touched me and my family, and it will continue to inspire us for the rest of our lives."

“In a world that feels chaotic—with ongoing wars in Ukraine, Russia, and East Asia—I wish for peace to return. I hope that Racine's artwork will be recognized by the national judges and one day exhibited at the national museum, so it can recall people's memories of this country again.” I presented Racine with her letter and cheques at her grade twelve graduation ceremony held at SFU. The reaction from her fellow students, teachers, her parents and most importantly, Racine was overwhelming.

The presentations to the winners at all levels are varied, with some of the noteworthy ways being at city hall, at school's assemblies, at General Meetings, at meat draw, and at special dinners. Each Branch who participates in the contest have the gratitude of my committee. Nothing speaks louder than the stats. Even without every Branch sending in their stats on total entries, it boggles one's mind.

The term stats are very impressive as are the National stats. The chart below shows the total entries for BC/Yukon Command and Dominion Command.

BC/Yukon Command	Total Entries	Dominion Command	Total Entries
2022	6,061	2022	65,253
2023	6,522	2023	59,925
2024	6,884	2024	72,197
Grand Total	19,467	Grand Total	197,375

Organizers and judges at Branch and Zone levels are also members of this committee, and we thank each and every one of you as we could not do it without all of you.

One important thing to remember - while the guidelines at one time did not allow student names to appear on the front of their entries this rule has changed. Please DO NOT disqualify entries if the names are on the first page or front of poster.

It was a pleasure to chair the Youth & Remembrance Committee for the past two terms. To the next chair, I hope you find this committee as eye-opening, heart warming, and rewarding as I did.

In closing I thank my committee members, Grant Anderson; the Vice Chair, Micheline Sen, Eva Hinchliffe, Rhonda Thomas and Sandy Askewe-Power, all who are as passionate about the contest as I am. A special thanks shout out to Comrade Glen Hill who made the hard decision to step down as my Vice Chair. To Linda Candelaria, you are the glue that holds this committee together. We thank you for your dedication, and knowledge. Most of all I thank each of you for your unwavering support through the goods and the hard times. You are more than committee members, you have all become my dear friends.

Respectfully submitted

Bev Croft  
Chair, Youth & Remembrance Committee

**Committee members:** Grant Anderson, Micheline Sen, Eva Hinchliffe, Rhonda Thomas, and Sandy Askewe-Power

## Legion Foundation Report

Dear Comrades,

This term can only be described as incredibly exciting for the Legion Foundation. In addition to supporting our key partners, we have added new programs and expanded to help even more Veterans.

### Core Programs

Donations from Legion Branches are pooled through the Foundation to provide ongoing support to our key partners. This allows these vital programs to plan ahead, knowing that the Legion will be there to support Veterans. As a result of your generous donations, here are some highlights of the work accomplished this term:

#### BCIT Military Skills Conversion Program

This program recognizes military technical occupations and offers a flexible, online degree pathway. Over the past three years, it has supported thousands of student Veterans with educational assessments, career support, and guidance. From that large pool, dozens have been placed into academic pathways toward a chosen degree or career. In the past three years, we have collectively donated **\$129,800** to the program.

#### Veterans Transition Network

The team provides small-group counselling for Veterans struggling with mental health. For over 25 years, the Legion has funded most (if not all) of the programs run within BC. In the past three years, 18 programs have been funded by the Legion, helping over 120 men and women get the help they need. Of those helped, **94.5% self-report improvements in PTSD symptoms**, and **96% report improvements in well-being** since taking the course. In the past three years, we have collectively donated **\$602,000** to the program.

#### Vancouver Island Compassion Dogs (BC/Alberta Guide Dogs)

This program matches individuals with OSI-PTSD Service Dogs that meet all **Assistance Dogs International (ADI)** standards — at no cost to Veterans. With ongoing support from Legion Branches across BC/Yukon, VICD recently graduated their 150th OSI-PTSD Service Dog Team. They have also hired an apprentice PTSD Service Dog instructor to support even more teams. In the past three years, we have collectively donated **\$370,000** to the program.

#### Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS)

A new partner, PADS was approved by BC/Yukon Command to receive Poppy Funds in Fall 2024. This gives Legion Branches two choices of ADI-accredited OSI-PTSD programs. Last year, we collectively donated **\$80,000** to the program. In 2024, PADS matched 4 new Veteran teams, bringing their total number of PTSD Service dog teams in BC/Yukon to 20!

Our core program partners provide bi-annual reports that are transparent and detailed. If you are ever interested in learning more about what these organizations do, please reach out.

### Foundation Programs

In addition to our core (partner) programs, the Legion Foundation has in-house programs to directly help Veterans.

### **Leave the Streets Behind**

Modelled after Ontario Command's program, our version launched in summer 2023. It provides **Comfort Bags** and **Apartment Kits** to Veterans in need. Comfort Bags include essential items to help those awaiting or not yet ready for housing. Apartment Kits provide everything a Veteran needs when moving into housing. Last year, we collectively provided **\$29,550** in support. Since launch, 49 Comfort Bags and 60 Apartment Kits have been distributed. Thank you to all those who have supported the online 50/50 draws – all proceeds support this amazing program!

### **Veterans House Victoria (formerly Cockrell House)**

This facility provides transitional housing for Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness. In September 2023, **South Vancouver Island Housing Society (Legion Manor Victoria)** took over daily operations, led by a committee co-chaired by **Dave Sinclair** and **Terri Orser**. Since then, 14 Veterans have been helped, including 8 currently staying at the house. In the past three years, we have collectively donated **\$338,533** to the program.

### **Veterans Homelessness Program**

With funding from the Government of Canada, this program launched in May 2024. It supports Veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through rent supplements, utility and deposit assistance, rental arrears, wraparound support referrals, and help locating housing. To date, **54 Veterans** have been helped or are currently receiving support. Thank you to the **Branch Service Officers** — we couldn't do this without you!

### **Veterans to Everest Base Camp**

In 2024, the Foundation partnered with a private donor and a family foundation to pilot this program, which took **5 Veterans** on a 21-day trek to Mount Everest Base Camp in Fall 2024. The group studied PTSD, hypothesizing that physical challenges in a supported group could help manage PTSD symptoms. The trip was a success, and data collection is underway. Final results are expected in **Fall 2025**.

### **Other News**

To better comply with federal legislation, the **Objects (charitable purposes)** and **Bylaws** of the Foundation were revised in 2024. The new bylaws, effective June 2025, will allow any Legion member to serve on the Foundation Board. We look forward to welcoming new perspectives to the table!

Over the past three years, in partnership with the **Simon Fraser University Department of Gerontology**, we provided **three bursaries of \$5,000** each to students focusing on geriatric nursing or research.

Also, **three \$1,000 scholarships** have been awarded through the **Kimberley Cadet Scholarship**, continuing the legacy established by the Kimberley Legion.

Thank you for your continued support of the **Key Tag Program**. In the past three years, over \$190,000 has been raised and several keys have been re-united with their owners.

### **Community Grants**

Throughout the term, dozens of grants were awarded to organizations that serve Veterans, including:

Abbotsford Hospice Society  
AboutFace  
Backpack Buddies  
BC Adaptive Snowsports  
Boys & Girls Clubs of South Coast BC  
Broadmead Care Society  
Comox Valley Transition Society  
Family Services of Greater Vancouver  
Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives

KBRH Health Foundation  
Langley Memorial Hospital Foundation  
Legion Manor  
NEED2 Suicide Prevention  
Quilts for the Valiant (RCL Malahat Branch 134)  
UBC Equine Therapy program for Veterans  
Vancouver Adaptive Snow Sports  
Veterans Artist Collective (Honour House)  
Veterans Foodbank of BC

### **Thank You**

As this term comes to a close, we extend a heartfelt thank you to the Board members who served the Legion Foundation. Without your leadership, our success would not have been possible:

### **Board Members:**

Valerie MacGregor, Chair  
Karen Kuzek, Treasurer  
Veronica Brown  
Michelle Courtney  
Bev Croft  
Doug Hadley  
Glenn Hodge  
Dale Johnston  
Peter McKenna  
Gary Peters  
Norman Scott  
Cliff Slack  
Craig Thomson  
Bob Underhill

### **Past Board Members (part of this term):**

Jane Campbell-Brewer  
The late Jim Diack  
Dwight Grieve  
The late Bev Mansell  
Pete Pearson  
John Scott  
Angus Stanfield  
Kathy Wishlow

On behalf of the Foundation, we thank the Legion Branches, Ladies Auxiliaries, and donors for your incredible support this term. Thank you to Zones who invited Amber to talk about the work of the Foundation and how we are helping Veterans. Your generosity and engagement were key to our success. We look forward to sharing more updates in the months and years ahead.

Respectfully Submitted,

Valerie MacGregor, Foundation Chair & Amber Stewart, Foundation Executive Director

## **Appendix A**

**BC/Yukon Command of The Royal Canadian Legion Financial Statements**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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To the Members of British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion

*Report on the Financial Statements*

*Qualified Opinion*

We have audited the financial statements of British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion (the "Command"), which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Command as at December 31, 2024, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

*Basis for Qualified Opinion*

In common with many not-for-profit organizations, the Command derives revenue from donations and fundraising activities, poppy assessment revenue and military services recognition book proceeds, the completeness of which is not susceptible of satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Command and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to contributions, excess of revenues over expenses, current assets and net assets. Our audit opinion on the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023 was modified accordingly because of the possible effects of this limitation of scope.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Command in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

*Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Command's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Command or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Command's financial reporting process.

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion  
(continued)

*Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Command's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Command's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Command to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Surrey, BC  
April 15, 2025



CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS



**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Statement of Financial Position**

**December 31, 2024**

	General Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	Command Central Poppy Fund	2024	2023 <i>(Restated - Note 3)</i>
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>CURRENT</b>					
Cash <i>(Notes 4, 16)</i>	\$ 1,711,823	\$ 315,988	\$ 496,627	\$ <b>2,524,438</b>	\$ 2,392,016
Accounts receivable <i>(Notes 3, 15)</i>	67,417	500	510,186	<b>578,103</b>	245,252
Accrued interest receivable	8,268	7,459	2,910	<b>18,637</b>	26,116
Inventory	18,269	-	17,341	<b>35,610</b>	45,267
Prepaid expenses	30,702	-	-	<b>30,702</b>	24,717
Investments <i>(Notes 9, 16)</i>	203,411	120,250	-	<b>323,661</b>	318,258
Due from (to) other funds	420,742	(186,261)	(234,481)	-	-
	2,460,632	257,936	792,583	<b>3,511,151</b>	3,051,626
INVESTMENTS <i>(Notes 9, 16)</i>	2,168,107	4,673,668	1,832,858	<b>8,674,633</b>	9,146,911
INVESTMENTS IN SUBSIDIARIES <i>(Note 5)</i>	136,874	-	-	<b>136,874</b>	139,833
BRANCH ASSISTANCE FUND <i>(Note 2)</i>	-	140,383	-	<b>140,383</b>	442,577
DUE FROM CONTROLLED ENTITIES <i>(Note 7)</i>	275,024	-	-	<b>275,024</b>	130,174
DUE FROM BRANCHES <i>(Note 15)</i>	-	-	-	-	414,737
CAPITAL ASSETS <i>(Note 8)</i>	2,046,597	-	1,071	<b>2,047,668</b>	43,877
	\$ 7,087,234	\$ 5,071,987	\$ 2,626,512	\$ <b>14,785,733</b>	\$ 13,369,735

See notes to financial statements

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024

	General Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	Command Central Poppy Fund	2024	2023 <i>(Restated - Note 3)</i>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>					
Current					
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities <i>(Notes 14, 15)</i>	\$ 524,499	\$ -	\$ 86,436	\$ <b>610,935</b>	\$ 454,422
Deferred per capita tax <i>(Note 15)</i>	550,784	-	-	<b>550,784</b>	543,582
Deferred contributions <i>(Note 12)</i>	95,841	1,019	-	<b>96,860</b>	28,864
Due to controlled entities <i>(Note 7)</i>	64,541	-	-	<b>64,541</b>	68,205
	<u>1,235,665</u>	<u>1,019</u>	<u>86,436</u>	<b>1,323,120</b>	<u>1,095,073</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>					
Unrestricted	3,804,972	-	-	<b>3,804,972</b>	3,161,100
Invested in capital assets <i>(Note 11)</i>	2,046,597	-	1,071	<b>2,047,668</b>	43,877
Internally restricted net assets <i>(Schedule 1)</i>	-	5,070,968	-	<b>5,070,968</b>	6,905,439
Command Central Poppy Fund <i>(Note 3)</i>	-	-	2,539,005	<b>2,539,005</b>	2,164,246
	<u>5,851,569</u>	<u>5,070,968</u>	<u>2,540,076</u>	<b>13,462,613</b>	<u>12,274,662</u>
	<u>\$ 7,087,234</u>	<u>\$ 5,071,987</u>	<u>\$ 2,626,512</u>	<b>\$ 14,785,733</b>	<u>\$ 13,369,735</u>

CONTINGENCY *(Note 14)*

### ON BEHALF OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Signed by: Craig Thomson Director  
 Signed by: Glenn Hodge Director  
 52DCA225CD3E44C...

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	General Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	Command Central Poppy Fund	2024	2023 <i>(Restated - Note 3)</i>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Sales <i>(Note 15)</i>	\$ 4,176	\$ -	\$ 702,093	\$ <b>706,269</b>	\$ 611,845
Cost of sales <i>(Note 15)</i>	(2,866)	-	(559,244)	<b>(562,110)</b>	(506,072)
Gross profit	1,310	-	142,849	<b>144,159</b>	105,773
Dominion grants and government funding	120,868	-	-	<b>120,868</b>	33,942
Foundation administration fee <i>(Note 7)</i>	38,561	-	-	<b>38,561</b>	19,063
Fundraising and grant revenue	27,587	-	-	<b>27,587</b>	16,707
Insurance program	44,813	-	-	<b>44,813</b>	35,227
Membership - per capita tax <i>(Note 15)</i>	785,139	-	-	<b>785,139</b>	727,299
Military services proceeds and donations <i>(Note 2)</i>	254,106	47,932	11,707	<b>313,744</b>	357,151
Poppy assessment revenue <i>(Notes 3, 15)</i>	-	-	317,509	<b>317,509</b>	231,040
Program administration fee	1,749	-	-	<b>1,749</b>	5,500
Sports receipts	-	15,200	-	<b>15,200</b>	16,200
Investment revenue <i>(Notes 2, 9, 10)</i>	154,401	159,850	59,043	<b>373,294</b>	284,334
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments <i>(Notes 9, 10)</i>	119,881	288,551	139,922	<b>548,355</b>	437,780
	1,548,415	511,533	671,030	<b>2,730,978</b>	2,270,016

*(continues)*

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets (continued)**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	General Fund	Internally Restricted Fund	Command Central Poppy Fund	2024	2023 <i>(Restated - Note 3)</i>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Branch sustainability	-	-	-	-	46,815
Command <i>(Schedule 2)</i>	228,370	5,083	-	<b>233,453</b>	162,248
Command Central Poppy Fund	-	-	23,258	<b>23,258</b>	18,755
Donations	4,687	66,176	-	<b>70,864</b>	545,759
Office and building <i>(Schedule 3) (Note 2)</i>	199,117	33	-	<b>199,149</b>	190,758
Salary expense	766,294	-	210,140	<b>976,435</b>	939,233
Salary expense - benefits	74,485	-	-	<b>74,485</b>	61,835
Salary recovered from Foundation	(184,359)	-	-	<b>(184,359)</b>	(103,038)
Service bureau	-	-	63,254	<b>63,254</b>	58,932
Sports expenses	-	10,238	-	<b>10,238</b>	9,063
Strategic planning	-	14,752	-	<b>14,752</b>	11,467
Amortization	35,754	-	461	<b>36,214</b>	19,591
	1,124,348	96,282	297,113	<b>1,517,743</b>	1,961,418
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	424,067	415,251	373,917	<b>1,213,235</b>	308,598
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>					
Gain (loss) on disposal of capital assets	(22,325)	-	-	<b>(22,325)</b>	-
Equity income (loss) from subsidiaries	(2,959)	-	-	<b>(2,959)</b>	48,924
	(25,284)	-	-	<b>(25,284)</b>	48,924
<b>NET EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	398,783	415,251	373,917	<b>1,187,951</b>	357,522
<b>NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>					
As previously reported	3,201,447	6,907,056	2,059,401	<b>12,167,904</b>	11,917,140
Prior period adjustment <i>(Note 3)</i>	-	-	106,758	<b>106,758</b>	-
As restated	3,201,447	6,907,056	2,166,159	<b>12,274,662</b>	11,917,140
Interfund transfers <i>(Note 6)</i>	2,251,339	(2,251,339)	-	-	-
<b>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$ 5,851,569</b>	<b>\$ 5,070,968</b>	<b>\$ 2,540,076</b>	<b>\$ 13,462,612</b>	<b>\$ 12,274,662</b>

See notes to financial statements

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Statement of Cash Flows Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2023 <i>(Restated - Note 3)</i>
<b>OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Excess of revenues over expenses	\$ 1,187,951	\$ 357,522
Items not affecting cash:		
Amortization of capital assets	36,214	19,591
Loss on disposal of capital assets	22,325	-
Equity loss (gain) from subsidiaries	2,959	(48,924)
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	(548,355)	(437,780)
	<u>701,094</u>	<u>(109,591)</u>
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Accounts receivable	(332,849)	106,270
Accrued interest receivable	7,479	236
Inventory	9,657	(7,226)
Prepaid expenses	(5,985)	(10,729)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	156,514	(140,464)
Goods and services tax payable	-	(13,883)
Deferred per capita tax	7,202	15,411
Deferred contributions	67,996	(37,020)
	<u>(89,986)</u>	<u>(87,405)</u>
Cash flow from (used by) operating activities	<u>611,108</u>	<u>(196,996)</u>
<b>INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(2,039,545)	(10,688)
Purchase of investments	(2,329,843)	(1,230,014)
Proceeds from sale of investments	3,322,284	1,076,195
Cash flow used by investing activities	<u>(1,047,104)</u>	<u>(164,507)</u>
<b>FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Decrease (increase) in branch assistance recoverable	302,194	(329,579)
Advances from controlled entities	577,467	517,334
Advances to controlled entities	(725,980)	(215,526)
Advances from branches	518,752	72,472
Advances to branches	(104,015)	(29,252)
Cash flow from financing activities	<u>568,418</u>	<u>15,449</u>
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH FLOW</b>	<u>132,422</u>	<u>(346,054)</u>
Cash - beginning of year	<u>2,392,016</u>	<u>2,738,070</u>
<b>CASH - END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 2,524,438</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,392,016</u></u>

See notes to financial statements

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

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### 1. PURPOSE

British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion (the "Command") is chartered by the Dominion Command of the Royal Canadian Legion (the "Dominion") and is subject to its bylaws. The Command has jurisdiction over all Legion matters arising within the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

The Command qualifies as a not-for-profit organization under the Income Tax Act and thus is exempt from income taxes.

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNPO).

#### Controlled entities

The Command's investments in its controlled profit-oriented subsidiaries (Note 5) are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, the investment is initially recorded at cost and adjusted thereafter for the change in the Command's share of the subsidiaries' profit or loss. The readers of these financial statements may require information in addition to that provided in these statements.

The Command controls the British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion Foundation (the "Foundation") by virtue of its ability to appoint a majority of the Foundation's board members. The financial statements of the Foundation are not consolidated in the Command's financial statements. Summary financial information for the Foundation can be found in Note 5.

These financial statements do not incorporate the accounts and outcomes of the Branches and Dominion, as they operate independently from and are not overseen by the Command.

#### Revenue recognition

The Command follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions in accordance with ASNPO.

Unrestricted contributions, donations, military services recognition book proceeds, insurance program, member benefits program and net rental income are recognized as revenue of the General Fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Sports receipts, poppy assessment revenue, poppy sales, Dominion profit sharing, grant revenue and other revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured in their respective funds.

Externally restricted contributions for which no restricted fund exists are initially deferred in the General Fund and recognized as revenue when spent in accordance with the restrictions. Contributions relating to internally restricted activities are recorded as revenue in that fund when received. Externally restricted contributions for which an external restricted fund exists are recorded as revenue in that fund when received. Currently, the only external restricted fund that exists in the Command is the Command Central Poppy Fund.

Transfers between funds is presented as transfers between funds in the statement of changes in net assets.

Per capita tax is recorded on an accrual basis and is recognized as revenue in the year to which it relates. Per capital tax received for subsequent years is recorded as deferred per capita tax.

Unrestricted investment income is recognized as revenue, using an accrual basis, in the General Fund. Income relating to internally restricted investments is recognized as revenue, using an accrual basis, in the internally restricted fund. Externally restricted income is recognized as revenue, using an accrual basis, in the externally restricted fund. Fluctuations in the market value of investments are recorded as investment income (loss) in the year such fluctuations occur. Investment revenue is recorded net of related investment management fees.

*(continues)*

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

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### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

#### Internally restricted net assets

The Command maintains various restricted funds (Schedule 1), the nature of which are described below:

##### a) Consolidated Funds

Consolidated Funds comprise a number of smaller specified funds including the Legion Week Grants and Hospital Christmas Party Funds. Disbursements from these funds must be consistent with the original purpose of the fund.

##### b) Command Care Trust Fund

At the 1989 Command Convention, the Command established the Command Care Trust Fund. Funding for the trust includes donations from Branches and Members, bequests and net proceeds resulting from any disposition of property acquired by the Command from Branches which have ceased operations. In June 1997, a resolution was adopted to provide that 75% of the net proceeds resulting from the disposition of property as described above be placed in the Command Care Trust Fund. Accrued interest earned by this Fund shall be used for geriatric nursing and care of the aged. The resolution also gave the Command total discretion over maintenance and continuation of the Trust fund. In 2001 a resolution was adopted to amend the uses of interest earned by the Command Care Trust Fund to include the training of general practice physicians through the support of the U.B.C. Chair of Family Practice. It was also amended that interest earned by the Command Care Trust Fund be used only to supplement other sources of funding for the U.B.C. Chair of Family Practice, on an annual basis, to meet requirements and maintain the balance of funds. In 2015 a resolution was adopted to limit the principle of the funds held in the Command Care Trust Fund to \$2,500,000; as well as to remove the ability for the fund to receive a portion of net proceeds resulting from the disposition of property as described above. The investment earnings exceeding the \$2,500,000 cap may be directed towards projects and programs upon Command Executive Council's approval.

##### c) Branch Sustainability Fund

The Branch Sustainability Fund was established in 2015 and are funds restricted by the Provincial Executive Council (PEC) for the purpose of programming, assistance to Branches, and diversification. The fund was created for the purpose of funding innovative ideas and supporting sustainable Branches. The fund will receive 25% of net proceeds from disposition of property acquired by the Command from Branches that have ceased operations.

During the year, the Branch Sustainability Fund was merged with the General Fund; the merger was approved by the Provincial Executive Committee.

##### d) Replacement Reserve Fund

The Replacement Reserve Fund was established in 1995 to allocate monies for future capital expenditures.

##### e) Sports Fund

The Sports Fund includes registration from zones for participation in Command level member participation in sports. Expenditures are restricted to the costs of hosting the Command level sports events and participation by Command winners at the national level.

##### f) Branch Assistance Fund

The Branch Assistance Fund was established in 1996 to provide assistance to Branches for improving their financial operations. The fund will receive donations and 50% of net proceeds from disposition of property acquired by the Command from Branches that have ceased operations.

*(continues)*

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

#### g) Commercial Insurance Program Branch Assistance Fund

The Commercial Insurance Program Branch Assistance Fund (CIPBAF) was established in order to ensure the long term stability of premiums to Branches and to assist Branches with insurance related needs. It is funded by 38% of the annual administrative charge on premiums paid by participating Branches. This charge is collected by the broker and then paid to the Command.

#### h) Strategic Planning Fund

The Strategic Planning Fund was established in January 2017 in order to assist the Executive Director to review and improve administrative processes within the Command.

#### Command Central Poppy Fund

Commencing in 2015, the Command Central Poppy Fund receives a levy (poppy assessment revenue) based on an annual assessment of 4.5% of gross revenue generated by a Branch Poppy Fund (in previous financial years the annual assessment of the levy was based on 15% of the balance in a Branch Poppy Fund). In the current period, an additional 3.5% levy on gross revenue generated by a Branch Poppy Fund was approved the Provincial Executive Committee. Conditional to the application of the levies, the Branch Poppy Fund balance must be in excess of \$500 at December 31st of each year. Disbursements from the Command Central Poppy Fund must be in accordance with the provisions of the general bylaws of The Royal Canadian Legion. Support towards the operation of the Command Service Bureau is capped at \$400,000 (2023 - \$200,000) by the PEC.

During 2017, the Command established the BC Wildfire Relief Fund, within the Command Central Poppy Fund. The purpose of the BC Wildfire Relief Fund is to receive poppy funds from branches in an effort to assist those branches impacted by wildfires in BC. During 2018, the Command established the Natural Disaster Relief Fund from the remaining funds of the BC Wildfire Relief Fund. The purpose of the Natural Disaster Relief Fund is to receive poppy funds from branches in an effort to assist those branches impacted by natural disasters, including wildfires, in BC. The unspent funds for 2024 are \$75,329 (2023 - \$75,329)

#### Military services recognition book proceeds

In 2005, the Command entered into exclusive agreements with a professional fundraiser to publish a Commemorative History Booklet in 2005 and a Military Services Recognition Book in the years 2006 to 2014 which was renewed until 2024. Pursuant to the terms of these agreements, the Command is entitled to receive the greater of 25% of all advertising funds collected by the fundraiser, net of applicable GST or:

2005 - \$100,000; (\$133,625 was received);

2006 - \$100,000; (\$155,228 was received);

2007 - \$110,000; (\$188,615 was received);

2008 - \$115,200; (\$186,104 was received);

2009 - \$125,000; (\$174,282 was received);

2010 - \$125,000; (\$177,697 was received);

2011 - \$125,000; (\$189,714 was received);

2012 - \$125,000; (\$175,457 was received);

2013 - \$125,000; (\$182,780 was received);

2014 - \$125,000; (\$212,725 was received);

2015 - \$125,000; (\$191,320 was received);

2016 - \$125,000; (\$210,420 was received);

2017 - \$125,000; (\$208,075 was received);

2018 - \$125,000; (\$231,732 was received);

*(continues)*



# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

2019 - \$125,000; (\$254,641 was received);  
2020 - \$125,000; (\$215,430 was received);  
2021 - \$125,000; (\$303,624 was received);  
2022 - \$125,000; (\$262,842 was received);  
2023 - \$125,000; (\$263,403 was received);  
2024 - \$200,000; (\$238,754 was received);  
2025 - \$200,000

The fundraiser has agreed to incur all expenses, costs and liabilities associated with the production and promotion of the Booklet and Book. Fundraising proceeds are used by the Command to fund operations, promote the organization, and improve services to Branches.

#### Inventory

Inventory consists of supplies on hand and is recorded at the lower of cost and net realizable value.

#### Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost or deemed cost less accumulated amortization and are amortized over their estimated useful lives at the following rates and methods:

Building	4%	declining balance method
Office furniture and equipment	20%	declining balance method
Computer equipment	30%	declining balance method
Computer software	100%	in year of acquisition
Website	30%	declining balance method
Leasehold improvements	term of the lease	straight-line method

When a capital asset has been approved for sale and a formal plan is in place, the capital asset is categorized as held for sale and measured at the lower of its carrying amount or fair value less costs to sell. Accordingly, amortization is not recorded from that point on.

#### Impairment of capital assets

When conditions indicate that a capital asset is impaired, the net carrying amount of the capital asset shall be written down to the asset's fair value or replacement cost. The write-downs of capital assets shall be accounted for as expenses in the statement of operations.

#### Cloud computing arrangements

The Command uses the simplified approach of accounting for cloud computer expenses. Under this approach, the Command recognizes the expenditures related to the elements in the cloud computing arrangement as an expense as incurred.

As at December 31, 2024, the Command incurred total expenses pertaining to cloud computing arrangements of \$16,382 (2023 - \$15,100).

#### Contributed materials and services

Contributed materials are recorded in the financial statement at fair market value when the fair market value can be reasonably estimated for those items which would otherwise be purchased. Because of the difficulty in determining the fair value of contributed services, these services are not recognized in the financial statements.

*(continues)*

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES *(continued)*

#### Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Significant areas requiring management estimates include but are not limited to, the useful life for amortization of capital assets, and the allowance for doubtful accounts receivable. Actual results may ultimately differ from these estimates.

### 3. PRIOR PERIOD ERROR

For the year-ended December 31, 2023, the Command accrued poppy assessment revenues based on actual amounts received subsequent to year end. After the initial accrual, additional poppy assessment revenues were received by the Command - no adjustment was made to capture the additional 2023 assessments. The financial statements have been retrospectively restated to reflect the additional poppy assessment revenues.

a) The financial statements as at December 31, 2023 have been restated as follows:

	December 31 2023	Adjustment	Restated
<i>Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets</i>			
Poppy assessment revenue	\$ 124,282	\$ 106,758	\$ <b>231,040</b>
<i>Statement of Financial Position</i>			
Accounts receivable	138,494	106,758	<b>245,252</b>
Command Central Poppy Fund	2,057,488	106,758	<b>2,164,246</b>
Total	\$ 2,320,264	\$ 320,274	\$ <b>2,640,538</b>

### 4. CASH

The Command's bank accounts are held at one major financial institution. These accounts earn interest at the prevailing rates for savings and cash accounts. Cash in the general fund are payments received from unrestricted contributions while cash in the internally and externally restricted fund are payments received in internal and external contributions, respectively.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 5. CONTROLLED ENTITIES

#### *Investment in subsidiaries*

Investments in subsidiaries are accounted for on the equity basis and include BCYC Holdings Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary, and BCYC Development Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of BCYC Holdings Corporation. The financial statements of the BCYC Development Corporation and Holding Corporation are not consolidated in the Command's financial statements. Summary financial information for each controlled entity, accounted for using the equity method, for the year ended December 31, 2024, is as follows:

	BCYC		
	BCYC Holdings Corporation	Development Corporation	Combined
Total assets	\$ 29,788	\$ 168,267	\$ 198,055
Total liabilities	54,474	31,393	85,867
Total shareholder's equity	(24,686)	136,874	112,188
Total revenues	\$ -	\$ 366	\$ 366
Total expenses	3,289	3,325	6,614
Net gain (loss)	(3,289)	(2,959)	(6,248)
Shareholder's equity, beginning of year	(21,397)	139,833	118,436
	\$ (24,686)	\$ 136,874	\$ 112,188
Cash flows from operating activities	\$ -	\$ (9,391)	\$ (9,391)
Cash flows from investing activities	-	-	-
	\$ -	\$ (9,391)	\$ (9,391)

During 2024, the Command recorded an equity loss of \$2,959 in respect of its investment in BCYC Development Corporation; a gain of \$48,924 was recorded in 2023.

(continues)

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION****Notes to Financial Statements****Year Ended December 31, 2024****5. CONTROLLED ENTITIES (continued)***Controlled not-for-profit*

The Command controls the British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion Foundation (the "Foundation") by virtue of its ability to appoint a majority of the Foundation's board members. The Foundation is a registered Charity under the provisions of the Income Tax Act. In 2024, \$575,160 (2023 - \$247,762) was repaid from the Foundation, while the Command loaned \$717,002 (2023 - \$138,727) to the Foundation. In 2024, \$Nil (2023 - \$Nil) was repaid through a transfer of funds from the Foundation to the General Fund as funds became available to the Foundation. The Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting to recognize revenue. The financial statements of the Foundation are not consolidated in the Command's financial statements. Summary financial information for the Foundation for the year ended December 31, 2024, is as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total assets	\$ 5,439,557	\$ 4,254,130
Total liabilities	3,809,665	2,731,983
Total net assets	1,629,892	1,522,147
 Total revenue	 1,239,005	 993,528
Total expenses	1,131,260	998,564
Excess of revenue over expenses	107,745	(5,036)
Net assets, beginning of year	1,522,147	1,527,183
Net assets, end of year	1,629,892	1,522,147
 Cash flows from operating activities	 999,475	 (113,308)
Cash flows from investing activities	(869,638)	84,695
Cash flows from financing activities	105,908	(143,816)
	<u>\$ 235,745</u>	<u>\$ (172,429)</u>

**6. INTERFUND TRANSFERS**

During the year, the Command transferred \$2,000,000 from the Internally Restricted Fund to the General Fund for the purposes of investment in financial instruments, as well as \$251,339 from the Internally Restricted Fund to the General Fund to recognize the merger of the Branch Sustainability Fund and General Fund. All interfund transfers were approved by the Provincial Executive Committee.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 7. DUE FROM (TO) CONTROLLED ENTITIES

At the end of the year, the following amounts are due from controlled entities:

#### Due from controlled entities

	2024	2023
British Columbia/Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion Foundation - controlled entity (a)	\$ 222,777	\$ 80,935
BCYC Holdings Corporation - wholly owned subsidiary (b)	52,247	49,239
BCYC Development Corporation - wholly owned subsidiary of BCYC Holding Corporation	-	-
	<u>\$ 275,024</u>	<u>\$ 130,174</u>

- (a) As at December 31, 2024, \$222,777 (2023 - \$80,935) is owing from the Foundation relating to miscellaneous items incurred in 2024.

Amounts due from the Foundation as of December 31, 2024 are non-interest bearing and unsecured. Terms of repayment require that 25% of unrestricted revenues received by the Foundation is to be used as repayment of the balance owing to the Command. In addition, 10% of the Foundation's unrestricted revenues, \$38,561 (2023 - \$19,063), is to be paid to the Command as a reimbursement of administration time that the Command incurs on behalf of the Foundation.

- (b) The balance due from BCYC Holdings Corporation are non-interest bearing, unsecured and have no specific terms of repayment. Repayment from the Corporations will commence once proceeds from sale of assets is completed.

#### Due to controlled entities

	2024	2023
BCYC Development Corporation - wholly owned subsidiary of BCYC Holdings Corporation (a)	\$ 64,541	\$ 68,205

- (a) The balance due to BCYC Development Corporation are non-interest bearing, unsecured and have no specific terms of repayment.

### 8. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated amortization	2024 Net book value	2023 Net book value
Building	\$ 1,987,728	\$ 22,156	\$ 1,965,572	\$ -
Office furniture and fixtures	52,823	3,549	49,274	15,234
Computer equipment	39,719	13,933	25,786	16,582
Computer software	53,662	53,662	-	-
Website	105,274	99,309	5,965	8,531
	<u>2,239,206</u>	<u>192,609</u>	<u>2,046,597</u>	<u>40,347</u>
Internally Restricted Fund computer equipment	-	-	-	1,618
Command Central Poppy Fund computer equipment	1,910	839	1,071	1,913
	<u>\$ 2,241,116</u>	<u>\$ 193,448</u>	<u>\$ 2,047,668</u>	<u>\$ 43,878</u>

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 9. INVESTMENTS

	2024				2023
	Terms to maturity (in years)				
	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	No fixed maturity	Total
Money market					
GICs	\$ 323,661	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 323,661
Bonds and other					
fixed income					
Government bonds	-	-	-	-	\$ 448,721
Corporate bonds	4,717,304	-	-	-	4,717,304
Equities					
Canadian stocks	-	-	-	3,695,758	3,695,758
Canadian trust units	-	-	-	261,571	261,571
	\$ 5,040,965	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,957,329	\$ 8,998,294

The money market and bonds and other fixed income investments earn interest at a weighted average current yield of 3.56% (2023 - 1.92%).

### 10. INVESTMENT REVENUE

	2024	2023
<u>General Fund</u>		
Interest earned	\$ 168,582	\$ 105,327
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	119,881	72,560
Realized gain (loss) on investments	(14,180)	(12,224)
	274,283	165,663
<u>Internally Restricted Fund</u>		
Interest earned	158,412	201,596
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	288,551	286,783
Realized gain (loss) on investments	1,438	(51,636)
	448,401	436,743
<u>Poppy Fund</u>		
Interest earned	74,484	53,804
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	139,922	78,437
Realized gain (loss) on investments	(15,441)	(12,533)
	198,965	119,708
Net investment income	\$ 921,649	\$ 722,114

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

### 11. CHANGE IN NET ASSETS INVESTED IN CAPITAL ASSETS

Change in net assets invested in capital assets is calculated as follows:

	2024	2023
Invested in capital assets, opening balance	\$ 43,877	\$ 52,780
Amortization of capital assets	(36,214)	(19,591)
Acquisition of capital assets	2,040,005	10,688
	<u>\$ 2,047,668</u>	<u>\$ 43,877</u>

### 12. DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS AND LIABILITIES

	Opening balance	Amounts received/ accumulated	Amounts spent/ disbursed	Ending balance
Legion Week Program	\$ -	\$ 49,100	\$ (26,131)	\$ 22,969
Military Skills Conversion Program	28,024	-	(6,500)	21,524
Youth Program	-	8,000	(2,463)	5,537
Veterans' Christmas Party Program	550	-	-	550
Ladies Auxiliary to British Columbia/ Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion Program	-	26,054	-	26,054
Victory Square Banners Program	-	96,913	(76,977)	19,936
British Columbia Wildfire Program	290	-	-	290
	<u>\$ 28,864</u>	<u>\$ 180,067</u>	<u>\$ (112,071)</u>	<u>\$ 96,860</u>

### 13. CONVENTION EXPENSES

The Dominion convention and the Command convention are held in alternating years. The Dominion convention was held in the current period at a cost of \$37,802; the last Command convention was held in 2022 at a cost of \$146,981 (Schedule 2).

### 14. CONTINGENCY

The Command has become aware of an uncertain tax position and is currently in the process of clarifying with Canada Revenue Agency. A provision of \$433,500 (2023 - \$392,500) has been recorded in these financial statements. To the extent that the Command is able to reach a favourable outcome, a recovery will be recorded in the Statement of Operations at the time a resolution is known.

# BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

## Notes to Financial Statements

Year Ended December 31, 2024

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### 15. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Related party transactions not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements include the following:

- a) Included in accounts receivable are the following: \$316,696 (2023 - \$169,414) owing from individual Branch Poppy funds regarding the annual assessment; \$193,490 (2023 - \$17,438) for poppy supply sales; \$17,949 (2023 - \$25,052) owing from the Dominion Command for per capita tax and profit sharing; and \$18,439 (2023 - \$12,423) owing from the branches for miscellaneous items.
- b) Deferred per capita tax balance of \$550,784 (2023 - \$543,582) is related to money received from the Dominion Command for the British Columbia/Yukon Command's share of membership revenue related to subsequent years.
- c) Poppy sales of \$702,093 (2023 - \$608,742) were made to Branches of the Command.
- d) Cost of poppy sales of \$548,807 (2023 - \$489,080) was paid to the Dominion Command.
- e) Membership - per capita tax of \$785,139 (2023 - \$727,299) is money received by the Dominion Command for the Command's share of membership revenue.
- f) Poppy assessment revenue of \$317,509 (2023 - \$231,041) is money received from the Branches of the Command in relation to Poppy fund assessments levied on Branch Poppy fund balances at the end of the current Poppy year.
- g) Included in accounts payable and accrued liabilities is \$557 (2023 - \$Nil) owing to the Dominion Command.

These transactions are recorded at the exchange amount, being the consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

### 16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Financial instruments are recorded at fair value when the Command becomes party to the instrument. In subsequent periods, all cash and investments have been designated to be in the fair value category, with gains and losses resulting from changes in fair value reported in the statement of operations. All other financial instruments are reported at cost or amortized cost less impairment, if applicable. Financial assets recorded at cost or amortized cost are tested for impairment when changes in circumstances indicate the asset could be impaired. Transaction costs on the acquisition, sale or issue of financial instruments are expensed for those items remeasured at fair value at each reporting date and charged to the financial instrument for those measured at amortized cost.

The Command is exposed to various risks through its financial instruments and has a comprehensive risk management framework to monitor, evaluate and manage these risks. The following analysis provides information about the Command's risk exposure and concentration as of December 31, 2024.

#### *Credit risk*

Credit risk arises from the potential that a counter party will fail to perform its obligations. Financial instruments that subject the Command to significant concentrations of credit risk consist primarily of cash, accounts receivable, branch assistance fund recoverable, branch trusteeship expense recoverable, due from branches - mortgage receivable and amounts due from related parties. The Command limits its exposure to credit risk by placing its cash and investments with high credit quality investments. The Command has retained an investment firm to invest surplus funds in accordance with its investment policy. The Command limits its exposure to credit risk on its branch assistance fund recoverable and branch trusteeship expense recoverable amounts as the Command is entitled to the proceeds on the sale of any branch assets.

*(continues)*



**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Notes to Financial Statements**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

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**16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS *(continued)***

*Liquidity risk*

Liquidity risk is the risk that an entity will encounter difficulty in meeting obligations associated with financial liabilities. The Command maintains adequate levels of working capital to ensure all its obligations can be met when they fall due.

*Market risk*

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: currency rate risk, interest rate risk and other price risk. The Command is mainly exposed to interest rate risk.

*Interest rate risk*

Interest rate risk is the risk that the value of a financial instrument might be adversely affected by a change in the interest rates. The interest rates and terms of cash and investments are as disclosed in Note 9.

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Command is not exposed to significant other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Internally Restricted Net Assets**

**(Schedule 1)**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	2023	Investment Income/ Donations/ Net Profit	Donations/ Disbursements	Fund Transfers	2024
Consolidated Funds	\$ 41,425	\$ 32,631	\$ (36,983)	\$ -	\$ 37,073
Command Care Trust Fund	2,486,676	267,367	-	-	2,754,043
Branch Sustainability Fund	251,339	-	-	(251,339)	-
Replacement Reserve Fund	2,670,919	78,521	-	(2,000,000)	749,440
Sports Fund	(12,437)	30,500	(44,547)	-	(26,484)
Branch Assistance Fund	1,365,070	102,514	-	-	1,467,584
Commercial Insurance Program Branch Assistance Fund	65,067	-	-	-	65,067
Strategic Planning Fund	38,997	-	(14,752)	-	24,245
	<u>\$ 6,907,056</u>	<u>\$ 511,533</u>	<u>\$ (96,282)</u>	<u>\$ (2,251,339)</u>	<u>\$ 5,070,968</u>

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Command Expenses**

**(Schedule 2)**

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>COMMAND EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative expenses	\$ 15,781	\$ -
Bad debt	7	18,950
Board development	-	6,615
Branch advisory	2,248	2,232
Clothing allowance	508	581
Command convention (Note 13)	7,995	609
Constitution and laws	1,558	16,688
Dominion convention (Note 13)	37,802	58
Executive council meetings	18,823	34,036
Legal and professional fees	14,601	31,579
Member benefits committee	114	195
Military, veterans and seniors	-	15
Presentation and ceremonies	3,051	1,903
Public relations, promotions and communications	105,270	27,609
Travel - officers	4,906	4,484
Travel - staff	14,968	2,259
Webpage management	5,089	2,392
Youth committee	732	1,106
Zone commanders	-	10,937
	<b>\$ 233,453</b>	<b>\$ 162,248</b>

See notes to financial statements

**BRITISH COLUMBIA/YUKON COMMAND OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION**

**Office and Building Expenses**

*(Schedule 3)*

**Year Ended December 31, 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>OFFICE BUILDING AND EXPENSES</b>		
Bank charges and interest	\$ 1,726	\$ 761
Computer maintenance	16,382	15,100
Insurance	12,302	9,081
Janitor services and supplies	4,119	4,347
Office rent	154,165	145,830
Office supplies	8,463	11,897
Postage	2,306	1,084
Professional development	6,300	4,981
Professional fees	30,297	32,271
Repairs and maintenance	3,140	3,728
Sundry	1,557	2,198
Telephone	13,493	12,069
	<u>254,250</u>	<u>243,347</u>
Allocated to Command Poppy Fund for service bureau	<u>(55,101)</u>	<u>(52,589)</u>
	<u>\$ 199,149</u>	<u>\$ 190,758</u>