



Pacific Region Cadets

ROYAL CANADIAN SEA CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADETS
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS

THE CANADIAN CADET ORGANIZATION IS A NATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE CANADIAN FORCES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CIVILIAN ARMY CADET, AIR CADET, AND NAVY LEAGUES OF CANADA

BACKGROUND

DOCUMENTATION

CADET MUSIC PROGRAM

The cadet music program provides young people interested in music an opportunity to learn to play an instrument and perform in public. Cadets need no previous music experience, however the program is optional and therefore depends upon significant funding and support at the local level to provide instruments and music.

The instruction consists of six levels of competence: Basic and levels one through five. Levels basic, one and two provide the cadet musician with the skill to play in the local corps or squadron band for parades and other local ceremonies. There is instruction in music theory, aural skills, drill, sight-reading, instrument maintenance, conducting, and history depending upon the musical discipline and the type of band the local unit has. The cadet music level training covers all aspects of the Royal Conservatory of Music program except the technical studies. Levels three, four and five are relatively equivalent to the Royal Conservatory of Music Grades two, four and five. As a cadet grows in musical ability they will instruct other cadets at the local unit and may be employed as a staff cadet to assist the adult instructors at cadet summer music courses.

The cadet music program has a variety of ensembles that are determined by the resources available at the local unit (brass and reed, brass and percussion, bugle and percussion, glockenspiel and percussion, bagpipes and drums) Cadets receive instruction at the corps or squadron, by attending regional band training clinics, and during summer training. Occasionally, regular force musicians provide professional instruction in a music workshop for cadet musicians. Cadets can also learn the skills necessary to perform the duties of a drum or pipe major.

In British Columbia, there are over 1,600 young musicians involved in about 90 bands throughout the province. Most of the bands are military brass and reed ensembles and about a quarter are pipe bands. Each summer about 400 cadets attend the six-week band courses held at Vernon, Albert Head near Victoria, and Comox. During the summer training the cadets receive professional music instruction daily and regularly perform in public concerts in nearby communities. Each spring, a cadet honour band is gathered together to go “on the road” to perform in shopping centers and community theatres. Cadet musicians are also eligible for international overseas exchange travel.

Many cadet musicians are involved in music training at home and/or school as well as at cadets and bring their musical talent to the cadet program in addition to a school or community band. Participation in Royal Canadian Sea, Army, and Air Cadets is eligible for high school graduation credit in BC.