

In the following pages are recorded the proceedings of the 40th Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion assembled at London, Ontario. Containing the convention reports and resolutions approved by the delegates, it is of considerable practical as well as historical value and should be preserved for future ready reference.

DOMINION COMMAND OFFICERS

Honorary Officers

Patron

Her Excellency The Right Honorable
Adrienne Clarkson
C.C, C.M.M., C.D.
Governor General of Canada

Grand President

Charles Belzile, CM CMM CD

Dominion Honorary Vice-President

General R. Hénault, CMM, CD
Guiliano Zaccardelli, Commissioner, RCMP
Smokey Smith, V.C.

Dominion Honorary Chaplain

Rabbi R. Bulka

Dominion Executive Council

Dominion President

M.A. Burdett

Dominion First Vice-President

J. Frost

Dominion Vice-Presidents

J. Alger, W. Edmond,

B. Gray, P. Varga

Dominion Treasurer

M. Cook

Dominion Chairman

T. Irvine

Immediate Past Dominion President

A. Parks

Command Representatives

British Columbia/Yukon

B. Alcorn, G. Vowles, L. Thibodeau

Alberta/NWT

R. Hannah, H. Shevalier, J. Poynter

Saskatchewan

J. Henderson, F. Simpson

Command Representatives Cont'd.

Manitoba/NWO

C. Tessier, B. Wilson

Ontario

E. Kish, G. Moore, G. O'Dair,
W. Wilkins, E. Pigeau, Don Hubbs

Quebec

N. Shelton, J. Thériault

New Brunswick

D. Driscoll, T. Eagles

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

C. Dawe, F. Mombourquette

Prince Edward Island

C. Phillips, F. Beairsto

Newfoundland/Labrador

H. Smith, G. Warford

Imperials Representative

A. Harvey

Representative of the Tuberculous Veterans' Section

B. Wignes

Provincial Presidents

British Columbia/Yukon

B. Alcorn

Alberta/NWT

B. Hannah

Saskatchewan

J. Henderson

Manitoba/NWO

C. Tessier

Ontario

E. Kish

Quebec

N. Shelton

New Brunswick

D. Driscoll

Nova Scotia/Nunavut

V. Barnes

Prince Edward Island

C. Phillips

























Nfld/Labrador

H. Smith

Dominion Secretary

Duane Daly

DOMINION COMMAND PRESIDENTS

-  **Lieutenant-General Sir Percy Lake**
British Columbia, 1925-1928
-  **Lieutenant General Sir Arthur Currie**
Quebec, 1928-1929
-  **Lieutenant Colonel Leo R. LaFleche**
Ontario, 1929-1931
-  **Major John S. Roper**
Nova Scotia, 1931-1934
-  **Brigadier-General Alex Ross**
Saskatchewan, 1934-1938
-  **Lieutenant-Colonel W. W. Foster**
British Columbia, 1938-1940
-  **Alex Walker**
Alberta, 1940-1946
-  **Major-General C. B. Price**
Quebec, 1946-1948
-  **Lieutenant-Colonel L. D. M. Baxter**
Manitoba, 1948-1950
-  **Group Captain Alfred Watts**
British Columbia, 1950-1952
-  **Dr. C. B. Lumsden**
Nova Scotia, 1952-1954
-  **Very Reverend John O. Anderson**
Manitoba, 1954-1956
-  **David L. Burgess**
Ontario, 1956-1960
-  **The Honourable Justice Mervyn Woods**
Saskatchewan, 1960-1962
-  **His Honour Judge C. C. Sparling**
Manitoba, 1962-1964
-  **Fred T. O'Brecht**
Ontario, 1964-1966
-  **Ronald E. MacBeath**
New Brunswick, 1966-1968
-  **Robert Kohaly**
Saskatchewan, 1968-1970
- The Honourable Justice Redmond Roche**
Quebec, 1970-1972
- Robert G. Smellie**
Manitoba, 1972-1974
- Robert D. McChesney**
Ontario, 1974-1976
- Douglas McDonald**
Ontario, 1976-1978
- Edward C. Coley**
Alberta, 1978-1980
- Al Harvey**
Newfoundland, 1980-1982
-  **Dave Capperauld**
Ontario, 1982-1984
- Steve Dundson**
British Columbia, 1984-1986
-  **Anthony Stacey**
Ontario, 1986-1988
- Gaston Garceau**
Quebec, 1988-1990
-  **Fred Williams**
Newfoundland, 1990-1991
-  **Jack Jolleys**
British Columbia, 1991-1994
- Hugh M. Greene**
Alberta, 1994-1996
- Joseph Kobolak**
Ontario, 1996-1998
-  **Chuck Murphy**
British Columbia, 1998-2000
-  **William (Bill) Barclay**
Saskatchewan 2000-2002
- Allan Parks**
Prince Edward Island 2002- 2004
- Mary Ann Burdett**
British Columbia 2004- present

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FORTIETH DOMINION CONVENTION REPORT

General

The Fortieth Dominion Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion was held at the London Convention Centre (LCC) in London, Ontario from Sunday 13 June to Thursday 17 June 2004. It was the first time that the Convention had been held in the Forest City of London. It was held in the midst of a Federal Election Campaign with the vote scheduled for 28 June 2004.

Attendance

There were 1,434 accredited delegates registered, carrying 2,310 proxy votes for a total voting strength of 3,744. There were also 145 registered observers. The number of delegates was lower than the previous Convention in Edmonton by 331 and the registered proxy votes were 229 fewer as well. The decrease in membership and the loss of some branches in the two years between Conventions could be a partial explanation as were the difficulty and expense of getting to London.

The Legion's Guest of Honour was His Honour James K. Bartleman, Lieutenant-Governor for the Province of Ontario. His attendance was somewhat limited by his extremely busy schedule and he could not attend the Wreath Laying Ceremony or the parade held on 13 June. He was present at the Opening Ceremony on 13 June and delivered the keynote address as well as officially opening the Convention. Other guests at the ceremony included representatives from federal, provincial and municipal governments.

Wreath Laying and Opening Ceremonies

The Sunday morning Wreath Laying Ceremony was held at the city's cenotaph in Victoria Park across from City Hall on the corner of Wellington and Dufferin Streets. The humid and warm conditions with an overcast sky did not deter the 750 people in attendance, and neither did the adjacent International Children's Festival being held in the same area on the same day. The ceremony began at 11:30 a.m. with Master of Ceremonies Ruth Ann Dodman controlling the program. O-Canada was played by the Chatham Concert Band and sung by 12 year-old Jade Lester, also of Chatham. It was followed by the Last Post as delivered by Band Leader Vaughan Pugh. Following the two minutes of silence the Lament was played by Piper Walter Tomaszewski and the Reveille by Vaughan Pugh. The Hymn "Onward Christian Soldiers" preceded the Act of Remembrance as recited in English by Dominion President Allan Parks and in French by Dominion Grand President Charles Belzile. An Invocation was given by Canadian Forces Chaplain General and Dominion Command Honourary Chaplain Brigadier General Ron Bourque prior to the laying of wreaths. Ms. Verna Bruce, Associate Deputy Minister for Veterans Affairs laid the first wreath assisted by Dominion First Vice-President Mary Ann Burdett. Wreaths were then laid by representatives of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces, the Government of Ontario, the City of London, Dominion Command and Ontario Command of The Royal Canadian Legion. Each wreath layer was assisted by a member of the Dominion Command Sub-Executive Committee, except the President of Ontario Command who was assisted by the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) Chairman Comrade Tom Henderson. The Benediction and playing of the Royal Anthem as sung by Jade Lester followed.

The weather, while threatening, held off as 1,000 marching delegates from branches across Canada formed up on Central Avenue near Victoria Park about one hour later. Having wheeled on to Wellington Street where they marched past the saluting base at the cenotaph, accompanied by several pipe and drum bands from the region, they saluted their Dominion President, Allan Parks, before continuing on to the LCC for the Opening Ceremony. Breaking off at the LCC the delegates made their way into the massive structure that would be their meeting place for the next four days. At 2:30 p.m. they were treated to musical selections as performed by the Chatham Concert Band and then a special treat as Tim Lawson

and The Tim Lawson Band from Surrey, British Columbia played songs from his tribute to veterans CDs. Each delegate was also treated to a small package that had been placed on his or her seat for the Opening Ceremony. Included in it was a handmade poppy with a black centre that unfolded to reveal a message of Remembrance or tribute to the member from a Chatham-Kent area school child who had made the symbol. Prior to the ceremony the delegates were introduced to eight year-old Holly Ringrose who verbally presented a poem she had written as a tribute to Canada's veterans. After the seating of guests on the main stage the ceremony began at the call of Dominion Command Chairman Wally Smith.

Dominion President Allan Parks and his wife Janice accompanied His Honour the Lieutenant Governor to the stage where he was greeted with the Vice Regal Salute. A crisp and correct Colour Party commanded by Marv MacDonald of London marched on the Colours which was followed by another stirring rendition of O-Canada as delivered by Jade Lester and the performance of the Legion Ritual as was performed earlier at the cenotaph. Following an invocation by Chaplain Bourque and the presentation of flowers to Janice Parks and Jade Lester by Hannah Dodman and Arielle Mitchinson a contingent of London area cadets and legionnaires marched on a forty-foot Canadian flag which adorned the side of the Convention Hall for the remainder of the week. Following the introduction of the stage guests greetings were brought to the delegates by the President of Ontario Command Erl Kish; the City of London represented by Controller Russ Monteith; the Province of Ontario represented by the Minister of Labour Chris Bentley; and Veterans Affairs Canada represented by Associate Deputy Minister Verna Bruce. His Honour then delivered the keynote address noting the Legion's involvement in the community and the debts we owe to our veterans and officially opened the Convention. The Resolution of Loyalty to Her Majesty was presented by the Dominion President and Grand President in both official languages and unanimously adopted by the delegates which was followed by the Royal Anthem and the removal of Colours from the hall until the start of business the next day.

Convention Business

The business sessions of the Convention started on the Monday and during the next three days the delegates received a number of guests who delivered greetings to them. They included Mr. John Hawthornthwaite, Chairman of The Royal British Legion; Mr. Michael Kogutek, a Past President of The American Legion; Mr. Richard Woodroffe, General Secretary of The Royal British Legion (Scotland); Mr. Bob Cassells, Dominion President of the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans in Canada; Mr. David Young, President of the Southwestern Ontario Chapter of the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping; The Cadet Leagues of Canada represented by Ms. Wendy Mosley (Navy), Mr. Terence Whitty (Army) and Mr. Joe Johnson (Air); Mr. Dave Munro, the Canadian Peacekeeping Association; Mr. David Davidson, President of the Korea Veterans Association; and Brigadier General Richard Genin, National President of The Last Post Fund.

Addresses to the delegates were delivered by The Honourable John McCallum, Minister of Veterans Affairs on Monday and by Lieutenant General Steve Lucas, Special Advisor to the Chief of Defence Staff on Wednesday. Also, on Wednesday the delegates were treated to a film tribute to veterans by Matthew Lennox of Orillia called "Duckblind™". The graduating student from York University, and newly commissioned officer in the Militia had premiered the film the previous evening in Toronto. It received a standing ovation. On the Tuesday Dominion Secretary Duane Daly gave a briefing on the plight of veterans in the Caribbean and the work of the Legion's Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League Committee to alleviate the situations faced by many of them. This was followed by donations and pledges of poppy and other funds for a record total of \$254,300. On Wednesday Dominion Command Director Communications Bob Butt gave a briefing and update on the E-Legion Project designed to create an internal e-mail system at all levels of the Legion. It was greeted with optimism and a noted willingness of the delegates to get caught up with technology for the good of the organization.

Invocations for the four business days of the Convention were delivered by Chaplain Bourque on Monday;

Padre Sid Horn, the Ontario Command Chaplain on Tuesday; Padre Charles Scott, Branch 317 Victory in London on Wednesday; and Padre Frank Mantz, the Zone A6 Chaplain on Thursday. The invocations were followed by announcements from the LAC Chairman on all four days which were in turn followed by the Dominion Chairman's Procedures Report. Credentials Reports were presented on the first three days of the Convention by Ontario's Executive Director Marlene Lambros. Dominion Past Presidents in attendance were also introduced to the delegates on the Monday morning. They were Comrades Bob Smellie, Ed Coley, Bob McChesney, Al Harvey and Hugh Greene. Immediate Past President Joe Kobolak was unable to attend due to illness and Comrade Bob Smellie stepped into the breach to take on the duties of Chief Scrutineer for the elections which were to be run by Comrade Hugh Greene.

The first report to Convention on Monday was delivered by Dominion President Allan Parks in which he highlighted the challenges faced for the past two years and the progress made in several areas. This was followed by Dominion Grand President Charles Belzile's remarks before Comrade Parks returned to the podium to deliver the Veterans, Service and Seniors Report. All reports from this point on were given as verbal overviews of the actual reports which were printed in the delegates' yellow books. The related budgets and resolutions were brought forward at other times. Following the previously mentioned address by Minister McCallum Dominion First Vice-President Mary Ann Burdett presented the Poppy and Remembrance Report as Chairman of the Committee. She was followed by Dominion Vice-President and Membership Chairman Wilf Edmond who presented a Notice of Motion brought forward from the previous Convention in Edmonton as part of the Membership Report. The motion dealt with the reduction of membership categories and was defeated by the delegates. His report was accepted and was followed by the Leadership, Development and Youth report as presented by Committee Chairman and Dominion Vice-President Bob Gray. Dominion Vice-President and Chairman of the Sports Committee Jack Frost delivered his report followed by Dominion Vice-President and Chairman of the Public Relations Committee Pat Varga who introduced the PR Plan for the next two years. Chairman of the Defence Committee Lou Cuppens presented his report and was followed by Chairman of the Rituals and Awards Committee George O'Dair. The Constitution and Laws Report was then delivered by Committee Chairman Jim Rycroft which required much explanation as he introduced changes to the General By-Laws which needed to be ratified by the delegates. With much controversy erupting over certain items being presented the report was defeated by the delegates and a motion had to be accepted later to bring back a revised report with more explanation. This later passed. The Tubercular Veterans Section Report was presented by Section President Pat O'Donoghue and the Imperials Section Report was presented by Committee Chairman Al Harvey.

With the day drawing to a close the Dominion Chairman suspended the further presentation of reports and called on Comrade Hugh Greene to explain the election procedures and accept nominations for the offices of Dominion President and Dominion First Vice-President. He received nominations for Comrades Mary Ann Burdett (BC/Yukon) and Allan Parks (PEI) for Dominion President and then accepted nominations for Comrades Jack Frost (ON), Bob Gray (AB-NWT), Wilf Edmond (NS/NU) and Pat Varga (SK), in that order, for the office of Dominion First Vice-President. With the nominations closed for the day the Dominion Chairman adjourned the proceedings until Tuesday.

On Tuesday morning, following the invocation and daily reports, Dominion Grand President Charles Belzile delivered the Veterans Unity Report which contained two motions; the first on the acceptance of regimental headdresses to be worn with the Legion uniform and the second on the introduction of a Legion wedge cap to be worn with the Legion uniform. Both were defeated and the report passed. It was followed by Dominion Secretary Duane Daly's report and then the financial reports and the CANVET Report as delivered by Dominion Treasurer Mike Cook.

Following the presentation of the committee and financial reports resolutions being presented for consideration and the final elections became the main business for the Convention for the remainder of the time allocated. There were 67 concurred resolutions brought forward for consideration. Of these 49 passed without amendment, five passed with amendments and 13 were defeated. On Wednesday there were also 20 non-concurred resolutions brought back to the Convention for consideration. Of these five

passed without amendment, three passed with amendment and 12 were defeated.

On Tuesday Elections Officer Hugh Greene called for the final nominations for the offices of Dominion President and Dominion First Vice-President. As there were none he declared them closed and asked Comrades Burdett and Parks if they accepted the nomination. With Comrade Parks eloquently declining the elections officer informed the delegates that Mary Ann Burdett of Terrace, B.C. had been acclaimed to the office of Dominion President. All four of the nominees for the office Dominion First Vice-President accepted the nominations and the long process of voting began. On the second ballot Comrade Jack Frost of Port Elgin, Ont. was declared the winner.

Later in the day Comrade Green accepted nominations for the offices of Dominion Vice-President, Treasurer and Chairman. Automatically nominated for Vice-President were the three candidates for the office of First Vice-President who had been defeated (Comrades Gray, Edmond and Varga) along with Comrade Gerald Warford (NF/LAB), Comrade Jim Davis (NF/LAB), Comrade John Alger (ON), Comrade Dennis Driscoll (NB), and Comrade Cliff Tessier (MAN/NWO). Nominated for Dominion Treasurer was Mike Cook (BC/Yukon). Nominated for Dominion Chairman were Comrade Tom Irvine (QC), Comrade Wally Smith (ON) and Comrade Bud Alcorn (BC/Yukon). With these nominations the Chairman suspended the business for the day.

On Wednesday, before the consideration of the non-concurred resolutions, the final call for nominations for the offices of Dominion Vice-President, Dominion Treasurer and Dominion Chairman were made. With none coming forward nominations were closed and the nominees asked if they would accept. All except Comrade Cliff Tessier (MAN/NWO) accepted their nomination. There being only one nomination for Dominion Treasurer, Mike Cook (BC/Yukon) was acclaimed in the position and voting began for the position of Dominion Vice-President. On the first ballot nobody was elected and Comrades Dennis Driscoll (NB) and Gerald Warford (NF/LAB) were dropped from the list of candidates. Comrade John Alger was elected on the second ballot which left Comrades Edmond, Gray, Varga and Davis vying for the three remaining spots as no person is dropped from the ballot when a person wins a majority. On the third ballot the delegates elected Comrades Edmond, Gray and Varga as Dominion Vice-Presidents. In the election for Dominion Chairman, there were two ballots required with incumbent Comrade Wally Smith (ON) being dropped for the second ballot which was won by Comrade Tom Irvine (QC). Business was then recessed to the following day.

On Thursday the newly elected officers of Dominion Command gathered for installation after the invocation and daily reports. Prior to this occurring a short tribute was paid the former Dominion Chairman and World War II veteran Wally Smith. Those elected in the previous days, as presented by the Sergeant-at-Arms, were then administered their oaths by installing officer Dominion Grand President Charles Belzile. Newly acclaimed Dominion President Mary Ann Burdett talked to the delegates and explained what she expected over the next two years in her acceptance speech. The rousing applause indicated the delegates—agreement with her approach. Following a short break to reset the stage the newly installed Dominion Chairman continued with the business session. The Chairman of the Constitution and Laws Committee then delivered the final report of the Convention which passed. The Chairman then asked for new business and after receiving comments from the floor called for the motion of adjournment which he received. The marching off of the colours and the performance of the closing ritual with the singing of "God Save the Queen" brought the Fortieth Dominion Convention to a close.

Conclusion

The Fortieth Dominion Convention in London, Ont. set the policies and By-laws for the Legion for the next two years when it will again assemble in Calgary, Alta. It also set the tone for future conventions in regard to how business would be conducted and how technology could be used to speed processes. The Local Arrangements Committee, their volunteers and its extremely precise Colour Party were complimented on more than one occasion and helped make the Convention the success that it was.

REPORT OF THE DOMINION PRESIDENT

Introduction

Distinguished Guests. Comrades. Good morning. It is customary at this time for the Dominion President to give an overview of our activities at Dominion Command since we last met at Convention. In that regard, I will highlight those items of business that Sub-Executive has completed, and which are documented in your Yellow Book at pages 1 through 3 and then I will add a few personal points and brief you on some very recent items which have just arisen. In order that you will have a record of these points, a copy of this talk will be distributed to you tomorrow morning.

Sub-Executive Report

First of all, with the Sub-Executive report, let me say how pleased we were to produce our first Long Term Plan in 2002 as our roadmap for future activities. Work is in progress to update that Plan for the period 2005-2010 and copies will be distributed to all branches when it is released.

On the Supply front I have been equally pleased to read the many positive comments we have received at Dominion Command concerning our new centralized Supply System which you authorized at our last Convention. Orders continue to pour in and delivery time to branches is in the order of a few days versus weeks as with our previous system. We also just released a list of 19 items with new reduced prices. And we still continue to hold the line on prices and will reduce others as much as possible as we implement greater efficiencies in the system. And you will be pleased to know that we are attempting to bring on a whole new inventory of resale items as you have requested. Please visit our supply booth to take a look at the first trial items and give us your opinion if you like them or not or how you think we should proceed.

Cost constraint is an issue for all of us. At Dominion Command we are losing almost \$100,000 a year in per capita revenue as our membership continues to decline, but we remain responsible for running the same number of programs and member participation sport championships as before. To handle this challenge, the Dominion Executive Council has made a number of difficult cuts which the Dominion Treasurer will mention later. But we continue to look at ways to increase our revenue. Our MBNA credit card is one such approach and it brings in over \$100,000 a year to help support our Track and Field. I—ll also mention one new fund-raising program to you in a few moments which I believe will also be successful. But the good news for now is that we are holding the line, and as promised before, we will not ask for a per capita increase at this Convention.

As to the future, we have received a number of requests as to location for hosting our Dominion Convention in 2012. In 2006 we will be in Calgary, in 2008 in Ottawa and in 2010 we will return to Winnipeg. For 2012 the Dominion Executive Council recommends that we conduct our Convention in Halifax and with your permission Comrade Chairman, I so move the proposal to our delegates that our 2012 Convention take place in Halifax. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

Thank you Comrades. We will discuss Sub-Executive Resolutions later in the Convention agenda, but for now I just want to say a few words on a subject that received a lot of attention earlier this year: Poppy Puppy. I know that some of you disagreed with our decision to go forward with this program and some even suggested that the program was an insult to veterans. Nothing could be further from the truth.

We all believe in the promotion of Remembrance. And we all believe in the requirement to educate our children about Remembrance. But, how do we do that? We discussed this point long and hard at DEC. Why not use a device that children like, we asked ourselves. We know that all young children love to cuddle stuffed toys like teddy bears and puppies. And we also learned that a version of the Poppy Puppy

had yielded great success in an education campaign launched by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in the United States. So, we decided to give it a try. We produced a cuddly puppy with a Poppy symbol on it.

And, it has been a great success. Children love it. Teachers have reported that we have taken a sensitive and caring approach to teaching children about such a difficult subject. We have made a positive difference. And a great number of our veterans have supported our decision.

But, because some have refused to accept that the Poppy can be used in this way to teach children, they rallied against the program. I think that it is a sad commentary on the Legion and our objectives.

And so, unless you direct us otherwise, we will continue to make the Poppy Puppy available to any Legionnaire who wants to help promote Remembrance by making our young children aware that the Poppy is a special symbol for all of us. The Poppy Puppy program is a good program and we are proud to support it.

So much for the items in the Sub-Executive report.

Update Items

Now, I mentioned that I would brief you on a new fund-raising program which DEC has just approved. Across Australia, New Zealand and Britain, a company has been selling ANZAC cookies. These oatmeal cookies are of the original recipe and taste which was enjoyed by our troops in the First World War. The manufacturer has enjoyed great success in selling these cookies and has provided a 4% royalty to the Legions involved for obtaining their endorsement. The manufacturer now wants to sell the cookies in Canada at grocery stores across the nation and will pay us a 4% royalty for our endorsement. DEC has approved the program and distribution should start later this Fall. In the interim, you can get an advance taste. Bags of cookies are available in our supply outlet for the low price of \$2.00 a bag. Go ahead and give them a try. I think that they are great. I believe that this will be a very successful program and could very well earn us in excess of \$100,000 a year.

Most importantly Comrades, while we have taken positive but difficult steps to reduce our own operating costs at Dominion Command, we have, at the same time, renewed our efforts to support veterans and to promote Remembrance in Canada.

We have achieved remarkable success in progressing VIP benefits for veterans and their surviving spouses and we have won an increase in pensions for Prisoners of War and allied veterans. These were major accomplishments which would not have been obtained without the full and effective advocacy of our Legion.

The promotion of Remembrance, the enhancement of the Poppy Campaign and the improved use of Poppy Funds have also been priorities for us. We were able to respond to your wishes to reactivate the black-centred Poppy and we will bring forward a number of resolutions this week to expand the use of Poppy Funds.

I am proud that our reputation in the community remains as strong as ever through your devoted efforts within our 1,500 plus branches. We are somewhat smaller in size than we were five years ago and we are facing financial challenges at the branch level, but, with the help of Branch Advisory Committees set up in Commands and with the integration of small branches into larger ones, we are starting to turn the situation around. I expect that our membership numbers will level off in the next few years and that we will reinvigorate ourselves with fewer branches but on a more stable foundation than ever before. Our new generation of leaders at every level of the Legion have picked up the torch from our veterans, and I am convinced that we will move on in this century with a determination and dedication that is second to none.

In that regard I am also very proud to announce that we have opened a new branch in Holland and that our Godson, Prince Floris of the Netherlands, now stands as their Patron.

As well, I am also very proud to announce today that our venerable and honoured Grand President, Comrade Charlie Belzile, has agreed to my request to remain as our Grand President for another full term. Charlie, on behalf of all members of the Legion, I cannot express how grateful we are for your support and encouragement as our Grand President. Thank you.

Finally, I want to update you on two very recent items which have just arisen:

- a. The first deals with our Dominion Command headquarters building in Ottawa. As members may be aware, LEGION HOUSE in Ottawa is now approaching 50 years of age. It is very expensive to maintain and operate and is in need of a major refurbishment. It is also too big for the Legion's needs. Dec is therefore reviewing options as to whether to refurbish the building at an estimated cost in excess of \$1 million or to sell the building and to use the profits to build a smaller more efficient building elsewhere in the city. A final decision will be made by DEC in February 2005.
- b. Secondly, I have good news for you all. As part of our 60th Anniversary commemoration for 2004 and 2005, the Royal Canadian Mint has agreed to release a special 25 cent coin with our Poppy Symbol on it in October 2004. The coin will be readily available to the public in the November Remembrance period. I am not allowed to divulge too much information at this time, but it will be very special with a very unique design. It will carry the word "Remember"™ in both languages and an extensive advertising campaign promoting Remembrance and the Legion will accompany the launch. You will be very pleasantly surprised when you see it.

And now as I prepare to step into Joe Kobolak's well-worn shoes as Immediate Past President, let me thank you for all your support in making my past two years the most exciting and enriching of my life. The Legion is one of the great institutions in this country and I have been honoured to have been able to serve as your President.

Thank you.

And with that Comrade Chairman, I move acceptance of my Sub-Executive report on pages 1 to 3 of the Yellow Book and of my verbal report today. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SUB-EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Allan Parks	-	President
Mary Ann Burdett	-	First Vice-President
Wilf Edmond	-	Vice-President
Jack Frost	-	Vice-President
Pat Varga	-	Vice President
Bob Gray	-	Vice-President
Michael Cook	-	Dominion Treasurer
Wally Smith	-	Dominion Chairman
Joe Kobolak	-	Immediate Past President

Introduction

As you are aware the Sub-Executive Committee of Dominion Command is responsible for overseeing all the committees, programs, staff and activities of Dominion Command and to ensure appropriate reports to DEC and Convention. You will receive a wide variety of reports from Committees at this Convention but on behalf of the Sub-Executive I will update you on a few items which will not be covered by a specific committee.

Planning

In 2002 the Dominion Executive Council completed an extensive planning period in which the members documented our future requirements so that we would have a road map to follow in guiding our activities and programs and to help us determine our budget priorities. Much of the detail of that planning was published in the "Legion Long Term Plan 2002-2007". The manual was very well received, and in order to keep it up to date, we have now started on the development of a follow-on document. It will be available before the next Convention.

Supply

At our last Convention you directed that the Legion would develop a single, centralized supply system to provide more efficient support of our members. Under the old system there were two middle men in the system, the Provincial Commands and the branches, which were each involved in the process of selling to the members. The Dominion Command purchased the regalia items, maintained a supply, inventory and distribution system and sold its products to the Provincial Command. The Provincial Command then had to set up its inventory and distribution system to resell the products at a mark up to branches. Branches then marked up the item again and sold it to the members. As you agreed at last Convention the process was very cumbersome and led to higher costs for the members and additional staffing costs at the Provincial Commands.

Under our new system, Dominion Command will now accept orders directly from the branches thereby providing a more timely response. Inflation increases have been underwritten, prices have been held to the 2003 price list, and a profit factor has been implemented for the branches. Ultimately we will upgrade the system to allow members to deal directly with the Dominion Supply Warehouse to purchase unique supply items which will not be sold through the branch. We will continue to report on our progress to DEC as the situation develops. But, even though you may have experienced some teething problems with the

new system which started on 1 January, because some branches were still attempting to buy from the Commands, the new process should work well and save money for all of us. The Dominion Secretary will be able to comment more on this in his report.

Cost Constraint

Over the past number of years we have been losing Legion members at a rate of about 15,000 each year. We continue to recruit about 30,000 new members across the Legion each year, but approximately 45,000 do not renew. Therefore the overall loss of 15,000. At Dominion Command this means a total financial loss each year of \$92,250 in per capita. These funds are absolutely essential to run all our committees, programs, Remembrance activities and Member Participation Sport programs. We cannot go on indefinitely maintaining all of these current programs without some form of correction to respond to this major annual decline of revenue.

Last Convention you authorized a small increase of \$2 plus GST to keep the LEGION Magazine going to at least 2010 without an increase in its subscription rate which is included as a separate item in the Dominion Command per capita. We will do that. We have ensured its future based on the current projections. But we also told you last Convention that we would not come back to you for a Dominion Command per capita increase until at least 2006. And that has not changed. But in the interim the DEC has had to make some major cuts to live within our very limited and declining revenue. The Dominion Treasurer will highlight some of these in his report. What I wish to emphasize now is that we have taken every effort to reduce staff and program related costs as much as possible. There is no fat in the system.

Future Dominion Conventions

With the previous concurrence of Convention the following sites were selected for future Conventions.

- | | | | | | |
|----|------|---|-------------------|---|------------|
| a) | 2006 | - | Calgary Alberta | - | 25-29 June |
| b) | 2008 | - | Ottawa Ontario | - | 22-26 June |
| c) | 2010 | - | Winnipeg Manitoba | - | 13-17 June |

Dominion Executive Council has reviewed submissions from Commands for the 2012 Convention and recommends the following;

RECOMMENDATION: - It is recommended that Halifax, Nova Scotia, be selected for the site of the 2012 Dominion Convention during the period 6-14 June.

NOTE: - This recommendation was presented by the Dominion President in his verbal report to Convention. The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolutions

The Sub-Executive Committee has reviewed a number of resolutions as submitted by Commands which relate to the Legion in general and which do not fall under the consideration of any one specific Committee. I will address those plus the unique ones that were raised by Sub-Executive at a later time within the Convention Agenda as called upon by our Chairman.

Poppy Puppy

Needless to say, you have all heard about the Poppy Puppy. Unfortunately, a percentage of our membership have not supported the program and have even argued against it as being contrary to our principles of Remembrance or as an insult against veterans. Nothing could have been further from the truth.

We all believe in the promotion of Remembrance. And we all believe in the requirement to educate our children about Remembrance. But, how do we do that? We discussed this point long and hard at DEC. Why not use a device that children like, we asked ourselves. We know that all young children love to cuddle stuffed toys like teddy bears and puppies. And we also learned that a version of the Poppy Puppy had yielded great success in an education campaign launched by the Veterans of Foreign War in the United States. So, we decided to give it a try. We produced a cuddly Puppy with a Poppy symbol on it.

And, it has been a great success. Children love it. Teachers have reported that we have taken a sensitive and caring approach to teaching children about such a difficult subject. We have made a positive difference.

But, because some have refused to accept that the Poppy can be used in this way to teach children, they rallied against the program. I think that it is a sad commentary on the Legion and our objectives.

And so, unless you tell us otherwise we will continue to make the Poppy Puppy available to any Legionnaire who wants to help promote Remembrance by making our young children aware that the Poppy is a special symbol for all of us. The Poppy Puppy program is a good program and we are proud to support it.

Conclusion

The Sub-Executive Committee continues to be involved in a wide range of topics including Poppy and Remembrance which is coordinated by a separate Sub-Committee of Sub-Executive. This Sub-Committee will report later in the agenda. Overall it has been a pleasure to work on your behalf.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS COMMITTEE

	A. Parks	-	Chairman
	M.A. Burdett	-	Vice-Chairman
	B. Hannah	-	Member
	J. Margerum	-	Member
J. Holland	-	BC/YUKON	R. Lavoie - QUE
B. Hannah	-	ALTA/NWT	D. Driscoll - NB
J. Pott	-	SASK	J. Hatcher - NS/NU
B. Wilson	-	MAN/NWO	K. Johnson - PEI
D. Smith	-	ONT	H. Smith - NFLD/LAB
A. Harvey	-	IMP	P. O'Donoghue - TVS
C. Belzile	-	ExOff	L. Cuppens - ExOff
P. Allard	-	Secretary	G. Beech - A/Secretary

Introduction

Since Dominion Convention in Edmonton in 2002, veterans, members of the Canadian Forces, RCMP and Canadian seniors have continued to benefit from the prioritization and staffing of Convention Resolutions and from the work and advocacy of your members of the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee.

With the benefit of responses provided by various Departmental Cabinet Ministers the "Comments on Resolutions 39th Dominion Convention 2002" issued by Dominion Command was published in August 2003 and distributed to Legion Branches for the guidance of all Legion members.

Mandate of the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee

The Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee has been very active in its advocacy role. Regular meetings have been held with the former Minister of Veterans Affairs Canada, the Honourable Rey Pagtakhan, and his successor the Honourable John McCallum to discuss the formal implementation of seven new initiatives to address the most urgent needs of Canadian war veterans. Specifically, legislative and regulatory changes have resulted in significant improvements to veterans' benefits.

After timely negotiations stemming from resolutions of the 2000 Dominion Convention and extraordinary measures of the Legion Executive, the Minister dealt with the three Legion priority issues, POW benefit extensions, VIP for spouses, and National Long Term Care (LTC) standards. A number of other benefits were a collateral benefit of negotiations, namely:

- ▶ VIP benefits for moderately assessed disability pensioners;
- ▶ VIP for Overseas Service Veteran (OSV) waiting for Long Term Care placement;
- ▶ Education Assistance Program for children of deceased veterans; and
- ▶ Long Term Care (LTC) and associated health benefits for certain allied veterans

Service Bureau Operations

Service to veterans has remained the focus of the Service Bureau network which has continued to assist and represent veterans at all levels of the disability pension process and help with benevolent needs. In

that context, the Dominion Command Service Bureau Director has presented a report to DEC on modernization of the Service Bureau Network Operations.

The Service Bureau network consists of volunteer branch service officers, 17 full-time or part-time Provincial Command Service Officers and five full-time Service Officers at Dominion Command. Branch Service Officers provide points of contact in their communities and should act as a referral source. Pension applications, reviews and appeals are handled by Command Service Officers equipped with the requisite level of training and the necessary tools such as the Client Service Delivery Network (CSDN) data base.

Notwithstanding an overall increase in the number of applicants, the number of claims handled by the Legion, according to Veterans Affairs Canada data, has dropped from an average of 10 percent to 6 percent of all pension applications. Recently, the Bureau of Pensions Advocates has become involved in Departmental Reviews and post-decision counselling, areas it was not involved in previously.

The study calls for a greater use of the information technology that is available for all Command Service Officers, especially the Client Service Delivery Network (CSDN). Another recommendation, endorsed by DEC, called on provincial commands to provide quarterly reports on their Service Bureau workload to better inform DEC of the work done across the country while developing national standards of the Legion service delivery. A more proactive approach on Legion representation at Veterans Review and Appeal Board (VRAB) should also be implemented to provide visibility to the Legion's contribution. A booklet for Branch Service Officers has been promulgated and distributed to all branches.

Seniors Issues

The Legion's association with other seniors groups to establish the Congress of National Seniors Organisations (CNSO) originated in 1999. In principle, this coalition would have agreed on common seniors issues and collaborated to influence government policy and programs concerning seniors. Some success was achieved in opening channels of communication and establishing meetings with senior officials; however, meaningful results were fleeting and did not justify the time and resources expended. Questions of organisational funding, governance and means of advocacy were not easily resolved. As part of a review of all Legion programs it was decided to give up CNSO participation in order to focus on the Canadian Seniors Partnership, Seniors Housing and a proposed Seniors Independence Program modelled on the very successful Veterans Independence Program

Housing

The Legion Seniors Housing Centre for Excellence has continued its consulting role in assisting Legion Branches and Provincial Commands with housing and real property issues. Dave MacDonald's secondment from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) has been extended until March 2005.

The Voluntary Sector Initiative (VSI) Project was finalized under budget. Some preliminary findings have resulted in the formulation of a recommendation for a Canada wide Seniors Independence Program (SIP). An update on the Legion Project has been provided at a meeting on Sector Involvement in Departmental Policy Development (SIDPD) where both the Legion and VAC provided a summary of ongoing activities. At the federal level, responsibility for VSI activity has been transferred from Heritage Canada to Social Development. It is expected that a Legion booklet on Housing that will address "Due Diligence" and "Conflict of Interest" issues will be developed from the findings of the VSI Housing project study.

The research team of the University of Alberta and Mount Saint Vincent University, which is conducting a study on the "Community Contexts of Rural Seniors," in partnership with the Legion and Statistics Canada, has conducted a formal survey of approximately 2000 Legion members in 2004. Findings will be shared with the Legion.

Long Term Care

Past committee work and resolutions provided strong feedback to Veterans Affairs Canada on Legion concerns with Long Term Care in three major areas: quantity of beds, veterans access, and standard of care. These issues and others were addressed at the highest levels through Legion presentations to the parliamentary Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs (SCONDVA) in 2002 and 2003. The resulting report to government entitled "*Honouring the Pledge: Ensuring Quality Long Term Care for Veterans*" provides 25 recommendations to improve veterans quality of care. There now appears to be an adequate number of beds while distribution and access problems are being mitigated, to a degree, by some of the new initiatives previously mentioned regarding allied veterans and VIP extensions. Currently, the main concern is for standardization and quality of veterans long term care which differs among provincial jurisdictions and facilities. In the absence of a national standard for veterans, the department has contracted with the Canadian Council for Health Services Accreditation (CCHSA) to develop accreditation standards which incorporate desired outcomes for veterans. Starting in 2002, CCHSA began a three-year program of accrediting major veterans contract facilities by the new standard. The Committee is monitoring the progress of the accreditation process.

Recognizing that as many as 4,000 veterans maintained in some 1,500 community long term care facilities would be overlooked in this process, Veterans Affairs has contracted with the Legion to visit these veterans and to complete a client survey while assessing the quality of care. Volunteers for the Long Term Care Surveyor Program were recruited through Legion magazine. Eight courses were held during 2003 to provide over 100 trained surveyors for Veterans Affairs taskings.

The continuous evaluation of program effectiveness based on feedback from Veterans Affairs and assessment of Legion Summary Reports, would indicate that the program will be extended for another year. While it is dangerous to generalize, surveyor reports indicate a relatively high level of care exists in community facilities with few problems reported. It is important to note that the program monitors the quality of care and is not meant to replace social visiting, hospital outreach, nor other Legion programs instituted by branches and commands, for the good and welfare of veterans.

The Legion appeared in front of the Senate Veterans Affairs Subcommittee to discuss Health Care provided to veterans of war and peacekeeping and participated in Pre-Budget Consultation Hearings with then Finance Minister John Manley in Charlottetown. The Legion also submitted a report to the Right Honourable Antonio Lamer to present recommendations on the Canadian Forces Grievances Process and briefed the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs on the Care of Veterans on VAC Pilgrimages.

Benevolent Fund Report

The following are Benevolent Fund statistics for the period 1 January, 2002 to 31 December, 2003.

	2002		2003	
FUND	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT	NO. OF CASES	AMOUNT
DCBTF	94	\$39,469.	95	\$41,523.46
IABTF	7	\$5,233.	5	\$1983.05
RAFBF	106	\$91,430.	108	\$97,114.72
RNBTF	16	\$24,988.	17	\$19,255.34
RCEL	<u>42</u>	<u>\$37,006.</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>\$47,627.16</u>
TOTAL	265	\$198,126.	297	\$207,503.73

DCBTF - Dominion Command Benevolent Trust Fund
 IABTF - Imperial Army Benevolent Trust Fund
 RAFBF - Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund
 RNBTF - Royal Navy Benevolent Trust Fund
 RCEL - Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League

Budget Report

For your information, a copy of the VSS Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Resolutions

The VSS Committee has reviewed 50 Resolutions; 32 have been concurred, 6 have been combined while 12 have been non-concurred. Additionally, the VSS Committee forwarded 20 Resolutions to DEC for their approval.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION					
DOMINION COMMAND					
VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS					
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	13,636	14,513	31,000	32,000	33,000
Per Diem	17,493	13,227	19,000	19,000	19,000
Cdn. Assoc. on Gerontology	-	155	2,000	2,000	2,000
Printing & Stationery	114	177	900	900	900
Telephone & Fax	94	-	500	500	500
Postage	166	-	700	700	700
Association Memberships	155	215	600	600	600
Miscellaneous	548	48	400	400	400
SUB-TOTAL	32,206	28,335	55,100	56,100	57,100
<u>PROGRAM</u>					
Gerontology	80,000	387	-	-	-
TOTAL	112,206	28,722	55,100	56,100	57,100

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

M. A. Burdett	-	Chairman
P. Varga	-	Member
B. Gray	-	Member
A. Parks	-	Member
D. Hards	-	Secretary
C. Glauninger	-	A/Secretary

Introduction

The various Poppy and Remembrance programs and activities at Dominion Command have been managed in the past by several different committees. While the process did ensure that these separate programs were effectively managed as individual programs, the fact that control was fragmented between separate committees tended to de-emphasize the significance and priority that these programs and activities deserved. As a result, Sub-Executive decided in 2003 to enhance the visibility and management of these programs by bringing them all together under one Sub-Committee of the Sub-Executive itself. This revised management process is working very well and has reinforced the significance of Poppy and Remembrance matters at the Dominion level.

The Poppy And Remembrance Program

The listing of programs and responsibilities which fall under the purview of the Sub-Committee and which are brought directly to Sub-Executive's attention as necessary are the following:

- a. Poppy Material and the Poppy Campaign;
- b. the national Literary and Poster Contest;
- c. the national Remembrance Day Ceremony;
- d. the Legion's Pilgrimage of Remembrance;
- e. the Poppy Appreciation Award Certificate;
- f. the Teacher's Guide;
- g. liaison with VAC for Remembrance issues;
- h. control of the Poppy trademark;
- i. review of the Poppy By-Laws and Poppy Manual; and
- j. review of various Remembrance issues and Poppy Fund applications as they arise.

Needless to say this appears as an extensive list but the fact that one Committee now reviews and understands all the inter-relationships between the various programs and activities has proven very beneficial - particularly in our review of the Poppy By-Laws and Poppy Manual.

Current Issues

There are a number of items that I would now like to bring to your attention or to provide a current update for your information.

- a. **Biodegradable Wreaths** - For some years we have been attempting to develop biodegradable wreaths as directed by Convention. The aim is to get rid of the styrofoam. We finally thought we had a solution with wreaths made from coconut fibre. Unfortunately the cost to produce these is at least 15% higher than our present wreaths. As such we felt we could not go any further in this direction as the cost to our branches would be too excessive.

This committee and DEC felt too that much time, effort and money have been spent attempting to find a suitable biodegradable material for our wreaths, all to no avail.

RECOMMENDATION DEC therefore recommends that we cease our efforts in this regard and continue to use our styrofoam wreaths and crosses. And I so move.

- b. **Poppy Exchange Program** - As you are aware Dominion Command permitted branches to exchange their useable inventory of green lapel poppies in 2003 for black poppies. More than 2.5 million were submitted. There should be no green poppies on the street in 2004.
- c. **Poppy By-Laws** - The Chairman of the Constitution and Laws Committee will bring forward some housekeeping resolutions later in Convention to update our By-Laws. Some of these will include minor changes to our Poppy By-Laws to help clarify their meaning and application in permitting Poppy Funds to be expended in the support of Veterans, Ex-Servicemen and their dependants.

As well we appreciate that many branches have requested that the By-Laws be amended to allow greater flexibility in the use of Poppy Funds for the support of veterans or for the promotion of Remembrance. This issue was also fully covered in the Legion's Long Term Plan. As the number of wartime veterans continues to decline we want to ensure that we are still able to expend Poppy Funds on appropriate Remembrance programs in their memory. Therefore, we will bring forward some new regulations in this regard as Resolutions for your consideration later in Convention with the full support of our Committee.

- d. **Poppy Manual** - Once we have the new resolutions approved, the By-Laws will be amended and we will bring out a completely updated Poppy Manual as soon as possible after Convention. I just want to remind you that the manual is meant to support the Poppy By-Laws, it does not replace them.
- e. **Poppy and Remembrance Program** - I appreciate that many of you may not be familiar with some of our Poppy and Remembrance Programs so I have attached a summary of these to this report for your information. I will not review it in detail but if you have any questions on any of them I would be happy to try to answer them.
- f. **National Remembrance Ceremony** - The National Ceremony went off remarkably well with over 15,000 persons in attendance and a very large television audience. The Silver Cross mother for 2003 was Mrs. Charlotte Lynn Smith of Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia. Her son Private Nathan Smith was one of the four soldiers killed in the friendly fire incident in Afghanistan in 2002.

Budget

The Poppy and Remembrance Sub-Committee budget for the 2004 to 2006 period follows this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

Comrades, this concludes my report to Convention. In closing, I am pleased with the cooperation received by these Sub-Committee members from all the provincial commands. While there remains much work to be done, some important issues are now being tackled or at least discussed. This I consider progress. Thank you.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

GENERAL

The Royal Canadian Legion regards itself as the "Caretaker of Remembrance"™ in Canada. Regardless of the efforts of government through Veterans Affairs Canada, which may or may not allocate funding for specific Remembrance activities in Canada, the Legion will always remain as the enduring force in the overall promotion of Remembrance in Canada. Through its Poppy Campaign, the conduct of Remembrance ceremonies across the nation and its public advocacy to government, The Legion has won the full support of the Canadian public in establishing "Remembrance"™ as a vital aspect of our society.

The purpose of the Poppy and Remembrance Program is to perpetuate the memory of Canadian service men and women who paid the supreme sacrifice while on military duty in World Wars I and II, the Korean War, the Cold War and United Nations Peacekeeping operations and to foster the Tradition of Remembrance in Canada. The poppy is the principle symbol of Remembrance and every effort should be made to ensure Canadians are aware of its true significance.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Poppy and Remembrance Program is to achieve the following goals as outlined in Section 4 of the "Act to Incorporate The Royal Canadian Legion"™ as revised by Chapter 47 of the Statutes of Canada 1977-78 and 1980-81:

- (e) to perpetuate the memory and deeds of the fallen and of those who die in the future;
- (f) to promote and care for memorials to their valour and sacrifice, to provide suitable burial, to keep an annual memorial day, to preserve the records and memories of their service and to see that such services shall not be forgotten by the nation;
- (g) to ensure that proper attention shall be paid to the welfare of all who have served and the welfare of their dependants and to see to the maintenance and comfort of those who require special treatment, particularly the disabled, sick, aged and needy, and to promote the welfare of their dependants;
- (h) to educate public opinion regarding national duties to the dead, the disabled and others who have served, and their dependants;
- (i) to foster loyalty among the public and education in the principles of patriotism, duty and unstinted public service; and
- (t) to raise and co-ordinate funds for assisting those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs.

The program must also ensure that an adequate supply of remembrance symbols - poppies, wreaths, crosses and promotional material - are available for purchase by Commands and Branches for distribution to the general public during the National Poppy and Remembrance Campaign.

The poppy material is produced by Dominion Regalia, Toronto, Ontario. This firm is the only authorized supplier of the material and all poppy material must be obtained by the Commands from Dominion Command. The contract between Dominion Regalia and Dominion Command is held by the Director Finance.

THE POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM

In addition to the requirement to liaise with the government and the public on Remembrance issues and to control the use of the Poppy trademark, Dominion Command manages a number of specific Poppy and Remembrance programs and activities. These include:

- the national Poppy Campaign;
- the annual presentation of the First Poppy to the Governor General,
- the national literary and poster contest;
- the national Remembrance Day ceremony;
- the Legion's Pilgrimage of Remembrance;
- the public presentation of the Poppy Appreciation Award Certificate; and
- the development and distribution of the "Teachers' Guide" to assist primary and secondary school teachers to foster the Tradition of Remembrance amongst Canada's youth.

A brief description of each of these programs or activities follows.

a. **The National Poppy Campaign**

On 5 July 1921 the forefather of The Royal Canadian Legion, the Great War Veterans Association, adopted the Poppy as its "Flower of Remembrance"™ This resulted from a petition to the GWVA by a French woman named Mme. Guerin who had already convinced the nascent British Legion to sell poppies as a fund-raising activity on behalf of Remembrance. From this fragile beginning the Poppy Campaign has become an institution in Canada. Each year approximately 18 million poppies are distributed by Legionnaires, veterans and cadets across the nation. The proceeds of some \$8 million are used for the benevolent support of veterans and their dependants. The Legion's "Poppy Manual"™ amplifies the By-Laws concerning the maintenance and uses of the "Poppy Trust Fund"™

The annual campaign is launched every year on the last Friday in October and continues until 11 November. The Legion precedes the campaign with a special presentation of the "First Poppy"™ to the Governor General in October at Government House. The Provincial Commands of the Legion follow suit in presentations of a Poppy to the provincial Lieutenant Governors.

In recent years, the campaign, has been slanted to younger Canadians; to this end teachers' guides have been produced containing information helpful in fostering the Tradition of Remembrance. In addition to the annual Poppy and Remembrance Campaign, other remembrance activities occur throughout the year to honour specific actions/battles or for pilgrimages, and material is made available to the organizers on request.

The Poppy and Remembrance Sub-Committee is responsible for the design and procurement of poppies, wreaths, and crosses. The Sub-Committee is also responsible for selecting the promotional materials that will be used to advertise the annual campaign and monitoring and recommending amendments to the authorized uses of Poppy Trust Funds as required.

The poppy is a registered trademark of Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion.

b. **The National Literary and Poster Contest**

Each year the Dominion Command of the Legion organizes its national Literary and Poster Contest through its ten Provincial Commands. Through three age categories of Junior, Intermediate and Senior, young Canadians are requested to submit poems, essays or posters (colour and black and

white) commemorating Remembrance in a Canadian theme. (A primary age category also exists for poster entries only).

Each year more than 70,000 entrants are judged. Prizes are awarded for the first and second place winners in each of the age categories for the selected poem, essay, black and white poster, and colour poster. Prizes are not only awarded at the Provincial level for best entries but also nationally at the Dominion level.

The senior winners are also brought to Ottawa to participate in the National Remembrance Day Ceremony and to lay a wreath along with the Governor General and the Vice-Regal party. Canada's top cadet is also brought to Ottawa by the Legion to act as wreath bearer for the literary/poster winners. While in Ottawa, the young winners and their chaperones are also hosted by the Chief of the Defence Staff to a luncheon and by the Governor General to a tea at Government House. This is in addition to the Dominion President's hosting and award ceremony.

c. The National Remembrance Ceremony

On 11 November each year, The Royal Canadian Legion organizes and directs the National Remembrance Ceremony at the National War Memorial. The Departments of Defence, Public Works, Heritage and VAC provide assistance and personnel as necessary. The highlight of the Ceremony is the Veterans Parade and the laying of wreaths by the Vice-Regal Party which includes:

- Governor General
- Prime Minister
- Silver Cross Mother
- Chief of Defence Staff
- Speaker of the House or Senate
- Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Dominion President
- Youth Group (Literary/Poster Winners and Cadet representatives)

Support services for the Ceremony include:

- i. Dominion Command staff to manage and coordinate the ceremony;
- ii. DND, depending upon the ceremony, provides parade troops, bands, local transportation, communications, first aid and other resources as required;
- iii. Public Works Canada undertakes site preparation, carpets, crowd barriers, flags and poles, seating and other material items as required.
- iv. RCMP, OPP and Ottawa City Police provide site security and crowd control; and
- v. the Dominion Command Colour Party.

In order to ensure that the National Ceremony is properly coordinated, meetings are held in September prior to the Ceremony with all participants to determine organizational duties, responsibilities, personnel and material requirements.

d. The Legion's Pilgrimage Of Remembrance

Every two years the Legion hosts a Pilgrimage to European battle sites. Ten candidate youth leaders™ as selected by the Provincial Commands are subsidized for the Pilgrimage. In addition, paying participants may apply for the vacant seats. Normally a total of 30 persons (approximate) are escorted through Germany, France, Holland, Belgium and England on a detailed two-week tour of the main WWI and WWII battles sites and cemeteries.

e. **The Poppy Appreciation Award Certificate**

This certificate, as recommended by a local branch and awarded by Dominion Command, is intended to acknowledge the outstanding support of those businesses and facilities which support the Poppy Campaign by allowing the placement of a tray and promoting the campaign.

f. **The Teachers' Guide**

This guide, as produced by Dominion Command, provides a useful instruction for teachers on how to set up a school Remembrance program. It outlines a short history of the Canadian military at war and peace, appropriate Remembrance stories/songs/poems, background on the Legion and the Poppy Campaign, and suggested activities for the students.

Thirty-two thousand copies of the guide are distributed on a recurring basis at a production cost in excess of \$45,000. Dominion Command is currently in negotiation with VAC officials to determine if an enhanced Teacher's Guide could be developed for future use at VAC cost.

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
DOMINION COMMAND
POPPY & REMEMBRANCE SUB COMMITTEE**

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
COMMITTEE					
Per Diem	2,734	925	3,000	3,000	3,000
Miscellaneous	114	1,096	1,000	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	<u>2,848</u>	<u>2,021</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>4,000</u>
<u>Germany Zone</u>					
N.W. Europe Activities	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
TOTAL	<u>6,848</u>	<u>6,021</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>
NATIONAL CEREMONIES					
Travel	639	485	3,000	3,000	3,000
Per Diem	2,510	7,025	3,000	3,000	3,000
Printing, Stationery	120	1,391	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone, Postage	20	59	500	500	500
Colour Party Activities - Summer & Fall	162	77	1,000	1,000	1,000
Meeting, Planning	201	238	500	500	500
Remembrance Reception	1,695	1,824	2,000	2,000	2,000
St. John's Ambulance	300	300	300	300	300
Silver Cross Mother	3,229	2,243	3,000	3,000	3,000
Outstanding Cadet	2,046	500	-	-	-
Cadet of the Year	-	-	9,000	9,000	9,000
Colour Party - Wreaths	1,180	1,250	1,000	1,000	1,000
Miscellaneous	955	314	800	800	800
TOTAL	<u>13,057</u>	<u>15,706</u>	<u>25,600</u>	<u>25,600</u>	<u>25,600</u>
PILGRIMAGE	<u>40,000</u>	<u>41,279</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>59,905</u>	<u>63,006</u>	<u>79,600</u>	<u>74,600</u>	<u>74,600</u>
<u>ASSOCIATED EXPENSES</u>					
National Literary/Poppy Contest					
Travel	2,716	4,679	6,000	6,000	6,000
Per Diem	1,300	3,119	3,200	3,200	3,200
Bursaries/gifts	6,706	6,488	7,800	8,000	8,000
	<u>10,722</u>	<u>14,286</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,200</u>	<u>17,200</u>
Teachers Guide	44,000	-	-	-	-

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

<p>W. Edmond - Chairman A. Phillips - Vice-Chairman G. Moore - Standing Committee Member G. Warford - Standing Committee Member</p>	<p>M. Tremblay - BC/Yukon R. Charlet - Alberta/NWT F. Simpson - Saskatchewan H. Bray - Manitoba/NWO M. Atkinson - Ontario K. Mackarous - Secretary</p>	<p>T. Irvine - Quebec J. Clayton - New Brunswick C. Dawe - Nova Scotia/Nunavut A. Curtis - P.E.I. C. Crane - Newfoundland/Labrador M. Thompson - Assistant Secretary</p>	
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Introduction

Over the last two years the Membership Committee has worked hard to try to influence a change in our membership position. Declining membership continues to be the *big* battle for the Membership Committee and indeed the organization as a whole. Our membership continues to flounder, regardless of our efforts to stabilize our losses. The programs and tools provided by Dominion and Provincial Commands will only be of benefit if branches utilize them to their fullest extent, and if branches have needs and concerns that are not currently being met, they must make their concerns known to their Zones, Districts and Commands.

As we have said before, membership starts at the branch level. Let's make sure it doesn't stop there. If we all work together for the good of this great Canadian organization, I know we can win this battle. What are you willing to do to help turn the tide? Remember, bringing in one new member for every member lost will go a long way toward maintaining our membership numbers and curbing our losses.

Membership Statistics

The final figures for 2003 show a total membership of 429,156, which represents 96.78% of last year's membership. The 3.22 % loss represents 14,298 members; this may not seem much to some, however, when we consider our loss of 11,821 in 2002, 11,000 in 2001 and 15,600 in 2000, it is evident as to why our overall membership numbers are dropping dramatically from year to year.

The final membership figures for 2003 and the various breakdowns are indicated in the graphs and tables attached.

Nationally our renewal goals are being met, but we are failing on the recruiting side of the equation. This year's loss is a direct result of our inability to recruit sufficient new members to make up for our anticipated non-renewals.

Per Capita Tax for New Members

The Membership Committee discussed the possibility of implementing a policy to allow new members who join between September 1st and December 31st of the current year to only pay 1/3 of the full annual per

capita tax. Although there is a half year per capita tax in place, many branch operations slow down over the summer months. When new members wish to join after the summer, they do not want to pay a half year per capita tax for three or four months, thus, they don't join until January of the following year. The Dominion Executive Council approved the implementation of a policy whereby new members joining between September 1st and December 31st of the current year would only pay 1/3 of the full annual per capita tax.

Changes to the General By-Laws

The committee was advised that a question had been raised as to whether a mechanic employed in the OPP, who wore a police uniform and had a badge, would qualify for Ordinary membership under section 205. j. of the General By-Laws.

As the resolution that was passed at Convention states: Whereas "Police Officer"™ means an individual who (1) is appointed under Section 36 as a Police Officer or a Chief of Police, or (2) is a member of the Provincial Police Service, and in order to clarify the intent of the original resolution, the committee agreed that the words "Police Officer"™ should be added to section 205. j. of the General By-Laws. As this is simply a matter of clarification, no further resolution is required to effect this change.

Awards

Three national Membership Awards are presented each year by Dominion Command, to acknowledge best overall achievement, and best performance in the Renewal Campaign and the Early Bird Campaign. The 2002 Membership Achievement Award and the 2002 Renewal Award went to Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command, while the 2003 Early Bird Award went to P.E.I. Command. The 2003 Membership Achievement Award was won again by Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command; the 2003 Renewal Award went to Quebec Command; and the 2004 Early Bird Award was won by Newfoundland/Labrador Command. Congratulations to all the branches in these Commands for their efforts.

Membership Manuals

It has been customary to supply branches and Commands with free copies of the Membership Processing Guide, Chairman's Guide and Eligibility Guide, every year. This amounts to more than 2,000 copies of each of the three manuals each year to branches (French branches get English and French copies), and over 600 of each of the three manuals, to the Commands each year. This is more than 7,800 manuals a year, at an average cost of \$1.00 each plus postage which amounts to more than \$10,000 a year. The committee considered this to be an enormous annual cost to Dominion Command.

Branches and Commands receive only one free copy of all other manuals produced by Dominion Command at the time the item is produced or revised and if additional copies are required they may be purchased. However, given the importance of membership to the organization and the change over in Branch Membership Chairmen, it is considered necessary that branches continue to receive these manuals on an annual basis. However, it does not seem practical to provide free copies to the Commands each year for distribution to all Command officers. Therefore, it was agreed that Commands receive one copy of each manual annually. If Commands require additional copies, these may be purchased as are other committee manuals.

Pre-paid New and Reinstated Members

Many branches submit pre-payments for the following year for new and reinstating members instead of paying the half year membership rate for the current year. As indicated in the General By-Laws, new members joining between July and December may pay half the normal per capita tax. This is intended as

an incentive to recruit new members for the current year during this time period. Instead, many branches are accepting new members during these months without payment for the current year, and submitting them to Dominion Command for registration as new members. This creates a number of problems.

It appears that once a branch has submitted per capita tax to Dominion Command they consider the member to be in good standing regardless of the year paid. The member also believes he or she is a member in good standing once their application has been approved, they have paid their dues and they have been initiated. Branches treat these pre-paid members as active members allowing them to participate in all branch activities, whereas they do not become members in good standing until 1 January of the year paid. Allowing these members to attend meetings and vote on motions and in elections has caused problems in the past and some elections have had to be nullified. Participation in sports events is also an issue when it is realized that the member cannot participate. There is also an impact on Legion Magazine, as these members begin receiving the magazine as soon as they are entered into the system even though no payment has been received for the current year—s issues; thisould have implications on Canvet Publications if they are audited.

In order to minimize this problem the committee agreed that any new membership submitted for processing prior to November should be for the current year. This will emphasize the importance of getting members active once an application is approved and the applicant is initiated. It was considered that those applying in the last couple of months of the year, may pre-pay for the coming year as it would most likely take some weeks to get the application approved and the member initiated.

Branches have been advised that pre-paid new and reinstating memberships, for the following year, are not to be submitted to Dominion Command prior to November 1st.

Branch Invoice

In the near future, the Legion-s-website will include an electronic invoice type dues notice for branch use. Branches will be able to merge the dues notice with their membership file and together with information from the branch on their specific dues owing, they could produce a personalized dues notice. Members seem to respond more quickly to an invoice type dues notice that carries their name, versus receiving a reminder notice or telephone call. Branches should hopefully see a quicker reaction from members in paying their dues.

Standing Committee Meetings

The Membership Standing Committee normally meets once in the Fall and again on the day prior to a Committee of the Whole meeting. The Sub-Executive Committee recently requested that Standing Committees evaluate whether or not they could eliminate one of their two Standing Committee Meetings without negatively affecting the committee operations. The Membership Standing Committee has agreed to eliminate the January Standing Committee meeting, effective 2004 and DEC approved this change.

Membership Promotional and Processing Material

A number of membership promotional/processing materials and publications which have been produced to assist in the management of various membership programs require revisions or redesigning. The following promotional material and publications will be updated and reprinted as soon as possible following Convention:

- * Membership Eligibility Guide
- * Renewal Posters
- * The Royal Canadian Legion & You Brochure
- * Membership Chairman-s-Guide
- * Membership Processing Guide

Dominion Command will no longer be bringing the *Declaration of Legion Service Form™* to Convention and the use of this form is being discouraged.

Budget

A copy of the Membership Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget will be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

Dorothy Bell, the former Director of Membership retired at the end of September 2003. The current incumbent, Karen Mackarous who was promoted to the Director of Membership from her former position of Administrative Officer, has been employed with Dominion Command since 1988.

This Convention completes my two-year term as Chairman of the Dominion Command Membership Committee and it has been quite a challenge. Membership is not an easy job at any level of our organization, but it is one of the most important. Without members we are nothing, and without members, the executives at all levels of our organization have no one to serve. Without members, we have no one to serve the communities we support.

We have realized one thing over the past two years, and that is, that everyone at all levels of the Legion, regardless of their position held from branch level to Dominion Command, must do everything possible to promote our organization and to entice new members to join. Membership is dependent on our leadership, our programs and the image we present to the public, therefore the challenges of membership must be faced by us all. The success of the Membership Committee depends not only on the efforts of the committee members, but on all committees and the programs that they manage, and all branches and their members. Help us beat the challenge, make sure you bring in at least one new member for each one you lose. Make your membership count.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DOMINION COMMAND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE					
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	10,922	11,214	15,000	15,000	15,000
Per Diem	10,234	9,885	13,000	13,000	13,000
	21,156	21,099	28,000	28,000	28,000
<u>PRINTING & STATIONERY</u>					
Chairman's Guide	-	-	2,000	2,000	2,000
Membership Forms	5,103	5,874	7,500	8,000	8,000
Early Bird Certificate	-	-	100	100	100
Eligibility Guide	3,899	(92)	2,000	2,000	2,000
Sluggish Dues Notice	-	5,149	-	-	-
Renewal Notices	-	-	-	-	-
News Letter	1,005	367	500	500	500
RCL Welcomes You (booklet)	-	10,888	11,000	11,000	11,000
Bookmarks	7,544	2,794	8,000	8,000	8,000
<u>POSTERS</u>					
Renewal x 2	-	1,413	2,000	2,000	2,000
Early Bird/Snow Bird	-	811	2,000	2,000	2,000
<u>BROCHURES</u>					
The RCL & C.F.	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
The RCL & You	5,731	428	6,500	7,000	7,000
<u>NATIONAL ADVERTISING</u>					
Carvet Ads	20,175	22,050	23,000	23,000	23,000
Esprit de Corps	5,247	5,372	5,500	6,000	6,000
Airforce Magazine	6,848	7,062	7,300	7,300	7,300
Base Newspapers	14,272	12,352	16,000	16,000	16,000
Pension Cheque Insert	8,331	-	-	-	-
Misc Advertising	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
<u>OTHER</u>					
Postage	17	848	500	500	500
Telephone & Fax	44	77	500	500	500
Miscellaneous	98	91	300	300	300
TOTAL	99,470	96,583	130,700	132,200	132,200

LEGION MEMBERSHIP PROFILE 1993-2003

Year	Life	Ordinary	Associate		Merit		Fratern. Affiliate	Grand Total
			Voting	Non	Life	Hon		
1993	14,445	239,523	211,536	960	254	6,390	99,173	572,281
1994	14,818	229,813	214,453	994	286	6,040	92,787	559,191
1995	15,227	220,289	217,722	999	301	5,468	85,513	545,519
1996	15,587	211,199	220,494	940	295	5,006	79,705	533,226
1997	15,589	201,056	219,611	857	290	4,599	71,996	513,998

Year	Life	Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate Voting	Merit		Affiliate Non-Vtg	Grand Total
					Life	Hon		
1998	15,547	189,653	217,527	23	294	4,235	67,963	495,242
1999	15,576	178,527	216,239	12,283	199	2,537	54,199	479,560
2000	15,501	169,147	212,977	11,336	176		59,208	468,345
2001	15,317	160,778	209,991	14,419	162		55,857	456,524
2002	14,975	151,959	206,094	16,648	147		53,631	443,454
2003	14,633	143,265	201,277	18,541	133		51,307	429,156

**2003 PAID MEMBERSHIP GAINS AND LOSSES
All Categories**

COMMAND	2003 Total	2002 Total	Gain/(Loss)	Gain/(Loss)
BC/YUKON	77,782	81,452	(3,670)	(4.51)
ALBERTA/NWT	59,331	61,323	(1,992)	(3.25)
SASKATCHEWAN	16,808	17,684	(876)	(4.95)
MANITOBA/NWO	35,682	37,054	(1,372)	(3.70)
ONTARIO	164,195	168,352	(4,157)	(2.47)
QUEBEC	18,611	19,048	(437)	(2.29)
NEW BRUNSWICK	16,127	16,913	(786)	(4.65)
NS/NUNAVUT	30,644	31,224	(580)	(1.86)
PEI	3,184	3,344	(160)	(4.78)
NEWFOUNDLAND/LAB	5,340	5,529	(189)	(3.42)
DOM. COM. BRANCHES	282	259	23	8.88
US BRANCHES	818	885	(67)	(7.57)
EUROPE ZONE	352	387	(35)	(9.04)
TOTAL	429,156	443,454	(14,298)	(3.22)

2003 RENEWALS GAINS AND LOSSES All Categories				
COMMAND	2003	2002	Gain/(Loss)	% Gain/(Loss)
BC/YUKON	71,210	74,670	(3,460)	(4.63)
ALBERTA/NWT	54,940	56,911	(1,971)	(3.46)
SASKATCHEWAN	15,906	16,696	(790)	(4.73)
MANITOBA/NWO	33,710	34,794	(1,084)	(3.12)
ONTARIO	152,947	157,180	(4,233)	(2.69)
QUEBEC	16,837	17,084	(247)	(1.45)
NEW BRUNSWICK	15,254	15,820	(566)	(3.58)
NS/NUNAVUT	28,024	28,579	(555)	(1.94)
P.E.I.	2,990	3,088	(98)	(3.17)
NFLD/LABRADOR	4,861	5,007	(146)	(2.92)
CDN. IND. BRANCHES	225	212	13	6.13
US BRANCHES	746	818	(72)	(8.80)
EUROPE ZONE	295	310	(15)	(4.84)
TOTAL	397,945	411,169	(13,224)	(3.22)

2003 NEW MEMBERS GAINS AND LOSSES All Categories				
COMMAND	2003	2002	Gain/(Loss)	% Gain/(Loss)
BC/YUKON	6,572	6,778	(206)	(3.04)
ALBERTA/NWT	4,391	4,412	(21)	(0.48)
SASKATCHEWAN	902	988	(86)	(8.70)
MANITOBA/NWO	1,972	2,260	(288)	(12.74)
ONTARIO	11,248	11,171	77	0.69
QUEBEC	1,774	1,964	(190)	(9.67)
NEW BRUNSWICK	873	1,093	(220)	(20.13)
NS/NUNAVUT	2,620	2,644	(24)	(0.91)
P.E.I.	194	256	(62)	(24.22)
NFLD/LABRADOR	479	522	(43)	(8.24)
CDN. IND. BRANCHES	57	47	10	21.28
US BRANCHES	72	67	5	7.46
EUROPE ZONE	57	77	(20)	(25.97)
TOTAL	31,211	32,279	(1,068)	(3.31)

2003 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL STATISTICS Goal 90%+ All Categories				
COMMAND	2003	%	2002	%
BC/YUKON	71,210	87.43	74,670	87.92
ALBERTA/NWT	54,940	89.59	56,911	90.22
SASKATCHEWAN	15,906	89.95	16,696	91.46
MANITOBA/NWO	33,710	90.98	34,794	91.32
ONTARIO	152,947	90.85	157,180	90.96
QUEBEC	16,837	88.39	17,084	87.68
NEW BRUNSWICK	15,254	90.19	15,820	89.47
NS/NUNAVUT	28,024	89.75	28,579	90.47
P.E.I.	2,990	89.41	3,088	89.53
NFLD/LABRADOR	4,861	87.92	5,007	88.62
CDN. IND. BRANCHES	225	86.65	212	92.17
US BRANCHES	746	84.29	818	88.43
EUROPE ZONE	295	76.23	310	89.34
TOTAL	397,945	89.74	411,169	90.07

2003 NEW MEMBER STATISTICS Goal 10%+ All Categories				
COMMAND	2003	%	2002	%
BC/YUKON	6,572	8.07	6,778	7.98
ALBERTA/NWT	4,391	7.16	4,412	6.99
SASKATCHEWAN	902	5.10	988	5.41
MANITOBA/NWO	1,972	5.32	2,260	5.93
ONTARIO	11,248	6.68	11,171	6.46
QUEBEC	1,774	9.31	1,964	10.08
NEW BRUNSWICK	873	5.16	1,093	6.18
NS/NUNAVUT	2,620	8.39	2,644	8.37
P.E.I.	194	5.80	256	7.42
NFLD/LABRADOR	479	8.66	522	9.24
CDN. IND. BRANCHES	57	22.01	47	20.43
US BRANCHES	72	8.14	67	7.24
EUROPE ZONE	57	14.73	77	22.19
TOTAL	31,211	7.04	32,279	7.07

MEMBERSHIP BY AGE AND GENDER - 2003

Total Membership for 2003 = 429,156

Male	325,752	= 75.9%		65 and over	= 196,489	- 45.78%
Female	103,404	= 24.1%		55 to 64	= 92,943	- 21.66%
				Under 55	= 139,724	- 32.56%

	75 & Over	70-74	65-69	60-64	55-59	50-54	40-49	30-39	18-29	TOTAL
Male	94,060	31,575	31,629	32,893	36,736	31,672	43,018	17,066	7,103	325,752
%	21.92%	7.36%	7.37%	7.66%	8.56%	7.38%	10.02%	3.98%	1.65%	75.90%
Female	20,902	8,797	9,526	10,364	12,950	12,234	18,419	7,081	3,131	103,404
%	4.87%	2.05%	2.22%	2.42%	3.02%	2.85%	4.29%	1.65%	0.73%	24.10%
TOTAL	114,962	40,372	41,155	43,257	49,686	43,906	61,437	24,147	10,234	429,156
%	26.79%	9.41%	9.59%	10.08%	11.58%	10.23%	14.31%	5.63%	2.38%	100%

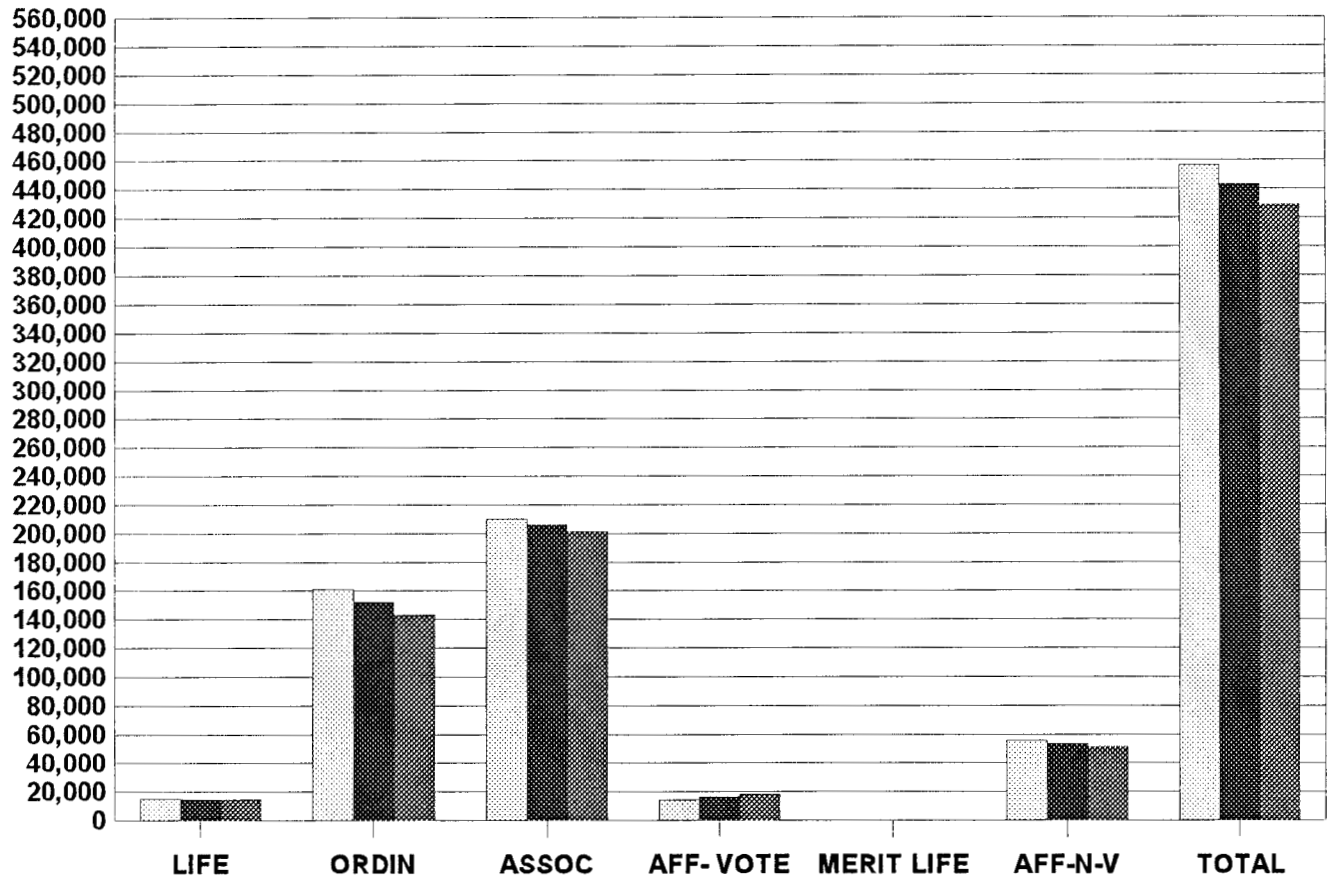
EARLY BIRD AWARD - 2004 All Categories

COMMAND	2,004	2,003	Gain/(Loss)	%
BC/YUKON	34,003	38,950	(4,947)	(12.70)
ALBERTA/NWT	30,076	31,235	(1,159)	(3.71)
SASKATCHEWAN	7,443	7,871	(428)	(5.44)
MANITOBA/NWO	16,488	18,430	(1,942)	(10.54)
ONTARIO	87,846	93,756	(5,910)	(6.30)
QUEBEC	8,838	9,176	(338)	(3.68)
NEW BRUNSWICK	8,019	8,534	(515)	(6.03)
NOVA SCOTIA/NUNAVUT	11,198	11,987	(789)	(6.58)
PEI	1,377	1,731	(354)	(20.45)
NEWFOUNDLAND/LABRADOR	2,537	2,621	(84)	(3.20)
DOMINION COMMAND BRS	187	172	15	8.72
US BRANCHES/POSTS	361	366	(5)	(1.37)
EUROPE BRANCHES	15	76	(61)	(80.26)
TOTAL	32,532	34,663	(2,131)	(6.15)

PAID MEMBERSHIP

2001 - 2003

2001
 2002
 2003

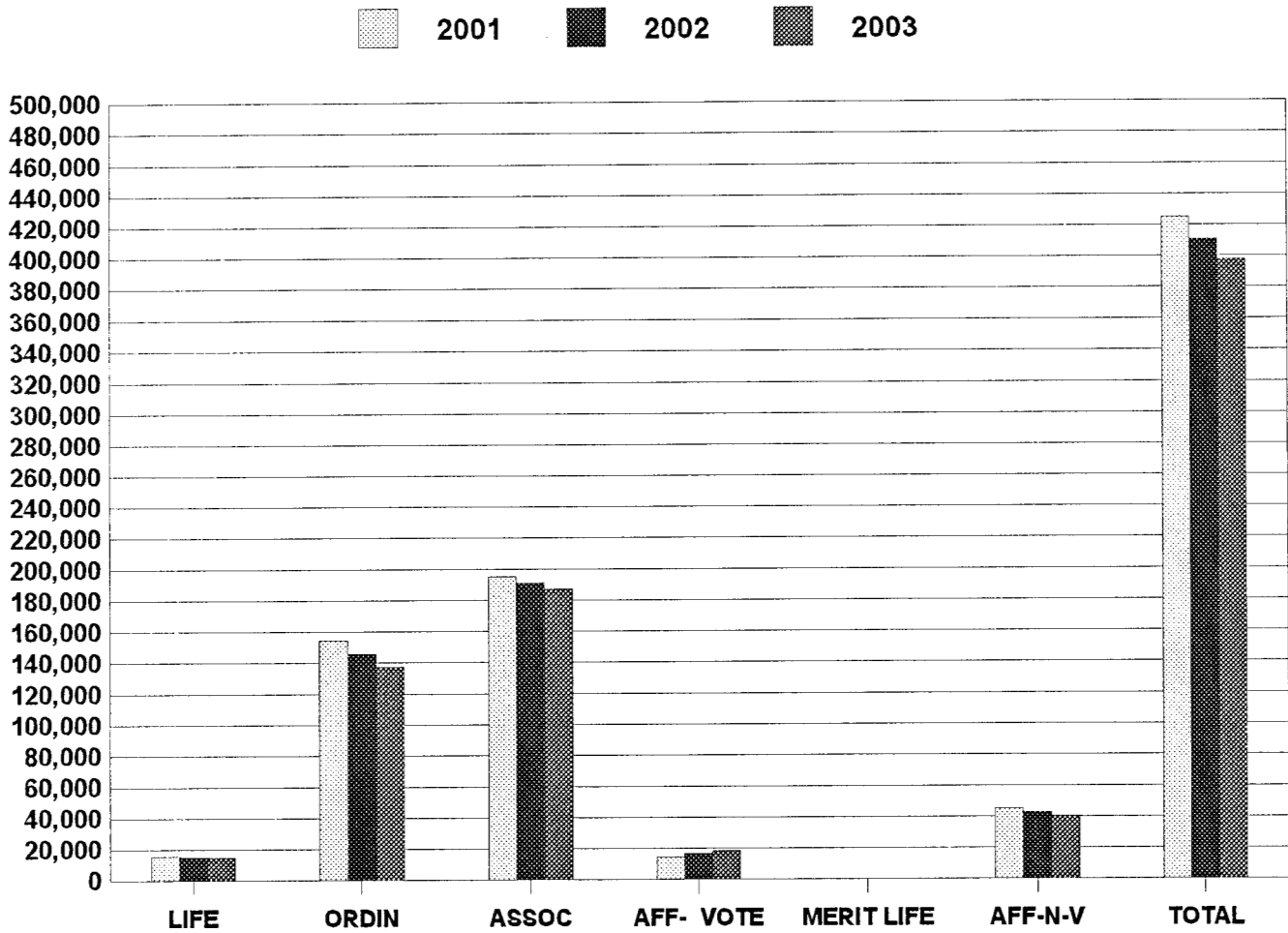


PAID MEMBERSHIP 2001 - 2003										
DATE	PREV YEAR	LIFE	ORDIN	ASSOC	AFFIL-VOTE	MERIT LIFE	AFFIL N-V	TOTAL	%	Gains/ (Loss)
2001	468,345	15,317	160,778	209,991	14,419	162	55,857	456,524	97.48	(11,821)
2002	456,524	14,975	151,959	206,094	16,648	147	53,631	443,454	97.14	(13,070)
2003	443,454	14,633	143,265	201,277	18,541	133	51,307	429,156	96.78	(14,278)

MEMBERSHIP TARGET = 500,000+

RENEWALS

2001- 2003

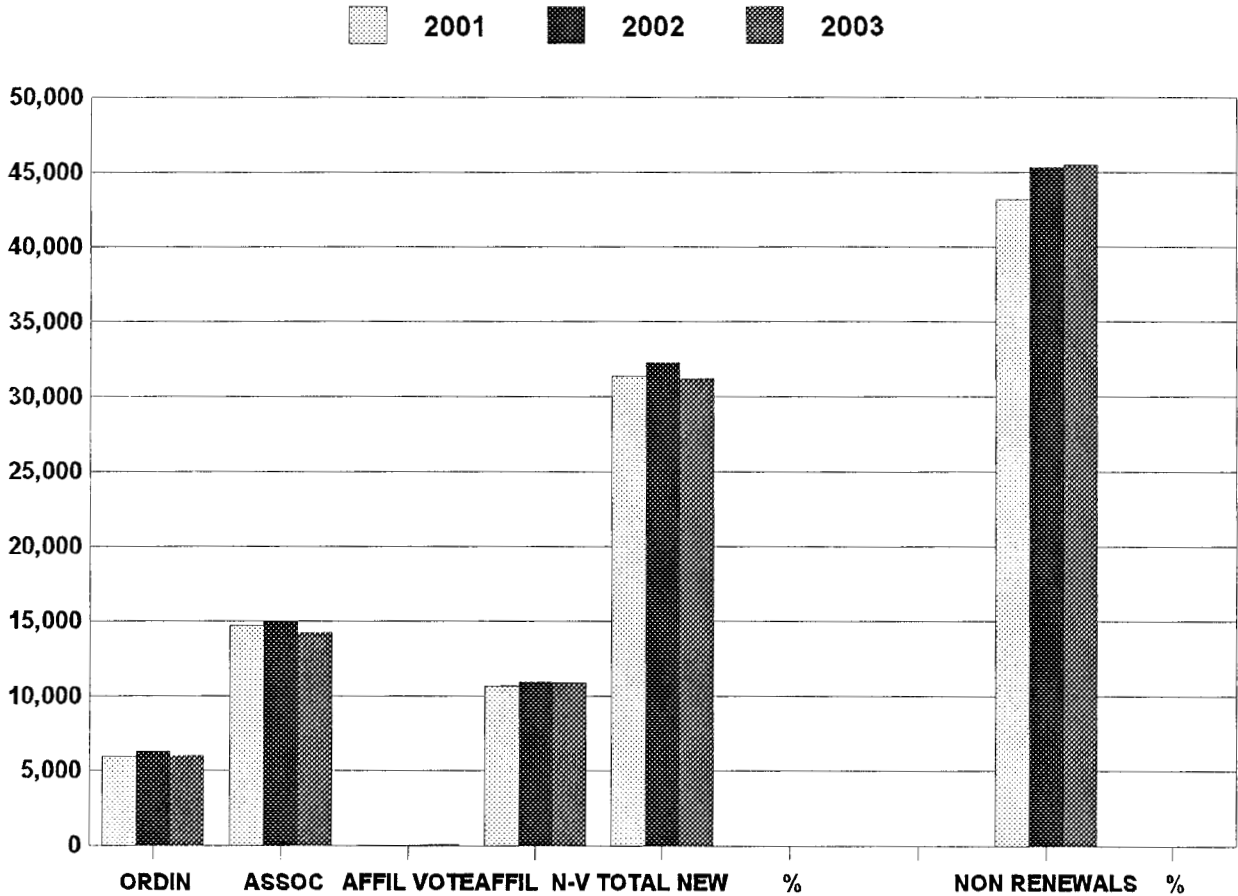


RENEWALS 2001 - 2003										
DATE	PREV YEAR	LIFE	ORDIN	ASSOC	AFFIL VOTE	MERIT LIFE	AFFIL N-V	TOTAL	%	NON RE-NEWALS
2001	468,345	15,317	154,526	195,276	14,406	162	45,137	425,117	90.77	43,228
2002	456,524	14,975	145,661	191,118	16,601	147	42,667	411,169	90.07	45,355
2003	443,454	14,633	137,250	187,052	18,462	133	40,415	397,945	89.74	45,509

RENEWAL TARGET = 90%+

NEW MEMBERS VERSUS NON-RENEWALS

2001 - 2003



NEW MEMBERS 2001 - 2003									
DATE	ORDIN	ASSOC	AFFIL VOTE	AFFIL N-V	TOTAL NEW	%	NON RENEWALS		%
2001	5,958	14,716	13	10,720	31,407	6.71	43,228	90.77	
2002	6,297	14,972	47	10,963	32,279	7.07	45,355	90.07	
2003	6,015	14,225	79	10,892	31,211	7.04	45,509	89.74	

RECRUITMENT TARGET = 10%+

while conforming to our objectives and aims. No program will be brought forward without a funding formula or the consent of Convention.

The 2003 Youth Leaders' Pilgrimage of Remembrance

The 2003 Pilgrimage of Remembrance was held during the period 3 - 17 July 2003. All provincial commands were represented. In total there were 25 pilgrims including eight paying pilgrims who made the voyage. The 2003 pilgrimage was slightly smaller than the historical norm and the SARS scare along with the Iraq conflict could possibly account for some of this as two paying pilgrims cancelled out.

The schedule for the pilgrimage was similar to that of the 2001 pilgrimage. Overwhelmingly pilgrims indicated that the visits to Vimy Ridge, Beaumont Hamel, Menin Gate, Dieppe and the Normandy beaches were the highlights of the tour.

In reviewing the pilgrimage the Committee reaffirmed its support for the pilgrimage and its desire to continue the trips every second year. The pilgrimage is a valuable educational tool for our youth leaders and provides them with first hand knowledge to educate youth groups and their communities in Canada. In reaffirming their support of the pilgrimages, the Committee also agreed that the main focus for the pilgrimages should remain on the youth leaders. These youth leaders are picking up the Torch and perpetuating Remembrance within their communities and it is important they understand the sacrifices that were made for them. It is an emotional experience for many of them and one that they will not soon forget.

A matter which the Committee addressed was the involvement of paying participants in the pilgrimage. The experiences and knowledge that veterans pass on to the pilgrims is invaluable. However, the number of veterans on the pilgrimage has declined in recent years. For health reasons, paying participants on future pilgrimages will be encouraged to have an attendant with them in the event that they become sick and require medical attention. They will also be informed that the program will continue even while they are being provided with medical care for their condition. It will then become a personal responsibility to either rejoin the pilgrimage or return to Canada. While it is hoped that this will not dissuade veterans or other paying participants from participating in the pilgrimage, the Legion cannot provide medical care personnel on the pilgrimage. This same policy will be in effect for all pilgrims on the trip.

The Cadet Medal of Excellence

The Cadet Medal of Excellence program continued to function well. Recent statistics show that more than 600 medals are awarded annually through Provincial Commands.

The Royal Canadian Legion Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award

This year a proposal to create - *The Royal Canadian Legion (Navy, Army, Air Force) Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award* has been accepted by all three Cadet Leagues and the awards will be granted in time for the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in 2004 where the cadets will act as Wreath Bearers for the Vice Regal Party. This will bring the three most outstanding Cadets to Ottawa to participate in this high profile event and will do much to promote the Legion—s *pride* nationally as well.

Bursaries and Scholarships

In both 2003 and 2004, Dominion Command provided \$16,000 in bursary and scholarship funds to seven Provincial Commands which needed assistance in this area. British Columbia/Yukon, Alberta/Northwest Territories and Ontario Commands fund a bursary program from within their own resources.

Poster and Literary Contests

The Poster and Literary Contests continued to be well received with the youth of Canada. Annually the winners at the Senior level represented the Youth of Canada at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa. Statistics now indicate that more than 65,000 students participate annually in these contests.

2004 Convention Resolutions

The Committee reviewed a total of six resolutions in preparation for Convention. The consideration of these resolutions will be dealt with later on in the convention business program.

Budget

For your information, a copy of the Leadership Development and Youth Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

Your Leadership Development and Youth Committee has had a busy two years.

The Committee continues to administer and monitor the various programs under its mandate. These programs are running well and have received wide acceptance across Canada. Legion branches are to be commended for their efforts in supporting Cadets and youth programs in their communities as this is where these programs make a difference and gain recognition for the Legion. The Committee looks forward to continuing the successes of the past two years, to expanding our existing programs through increased participation and to the serving all of you in the future.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION					
DOMINION COMMAND					
LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH COMMITTEE					
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>	
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
<u>COMMITTEE</u>					
Travel	13,410	9,637	21,000	21,000	22,000
Per Diem	10,177	8,673	10,000	10,000	10,000
Telephone & Fax	140	219	300	300	300
Postage, Printing, Stationery	158	508	400	400	400
Web Site	-	-	-	-	-
Translation	105	-	-	-	-
Protocol Manual	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Brochure	3,602	-	-	-	-
SUB - TOTAL	27,592	19,037	31,700	31,700	32,700
<u>PROGRAMS</u>					
Cadet Marksmanship Award	-	171	-	-	-
Comradeship Awards	2,854	4,022	3,000	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	30,446	23,230	34,700	34,700	35,700

resources to achieve this which puts the Legion at the top levels of cost efficiency for the provision of this type of service.

- b. **Branch Survey** - In 2003 we conducted the bi-annual branch survey to update the information we provide to the public. Almost 400 of the Legion's branches contacted responded which gave us enough data to produce reliable statistics from which we could produce new material for public and internal consumption including speaking materials, backgrounders, posters, brochures, media releases and our public service announcements.
- c. **New Poster** - A new general poster large enough to be used in booths and at displays was identified as a requirement in 2003. A design was approved and the printing completed. Five copies of this poster were sent to each branch and Provincial Command in December 2003 free of charge with a notice indicating that copies were available through the resale system.
- d. **Training** - PR and media awareness training sessions were conducted as requested. One session was conducted for the Presidents of Provincial Commands as well. As approved at the 2002 Dominion Convention these training sessions are available on request to Dominion Command but part of the cost is to be borne by the requesting agency.
- e. **Canadian Forces Sponsorship** - During the past two years we have been able to show our deployed members of the Canadian Forces, and those serving at home that we care about them and their service. We have helped sponsor the show tours that entertain them while they are away. I can tell you from personal experience that the effort is appreciated and that we receive value for our dollars. We have continued to be a sponsor for the military—national sport championships and our Dominion President is an annual presenter at the national awards ceremony held in Ottawa. More than 2,000 military members get to see that we are involved at the championships. Funding to support the Nijmegen March Teams visit Vimy Ridge while in Holland not only let the members know that we are involved but helped to perpetuate Remembrance as well. In 2002 and 2003 we also made sure each deployed member of the military received a Christmas present of a pocket day timer as part of Operation Santa Claus. These have been extremely popular and well appreciated.
- f. **Corporate Identity** - The graphics required to adopt the Legion "look"™ were sent to all branches and Provincial Commands on compact disk for their use as needed. I am pleased to say that this look is being adopted and used and the graphics are providing the quality product needed for reproduction of the Legion member's badge and the logo. It has drawn favourable comments from all quarters and is showing the Legion to be adaptable and progressive in presenting itself to the public. It is interesting to note that Field Marshal Viscount Alexander of Tunis, when he was Governor General and Grand Patron of the Legion from 1946 to 1952, wore a poppy over a maple leaf on his Legion uniform much the same as it is featured in our logo.
- g. **Support to Other Committees and Programs** - The following major support functions were completed during the reporting period;
 - i. **Legion Dominion Command National Track and Field Championships** - Increased support to this event included the presence of two Dominion Command PR staff members on site at the games. This has not only heightened public awareness and prompted more media coverage than ever before, but we have been able to post results and photo images to media and the internet faster than ever before. Improvements to how we promote this event continue to be made and will pay off as we progress.

- ii. **The 2 Minute Wave of Silence** - Updated materials required for branches and Provincial Commands to conduct campaigns in their areas were provided and some were posted to the Internet for downloading. In many cases materials were supplied to civilian agencies to help them conduct ceremonies and events in support of this initiative.
- iii. **Surveys** - During the two-year period past the PR Committee has managed to provide support to the Membership Committee by conducting two surveys on membership issues. The first provided information on the demographics of those members who did not renew memberships and the second provided information provided by a sampling of them as to why they did not renew. The information was provided as obtained for Membership Committee use.
- iv. **Radio and Television Public Service Announcements** - In both 2002 and 2003 the PR Committee produced and circulated public service announcements for radio and television use in support of the "Two Minute Wave of Silence", the Poppy and Remembrance Campaign and Membership. Estimates indicate that the time donated by broadcasters to air these announcements was worth more than four million dollars over the two years.

The Plan - 2004 to 2006

As I mentioned earlier, the Committee intends to carry on with what has been successful for the Legion. Thus the basis of our plan for the next two years mirrors the past and includes the following current and new projects:

- a. **Committee Support** - The Committee will continue to support the initiatives of the other Dominion Command committees as required. This includes the development of plans and the production of materials such as radio/ television PSAs; print materials for Membership, Remembrance and Poppy, Sports and Veterans Services; Internet design and placement assistance; and advertising and audio visual design assistance.
- b. **Provincial Command and Branch Support** - The Committee will continue to review and update its current products to ensure effectiveness. The provision of speech material for special events will continue as will the provision of speaking notes. Where possible they and other materials will be delivered electronically or by compact disk to avoid printing costs. We will continue to provide training resources, as requested by commands on a cost sharing basis, and we will continue to assist the provincial commands with their Internet and other initiatives as much as possible.
- c. **Research** -To maintain an accurate profile of ourselves to present to the public we will continue with the bi-annual branch surveys and assist the provincial commands in gathering the information when requested. To ensure we know how the public sees us we will continue to run general polls as required and we will continue our media analysis to see what the Canadian public is reading and hearing about us or to identify issues that may require our attention at all levels of the Legion. We will continue to do random polling of Legion members as well to ascertain their opinions on issues and Legion problems. This is a better base base from which to devise plans and tackle issues.
- d. **Internal Communication** - The Committee plans to continually review, update and add to its Internet site on a regular basis and to react to the requests of members, branches, Provincial Commands and the general public, where possible, to make the site more effective and useful. A Legion-wide, Internet-based E-mail system is being developed through electronic linkage of sites while a full Legion-wide system called E-Legion remains under development. Electronic

communications are fast becoming the norm for the transfer of information internally as well as to and from the general public.

- e. **External Communication** - The Committee will continue to take every opportunity possible to educate the general public and targeted audiences on our purposes, objects, programs and projects through speakers–programs, the use of media and the continued provision of timely and accurate information on the Legion. We will continue to monitor the media to identify new issues of interest to us while tracking those with which we are already involved.
- f. **Sponsorship** - The nature of our support to members of the Canadian Forces was reviewed during our planning. In brief we are asking for \$60,000 per year to be the marquee or sole sponsor for one show tour each year. This represents two-thirds of the show production cost. In return we will be given options on which show we will sponsor each year, depending on how many will be mounted and where they are going so as to avoid having the show only go to one area. In this case the show that is sponsored will be known as the Legion show and we will have the option of choosing which one is given that name each year. It will not have any other sponsors. Rulings internal to the Department of National Defence no longer allow us to do what we did in the past which was to have a banner at all of the shows but less exposure to the troops. We are also asking for \$15,000 to continue our sponsorship of the military–national sports championships and the national awards ceremony, \$15,000 to provide a gift to each deployed service person at Christmas through Operation Santa Claus and \$5,000 to assist the military—Nijmegen March teams to participate in Remembrance activities while in Europe. I can assure you that this support is most appreciated and that our troops deployed in isolated regions, on ships and on dangerous overseas missions know that we care about their service through these small gestures.
- g. **Budget** - For your information a copy of the PR Committee budget for the period 2004 to 2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

The Public Relations Committee has continued to strive over the past two years to attain the goals set by Convention. New and quality products have been delivered and the public is learning more about us every year through the efforts at the branch and command levels that we support. We believe that we are earning a great return on our investments and that we can be proud of what we have achieved. Despite inflation we are keeping costs down. But I must reiterate that we cannot afford to lose what has taken almost ten years to establish and that is a better public awareness of who and what we are in Canadian society. We must continue to strive and work to maintain our place in the community and the nation.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank my Committee members for their dedication and commitment to this task. Their achievements speak for themselves but they would be impossible without the work you do in the community. So I thank you as well as we continue to work for Canadians in all walks of life.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION					
DOMINION COMMAND					
PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE					
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Travel	9,792	8,055	18,000	18,000	18,000
Per Diem	14,059	7,001	11,000	11,000	11,000
Printing & Stationery	1,330	1,598	2,000	2,200	2,400
Telephone & Fax	503	547	500	500	500
Postage	8,996	4,175	2,500	2,500	2,500
Translation, Proofreading	5,453	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	1,720	668	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	41,853	22,044	34,000	34,200	34,400
PR SECTION					
Internal					
Legion Wide Internet	39,561	25,635	-	-	-
Backgrounders	3,640	3,165	1,000	1,000	1,000
Speakers	3,624	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Posters/Brochures	7,953	9,609	10,000	10,000	10,000
Research	327	11,126	5,000	5,000	5,000
Manuals	-	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	55,105	49,535	20,000	20,000	20,000
External					
Media Monitoring	8,590	9,610	10,000	10,000	10,000
Media Distribution	5,371	3,503	6,000	6,000	6,000
Training/Liaison -Per Diem	793	225	4,000	4,000	4,000
-Travel	1,842	675	6,000	6,000	6,000
PSA's	10,583	13,594	10,000	10,000	10,000
Advertising	14,014	9,632	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sponsorship					
-CF Show Tour & Sports Championship	65,000	65,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
-Op Santa Claus	9,597	14,747	15,000	15,000	15,000
-Nijmegen	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Identity	11,098	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Research	13,308	-	12,000	12,000	12,000
SUB-TOTAL	145,196	121,986	154,000	154,000	154,000
GRAND TOTAL	242,154	193,565	208,000	208,200	208,400

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND SPORTS COMMITTEE

	J. Frost	-	Chairman	
	F. Beirsto	-	Vice-Chairman	
	E. Kish	-	Member	
	L. Washburn	-	Member	
B. Brady	-	BC/Yukon	W. Allan	-
D. Orr	-	Alberta/NWT	L. Johnson	-
R. Warriner	-	Saskatchewan	F. Mombourquette	-
G. Walker	-	Manitoba/NWO	J. MacEachern	-
D. Paterson	-	Ontario	J. Kennedy	-
				-
S. Ogilvie	-	Secretary	B. Aguinaga	-
			Assistant Secretary	

Introduction

The Dominion Command Sports Committee of the Whole (COW) has met twice since the 2002 Dominion Convention. This report summarizes the Committee's activities over that period and contains the budgets for 2004 - 2006. The past two years have been ones of considerable activity in support of Member Sports and the Legion National Track and Field Program.

2003 Dominion Member Sport Championships

Regular Curling Host: Branch 154, Ogden, Alberta-NWT Command

First Place

Branch No. 271, St. Albert
Alberta-NWT Command

Second Place

Branch No. 362, Nutana
Saskatchewan Command

Senior Curling Host: Branch 154, Ogden, Alberta-NWT Command

First Place

Branch 005, George R. Pearkes VC
PEI Command

Second Place

Branch 100, Charleswood
Manitoba/NWO Command

Cribbage Host: Branch 088, Maple Ridge, BC/Yukon Command

First Place

Team: Branch 208, Ste-Thérèse
Quebec Command

Second Place

Branch 226, Red Rock
Manitoba/NWO Command

Doubles: Branch 208, Ste-Thérèse
Quebec Command

Branch 150, Strathcona
Alberta-NWT Command

Singles:	Branch 150, Strathcona Alberta-NWT Command Clifford Power	Branch 004, St. James Manitoba/NWO Command Sam Faraci
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Darts Host: Branch 362, Nutana, Saskatchewan Command

<u>First Place</u>	<u>Second Place</u>
Team: Branch 011, Channel Newfoundland/Labrador Command	Branch 154, Ogden Alberta-NWT Command
Doubles: Branch 011, Channel Newfoundland/Labrador Command	Branch 445, Callendar Ontario Command
Singles: Branch 154, Ogden Alberta-NWT Command Howard Brazil	Branch 212, LaSalle Quebec Command Michael Gauthier

2004 Dominion Member Sport Championships

The dates and locations for each of the 2004 Dominion Championships were as follows.

Regular Curling:	20 - 27 March, Lancaster #069, Saint John, NB
Senior Curling:	20 - 27 March, Lancaster #069, Saint John, NB
Cribbage:	23 - 26 April, Ortona-Berwick #069, Berwick, NS
Darts:	21 - 24 May, Chester #044, Chester, NS

Provided below are the results for the first and second place finishers in the 2004 Dominion Member Sports Championships.

Regular Curling Championships

<u>First Place</u> Br. 20, Dauphin Manitoba/NWO Command	<u>Second Place</u> Br. 176, Forest Ontario Command
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Senior Curling Championships

<u>First Place</u> Br. 228, Hope BC/Yukon Command	<u>Second Place</u> Br. 120, Nipawin Saskatchewan Command
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Cribbage Championships

<u>First Place</u> Br. 60, Souris Manitoba/NWO Command	<u>Second Place</u> Br. 26, Morrell Prince Edward Island Command
--	--

Doubles

Br. 9, Spaniards Bay Newfoundland/Labrador Command	Br. 48, Elmsdale Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
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Singles

Br. 9, Spaniards Bay Newfoundland/Labrador Command Ernest Abbott	Br. 17, Robertson Memorial Alberta-NWT Command Wally Garrioch
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Darts Championships

First Place

Br. 11, Channel
Newfoundland/Labrador Command

Second Place

Br. 212, Lasalle
Quebec Command

Doubles

Br. 2, Saint John
New Brunswick Command

Br. 1, Regina
Saskatchewan Command

Singles

Br. 445, Callander
Ontario Command
Norm Stewart

Br. 2, Saint John
New Brunswick Command
Fred MacKinnon

2005 Dominion Member Sport Championships

The hosting locations for the 2005 Dominion Member Sport Championships were selected from the Central Region (Manitoba/NWO, Ontario and Quebec). Ontario Command was the only Command from the Central Region to submit host applications. The 2005 host locations and dates are as follows:

Regular Curling: 12-19 March, Branch #062, Sarnia, ON
Senior Curling: 19-26 March, Branch #025, Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Cribbage: 22-25 April, Dr. Fred A. Starr, Branch #076, Sudbury, ON
Darts: 20-23 May, Branch #0445, Callander, ON

2006 Dominion Member Sport Championships

The 2006 championships will be held in the Western Region (BC/Yukon, Alberta-NWT, Saskatchewan Commands) on the following dates:

Regular Curling: 18-25 March, 2006
Senior Curling: 25 March-1 April, 2006
Cribbage: 28 April-1 May, 2006
Darts: 19-22 May, 2006

Dominion Command Sports Guide

A number of amendments to the Sports Guide have occurred since the issuing of the 2001 edition. These amendments have been communicated to Provincial Commands immediately following their approval by the Dominion Executive Council. In the event there are resolutions for amendments coming out of the 2004 Dominion Convention, the Chairman has decided that publication of a new Dominion Command Sports Guide will occur following the 2004 Dominion Convention.

2002 National Track and Field Championships

The 2002 Legion National Track and Field Championships took place 15-22 August in Sherbrooke, Quebec. The total attendance was 376 people: 317 athletes, 34 chaperones, 23 coaches representing all 10 commands, plus two Head Chaperones. In addition, there were six observers from Nunavut, including four athletes and two adults.

The Lieutenant Governor of Quebec, The Honourable Lise Thibault was the Guest Speaker at the Opening Ceremony and declared the Championships open. The high profile athlete was Canadian Olympian

Glenroy Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert is a three time Legion athlete, a World Champion and an Olympic Champion winning a Gold medal in the Mens 4x100 metre relay at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Seven new meet records were set with four being set in the track events and three in the field events. Three of the new records shattered longstanding records from 1977, 1982 and 1987.

2003 National Track and Field Championships

The 2003 Legion National Track and Field Championships took place 7-14 August in Kitchener/Waterloo, Ontario. The championships were a resounding success and comments received from participants indicated that this was a superior event. The LAC, under the leadership of Comrades Steve Maguire and Carolyn Duckworth, did an excellent job. The total attendance was 379 people: 320 athletes, 34 chaperones, 23 coaches representing all ten commands, plus the two Dominion Command Head Chaperones. In addition, there were five Provincial Representatives and 17 Athletics Canada personnel. The Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, The Honourable James K. Bartleman was the Official Guest Speaker at the Opening Ceremony and declared the Championships open.

Four new meet records were set; two of these records shattered longstanding records dating back to 1983 and 1985. Also of significant note, is the accomplishment of Quebec Command athlete, Jonathan Charest, who captured an unprecedented 5 gold medals in the Boys 15 & Under sprint and relay events. Legion National regulations permit athletes to only compete in a maximum of three individual and two relay events.

2004 National Track and Field Championships

The 2004 Championships will be held in Sudbury at Laurentian University. Sudbury was host to the 1999 championships. Many of the same volunteers involved in 1999 have returned as members of the 2004 LAC. Consequently, we are confident that the 2004 Championships will be as successful as those in 1999.

Planning and organization for this year's Legion Nationals is well underway. Dominion Command personnel have met with the Local Arrangements Committee and Laurentian University personnel in Sudbury on two occasions and communicate on an ongoing basis. A news conference held on Friday, 16 March 2004 at Laurentian University, proved successful in raising awareness of the upcoming Legion Nationals, amongst Sudbury citizens and corporations and businesses. A follow-up news conference will be held a couple of days prior to the Legion Nationals.

Two new events will be introduced at the 2004 Legion Nationals: i) the Octathlon (100 metres, long jump, shot put, 400 metres, 110 metre hurdles, high jump, javelin and 1000 metres) for boys 17 and under (this replaces the heptathlon); and ii) the 1500 metre steeplechase for girls 17 and under.

The Legion National Track and Field Championships are open to girls and boys in the two age groups of 15 & under and 17 & under. Since Dominion Command recognizes and supports the involvement of both age groups in the Legion Nationals, Commands will be restricted to bringing no more than 25 athletes in any one age category, commencing at the 2004 Legion Nationals.

Beginning in 2004, a police record check will be required upon initial participation of a coach, clinician and chaperone, in the Legion Nationals and no more than every three (3) years thereafter (previously annually).

2005 National Track and Field Championships

Alberta-NWT Command will host the 2005 Championships. Participants will be housed at the University of Alberta residence. Both the competition and clinic sessions will be staged on campus. The event will occur August 4-11, 2005.

2006 & 2007 National Track and Field Championships

British Columbia-Yukon Command will host the 2006 Championships. Participants will be housed at Simon Fraser University residence. Both the competition and clinic sessions will be staged at Simon Fraser University campus. The event will occur August 10 - 17, 2006.

New Brunswick Command will host the 2007 Championships. Participants will be housed at the University of Moncton residence. Much of the competition and clinic sessions will be staged at the University of Moncton campus. The event will occur August 9 - 16, 2007.

Dominion Convention Resolutions

A total of three (3) resolutions were submitted through provincial commands and were considered by the Sports Committee of the Whole. All three were non-concurred. No resolutions were generated by the Committee itself.

Budget

Enclosed with this report is a copy of the budgets for the period 2004 - 2006 for Member Sports, the Legion National Track and Field Championships and the Sports Committee. Delegates may raise any questions that they may have concerning Committee expenses at this time. However, any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Committee Secretary

In March 2003, Comrade Karen Mackarous was selected as the new Director of Membership. Comrade Scott Ogilvie was hired in early June 2003 as the new Administrative Officer. He officially assumed the full responsibility as Sports Committee Secretary on 1 October 2003.

Conclusion

To the Branches who have hosted National Championships and the Local Arrangements Committees who have worked diligently to ensure successful Member Sports and Track and Field Championships, please accept my congratulations for outstanding performance in all areas. In addition, I wish to thank the members of the Sports Committee of the Whole for their enthusiasm and support throughout the past two years.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
DOMINION COMMAND
SPORTS COMMITTEE**

		<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
		<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
COMMITTEE						
Travel		12,543	12,991	24,000	24,000	24,000
Per Diem		12,526	11,545	12,000	12,000	12,000
T & F LAC	- Sherbrooke	4,219	-	-	-	-
	- Kitchener	-	4,576	-	-	-
	- Abbotsford	-	2,324	-	-	-
	- Sudbury	-	-	7,000	7,000	7,000
	- Edmonton	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Printing & Stationery		863	1,059	1,000	1,000	1,000
Telephone & Fax		424	646	800	800	800
Postage		694	1,187	200	200	200
Sports Guide		-	-	600	600	600
Translation		<u>1,596</u>	-	-	-	-
Total Committee		32,865	34,328	50,600	50,600	50,600
REGULAR CURLING						
		Hudson	Calgary	St. John		
		Que	AB	NB		
Travel						
	- Participants	40,748	29,693	36,000	37,000	38,000
	- Committee	3,951	675	2,400	2,400	2,400
Awards & Prizes		1,869	1,641	2,100	2,100	2,100
Entertainment		120	69	300	300	300
Ground Transportation		1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Advance to Host Branch		<u>2,000</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Regular Curling		49,688	32,578	43,800	44,800	45,800
SENIORS CURLING						
		Forest, ON	Calgary, AB	St. John, NB		
Travel						
	- Participants	37,446	30,849	36,000	37,000	38,000
	- Committee	3,746	675	2,400	2,400	2,400
Awards & Prizes		1,683	1,681	2,100	2,100	2,100
Entertainment		204	69	300	300	300
Advance to Host Branch		1,378	500	2,000	2,000	2,000
Ground Transportation		<u>1,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Seniors Curling		45,457	33,774	43,800	44,800	45,800
DARTS						
		Winnipeg	Saskatoon	Chester, NS		
Travel						
	- Participants	40,032	30,821	36,000	37,000	38,000
	- Committee	2,195	1,786	2,500	3,000	3,000
Awards & Prizes		2,236	2,294	2,800	3,000	3,000
Entertainment		192	-	200	200	200
Advance to Host Branch		500	400	400	400	400
Ground Transportation		<u>900</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Darts		46,055	35,801	42,900	44,600	45,600

SPORTS COMMITTEE - PAGE 2						
		<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CRIBBAGE		Laval, QC	Maple Ridge	Berwick, NS		
Travel	- Participants	36,766	32,186	36,000	37,000	38,000
	- Committee	1,356	1,032	3,500	4,000	4,000
Awards & Prizes		2,181	2,246	2,800	3,000	3,000
Advance to Host Branch		900	900	400	400	400
Entertainment		209	-	200	200	200
Ground Transportation		1,000	500	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Cribbage		<u>42,412</u>	<u>36,864</u>	<u>43,900</u>	<u>45,600</u>	<u>46,600</u>
TOTAL MEMBER SPORTS		<u>183,612</u>	<u>139,017</u>	<u>174,400</u>	<u>179,800</u>	<u>183,800</u>
TOTAL T & F (from pg 7 C)		<u>255,999</u>	<u>220,978</u>	<u>263,900</u>	<u>268,900</u>	<u>272,900</u>
TOTAL SPORTS & COMMITTEE		<u>472,476</u>	<u>394,323</u>	<u>488,900</u>	<u>499,300</u>	<u>507,300</u>

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DOMINION COMMAND NATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP					
	Sherbrooke	Kitchener	Sudbury	<u>BUDGET</u>	
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>		2005	2006
	2002	2003	2004		
Transportation	145,257	156,326	184,000	188,000	192,000
Accommodation, Meals	127,688	70,311	115,000	117,000	119,000
Camp Cost	19,388	-	-	-	-
Committee - Travel	5,311	4,295	7,000	7,000	7,000
- Per Diem	10,409	14,980	11,000	11,000	11,000
Local Committee	3,000	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Kits / Supplies / Medals	7,135	12,362	7,000	7,000	7,000
Buses	8,512	640	5,000	5,000	5,000
Honoraria	400	1,300	2,300	2,300	2,300
Reception	1,299	645	1,300	1,300	1,300
Medical	-	-	1,300	1,300	1,300
Equipment / Mtg Rooms	-	1,486	3,200	3,200	3,200
Clinicians	3,739	1,146	4,300	4,300	4,300
Officials	-	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
Media coverage	-	42	7,700	8,000	8,000
Freight & Express	15	368	500	500	500
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-
SUB-TOTAL	<u>332,153</u>	<u>263,901</u>	<u>353,600</u>	<u>359,900</u>	<u>365,900</u>
Less Prov Portion	<u>(76,154)</u>	<u>(42,923)</u>	<u>(89,700)</u>	<u>(91,000)</u>	<u>(93,000)</u>
TOTAL	<u>255,999</u>	<u>220,978</u>	<u>263,900</u>	<u>268,900</u>	<u>272,900</u>

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND DEFENCE COMMITTEE

L. W. Cuppens	-	Chairman
D. H. Brown	-	Member
L. T. Rowbottom	-	Member
C. H. Belzile	-	Ex Officio Member
C.J. Glauninger	-	Secretary

Introduction

The past two years since the Edmonton Convention has been a busy period for your Defence Committee. With the ever increasing demands made upon Canada's military and the ever decreasing budget allocations that they have been given, our Canadian Forces have been stretched to the limit in both personnel and resources. Recent deployments to the Persian Gulf and our ongoing deployment to Afghanistan has imposed new challenges that may well stretch our military beyond that limit. On a positive note there has been the appointment of a new Defence Minister and Prime Minister who both have shown increased interest in Defence. With the announcement of an integrated review of its international policies in the February Throne Speech your Committee can potentially expect a most interesting and busy future over the near term as it continues to advocate on behalf of the Canadian forces and its serving and retired members.

Your Committee's mandate, which originates from the Articles of Faith and which are amplified in the Long Term Plan, remains to advocate on behalf of a strong national defence force with proper equipment, training, and compensation of its personnel. It is within this mandate that your Committee has focussed its efforts.

Operation

The composition of the Committee has been expanded to include five members, including the Secretary. The additional member is the Legion Grand President who with his extensive military experience is a natural fit for the committee. All of these personnel are recent retirees, current in military affairs and representative collectively of the three services at all rank levels. The majority of the committee work is done by scheduling meetings in conjunction with other credible defence monitoring groups such as the Conference of Defence Associations. Throughout the year the remainder of committee business is conducted by phone, fax and electronic mail. Thus, the Committee operates at a very small cost in relation to the work that is accomplished.

Activities with the Conference of Defence Associations (CDA)

The Legion is represented by your Committee at the Conference of Defence Associations. Of all the member organizations in this Association, the Legion is by far the single largest representative group. Your National Defence Committee Chairman represents the Legion at the CDA Council of 17 member associations which oversee the independent analysis of defence issues to be placed before the people of Canada and the framing of recommendations to promote the efficiency and well being of the Forces.

Annually the Conference of Defence Associations conducts two meetings, one in the Winter/Spring where they conduct the Annual General Meeting and Seminar, and one in the Fall where CDA's Council meets. These forums are important for keeping in touch and informed about activities both within the regular and reserve components of the military.

CDA has been relatively successful in the past two years of bringing defence issues analysis forward to the Canadian public. Their studies on combat capability and defence preparedness have been useful tools for understanding the current capability gaps in both personnel and material in today's military. An example of some of the important cooperative work that has been done can be found in the recent issue of the 4th research paper in the *Claxton Papers* series entitled **Canada Without Armed Forces**. Papers and documentation like these and others researched and produced in cooperation with CDA and other defence related organizations offer much to stimulate and shape the debate on defence issues.

Activities with the Canadian Forces

Another means of staying connected is by direct interaction with senior defence officials. Over the past two years the Committee Chairman has had senior level meetings with the Chief of Defence Staff, the Vice and Deputy Chiefs of Staff, all three Environmental Commanders, the Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer and other senior leaders at the National Defence Headquarters. These meetings are fundamental to the achievement of our mandate and have opened up many important avenues to discuss outstanding issues.

The Committee Chairman is also a member of the Canadian Forces Advisory Council which has representatives from Veterans Affairs, Canadian Forces and various veterans' organizations. This Council is in the process of reviewing the continuum of service for veterans and Canadian Forces personnel to ensure that there is consistency of service provided to the client.

Another important method of communication has been the writing of letters in support of the CF. Letters have been written to the Minister, the Associate Deputy Minister Human Resources (Military) and others on varied subjects all pertaining to the Legion's support for members of the Canadian Forces. This determined advocacy is hopefully beginning to show results in the form of the appointment of a new Defence Minister who has been supportive of many of the positions that the Legion has supported in favour of Defence. In each case the letters continue to support our serving personnel while urging the Canadian Government to increase their level of support for our military.

2004 Convention Resolutions

The Committee reviewed a total of 6 resolutions, two of which were initiated by the Committee, in preparation for Convention. The consideration of these resolutions will be dealt with later on in the convention business program.

Budget

For your information, a copy of the Defence Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

Your Defence Committee continues to raise defence issues and advocate on behalf of serving Canadians. Our approach to advocacy through letters and in conjunction with like-minded people and organizations such as the Conference of Defence Associations has brought defence issues into the media and to all Canadians. Additionally, our approaches to the senior leadership of the CF have enabled the Committee to keep abreast of defence issues both from a personnel and a resource perspective. We remain conscious of our mandate and are working for the betterment of our serving personnel as well as bringing credit and respect to The Royal Canadian Legion.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION						
DOMINION COMMAND						
COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENCE						
		<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>BUDGET</u>	
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Travel		2,973	2,888	5,000	5,000	5,000
Per Diem		4,416	4,244	5,000	5,000	5,000
Printing, Postage						
Telephone & Fax		635	115	400	400	400
Annual Vimy						
Defence Conference		1,810	2,500	2,500	3,000	3,000
Conference of Defence						
Associations Fee			1,065	2,000	2,000	2,000
TOTAL		<u>9,834</u>	<u>10,812</u>	<u>14,900</u>	<u>15,400</u>	<u>15,400</u>

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RCEL COMMITTEE

A. Parks	-	Chairman
M. Burdett	-	Vice-Chairman
J. Kobolak	-	Member
D. Daly	-	Secretary
R. Butt	-	A/Secretary

Introduction

The primary goal of The Royal Canadian Legion's RCEL Committee is the support of those veterans in the Caribbean countries whose organizations and governments are unable to provide full care for their needs. Legion programs are centred on the provision of individual assistance as veterans in need are identified. During the past two years up to 500 veterans and veterans widows have been assisted.

We continue to be satisfied that we are meeting the basic needs of these veterans. But that achievement and the praise belong to you at the branches who have shown an interest and who have made funds available at record levels for the past two years so that we can continue this work. Your donations have enabled us as a Committee to meet the needs of the destitute with your overwhelming benevolence. We still need the funds to continue our work and I call on you once again to let these veterans know that we, as The Royal Canadian Legion, and Canadians, care about their service and sacrifice.

Committee Activity

A total of \$ 307,863 was spent on various support activities in the Caribbean in 2002. This was only \$1,600 more than was spent the previous year and indicated that, as we had suspected, the need for our benevolence had peaked. Individual grants accounted for \$ 289,400 of the allocation. In 2003 we spent \$273,741 a 10 per cent per cent decrease over 2002. Individual assistance grants accounted for \$244,738 of the allocation.

- a. **Individual and Administrative Assistance** - The demonstrated need in 2002 decreased from 2001 by about 17 per cent. This covered grants for 500 veterans and widows. By 2003 the need had again decreased with only \$244,738 out of \$273,541 spent being used for individual assistance grants. At the end of 2003 we were helping 313 veterans and 138 widows. Some of the economy realized came from the cutting of allowances paid widows. The Committee realized in 2002 that even though it had taken on a responsibility for widows by simple circumstance there had to be limits placed on the benevolence provided to them or else the fund may have to keep up operations for an awful long time. In addition, the initial operation was set up to care for veterans. And in some cases it was found that the widow may well have been the second or even third wife of the veteran involved.
- b. **Poppy Material** - Poppy material is provided free of charge on request to assist the local Legions to raise funds for themselves. Material valued at \$16,223 was provided during 2002 and \$14,921 worth of material was provided in 2003. Requests for 2004 are expected to exceed that level because of rising costs and the use of surpluses that had developed. This program continues to be supported as it has been proven that it provides the affiliated organizations with the opportunity to raise funds thereby lessening the demand on The Royal Canadian Legion.

- c. **Emergency Assistance** - There were no requests received and no grants made in either 2002 or 2003 despite one major hurricane and another eruption of the volcano in Montserrat.
- d. **SCOWP and Projects** - Our contribution to the RCEL Standing Committee On Welfare Projects funding for 2002 and 2003 remained constant at \$5,000 per year to assist with the maintenance of the Curphey Veterans Home in Jamaica. Miscellaneous spending for the two years totalled \$13,760 and was used to purchase administrative equipment for offices such as faxes and computers. We have been very successful in winning project and rental expense support from SCOWP for our Caribbean Legions.
- e. **Other Assistance and Projects** - Eyeglass collection and distribution was maintained during the period of the report. The provision of regalia items such as crests, badges, banners, ties, berets and clothing was maintained and fees charged where feasible. The dress items are expensive to supply and the organizations are asked to pay for these items at cost if at all possible. Beds and mattresses that had been collected to assist veterans in Belize and St. Lucia have now had to sit in storage since 2002 due to a lack of military aircraft going to the region. Should they become undeliverable this year they will be disposed off in the most judicious manner possible.

Liaison Visits

In 2002 visits were made to Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia by the Dominion President and Dominion Secretary. The visits helped increase awareness of The Royal Canadian Legion and its Caribbean affiliated organizations amongst local officials, and helped the Committee members determine the direction the Committee needed to take in the future, especially in regards to the amount of funds that could be granted for veterans and for widows.

Liaison visits by the Dominion President and Dominion Secretary were made to Trinidad, Tobago and Guyana in 2003. Again the visits proved extremely helpful in improving communications and establishing contacts that could help veterans and widows.

Budget

For your information, a copy of the RCEL Committee Budget and our RCEL Fund is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as it relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Summary

The Royal Canadian Legion took on a sacred trust involving the care of veterans in the Caribbean region many years ago and we have managed to keep that trust by meeting the demands placed on us by what is now a decreasing population of destitute veterans. The veterans are growing older and can no longer work or look after themselves. While the demand is decreasing we expect that there will be a continuing need for assistance for at least another six years.

The Royal Commonwealth Ex-Service League(RCEL) Committee Report was delivered by the Dominion President and this was followed by the moving presentation by the Dominion Secretary on our RCEL efforts in the Caribbean. The response to the presentation was outstanding with a record donation of \$254,300 in cash, cheques and pledges being received. This included \$25,000 from the Calgary Poppy Fund. This total will definitely help to sustain our operations over the next two years.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION					
DOMINION COMMAND					
RCEL COMMITTEE					
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Meetings:					
Per Diem	740	300	500	500	500
Caribbean Legion					
Travel	18,000	14,271	18,000	18,000	18,000
Per Diem	12,355	18,410	19,000	19,000	19,000
Postage, Printing	11	-	100	100	100
Miscellaneous	214	485	400	400	400
Telephone & Fax	70	116	200	200	200
TOTAL	<u>31,390</u>	<u>33,582</u>	<u>38,200</u>	<u>38,200</u>	<u>38,200</u>

RCEL ASSISTANCE FUND

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Income					
Donations	41,980	230,296	162,178	292,658	187,056
Poppy Levy	139,494	158,678	151,251	150,000	75,000
Interest	6,369	6,036	1,689	3,026	4,733
Total	187,843	395,280	315,118	445,684	266,789
Expenditures					
Poppy	12,199	16,981	16,504	16,223	14,921
Assistance	215,887	295,250	318,769	281,760	244,738
Education	3,000	0	0	0	0
Projects	10,700	4,300	21,000	5,000	5,000
Emergency	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	11,393	137	3,693	4,880	8,832
Total	253,179	316,668	359,966	307,863	273,541
Surplus +/(Deficit)	(65,336)	+ 78,612	(44,648)	+137,831	(6,752)
Fund Balance as of 31 December 2003 was \$366,981					

Note: BCEL Administrative and Committee expenses are accounted for in RCL Administration General Funds

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE

G. O'Dair	-	Chairman
R. Goebel	-	Vice-Chairman
B. Décarie	-	Member
C. Morris	-	Member
R. S. Heiter	-	Secretary

Statistics

As shown below, the Committee has been very active and the statistics include all applications received during 2002 and 2003. Your Committee continues to report activity by calendar year to provide information that is meaningful.

AWARD	2002		2003	
	APPROVED	RETURNED FOR INFO	APPROVED	RETURNED FOR INFO
PALM LEAF TO MSM	44	17	53	11
MSM	118	56	120	44
PALM LEAF TO MSA	5	3	4	1
MSA	22	16	48	54
LIFE MEMBERSHIP	3	0	0	0
TOTALS	192	92	225	110

Honours and Awards

The Committee has been meeting on a monthly basis since last convention in an effort to process applications for The MSM and MSA and the Palm Leaf to these two awards in a timely manner. The result has been a significant reduction in the time between the receipt of applications at Dominion Command and the return to Commands of the disposition of applications.

Past Office Awards

The Committee worked closely with the Supply Department, in consultation with Provincial Commands to develop the procedure for supplying branches with Past Office Awards. The program developed takes into consideration the various circumstances in each command and now provides prompt service to branches.

Honours and Awards Manual

The revised version of this manual was republished in 2004 and is available through the Legion Supply System.

Ritual and Insignia Manual

This manual was extensively revised and republished in 2003. It is available through the Legion Supply System.

Protocol Manual

The Ritual and Awards Committee has taken over responsibility for the Protocol Manual. It will be revised and possibly incorporated into the Ritual and Insignia Manual.

Budget

For your information, a copy of the Ritual and Awards Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work and support.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DOMINION COMMAND RITUAL & AWARDS COMMITTEE					
	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Travel	1,147	1,701	2,000	2,000	2,000
Per Diem	2,691	3,300	3,600	3,600	3,600
Printing & Stationery	1,013	729	1,500	1,500	1,500
Telephone & Fax	670	99	200	200	200
Postage	286	3,785	2,000	2,000	2,000
Protocol Manuals	-	3,127	3,500	3,500	3,500
Manuals, Obsolete Stock	-	4,138	3,000	3,000	3,000
TOTAL	5,807	16,879	15,800	15,800	15,800

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CONSTITUTION AND LAWS COMMITTEE

J. Rycroft	-	Chairman
B. Wilson	-	Vice-Chairman
D. Eaton	-	Member
E. Noble	-	Member
B. White	-	Secretary
S. Ogilvie	-	A/Secretary

General

The purpose of this Committee is to advise the Legion on constitutional matters arising from interpretation of the Act of Incorporation and The General By-Laws which occurred between Conventions. In order to ensure that consistent interpretations are given the Committee followed a set procedure. All requests for rulings are directed to the Secretary of the Committee at Dominion Command. In minor matters, the Secretary, usually after consultation with the Chairman, will provide an answer. For some interpretations, the material is circulated to members of the Committee and their opinion is sought by mail. Important issues are reserved for consideration at meetings of the Committee.

Amendments to Provincial Commands By-Laws

In 2003, the Committee had been requested to review proposed amendments to Provincial Command By-Laws for eight commands. Following consultation, all have been approved. Two commands did not require any amendment to their By-Laws following their convention.

Revocation of Branch Charters

On 17 October 2003, the Branch Charter for Branch #025, Scotia Branch, of Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command was revoked in accordance with the procedures set out in The General By-Laws.

Amendments to The General By-Laws

Since the last Convention held in Edmonton in June 2002, the Dominion Executive Council has adopted three By-Laws amending The General By-Laws of the Legion. By-Laws Nos. 62, 63 and 64 are presented with this report and are submitted to this convention for ratification under Section 6(2) of the Legion's Act to Incorporate. If not ratified, they will cease to have effect at the end of this convention.

BY-LAW NO. 62

A By-Law to Amend the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 16th day of February 2003, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion are hereby amended by:

Sub-Section 101.d.

Sub-Section 101.d. of The General By-Laws be amended to read as follows :

SPOUSE means either :

- i. a man and woman who are married to each other; or
- ii. either of two persons who are not married to each other and who, at the date of the application for membership, is cohabiting and has cohabited with the other person for a period of not less than one year, prior to the date of such application.

BY-LAW NO. 63

**A By-Law to Amend the General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 30th November 2003, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion are hereby amended by:

Section 302.

The section be amended by adding **~in respect of procedures~** at the end of the section.

Sub-Section 304.b.

The last paragraph of the Sub-Section be amended by adding **304.b.**™ after the word **~section™** on the second line.

Sub-Section 304.h.

The first sentence of the Sub-Section be amended to read as follows:

~Where a complaint has been properly lodged in accordance with Sub-Section 304.b. and pending the final disposition of such complaint, except where Sub-Section 311.b. applies, the President of the command or branch may deprive the member against whom the complaint is lodged, of clubhouse privileges and remove him from office or position held.™

Section 307.

The section be moved to precede section 308. under **~HEARING PROCEDURES™**

Sub-Section 308.a.

The Sub-Section be amended to read as follows:

~In all complaints the Secretary shall immediately bring it to the attention of the President and acknowledge receipt to the complainant as either being properly lodged or not as determined by the President. The Secretary shall serve a copy of the properly lodged complaint on the member against whom the complaint was lodged within seven days.™

Sub-Section 309.a.

The Sub-Section be amended by replacing "and his agent (if desired)" after the word "against" on the third line with "(and his agent if the member desires)".

Sub-Section 309.d.

The Sub-Section be amended by replacing the word "Tape" on the second line with "voice or video".

Sub-Section 314.f.

The Sub-Section be amended by adding the words "by the president" after the word "dismissed" on the second line from the bottom.

Sub-Section 314.k.

A new Sub-Section k be incorporated to read as follows :

"The decision of the Appeal Committee shall be final and binding on all parties."

Subsequently, the current Sub-Sections 314.k. to 314.n. would be renumbered 314.l. to 314.o.

Section 506.

A new section 506. is to be inserted after section 505. in "POWERS AND DUTIES" to read as follows:

A Command may make provision in its By-Laws for implementation and management of administrative fees for lodging complaints and appeals under Article III of these By-Laws.

Subsequently, the current sections 506. to 514. are renumbered 507. to 515. respectively.

Article VII

All references to "Germany Zone" in The General By-Laws are amended to read "Europe Zone".

BY-LAW NO. 64

**A By-Law to Amend the General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a By-Law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Executive Council in session this 15th day of February 2004, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion are hereby amended by:

Sub Section 1101.c.

After the word "distribution" add "to the general public" After the end of the sentence finishing "on 11 November" delete the remainder of that sub section.

Sub Section 1101.d.

Add a new sub section as follows: **The ceremonial presentation of first poppies to the Governor General and Lieutenant Governors will take place at ceremonial functions as arranged by Commands at the most appropriate time.**

Section 1104.

At the end of the first sentence delete **~this and succeeding sections.**™ and insert **~these By-Laws.**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.a.i.

Following the word **~dependants**™ add in **~who are in need of assistance;**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.a.ii.

Following the word **~dependants**™ add in **~who are in need of assistance;**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.a.iii.

Following this sub sub section, add in the following note:

NOTE: The funds may only be used for emergency assistance which is defined as shelter, food, fuel, clothing, prescription medicine and necessary transportation. Assistance cannot be continued over an extended period.

Comforts, as defined in the Poppy Manual, may be provided for ex-service personnel and their widows/widowers who are hospitalized, in long-time care facilities or in their homes.

Sub Sub Section 1104.b.i.

After the word **~campaign**™ add in **~or for the promotion of Remembrance such as the Literary and Poster contest;**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.c.i.

After the word **~purchase**™ and before the word **~of**™ add in **~and predetermined storage costs**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.c.ii.

After the word **~purchase**™ and before the word **~of**™ add in **~and predetermined storage costs**™

Sub Sub Section 1104.c.iii.

After the word **~purchase**™ and before the word **~of**™ add in **~and predetermined storage costs**™

Section 1105.

Remove the sub section designations of **~a.**™, **~b.**™ and **~c.**™ What was sub sections **~b** and **~c**™ are now a **NOTE**. In the last sentence, following the word **~further**™ add the word **mandatory**, and following the word **~that**™ delete **,if possible,**.

Sub Section 1106.a.

Delete the contents of this sub section and add in the following: **medical training and medical research directed to geriatric support, or for community medical appliances which will assist the care of veterans;**

Sub Section 1106.b.

Delete the contents of this sub section and add in the following: **support of drop-in centres for the elderly or support of meals on wheels services only as long as these provide known support of veterans in the community;**

Sub Section 1106.d.

Add a new sub section 1106.d. which reads: **Transportation for Veterans as necessary for medical appointments and for compassionate reasons.**

Page 70 - Fiscal Year

Amend the note regarding the Fiscal Year to read: ~As stated in section 130.b. **of these By-Laws** the Poppy Fiscal Year begins 1 October and ends 30 September **of the following year.**™

Sub Section 1203.f.

Add a new sub section 1203.f. to read: ~ **Where a new member joins the Legion after the 31st day of August in any year, the per capita tax payable to Dominion Command and provincial commands by such member for the year shall be one-third the per capita tax levied by the appropriate conventions for that year.**™

BY-LAW NO. 65

**A By-Law to Amend the General By-Laws of
The Royal Canadian Legion, as amended prior to this date**

It is hereby enacted as and for a by-law of The Royal Canadian Legion by the Dominion Convention in session this 17th day of June, 2004, that The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion as amended be, and they are hereby amended by:

Resolution #36 and #37 pages 121 and 122

Article XI of the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended to add the following paragraphs:

1108. A Command, or, subject to the prior approval of the provincial command, a district, zone, branch or group of branches, may, for the purpose of maintaining and preserving local monuments to veterans, expend a portion of the monies in its poppy trust account, not exceeding twenty-five percent of the total available in the account on the 30th day of September in the year preceding the expenditure, provided that the allocated twenty-five percent does not exceed fifty percent of the total funds required to maintain and preserve local monuments for which the funds are allocated.

1109. A Command, or, subject to the prior approval of the provincial command, a district, zone, branch or group of branches, may, for the purpose of supporting Cadet units which have assisted with the poppy campaign, expend a portion of the monies in its poppy trust account, not exceeding ten percent of the total available in the account on the 30th day of September in the year preceding the expenditure.

Section 1108. is renumbered to 1110.

Resolution #43 page 125

Article VI of the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended to add the following sub-section:

616. j. The years of service of the branch with the longest history in that community will be given to the amalgamated branch. There shall be no loss of years of service as a result of the amalgamation process.

Resolution #47 page 127

Article VIII of the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended by amending the heading of Section 805. by replacing the word "JUNIOR" with the word "YOUTH"

Sub-sections 805.a. and b. are amended by replacing the word "junior" with the word "youth"

Resolution #63 page 132

Article III of The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended as follows:

Sub-section 314.e. is deleted and replaced with the following:

The Party appealing, shall within 30 days of the notice of decision, serve the appeal on:

- i. where the complaint committee was appointed by the branch, the secretary of the provincial command;
- ii. where the complaint committee was appointed by the provincial command, the secretary of the provincial command; or
- iii. where the complaint committee was appointed by Dominion Command, the Dominion Secretary.

The appeal shall state and explain the grounds for the appeal and shall include any evidence and documents submitted to the complaint committee. No new evidence shall be accepted.

The decision of the appeal committee is final unless the appeal committee has upheld or imposed the penalty of expulsion, in which case the member against whom the complaint was made, may appeal only the penalty to Dominion Command.

Resolution # 64 page 132

Section 311.b. of The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion is amended by deleting the words from "only penalty" onwards in the second line and replacing with the following:

"committee may dismiss the charges, or, if proven, impose one or more of the following":

- i. Deprivation of clubroom privileges for a period not to exceed 12 months; and/or**
- ii. issue a reprimand that may also require a letter of apology to the Branch and/or if applicable, to the individual or individuals that may have been aggrieved.**

Resolution # 65 page 134

Article II of the General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended to add the following sub paragraph:

- 228. b. Affiliate membership in the Tuberculous Veterans Section is only open to a person who is:**
- i. tuberculous or respiratory disabled; or**
 - ii. a professional who is or was engaged in treatment or research of tuberculosis or other related respiratory disability.**

Resolution #221 page 144

Section 224. of The General By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended by adding, "from the Legion or from any other Veterans' Organization".

Miscellaneous

Section 205. e. be amended to add ~as a police officer™after ~constabulary™

Section 205. j. be amended to add ~as a police officer™after ~force™

Resolutions

The committee members considered 16 resolutions presented for consideration by the delegates at the 2004 Dominion Convention. In addition one resolution has been put forward by this Committee. These are reported in the relevant sections of the convention booklet.

Budget

For your information, a copy of the Constitution & Laws Committee budget for the period 2004-2006 is attached to this report. Delegates may raise any questions that they have concerning Committee expenses at this time, but any motion for changes to the budget document as relates to this Committee will have to be delayed until the budget is formally brought forward by the Dominion Treasurer later in the Convention proceedings.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION					
DOMINION COMMAND					
CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE					
	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Travel	-	-	-	-	-
Per Diem	-	-	-	-	-
Printing, Stationery	154	475	300	300	300
Telephone & Fax	573	534	600	600	600
Postage	2,778	793	3,000	3,000	3,000
Bylaws - Revision	11,226	-	12,000	-	12,000
TOTAL	14,731	1,802	15,900	3,900	15,900

REPORT OF THE TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

P. O'Donoghue	-	President
B. Wignes	-	First Vice President
L. Skipworth	-	Second Vice President
C. Elsdon	-	Secretary - Treasurer
R. Howcroft	-	Past President
G. Beech	-	Secretary

History

A brief historical overview is offered to remind Legionnaires of the special relationship of the Tuberculous Veterans Section to The Royal Canadian Legion. The Tuberculosis Veterans Association of Canada was organized in 1917, and in 1925 when Field Marshal Earl Haig came to Canada to urge the formation of the Canadian Legion, it had over 7,000 members and had been very successful in obtaining war disability pensions for chest disabled veterans. The TVA was in sound financial condition, and maintained Service Bureaus in Ottawa, Toronto and London, with highly efficient service centres in most of the Canadian Sanatoriums. The TVA responded to the unity appeal made by Field Marshal Haig by taking a prominent part in the Unity Convention held in Winnipeg in November, 1925. On the 1st of September 1926 in Victoria, B.C., the most solemn Articles of Faith were signed by Sir Percy Lake thus creating the Tuberculous Veterans Section (TVS) of the Canadian Legion.

The TVS gave the Legion its financial start by providing \$10,000.00, which in the early 1920's was considered a large amount of money. The TVS also made available to the Legion a number of very experienced service officers who had proven their value in dealing with thousands of claims, and who were familiar with veterans legislation. For many years, the Chief Pension Officer of the TVS was the Director of the Dominion Service Bureau.

The TVS Section, like the Legion as a whole, has lost a number of members through attrition. Tuberculous veterans are effectively 10 years older than the veterans of a similar age because of the ravages of Tuberculosis on the body. So not only are tuberculous veterans relatively older, but many are weaker health-wise, and therefore, our membership is diminishing faster than normal. Like old soldiers we are simply fading away. However, the pride in the legacy that we have left is not fading away; it remains like those of us who are left, forever strong.

Tuberculosis

Most Canadians have little concern for tuberculosis because of the relatively low incidence in Canada. This was not always the case, however. In the 1930s and 1940s sanatoriums existed throughout the country to accommodate afflicted citizens and a very large number of WWI and WWII veterans for the two to five years it took to effect a cure. With new drugs developed in the 1950s, efficacious treatment could be administered on an outpatient basis and everyone thought the disease was finished.

A reality check would show that in other parts of the world, where overcrowding and poor sanitation exists, millions of new cases of tuberculosis develop every year. In fact about one third of the world population is infected with mycobacterium tuberculosis which explains why physical examination and chest x-rays are required for all immigrants to Canada. Members of the Canadian Forces serving abroad are especially

susceptible to respiratory diseases and tuberculosis, including new strains which don't respond to drugs in the current formulary and greatly prolong or resist treatment.

Activities

The four existing TVS branches are very much in tune with the purposes and objects of the Legion. Moreover, history, tradition and the threat posed by tuberculosis and related respiratory diseases dictate an expanded purpose for the care and welfare of chest disabled veterans. In addition to the Poppy Campaign, Remembrance, service work, community and social events, TVS branches focus on supplemental activities related to the special needs of the chest disabled.

Service Officers are available at any time to assist with veterans needs and offer advice in any situation that arises. Sick and visiting committees keep a special eye on veterans and community members who suffer respiratory problems, but also those members and veterans who need special attention or simply a visit to indicate that the Legion cares.

Concerned with treatment, relief of suffering and for arresting the spread of tuberculosis, much effort goes into fund raising. All four branches maintain contact with the Canadian Lung Association and direct available funds for hospital respiratory apparatus and other specialized equipment for community care. The Vancouver Branch works with the TB Veterans Charitable Foundation to fund programs for respiratory technician training and for research into new drugs to fight mutant strains of tuberculosis. Furthermore, children with respiratory ailments are not forgotten. TVS branches place Spinoza bear kits, which feature personalized voice recordings that bring comfort to children facing critical illness.

Education is also a TVS priority. Strict criteria are applied to ensure support only goes to deserving students. Bursaries and scholarships totalling more than \$50,000 per year are awarded at both the national and branch levels for the children and grandchildren of TVS members.

Membership

TVS, of course, relies on its members to reach out to veterans and community through its activities. Recognizing that membership is drawn from tuberculous veterans, their families or those closely associated with treatment or research, one can understand that there is both good and bad news with regard to numbers. On one hand, there have been overtures from comrades in Ontario and Nova Scotia about possible establishment of additional TVS branches. On the other hand, the total current membership of TVS Branches in Saint John, Saskatoon, Calgary and Vancouver has declined slightly to 664. Fortunately, younger members, many the children and now grandchildren of tuberculous veterans, or past beneficiaries of our scholarship programs, are active in these branches and help offset the inevitable passing of older members. The Tuberculous Veterans Section is grateful for the Legion framework which allows the special interests of tuberculous veterans and chest disabled veterans to be represented through the work of the Dominion Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee and Dominion Executive Council.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE IMPERIAL VETERANS SECTION

A. Harvey	-	National President
R. Bell	-	First Vice-President (pro tem)
P. Rogers	-	Quebec Representative
R. Bell	-	Central Representative
L. Gill	-	Eastern Representative
D. Eyles	-	Western Representative
G.G. Beech	-	Secretary

Introduction

The Imperial Veterans Section of The Royal Canadian Legion continues as a separate entity within the Legion as provided by the Unity Agreement with the Imperial Veterans Association, finalized in 1929. The Section represents the interests of all veterans who have served in Forces organized or maintained by the Imperial Government of Great Britain and Ireland. Originally, large numbers of Imperial veterans who were subject to differences in pension legislation and benefits were represented by Imperial Service Officers familiar with the unique types of cases. The need for special advocacy has progressively declined as a consequence of resolving Imperial cases, the entry of Newfoundland into Canada, legislative changes, and the inevitable passing of Imperial veterans. Currently, pension and benevolent needs of Imperials are handled by the Legion Service Bureau network by referral to the Veterans Agency or to various service benevolent trusts in Britain.

Imperial Benefits

Up until 1995 Imperial war veterans were eligible for War Veterans Allowance and the associated Veterans Independence Program and health care benefits. Any Imperial veterans who had not previously qualified for these benefits were disenfranchised by 1995 government regulatory changes. Persistent effort on the part of the Legion to redress the situation through the resolution process, possible court action and discussions with the Minister of Veterans Affairs have finally proven successful. At the end of 2003, the Minister announced a number of measures to meet the urgent needs of war veterans, including access to long term care and related benefits for Imperial veterans with at least ten years post-war residence in Canada. The reinstatement of this very important benefit has addressed a key concern of Imperials.

Benevolent Funds

Notwithstanding the progressive rationalization of pensions and benefits since 1929, Imperials who do not qualify for government assistance as a matter of right and encounter hardship may have to rely on help from benevolent funds. Imperial veterans have recourse to both Poppy Funds and various British Service benevolent trusts. Applications originated with the assistance of a Command Service Officer or Veterans Affairs Counsellor are coordinated by a Dominion Command Service Officer and directed to the appropriate service trust in Britain. While treated generously by the respective grants committees, the number of Imperial applications form a relatively small number of the benevolent applications which are tabulated in the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee report.

Summary

As if to affirm that the work of the Imperials Section is almost done, we note the loss of Comrade Fred Smith, our longstanding and most knowledgeable First Vice President, who took with him much of our corporate memory. We have increasing difficulty raising a quorum for our meetings and electing our executive. Nonetheless, the interests of Imperial veterans continue to be represented at Dominion Executive Council by the National President and through the Chairman of the Veterans, Service and Seniors Committee. Individual needs of Imperial veterans continue to be well served through the Legion Service Bureau network.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

VETERANS UNITY COMMITTEE REPORT TO CONVENTION

Charles Belzile	-	Chairman
D.H. (Buster) Brown	-	Member
Lewis MacKenzie	-	Member
John Marr	-	Member
Duane Daly	-	Secretary

Background

Immediately following the Legion—Dominion Convention in June 2002, the Dominion President briefed the Dominion Executive Council (DEC) on his intention to initiate a "Call To Unity" an attempt to bring together various post-war veterans organizations under the banner of the Legion. It was recognized that many veterans organizations are becoming smaller and that they are forced to compete against each other to recruit new members. Also, many of these organizations suffer from a lack of sufficient resources to adequately promote and maintain their programs and advocacy efforts. As most of these organizations share similar objectives and the same commitment to Remembrance, it was therefore suggested that some might find it preferable to join together with the Legion to obtain the advantages resulting from the combined force of numbers. DEC fully endorsed this initiative. The Dominion President subsequently appointed the Grand President to chair the "Veterans Unity Committee" and authorized this Committee to liaise with other veterans organizations and to develop a draft plan of action.

It is important to note that the aim of the "Call To Unity" was to approach only those modern or post-war "veteran" or ex-service associations which have an enhanced potential to recruit serving and retired members of the military now and into the future. There was no intent to initiate discussions concerning amalgamation with established "war veteran" associations. Many of the members of these organizations are already Legionnaires, but most importantly, a number of them, such as the RCAF Prisoners of War and the Korea War Veterans, do not recruit new age veterans. Their membership is restricted to "war veterans." The "Call To Unity" is therefore meant to focus on organizations which are primarily based on a post-war veteran membership base. (Note that the general term "veteran" now includes all ex-service personnel as well as the traditional war-veterans).

Committee Deliberations

From the beginning the Committee noted that it would be necessary to develop proposals which could be implemented in such a manner as to encourage these other organizations of serving and veteran personnel to join the Legion. It was also noted that the Legion is a strong and pro-active veterans organization and that it has the resources and infrastructure which could be directed to best serve the long-term interests of the combined veterans community in Canada. More specifically, it was recognized that it would be essential to explain the benefits of amalgamation with the Legion and the process by which the resources of the Legion could be utilized to help preserve and promote the identity of the joining organization. In preliminary discussions with peacekeeping organizations, for example, it was emphasized that no form of amalgamation could be considered if the joining organization's identity would not be preserved in some positive fashion. This then became a determining factor in developing our proposal.

The Committee also appreciated the reality that the Legion will continue to survive for many years into the future. Its membership may decline from its current 400,000 but the likelihood is that it will endure as the primary voice of veterans long into the future and will continue to have the resources to support its programs and activities. On the other hand, very few other veterans organizations can make a similar

claim. With a small membership base and limited resources many of them lack the foundation and flexibility to guarantee continued or enhanced operations into the future. Therefore, the most significant benefit that could be offered to these smaller organizations is the opportunity to exploit the positive resources and structure of the Legion to secure their own identity into the future.

Status

As a result, the Committee met with a number of Associations and individuals with the aim of developing a proposal of amalgamation which would meet the interests of all concerned. Unfortunately progress has been a lot slower than what we hoped for. There is no doubt that there is interest in the concept but there is a great concern over losing a organization—s individual identity. This is well understood. As such the Committee has left the door open to Associations which may wish to discuss the various options but we do not have a specific plan for amalgamation to bring forward to you at this time.

But, this has not been a lost cause. We have demonstrated that we wish to be welcoming to all ex-service personnel and the invitation has been received by many. This could pay off well into the future. Also, we have learned much from the process. The message to us that has been received loud and clear is that the Legion in the past was too rigid and that it should be more welcoming to current serving and former members of the Armed Forces. Specifically, it has been suggested that the Legion should amend its dress regulations to allow military and ex-military personnel to wear items of dress which better relate to their former military service. All agree that the Legion tie, blazer and crest is a standard for all but the suggestions have focussed on allowing Peacekeepers to wear a pale blue beret and other soldiers to wear a coloured beret which best promotes their service identity. As an example, maroon for airborne, black for armoured, etc. The Committee has taken this suggestion to heart and the Dominion Executive Council has agreed that such an amendment to the dress regulations concerning headdress for Ordinary members would be very positive and productive. Therefore, on behalf of our Committee I will bring forward two resolutions concerning headdress for your consideration later in the Convention proceedings.

Budget

There is no specific funding allocated to the Committee at the present time but this will be reviewed in the future by Sub-Executive and DEC if a small amount will be necessary.

Summary

Overall the discussions raised by the Committee with other organizations have been positive. I trust that they may serve us well for the future.

This concludes my report and I would be pleased to answer any questions that you might have.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE DOMINION SECRETARY

Duane Daly	-	Dominion Secretary
Pierre Allard	-	Director Service Bureau
Brad White	-	Director Administration
Tim Murphy	-	Director Finance
Danielle Hards	-	Director Supply
Karen Mackarous	-	Director Membership
Bob Butt	-	Director Communications

Introduction

Good day comrades. It is a pleasure to be able to report to this Dominion Convention on the activities of the staff and departments of Dominion Command. In consideration that a great deal of the pertinent information has already been passed to you in the Committee reports, I will only highlight the main points.

You will note from the banner at the top of this report that Dominion Command is composed of six separate departments which support the day-to-day operations of the Legion and all the Dominion Command programs, activities and Committees. As a summary, the following is an outline of the current programs and operations that are being maintained by Dominion Command:

- Service Officer Operations (5 Service Officers)
- Veterans/Seniors Housing Project
- Veterans Long Term Care Surveyors Program
- Benevolent Fund Applications
- RCEL support to Caribbean veterans
- Pilgrimage of Remembrance
- National Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Poppy Campaign
- Poster and Literary Contest
- Bursary Support to smaller Commands
- Sponsorship of Canadian Forces Show Tours
- Sponsorship of Canadian Forces Sports Championships
- Outstanding Cadet of the Year Award
- Cadet Medal of Excellence
- Military Recruit Comradeship Program
- National Track and Field Program
- Requests for Support
- Member Benefits Program
- Valiants Project
- Liaison to Canadian War Museum
- Postal Subsidy Program
- Member Participation Sport Championships
- Advocacy Initiatives to Government

In addition, the Dominion Command staff provide support to a total of 17 Committees plus DEC secretarial support to the Imperials Section of the Legion and the TVS Section of the Legion.

Staffing

Since 1998 we have been involved with a major staff downsizing program at Dominion Command. Even though there has not been a major reduction of programs or activities in the same period, we have been able to reduce the size of the staff to be as efficient and cost-effective as possible. More specifically, in 1998 we had a total of 54 permanent and six full-time contract employees for a total of 60 salaried individuals. In 2004 I am pleased to advise you that this has been reduced to 47 employees plus the three additional personnel that DEC authorized for late 2003 when Dominion Command took on the responsibility of implementing the Legion centralized supply system. Thus the reduction has been from 60 to 50 full-time employees even with the increase in new supply personnel. This 17% reduction in manpower has yielded a savings of over \$330,000 a year.

In 2003 and early 2004 we also went through a major transition as a total of four Directors and two support staff reached retirement age and headed off for a well-deserved rest. Brad White has been promoted to the position of Director Administration, Karen Mackarous has replaced Dorothy Bell at Membership and Tim Murphy and Peter Underhill have taken on their new jobs with the Legion as Directors at Finance and Supply respectively. I am confident that you will continue to be very well served by these dedicated Legionnaires.

Administration

Our Membership Department continues to process in excess of 400,000 membership files every year. Interestingly, the error rate on submissions has climbed somewhat over the past few years and is approximately 25% of all submissions. That means that almost 100,000 membership submissions are completed in error by the branches each year and have to be returned from Dominion Command for correction. This not only adds to the significant workload of the 6-person department, but also adds a major increase to our postal bill. In other words, at 49 cents a mailing, we are facing an unnecessary expense of almost \$50,000 a year.

Our staff also remains very heavily involved in processing the many complaints and appeals that arrive every year, organizing the Track and Field Camp, preparing and organizing the four annual Member Participation Sport Championships, setting up the various PR and Service Officer seminars, managing and updating the website, handling the distribution of Honour and Awards, supporting the production of LEGION Magazine and ensuring the efficient conduct of all the programs mentioned above. We also take great pride in supporting the DEC, the elected officers and the Committee of The Whole members who take part in the many committee meetings at LEGION House.

Supply

As directed by Convention 2002, DEC completed a study into the benefits of replacing the fragmented supply system which depended on 10 separate Provincial Command supply systems to provide Legion regalia to the members. The study indicated that there was a very high cost to maintaining the old system and that many Commands were not able to provide as an effective and efficient system as they would have preferred. It was thus determined that it would be more productive to develop a centralized supply system at Dominion Command whereby branches could order their regalia items directly from Dominion Command without going through a Provincial Command. That system has been implemented and operations were initiated on 1 January.

Needless to say there will be growing pains, but at this early date all appears to be functioning well. A system has been implemented whereby the branches will be able to make a 10% profit on all regalia sales and prices to members have been held at the old catalogue prices.

Commands will still have the opportunity to produce non-regalia or consumer items such as windbreakers with the Command identifier on the items and some Commands have taken the opportunity to sell such items. However, we are receiving many calls to sell Legion-wide consumer items with our logo on them so this is being reviewed in detail to ensure that we do not compete with Commands in selling their ~Command-unique™ items. But, we will set up a line of special, attractive Legion-wide consumer items from Dominion Command in the very near future. These will be quality attractive items at a very competitive cost. It is unlikely that these will include jackets, sweaters or other clothing items as these are considered as preferred items for sale by the Commands in their own areas of jurisdiction.

Conclusion

On behalf of all members of the Dominion Command staff, it is an honour to serve The Legion and to support its operation on an ongoing basis. We value highly our excellent working relationship with our counterparts in the Provincial Command offices and remain dedicated to our elected officers.

I move acceptance of my report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE DOMINION COMMAND CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

M. Cook	-	Chairman
A. Parks	-	Vice Chairman
D. Daly	-	Member
T. Murphy	-	Secretary

This Committee has the responsibility for the investment of all the funds that were originally collected, the reinvestment of the earnings of the Fund and to ensure all disbursements are in accordance with the mandate of Convention.

The funds are invested in fixed income, low risk interest bearing securities. As at December 31, 2003, \$624,000 was invested in Federal Government bonds, \$580,000 was invested in Provincial bonds and the balance invested in a Pooled Bond Fund that contains a mixed portfolio of consisting of government and corporate bonds.

The earnings yield on investments for 2003 was 6.90% and for 2002 6.42%.

The Fund provides a grant for the annual Legion National Track and Field Championships. For the period from 1996 to 1997 and from 1999 to 2003 it was \$125,000 per year and in 1998 an additional \$125,000 was contributed for a total of \$250,000 for that year.

A summary of the Operations of the Fund from its inception in 1996 to 2003 can be found in schedule A (attached).

The yield on investments is forecast to be between 6.0% and 6.5% for 2004, 2005 and 2006. Using an average rate of 6.25% the balance in the Centennial Fund is expected to experience a small decline as follows:

Fund Balance as at 31 December:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>		<u>PROJECTED</u>		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	\$1,796,247	\$1,786,282	\$1,763,232	\$1,740,282	\$1,714,782
Decrease	<u>-0.93%</u>	<u>-0.55%</u>	<u>-1.26%</u>	<u>-1.33%</u>	<u>-1.47%</u>

Under the current agreement the Centennial Fund is required to maintain a minimum fund balance of \$1,500,000. At the projected rate of decline this point will be reached by the end of 2012.

The report and the financial statement and projections were moved, seconded and carried.

SCHEDULE A					
CENTENNIAL FUND					
STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE AND FUND BALANCE					
FROM JANUARY 1, 1966 TO DECEMBER 31, 2003					
REVENUE					5,630,958
EXPENSE					
Action Program		(1974-1992)			133,817
Dominion Command	- Track and Field	(1977-1992)	2,174,724		
	- Track and Field	(1996 - 2003)	1,125,000		3,299,724
Geriatric Fellowship		(1981 - 1992)			1,152,015
Fund Management Fees		(1966 - 2003)			288,176
					4,873,732
NET REVENUE					757,226
CAPITAL CONTRIBUTIONS					1,029,056
FUND BALANCE AT DECEMBER 31, 2003					1,786,282
DESCRIPTION OF EXPENSES					
Action Program - Promotion, publicity, travel and administration.					
Dominion Command Track and Field - twenty four meets involving approximately 9,200 participants in total.					
Geriatric Fellowship - Training for 91 doctors, 50 nurses, 11 physiotherapists and 9 occupational therapists.					
Fund Management Fees - Administration fees for investment fund management by RBC investments					

REPORT OF THE DOMINION TREASURER

Michael Cook

It is a pleasure to report that we have enjoyed an operating surplus of \$192,938 in 2002 and an operating surplus of \$25,611 in 2003.

I would be remiss if I did not emphasize that cost containment measures adopted by our Dominion Executive Council have allowed us to live within the Dominion Command approved per capita. The Sub Executive meetings have been cut from six per year to four. The DEC has reduced their meetings by one. In addition redundant committee meetings have been eliminated and as you can see from the Dominion Secretary—report we have been successful in reducing the number of staff. There simply are no further areas to cut without affecting the level of service provided by Dominion Command. Overall, we have been able to make the necessary adjustments to keep the system operating reasonably well. I want to assure you that good business and accounting practices have prevailed in every decision that has been taken.

As directed by a previous Convention, we have attached detailed Committee expenses as part of each committee—report. Attached to this report are the statements showing Dominion Command's operation and their proposed budgets.

On the Statement of Revenue and Expense page, I would like to highlight a few items, which I think, require an explanation. We are now experiencing the lowest rates on our investments in some time, however our portfolio manager has been able to maintain a level of return on investments and make a profit in excess of \$500,000. The Supply Department operated at a surplus in 2003 mainly due to the sales of the Poppy Puppy. Other income grew as a result of GST rebates. You will also notice that in 2003 we only required a payment of \$302,000 from the Poppy Fund towards the operation of the Service Bureau. A decision was made to build up the balance in the Poppy Fund as more demands are being placed upon it.

On the expense side of the Statement of Revenue and Expense page, you will note the Administration costs (which include the Administration department, the Finance department and the Communications department) have increased. This is due to three department directors and one support staff having retired. That resulted in extra salaries within the transition period.

As well, the Supply Department costs increased due to the programming and setup costs for the New Central Supply System. Within the Miscellaneous costs, a provision towards the anticipated costs of hosting the 2005 RCEL Conference in Ottawa has been made. It is a smart business decision to set the funds aside now and not be doing it in the deficit years ahead.

Finally, you can see where the reserve from the Canvet Magazine has been setup and funds are being put aside to ensure its future.

I must say Comrades, to be able to make all these provisions and still show a surplus at the end of 2003, is quite an accomplishment.

We are budgeting for deficits in 2004, 2005 and 2006. If Dominion Command carefully monitors its expenses, we should be able to balance the budget in 2004 but, in the years of 2005 and 2006, its going to be different story. Operating costs are going up and if we, the membership, expect Dominion Command to maintain a certain level of service, we are going to have to cover those costs. The continued decline of approximately 15,000 members each and every year puts a strain on our financial operations. We simply cannot continue to operate with a growing loss of over \$90,000 in membership dues each year.

Presenting deficit budgets is not a good business practice to get into. We will have to use our limited reserve funds to cover those deficits for 2005 and 2006. But, we will also be put into a position of coming to you for an increase in per capita at the 2006 Convention to cover off our future requirements.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, I recommend no increase in the Dominion Command per capita tax and I so move. (The recommendation was moved, seconded and carried.)

I recommend that, based on the excellent service and cooperation provided by our auditors over the past years, that Price Waterhouse Coopers be reappointed as auditors for the ensuing two years and I so move. (The recommendation was moved, seconded and carried.)

Comrades, we have provided you with a full accounting of the actual expenses for the years 2002 and 2003 and have provided estimates for the future. I am now prepared to answer any questions you may have concerning the 2004 budget for our programs and operations.

Comrade Chairman, that concludes my report.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS**

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSE

	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2002	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2003	<u>BUDGET</u>		
			2004	2005	2006
REVENUE					
Per Capita Tax	4,998,733	5,725,676	5,495,000	5,290,000	5,085,000
Canvet					
- Agency Fee & Support	455,000	652,000	525,000	475,000	475,000
- Services	75,000	75,000	-	-	-
Investment Income	535,017	539,956	500,000	510,000	520,000
Service Bureau Revenue	498,650	302,230	752,000	736,000	776,000
Supply Department	723,845	998,786	1,020,000	1,070,000	1,120,000
Legion House					
- Tenants	375,012	399,812	410,000	414,000	418,000
- Internal	235,500	235,500	235,500	235,500	235,500
Misc					
- Master Card	110,882	117,305	120,000	122,000	125,000
- Other	<u>4,889</u>	<u>88,452</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>8,012,528</u>	<u>9,134,717</u>	<u>9,107,500</u>	<u>8,882,500</u>	<u>8,779,500</u>
EXPENSE					
Canvet					
- Subscriptions	2,303,183	2,666,049	2,593,000	2,497,000	2,401,000
- Reserve	-	482,000	457,000	391,000	375,000
Admin, Comm & Finance	1,390,022	1,540,631	1,510,000	1,517,000	1,551,000
Membership	548,298	562,794	573,000	574,000	576,600
Service Bureau	712,368	703,640	752,000	736,000	776,000
Supply Department	725,630	984,114	979,125	1,008,125	1,046,125
Committees	1,407,365	1,279,100	1,525,600	1,489,200	1,502,400
Miscellaneous	237,306	328,208	244,000	243,000	263,000
Legion House	<u>495,418</u>	<u>562,570</u>	<u>514,600</u>	<u>521,600</u>	<u>531,600</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>7,819,590</u>	<u>9,109,106</u>	<u>9,148,325</u>	<u>8,976,925</u>	<u>9,022,725</u>
NET REVENUE (DEFICIT)	<u>192,938</u>	<u>25,611</u>	<u>(40,825)</u>	<u>(94,425)</u>	<u>(243,225)</u>

STATEMENT A

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

ADMINISTRATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND FINANCE DEPARTMENTS

EXPENSE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Salaries	931,590	1,003,750	1,021,000	1,055,000	1,095,000
Retirement Allowance	16,769	61,872	43,000	32,000	28,000
Other Benefits	91,420	103,516	100,000	102,000	104,000
Temporary Services	<u>24,972</u>	<u>46,939</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>42,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	1,064,751	1,216,077	1,238,000	1,241,000	1,269,000
Office Supplies	70,846	49,644	65,000	66,000	68,000
Network Servicing	13,220	13,659	15,000	15,000	16,000
Telephone	5,913	9,595	8,000	8,000	8,000
Postage, Express	13,040	13,349	15,000	15,000	16,000
Printing, Stationery	20,771	23,250	24,000	24,000	25,000
Staff Travel	11,170	3,661	12,000	12,000	12,000
Audit Fees - General	27,590	34,442	30,000	31,000	31,000
- Pension	3,410	3,210	3,000	3,000	3,000
Insurance	11,825	13,970	28,000	29,000	30,000
Legion wide internet	-	-	30,000	31,000	31,000
Depreciation Furn & Equip	55,482	58,251	60,000	61,000	62,000
Rent (Cr to Bldg)	129,000	129,000	129,000	129,000	129,000
Staff Recruitment	9,466	17,873	9,000	9,000	9,000
Miscellaneous	10,568	13,090	8,000	8,000	8,000
Training	<u>3,970</u>	<u>2,560</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>1,451,022</u>	<u>1,601,631</u>	<u>1,684,000</u>	<u>1,692,000</u>	<u>1,727,000</u>
Less charged to:					
Membership Department	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Service Bureau	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Supply	-	-	38,000	39,000	40,000
Canvet	-	-	75,000	75,000	75,000
Poppy Fund	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>	<u>17,000</u>
	<u>61,000</u>	<u>61,000</u>	<u>174,000</u>	<u>175,000</u>	<u>176,000</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>1,390,022</u>	<u>1,540,631</u>	<u>1,510,000</u>	<u>1,517,000</u>	<u>1,551,000</u>

STATEMENT B

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT EXPENSES

	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2002	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2003	<u>2004</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	
				2005	2006
REVENUE					
Agency Fee	<u>455,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>455,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>	<u>475,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	290,510	234,015	272,000	272,000	276,000
Retirement Allowance	5,229	13,607	12,000	8,000	7,000
Other Benefits	36,993	33,871	37,000	38,000	38,000
Temporary Staff	<u>17,206</u>	<u>43,415</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	349,938	324,908	345,000	342,000	346,000
Computer Process Services	78,696	109,494	100,000	102,000	104,000
Stationery, Supplies	5,684	3,390	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rent (CR to Bldg)	34,000	34,000	34,000	35,000	35,000
Membership Packout	13,171	16,071	17,000	17,000	18,000
Postage & Express	39,687	38,682	42,000	43,000	44,000
Prov. Con/ Seminar	-	8,053	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	3,892	4,895	6,000	6,000	600
Telephone	1,230	1,301	2,000	2,000	2,000
Administrative Support	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>22,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>548,298</u>	<u>562,794</u>	<u>573,000</u>	<u>574,000</u>	<u>576,600</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>(93,298)</u>	<u>(87,794)</u>	<u>(98,000)</u>	<u>(99,000)</u>	<u>(101,600)</u>

STATEMENT C
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

SERVICE BUREAU

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
REVENUE					
Poppy Fund Grant	<u>498,650</u>	<u>302,230</u>	<u>752,000</u>	<u>736,000</u>	<u>776,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	505,083	484,433	530,000	544,000	558,000
Retirement Allowance	9,092	34,318	23,000	17,000	14,000
Other Benefits	50,903	52,722	55,000	56,000	57,000
Temporary Staff	<u>13,831</u>	<u>24,199</u>	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	578,909	595,672	608,000	617,000	629,000
Office Supplies Expense	7,745	6,339	8,000	8,000	8,000
Telephone	3,618	4,359	5,000	5,000	5,000
Postage	8,868	10,059	10,000	10,000	10,000
Staff Travel	13,655	14,551	15,000	15,000	16,000
VAC - Liaison	-	-	4,000	4,000	4,000
Rent (Cr. to Bldg)	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
Service Officers Conference	23,747	-	25,000	0	26,000
Sub-Office	17,302	15,163	15,000	15,000	16,000
Administrative Support	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000	22,000
Miscellaneous	<u>1,524</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>712,368</u>	<u>703,640</u>	<u>752,000</u>	<u>736,000</u>	<u>776,000</u>

STATEMENT D
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS
SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
REVENUE					
Sales of Supplies	704,474	979,816	1,000,000	1,050,000	1,100,000
Less Cost of Goods	<u>418,234</u>	<u>562,897</u>	<u>500,000</u>	<u>525,000</u>	<u>550,000</u>
GROSS MARGIN	286,240	416,919	500,000	525,000	550,000
Royalties	<u>19,371</u>	<u>18,970</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
REVENUE TOTAL	<u>305,611</u>	<u>435,889</u>	<u>520,000</u>	<u>545,000</u>	<u>570,000</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	164,157	220,892	267,000	265,000	272,000
Retirement Allowance	2,955	14,022	12,000	8,000	7,000
Other Benefits	22,223	28,690	32,000	33,000	33,000
Temporary Staff	<u>34,073</u>	<u>8,241</u>	-	-	-
TOTAL PERSONNEL	223,408	271,845	311,000	306,000	312,000
Telephone	1,617	2,105	3,000	3,000	3,000
Postage, Express	18,541	28,860	40,000	41,000	42,000
Printing, Stationery	240	72	8,000	8,000	8,000
Staff Travel	788	665	1,000	1,000	1,000
Insurance	389	389	500	500	500
Trademarks	-	-	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rent (CR to Bldg)	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500
Advertising	16,942	24,412	30,000	31,000	32,000
Wrapping Material	3,617	6,303	6,000	6,000	6,000
Finance support	-	-	38,000	39,000	40,000
Office Supplies	1,598	4,516	2,000	2,000	2,000
Bad Debts	-	2,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Miscellaneous	1,356	135	1,500	1,500	1,500
Programming	1,400	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
<i>New Supply System Implementation</i>					
- programming	-	15,554	-	-	-
- warehouse modifications	-	5,885	-	-	-
- equipment	-	<u>20,976</u>	-	-	-
EXPENSE TOTAL	307,396	421,217	503,500	501,500	510,500
LESS: Poppy Fund Chargeback	-	-	<u>(38,000)</u>	<u>(39,000)</u>	<u>(39,000)</u>
NET EXPENSE	<u>307,396</u>	<u>421,217</u>	<u>465,500</u>	<u>462,500</u>	<u>471,500</u>
GAIN OR (LOSS)	(1,785)	14,672	54,500	82,500	98,500
PROFIT SHARING @ 25%	n/a	n/a	<u>13,625</u>	<u>20,625</u>	<u>24,625</u>
NET GAIN OR (LOSS)	<u>(1,785)</u>	<u>14,672</u>	<u>40,875</u>	<u>61,875</u>	<u>73,875</u>

STATEMENT E

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE

	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2002	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2003	<u>BUDGET</u> 2004	<u>BUDGET</u> 2005	<u>BUDGET</u> 2006
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE					
RCEL - Conference (<i>note 1</i>)	38,840	131,000	20,000	15,000	30,000
- Annual Dues	48,889	53,197	55,000	56,000	57,000
- SCOWP	<u>16,085</u>	<u>11,944</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>
RCEL TOTAL	103,814	196,141	90,000	86,000	103,000
Request for Support	15,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Legion History Project	-	43	-	-	-
Dominion Scholarships	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Council for Canadian Unity	-	-	3,000	3,000	3,000
Legal & Other	31,029	17,395	35,000	36,000	37,000
MBP Ads	31,575	34,827	32,000	33,000	34,000
Supply Study	23,540	-	-	-	-
Translation (<i>note 2</i>)	<u>16,348</u>	<u>43,802</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>49,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>237,306</u>	<u>328,208</u>	<u>244,000</u>	<u>243,000</u>	<u>263,000</u>

Note 1: RCEL Conference

The DEC authorized a portion of the 2003 surplus to be applied to the anticipated expense of the 2005 RCEL Conference in Ottawa. This reduces the expenditure requirement for 2004 and 2005.

Note 2: Translation

This amount reflects the cost of translation services only. It does not include the extra printing and paper costs for the minutes of meetings, manuals, publications or Convention documents. These costs are distributed throughout the departmental expenses under "office supplies and printing and stationary". Some costs are recovered for the resale items.

STATEMENT F
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

LEGION HOUSE

	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2002	<u>ACTUAL</u> 2003	<u>BUDGET</u>		
			2004	2005	2006
REVENUE					
Rent - Tenants	365,030	391,702	400,000	404,000	408,000
Rent - Charge to Depts					
- Administration	129,000	129,000	129,000	129,000	129,000
- Membership	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000
- Service Bureau	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
- Supply Dept	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500	37,500
Parking	<u>9,982</u>	<u>8,110</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,000</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>610,512</u>	<u>635,312</u>	<u>645,500</u>	<u>649,500</u>	<u>653,500</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries	38,540	38,731	40,000	40,000	41,000
Retirement Allowance	694	2,361	2,000	1,000	1,000
Other Benefits	<u>5,871</u>	<u>6,218</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>	<u>6,000</u>
TOTAL PERSONNEL	45,105	47,310	48,000	47,000	48,000
Elevator Maintenance	10,413	9,217	11,000	11,000	11,000
A/C, Electrical, Plumbing	22,890	36,711	28,000	29,000	30,000
Interior & Exterior	54,725	68,994	52,000	53,000	54,000
Cleaning Contract	48,744	47,910	50,000	51,000	52,000
Fuel	30,252	32,915	32,000	33,000	34,000
Light & Power	94,719	113,915	100,000	102,000	104,000
Water Rates	7,462	10,464	12,000	12,000	12,000
Depreciation - Building	32,600	32,600	32,600	32,600	32,600
Property Management	16,940	17,464	20,000	20,000	21,000
Taxes	96,594	97,263	100,000	102,000	104,000
Insurance	5,779	7,625	12,000	12,000	12,000
Reserve Fund	13,000	38,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Leasehold Improvement	<u>16,195</u>	<u>2,182</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	<u>495,418</u>	<u>562,570</u>	<u>514,600</u>	<u>521,600</u>	<u>531,600</u>
GAIN OR LOSS	<u>115,094</u>	<u>72,742</u>	<u>130,900</u>	<u>127,900</u>	<u>121,900</u>

STATEMENT G
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION - DOMINION COMMAND
GENERAL FUNDS

COMMITTEES & ELECTED OFFICERS EXPENSE

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>		
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
COMMITTEES					
1. Veterans, Service and Seniors	32,206	28,335	55,100	56,100	57,100
Gerontology	80,000	387	-	-	-
2. Poppy and Remembrance	59,905	63,006	79,600	74,600	74,600
3. Membership	99,470	96,583	130,700	132,200	132,200
4. Public Relations	242,154	193,565	208,000	208,200	208,400
5. Leadership & Development	30,446	23,230	34,700	34,700	35,700
6. R.C.E.L.	31,390	33,582	38,200	38,200	38,200
7. Sports	472,476	394,323	488,900	499,300	507,300
Centennial	(125,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)	(125,000)
8. Finance	5,301	3,322	8,000	8,000	8,000
9. Ritual & Awards	5,807	16,879	15,800	15,800	15,800
10. Convention	19,047	5,769	25,400	9,400	25,400
11. Constitution & Laws	14,731	1,802	15,900	3,900	15,900
12. Defence	9,834	10,812	14,900	15,400	15,400
13. Liaison	15,831	9,261	20,000	20,000	20,000
14. Dominion Appeal	245	553	800	800	800
Veterans Unity	5,957	2,811	-	-	-
75th Anniversary	(7,392)	(36)	-	-	-
Chaplain General	0	10,142	-	-	-
Provincial Secretaries	12,397	-	-	-	-
Maple Leaf	<u>11,510</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
COMMITTEE TOTAL	<u>1,016,315</u>	<u>769,326</u>	<u>1,011,000</u>	<u>991,600</u>	<u>1,029,800</u>
15. Elected Officers	70,774	146,171	123,000	153,000	125,000
16. DEC/Sub-Executive	134,407	162,402	140,600	144,600	147,600
17. Dominion Convention	<u>185,869</u>	<u>201,201</u>	<u>251,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
SUB-TOTAL	<u>391,050</u>	<u>509,774</u>	<u>514,600</u>	<u>497,600</u>	<u>472,600</u>
EXPENSE TOTAL	<u>1,407,365</u>	<u>1,279,100</u>	<u>1,525,600</u>	<u>1,489,200</u>	<u>1,502,400</u>

**THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
DOMINION CONVENTION**

	<u>1998</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2000</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2002</u> <u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>2002</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>2004</u> <u>BUDGET</u>
DEC - Travel	54,186	56,919	58,994	71,500	71,500
- Per Diem	66,220	77,634	58,456	78,000	78,000
Staff -Travel	12,180	18,554	18,656	24,000	22,000
- Per Diem	31,519	36,472	29,327	38,000	36,000
Constitution & Law					
- Travel	80	-	-	-	-
- Per Diem	300	-	-	-	-
Past President					
- Travel	11,812	10,586	8,339	13,500	12,000
- Per Diem	10,343	13,979	9,015	15,000	13,000
V.C. Winners					
- Travel	1,567	3,905	1,285	1,200	2,500
- Per Diem	-	1,076	616	500	1,000
Others					
- Travel	7,447	10,157	-	8,000	8,000
- Per Diem	6,752	9,821	1,848	7,200	6,000
- Entertainment	-	-	-	-	1,200
Credentials	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Printing					
- Convention Reports	28,606	29,289	37,973	35,000	37,000
- Other	20,297	27,502	23,476	33,300	30,600
Translation & Interpretation	6,689	10,285	13,430	10,000	11,200
Postage	13,905	13,771	16,258	17,500	17,700
Freight	366	2,814	3,000	3,000	3,000
Social Activities					
- President Reception	11,971	13,690	15,760	12,000	18,000
- Dominion Command Night	11,508	59,350	21,952	22,000	-
- Other	5,947	10,587	5,590	10,900	11,100
Convention Centre	56,533	46,535	58,914	50,000	57,600
Convention Operation	47,112	76,996	73,339	65,350	74,900
Transportation	490	3,285	3,962	6,350	6,350
Ceremonies	1,337	200	582	3,000	3,000
Local Arrangements Committee	3,041	783	2,731	3,000	3,000
Supply	<u>23,811</u>	<u>16,935</u>	<u>12,632</u>	<u>19,850</u>	<u>16,850</u>
	438,519	555,625	480,635	552,650	546,000
Revenue	<u>98,646</u>	<u>97,769</u>	<u>94,766</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>
SUB-TOTAL	339,873	457,856	385,869	452,650	451,000
Provision	<u>150,000</u>	<u>250,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
TOTAL	<u>189,873</u>	<u>207,856</u>	<u>185,869</u>	<u>252,650</u>	<u>251,000</u>

RCL DOMINION COMMAND				
NET REVENUE RECONCILIATION				
DECEMBER 31				
2002				
NET (EXPENSE) PER AUDITED STATEMENT				(692,712)
ADD: Transfers from	- Poppy Fund		498,650	
	- Centennial Fund		125,000	623,650
NET (EXPENSE) INCLUDING TRANSFERS				(69,062)
LESS: Reserves Taken	- Pilgrimage		(40,000)	
	- Building		(13,000)	(53,000)
ADD: Reserves Realized	- Convention		200,000	
	- RCEL		40,000	
	- War Museum		75,000	315,000
NET REVENUE PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS				192,938
2003				
NET REVENUE PER AUDITED STATEMENT				291,777
ADD: Transfers from	- Poppy Fund		302,230	
	- Centennial Fund		125,000	427,230
NET REVENUE INCLUDING TRANSFERS				719,007
LESS: Reserves Taken	- Convention		(200,000)	
	- RCEL		(131,000)	
	- Legion Magazine		(482,000)	
	- Building		(38,000)	(851,000)
ADD: Reserves Realized	- Pilgrimage		40,000	
	- Building		42,604	
	- War Museum		75,000	157,604
NET REVENUE PER DEPARTMENTAL STATEMENTS				25,611

REPORT OF CANVET PUBLICATIONS LTD.

M. Cook	-	Board Chairman
A. Parks	-	Board Vice-Chairman
D. Daly	-	Secretary-Treasurer
M. Burdett	-	Director
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J. Frost	-	Director
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P. Varga	-	Director
W. Smith	-	Director
J. Kobolak	-	Director
M. Johnston	-	Editor and General Manager

Introduction

Canvet Publications moved to six issues per year in 2003 and has been very successful since the last Dominion Convention, but may now be facing a serious unexpected threat to continued receipt of the postal subsidy for Legion Magazine.

Postal Subsidy

Canvet Publications Ltd. has long received the postal subsidy for Legion Magazine. The subsidy saved us \$472,000 in 2003. If continued, we project it will save us \$450,000 in 2004 and \$430,000 in 2005. This is a valuable recurring asset that allows us to keep the price of the magazine low.

The Department of Canadian Heritage notified us in mid-January that they are "reorienting" the Publications Assistance Program (postal subsidy) to better address current needs and market conditions and to ensure the best and most responsible use of public funds.

There will be a new three-year confirmation cycle, with a full re-application in Year 1 (2004), then an "annual attestation" in Years 2 & 3. The cycle would then be repeated. This system is designed to ensure PAP recipients first meet and then continue to meet the program's eligibility criteria.

The eligibility criteria are more tightly defined in general and, for the first time, they are specifically defined for association magazines. It appears our type of magazine has become a target. Please note that to qualify for the subsidy, the magazine must be the driver with association membership a secondary benefit, not the other way around. The magazine has re-applied for the subsidy. Efforts have been made to surmount this obstacle. We are awaiting a decision.

English Contents

Legion Magazine's move to six issues per year in 2003 has been well-received by Legion members. We continue to offer a variety of material as required by the postal subsidy regulations, but our emphasis on our military heritage and remembrance has been increased in 2004 with the introduction of new regular articles by naval and air force historians, as well as the initiation of an 18-part series on Canadian recipients of the Victoria Cross and a Military Milestones calendar. It is hoped that these contents will help support the Legion's membership recruitment and retention efforts.

The magazine published 704 English pages in 2003 with the help of a grant from the Canada Magazine Fund. We have reverted to 672 pages for 2004. The number of Snapshots published was 678 in 2002 and 704 in 2003, indicating a continued high level of photo submissions from branches.

French Insert

The magazine publishes a French insert which is available to any member at no extra charge. We published 124 French pages in 2002 and 172 pages in 2003. We expect to publish 144 pages in 2004.

Digital Photography

Digital photos have become a concern. Digitally processed prints cannot be scanned by the magazine, so branches submitting photos for Snapshots must have them processed optically, not digitally.

The magazine will begin accepting electronic photo submissions from Provincial Command Correspondents. The details will be explained in the revised Guidelines booklet to be produced this Summer and distributed to each branch. Each Command will have the option of whether to submit photos electronically or by mail, or a combination of the two.

Economic Performance

Canvet's financial performance was good in 2003, with strong advertising sales. The \$2.00 increase approved by the 2002 Dominion Convention is creating a sufficient reserve to allow us to continue our operation without a subscription increase until 2010 as promised. If we lose the postal subsidy, we will not be able to keep that promise.

A solid performance is expected again this year, subject to continuation of the postal subsidy. It is anticipated that the subscription rate would be set at approximately \$6.40 in 2005, reducing the amount that is added to the reserve.

Budgets

For your information, the Canvet budgets for the period 2002-2005 are attached to this report and the audited Canvet Financial Statements appear on pages 105-114.

I move acceptance of this report. (The motion was seconded and approved by the delegates.)

CANVET

February 9, 2004 08:57:34 AM				
	5 issues	6 issues	6 issues	6 issues
	572 pg	704	672 pg	672 pg
	\$5.00 sub	\$6.00 sub	\$6.00 sub	\$6.40 sub
	2002	2003	2004	2005
REVENUE:	ACTUALS	ACTUALS	BUDGET	BUDGET
Mag. Subscription	\$2,156,635	\$2,495,866	\$2,407,626	\$2,472,134
Advertising	363,355	489,903	425,000	400,000
Advertising RCL	49,025	71,611	53,000	53,000
Classified Ads	8,875	8,964	9,500	9,500
Interest Earned	10,466	20,528	19,000	19,000
Royalties TCWS	1,889	5,012	0	0
Design & Production Services	200	3,279	500	500
Canada Magazine Fund		45,000	71,694	0
Misc. Revenue	1,495	50	200	200
TOTAL REVENUE	2,591,940	3,140,213	2,986,520	2,954,334
EXPENSE:				
Desk Top Publishing	5,858	7,292	12,200	11,200
Printing - English	878,433	1,053,601	911,269	949,061
- French	20,315	27,823	22,100	22,542
Illustrations	29,848	35,070	45,000	45,000
Editorial - English	46,615	61,835	108,034	75,000
- French	21,996	27,555	30,000	25,000
Magazine Postage	207,710	267,050	331,413	347,984
Magazine Postage Due	4,811	5,750	6,000	6,000
Freight Express	6,548	5,717	7,500	7,500
	1,222,134	1,491,693	1,473,516	1,489,287
Salaries	481,843	542,230	511,363	521,590
Severance Allowance	0	0	0	0
Pension	0	0	0	0
Retirement Allowance	4,818	10,845	10,227	10,432
Other Benefits	46,338	49,546	53,693	54,767
Temporary & Contract Staff	30,142	8,412	10,000	10,500
	563,141	611,033	585,283	597,289
Advertising Commission	72,947	99,086	80,250	74,000
Agency Fee	455,000	652,000	525,000	475,000
Accounting/Services Fee	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000
Directors Meetings	2,000	6,000	5,000	5,000
Subscript., Books & Dues	4,531	3,184	3,500	3,500
Rent	51,146	51,146	51,000	51,000
Insurance	9,921	12,809	14,000	14,500
Supplies-Office	2,402	3,441	4,000	4,000
- Computer	725	4,688	1,000	1,000
- Equipment Rental	4,544	4,548	4,600	4,600
Telephone & Fax	6,769	7,350	7,500	7,500
Office Postage	2,793	3,329	4,000	4,000
Professional Fees	5,671	7,220	7,000	7,000
Editorial Travel	19,919	50,049	38,200	47,900
Printing & Stationery	4,169	3,568	4,500	4,500
Sales Promotion	20,623	28,226	29,000	29,000
Misc. General Expense	33,956	17,052	5,000	5,000
Staff Recruit. & Training	2,672	1,243	7,000	7,000
Depreciation	13,404	13,348	15,000	15,000
Royalties TCWS	629	1,462	0	0
Prov. Commands Corresp.	0	0	16,000	0
60th Anniversary WWII	0	0	0	10,000
Bad Debt Expense	26,509	5,035	5,000	5,000
TOTAL EXPENSE	2,600,605	3,152,510	2,960,349	2,936,076
NET REVENUE (LOSS)	-8,665	-12,297	26,171	18,259

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

February 20, 2004

Auditors' Report

To the Members of The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

We have audited the balance sheet of **The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command** as at December 31, 2003 and the statements of revenue and expense and fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Dominion Command's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

Canadian generally accepted accounting principles require that employee future benefits be accounted for based on actuarial valuations of the related costs and obligations. As described in notes 2 and 8 to the financial statements, the Dominion Command has not complied with this requirement. The effects of this departure from Canadian generally accepted accounting principles have not been determined.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the failure to properly record employee future benefits as described in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Dominion Command as at December 31, 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

(Incorporated by Act of Parliament, Canada)

Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	3,018,152	3,173,487
Accounts receivable (note 3)	1,036,728	1,210,168
Inventory -		
General	476,128	244,238
Poppy promotional material	50,803	78,851
Prepaid expense	96,267	109,401
Prepaid subscriptions	1,379,731	1,452,603
Due from Canvet Publications Ltd.	-	35,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	6,057,809	6,303,748
Marketable investments (note 4)	14,925,740	13,539,888
Capital assets (note 5)	611,321	684,994
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,594,870	20,528,630
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	611,805	730,638
Per capita tax received in advance	2,931,391	3,086,217
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	40,303	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,583,499	3,816,855
Retirement obligation	52,592	64,978
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,636,091	3,881,833
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Fund balances		
General		
Unrestricted	615,191	590,906
Invested in capital assets	611,321	684,994
Internally restricted (note 6)	838,000	69,604
Restricted and investment	15,894,267	15,301,293
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17,958,779	16,646,797
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21,594,870	20,528,630
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Signed on behalf of the Dominion Executive Council

President

Treasurer

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Statement of Revenue and Expense and Fund Balances – General Fund

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue		
Administrative fees (note 7)	75,000	75,000
Building rental (note 7)	399,812	375,012
Dividends	68,454	86,961
Interest	471,503	448,055
Miscellaneous	88,452	4,889
Per capita tax	5,725,676	4,998,733
Subscription agency fee (note 7)	652,000	455,000
Supply sales	998,785	723,846
Mastercard (MBNA)	117,305	110,882
	8,596,987	7,278,378
Expense		
Building	532,393	433,622
Committees	1,244,101	1,688,179
Donation – Canadian War Museum	75,000	75,000
General administration	1,353,381	1,205,539
Legion magazine subscriptions	2,666,048	2,303,183
Membership	516,432	501,938
Miscellaneous	197,206	281,492
Service bureau	668,639	677,368
Supply –		
Operation	383,718	269,897
Cost of sales	562,897	418,234
Amortization–		
Furniture and equipment and computers	70,612	67,843
Building and leasehold improvements	34,782	48,795
	8,305,209	7,971,090
Net revenue (expense) for the year	291,778	(692,712)
Fund balance – Beginning of year	1,345,504	1,414,566
Transfers from Poppy Trust Fund	1,637,282	721,854
Transfers from Centennial Fund	302,230	498,650
	125,000	125,000
Fund balance – End of year	2,064,512	1,345,504
Comprised of:		
Unrestricted	615,191	590,906
Invested in capital assets	611,321	684,994
Internally restricted (note 6)	838,000	69,604
	2,064,512	1,345,504

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Statement of Revenue and Expense and Fund Balances – Restricted Funds and Investment
For the year ended December 31, 2003

	Poppy Trust Fund	CEL Fund	Centennial Fund	Benevolent Fund	Investment Fund	Total 2003	Total 2002
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Revenue							
Donations	36,672	187,056	–	718	–	224,446	300,828
Interest	54,501	4,733	112,366	4,733	–	176,333	165,901
Gain on sale of investment	567	–	11,201	–	220,999	232,767	629,011
Gain on foreign exchange	–	–	–	–	(10,371)	(10,371)	75,371
Poppies and wreaths	3,103,384	–	–	–	–	3,103,384	3,002,476
Promotional aids	177,861	–	–	–	–	177,861	207,301
	3,372,985	191,789	123,567	5,451	210,628	3,904,420	4,380,888
Expense							
Advertising and promotional materials	85,191	–	–	–	–	85,191	100,937
Poppy contests	14,286	–	–	–	–	14,286	10,722
Poppies and wreaths	2,035,856	–	–	–	–	2,035,856	1,864,363
Promotional aids	138,269	–	–	–	–	138,269	180,425
Poppy exchange program	99,313	–	–	–	–	99,313	–
Freight	146,868	–	–	–	–	146,868	195,853
General	31,758	–	8,532	–	–	40,290	42,667
Benevolent support and assistance	31,192	273,191	–	19,760	–	324,143	348,704
	2,582,733	273,191	8,532	19,760	–	2,884,216	2,743,671
Net revenue (expense) for the year	790,252	(81,402)	115,035	(14,309)	210,628	1,020,204	1,637,217
Fund balance – Beginning of year	1,960,829	372,918	1,796,247	89,873	11,081,426	15,301,293	14,287,726
Interfund transfers	(377,230)	75,000	(125,000)	–	–	(427,230)	(623,650)
Fund balance – End of year	2,373,851	366,516	1,786,282	75,564	11,292,054	15,894,267	15,301,293

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net revenue (expense) for the year		
General Fund	291,778	(692,712)
Restricted Funds and Investment	1,020,204	1,637,217
Items not affecting cash –		
Provision for retirement obligation	126,179	34,738
Amortization	105,394	116,638
Gain on sale of marketable investments	(232,767)	(629,011)
Loss (gain) on foreign exchange	10,371	(75,371)
Payment of retirement obligation	(138,565)	(49,963)
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(142,752)	(175,225)
	<u>1,039,842</u>	<u>166,311</u>
Investing activities		
Proceeds on disposal of marketable investments	4,811,233	4,000,774
Purchase of marketable investments	(5,974,689)	(2,884,225)
Purchase of capital assets	(31,721)	(59,519)
	<u>(1,195,177)</u>	<u>1,057,030</u>
Net change in cash for the year	(155,335)	1,223,341
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	<u>3,173,487</u>	<u>1,950,146</u>
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	<u>3,018,152</u>	<u>3,173,487</u>
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	173,440	(184,637)
Inventory		
General	(231,890)	(33,661)
Poppy promotional material	28,048	(30,155)
Prepaid expense	13,134	(8,399)
Prepaid subscriptions	72,872	(214,603)
Due from Canvet Publications Ltd.	35,000	(35,000)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(118,833)	(10,191)
Per capita tax received in advance	(154,826)	426,996
Due to Canvet Publications Ltd.	40,303	(85,575)
	<u>(142,752)</u>	<u>(175,225)</u>
Cash and cash equivalents are comprised of:		
General Fund	1,134,727	868,599
Investment Fund	521,823	1,440,169
Poppy Trust Fund	791,222	144,955
Special Funds	570,380	719,764
	<u>3,018,152</u>	<u>3,173,487</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

1 Purpose of the organization

The Canadian Legion was incorporated in 1926 under the Company's Act, and its name was amended to The Royal Canadian Legion in 1961 by an Act of Parliament. The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command (the "Dominion Command") is a not-for-profit organization under subsection 149(1)(l) of the Income Tax Act and as such is exempt from income taxes.

2 Significant accounting policies

Fund accounting

The Dominion Command follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

i) Investment Fund

The Investment Fund was established January 1, 1998 by transferring all investments held at that time from the General Fund. All capital gains and losses on these investments are held within the Fund, whereas interest and dividends earned are credited to the General Fund.

ii) Poppy Trust Fund

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Poppy Trust Fund ("Poppy Trust Fund") accounts for the sales of poppies and wreaths and poppy promotional material to the Provincial Commands. The funds raised are used to assist Canadian ex-service personnel and their dependants and ex-service personnel of Commonwealth and allied countries living in Canada in necessitous circumstances; to pay operating expenses of the Dominion Command Service Bureau where required; and to provide a grant to the CEL fund to support veterans in the Caribbean.

iii) CEL, Centennial Foundation and Benevolent Funds ("Special Funds")

Special Funds are accumulated to finance special activities, including grants to Commonwealth veterans in the Caribbean, and a youth track and field camp.

Cash equivalents

Liquid short-term investments, with maturities at the date of acquisition of three months or less, are considered cash equivalents as they are readily convertible to cash and are not subject to significant changes in value.

Inventories

Inventories are carried at the lower of cost, determined on a first-in and first-out basis, and market. Market is defined as the net realizable value.

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

Capital assets are amortized to the General Fund on a straight-line basis, over their estimated useful service lives, at the following annual rates:

Building	2 1/2%
Furniture and equipment	10%
Computers	20%
Leasehold improvements	remaining term of the lease

Retirement obligation

The Dominion Command provides a retirement allowance for employees who have a minimum of 15 years of service and have attained the age of 55 or a minimum of 10 years of service and have attained age 60. The organization has recorded a liability for these benefits based on current employee service. This liability was not determined with reference to an actuarial valuation. In this respect, these financial statements are not in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund. Unrestricted contributions 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.

Per capita tax

Per capita tax is recorded as revenue in the year it is received unless it relates to a future year, in which case it is deferred and recorded as income in the future year.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

3 Accounts receivable

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Commands		
General	96,591	67,024
Poppy Trust Fund	750,114	974,032
Other		
General	131,136	11,174
Poppy Trust Fund	—	105,579
Accrued interest	58,887	52,359
	1,036,728	1,210,168

4 Marketable investments

	2003		2002	
	Quoted value \$	Cost \$	Quoted value \$	Cost \$
Government and government guaranteed bonds	6,050,954	5,820,303	5,709,670	5,339,063
Pooled bond fund	4,648,491	4,501,018	4,138,782	4,071,062
Corporate stocks	5,613,026	4,604,419	4,580,129	4,129,763
	16,312,471	14,925,740	14,428,581	13,539,888

	2003		2002	
	Quoted value \$	Cost \$	Quoted value \$	Cost \$
Poppy Trust Fund	726,261	684,691	691,967	651,541
Special Funds	1,712,901	1,668,059	1,615,625	1,549,860
Investment Fund	13,873,309	12,572,990	12,120,989	11,338,487
	16,312,471	14,925,740	14,428,581	13,539,888

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

5 Capital assets

			<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
	Cost	Accumulated	Net	Net
	\$	amortization	\$	\$
		\$		
Land	129,948	–	129,948	129,948
Building	1,284,480	969,243	315,237	347,838
Furniture and equipment	607,876	539,532	68,344	81,016
Computers	310,370	212,578	97,792	101,261
Leasehold improvements	147,770	147,770	–	24,931
	<u>2,480,444</u>	<u>1,869,123</u>	<u>611,321</u>	<u>684,994</u>

6 Internally restricted fund balance

Each year, the Dominion Command internally restricts a portion of its General Fund balance for expenses that will be incurred in the future for major building repairs, the CEL Conference, Convention and Pilgrimage.

	<u>2003</u>	<u>2002</u>
	\$	\$
Legion Magazine	482,000	–
Building	25,000	29,604
RCEL conference	131,000	–
Convention	200,000	–
Pilgrimage	–	40,000
	<u>838,000</u>	<u>69,604</u>

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

7 Controlled entity

The Dominion Command controls Canvet Publications Limited (“Canvet”), an incorporated entity.

Canvet publishes and distributes “Legion Magazine”, which is sold to the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion and to non-member subscribers. Canvet has not been consolidated in the Dominion Command’s financial statements. A summary of the financial position, results of operations and cash flows of Canvet as at December 31, 2003 and 2002 is as follows:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Financial position		
Total assets	1,449,363	1,452,243
Total liabilities	1,571,302	1,561,885
Deficit less capital stock	(121,939)	(109,642)
	<u>1,449,363</u>	<u>1,452,243</u>
Results of operations		
Total revenue	3,138,752	2,591,310
Total expense	3,151,049	2,599,975
Net loss for the year	<u>(12,297)</u>	<u>(8,665)</u>
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities	(83,281)	383,436
Investing activity	(10,705)	(16,702)
Financing activity	-	(1)
	<u>(93,986)</u>	<u>366,733</u>

Advertising expense charged by Canvet during the year was \$71,611 (2002 - \$49,025).

The following transactions with Canvet are included in revenues of the General Fund:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Administrative fees	75,000	75,000
Building rental	51,146	51,146
Subscription agency fee	652,000	455,000

These transactions are considered to be in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount of consideration established and agreed to by the related parties.

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

8 Pension plan

The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Pension Plan is a contributory defined benefit plan that covers all of its employees. The plan provides pensions based on length of service and annual employee earnings.

An extrapolation of an actuarial valuation for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2001 indicated the following information about the Dominion Command's defined benefit plans as at December 31, 2003:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Accrued benefit obligation	(9,115,335)	(9,211,838)
Fair value of plan assets	11,151,196	11,172,470
	<u>2,035,861</u>	<u>1,960,632</u>
Plan surplus	2,035,861	1,960,632
	<u>699,878</u>	<u>985,878</u>
Accrued benefit assets	699,878	985,878

Accrued benefit assets have not been recorded in the balance sheet. In this respect, these financial statements are not in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Pension expense recorded for the year was \$nil (2002 - \$nil).

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring the Dominion Command's accrued benefit obligation are as follows:

	2003	2002
Discount rate	7.0%	7.0%
Salary escalation rate	5.0%	5.0%
Return on assets	6.5%	6.5%

Other information about the Dominion Command's defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Employer contributions	—	—
Employee contributions	150,719	142,098
Benefits paid	1,396,100	210,700

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

The plan assets, at market value, available to provide for plan benefits at December 31, 2002 are invested in mutual funds as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Bonds	3,207,558	3,891,770
Equities	4,265,719	3,808,857
Foreign equities	2,564,251	2,266,728
Mortgages	573,440	630,604
Real estate	540,228	574,511
	<u>11,151,196</u>	<u>11,172,470</u>

9 Financial instruments

Interest rate risk

The fair values of financial instruments bearing interest at fixed rates will vary with changes in interest rates.

Cash equivalents include money market funds which invest in high quality, short-term government and corporate debt securities, including Canadian treasury bills, bankers' acceptances and commercial paper.

Government and government guaranteed bonds held by the organization bear interest at rates between 3.0% and 10.25% and mature between February 1, 2004 and June 2, 2013 (2002 – rates between 4.75% and 10.25% and mature between April 22, 2003 and December 2, 2010).

The pooled bond fund invests in high quality short and long-term government securities and corporate bonds. These investments bear interest at rates between 4.1% and 11.9% and mature between November 29, 2004 and June 30, 2052 (2002 - rates between 4.13% and 11.90% and mature between July 28, 2003 and December 31, 2049).

Market risk

The fair values of investments will vary with market fluctuations. The organization invests in corporate stocks of companies in various industries, including metals and minerals, oil and gas, industrial products, utilities and financial institutions.

Currency risk

Marketable investments include securities denominated in U.S. dollars that amount to US \$696,177 (2002 - US \$1,253,226). The Canadian dollar equivalent of these securities as at December 31, 2003 is \$999,362 (2002 - \$1,941,831).

The Royal Canadian Legion - Dominion Command

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

10 Commitments

Dominion Regalia Limited supplies the Poppy Trust Fund with poppies and related remembrance materials under an agreement which is in effect until December 31, 2005.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Financial Statements
December 31, 2003

February 20, 2004

Auditors' Report

To the Shareholders of Canvet Publications Ltd.

We have audited the balance sheet of **Canvet Publications Ltd.** as at December 31, 2003 and the statements of loss and deficit and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 2003 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP

Chartered Accountants

Canvet Publications Ltd.

(Incorporated under the laws of Canada)

Balance Sheet

As at December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,222,690	1,316,676
Accounts receivable	21,620	12,546
Prepaid expense	123,385	79,014
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	40,303	–
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,407,998	1,408,236
Capital assets (note 2)	41,365	44,007
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,449,363	1,452,243
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	52,005	21,917
GST payable	48,356	64,162
Deferred revenue	91,234	3,839
Subscriptions received in advance	1,289,468	1,357,573
Due to The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	–	35,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,481,063	1,482,491
Retirement obligation	90,239	79,394
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,571,302	1,561,885
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit Less Capital Stock		
Deficit	(121,949)	(109,652)
Capital stock		
Authorized – 50,000 common shares		
Issued – 10 common shares	10	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	(121,939)	(109,642)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,449,363	1,452,243
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Approved by the Board of Directors

Director

Director

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Loss and Deficit

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Revenue		
Subscriptions	2,495,866	2,156,635
Advertising (note 3)	573,807	422,949
	<hr/> 3,069,673	<hr/> 2,579,584
Expense (schedule)		
Magazine	1,491,693	1,222,132
Employees	611,034	563,142
Administrative	396,322	359,701
Subscription agency fee (note 3)	652,000	455,000
	<hr/> 3,151,049	<hr/> 2,599,975
	<hr/> (81,376)	<hr/> (20,391)
Other income		
Canadian Magazine Fund	45,000	–
Interest income	20,528	10,466
Royalties – True Canadian War Stories	3,551	1,260
	<hr/> 69,079	<hr/> 11,726
Net loss for the year	(12,297)	(8,665)
Deficit – Beginning of year	<hr/> (109,652)	<hr/> (100,987)
Deficit – End of year	<hr/> <u>(121,949)</u>	<hr/> <u>(109,652)</u>

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Cash flows from (used in)		
Operating activities		
Net loss for the year	(12,297)	(8,665)
Items not affecting cash -		
Amortization	13,347	13,404
Provision for retirement obligation	10,845	4,819
Net change in non-cash working capital items	(95,176)	373,878
	(83,281)	383,436
Investing activity		
Purchase of capital assets	(10,705)	(16,703)
Financing activity		
Redemption of capital stock	-	(1)
Net change in cash for the year	(93,986)	366,732
Cash and cash equivalents – Beginning of year	1,316,676	949,944
Cash and cash equivalents – End of year	1,222,690	1,316,676
Net change in non-cash working capital items		
Accounts receivable	(9,074)	32,691
Prepaid expense	(44,371)	(2,491)
Due from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	(40,303)	85,575
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	30,088	4,675
GST payable	(15,806)	17,874
Deferred revenue	87,395	(10)
Subscriptions received in advance	(68,105)	200,564
Due to The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command	(35,000)	35,000
	(95,176)	373,878

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

1 Significant accounting policies

Cash equivalents

Investments in a money market mutual fund are considered cash equivalents as they are short-term, highly liquid investments that are not subject to significant changes in value.

Capital assets and amortization

Capital assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortization.

Office equipment and computer equipment are amortized using the declining-balance method over their estimated useful service lives at rates of 20% and 30% respectively.

Retirement obligation

The Company provides a retirement allowance for employees who have a minimum of 15 years of service and have attained the age of 55 or a minimum of 10 years of service and have attained age 60. The Company has recorded an estimated liability for these benefits based on current employee service. This liability was not determined with reference to an actuarial valuation.

Revenue recognition

Subscription fees are recorded as revenue in the period they are received unless the fees relate to a subscription of a future year in which case the amount is deferred and recorded as revenue in that future year.

Non-monetary transactions

Non-monetary transactions are recorded at the fair value of the asset or service given up unless the fair value of the asset or service received is more clearly determinable.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the dates of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting periods. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

2 Capital assets

			2003	2002
	Cost \$	Accumulated amortization \$	Net \$	Net \$
Office equipment	68,045	52,412	15,633	10,638
Computer equipment	163,580	137,848	25,732	33,369
	231,625	190,260	41,365	44,007

3 Related party transactions

Canvet Publications Ltd. is a federally-incorporated, for-profit company which has a business relationship with The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command. The Company publishes and distributes Legion Magazine, which is sold to the membership of The Royal Canadian Legion and to non-member subscribers. The shareholders of the Company are officers of The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command.

Advertising revenue earned from The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command during the year was \$71,611 (2002 - \$49,025).

The following transactions with The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command are included in expense:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Accounting and computer services	75,000	75,000
Rent	51,146	51,146
Subscription agency fee	652,000	455,000

These transactions are considered to be in the normal course of operations and are measured at the exchange amount, which is the amount established and agreed to by the related parties.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

4 Pension plan

The Company participates in The Royal Canadian Legion – Dominion Command Pension Plan which is a contributory defined benefit plan that covers all of its employees. The plan provides pensions based on length of service and annual employee earnings.

An extrapolation of an actuarial valuation for accounting purposes as at January 1, 2001 indicated the following information about the defined benefit plan as at December 31, 2003:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Accrued benefit obligation	(9,115,335)	(9,211,838)
Fair value of plan assets	<u>11,151,196</u>	<u>11,172,470</u>
Plan surplus	<u>2,035,861</u>	<u>1,960,632</u>
Accrued benefit assets	<u>699,878</u>	<u>985,878</u>

Accrued benefit assets have not been recorded in the balance sheet. The pension expense for the year was \$nil (2002 - \$nil).

The significant actuarial assumptions adopted in measuring the total accrued benefit obligation for the Company and the Dominion Command are as follows:

	2003	2002
Discount rate	7.0%	7.0%
Salary escalation rate	5.0%	5.0%
Return on assets	6.5%	6.5%

Other information about the defined benefit plan is as follows:

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Employer contributions	—	—
Employee contributions	150,719	142,098
Benefits paid	1,396,100	210,700

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2003

The plan assets, at market value, available to provide for plan benefits at December 31, 2003 are invested in mutual funds as follows:

	2003	2002
	\$	\$
Bonds	3,207,558	3,891,770
Equities	4,265,719	3,808,857
Foreign equities	2,564,251	2,266,728
Mortgages	573,440	630,604
Real estate	540,228	574,511
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11,151,196	11,172,470

5 Financial instruments

Interest rate risk

Cash and cash equivalents includes \$1,174,720 (2002 – \$1,265,808) invested in a money market mutual fund.

Canvet Publications Ltd.

Unaudited Schedule of Expense

For the year ended December 31, 2003

	2003 \$	2002 \$
Magazine		
Editorial contributions	89,390	68,610
Freight and express	5,717	6,548
Illustrations	35,070	29,848
Postage	272,800	212,520
Printing	1,081,424	898,748
Desktop publishing	7,292	5,858
	<hr/> 1,491,693	<hr/> 1,222,132
Employees		
Salaries	550,642	504,439
Other benefits	60,392	58,703
	<hr/> 611,034	<hr/> 563,142
Administrative		
Accounting and computer services (note 3)	75,000	75,000
Advertising commission – CCM	99,086	72,947
Bad debts	5,035	26,509
Correspondents' meeting	–	–
Directors' meetings	6,000	2,000
Insurance	12,809	9,921
Miscellaneous	2,429	2,970
Office supplies	12,677	7,671
Postage	3,329	2,793
Printing and stationery	3,568	4,169
Professional fees	7,220	5,671
Renovations	15,867	33,658
Rent (note 3)	51,146	51,146
Sales promotion	28,226	20,623
Staff travel	50,049	19,919
Subscriptions	3,184	4,531
Telephone and fax	7,350	6,769
Amortization	13,347	13,404
	<hr/> 396,322	<hr/> 359,701
Subscription agency fee (note 3)	<hr/> 652,000	<hr/> 455,000
Total expense	<hr/> 3,151,049	<hr/> 2,599,975

CREDENTIALS REPORT

Chairman - M. Lambros		
L. Sawyer	R. Lamontagne	F. Fudge
R. Rivard	S. Clement-Trainor	B. MacLachlan
B. Burns	G. Stewart	E. Casey

COMMAND	14 JUNE		15 JUNE		16 JUNE		Observers
	Accred- ited	Proxy	Accred- ited	Proxy	Accred- ited	Proxy	
BC/Yukon 723	134	420	153	477	153	477	10
Alberta/NWT 594	106	172	117	209	117	209	1
Saskatchewan 276	43	145	45	153	45	153	1
Manitoba/NWO 411	79	177	87	192	87	192	4
Ontario 1712	583	676	721	874	721	874	81
Quebec 229	35	64	40	75	40	75	4
New Brunswick 184	42	120	47	128	47	128	11
NS/Nunavut 325	120	176	123	202	123	202	28
P.E.I. 39	36	0	39	0	39	0	4
Newfoundland/Lab 74	29	0	29	0	29	0	1
D.E.C./P.D.P 46	28	0	28	0	28	0	0
U.S. Zones 19	1	0	1	0	3	0	0
Europe Zone 5	2	0	2	0	2	0	0
TOTALS 4637	1238	1950	1432	2310	1434	2310	145

The figures denote the Command entitlement to delegates and proxies based upon final 2003 figures for life, ordinary, associate and affiliate-voting members (General By-Laws Section 903.).

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DOMINION CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS

A. Parks	-	Chairman
J. Kobolak	-	Vice-Chairman
B. White	-	Secretary

Statistics

Dominion Command received 154 resolutions from Provincial Commands.

Commands	Total Number of Resolutions	Concurred at Provincial Conventions	From Branches through Provincial Command
Newfoundland/Labrador	5	5	-
Prince Edward Island	1	1	-
Nova Scotia/Nunavut	19	6	13
New Brunswick	9	7	2
Quebec	9	6	3
Manitoba/Northwest Ontario	15	6	9
Ontario	32	17	15
Saskatchewan	17	17	0
Alberta/Northwest Territories	13	9	4
British Columbia/Yukon	34	3	31
TOTAL	154	77	77

Of these, 77 were concurred by Provincial Conventions and 77 have been presented by branches through their Provincial Command Committees; they did not go to Provincial Conventions.

In addition, 32 Dominion Command Committee resolutions were presented.

The total number of resolutions to be considered was 186. For comparison purposes, in 2002, 189 resolutions were considered.

I move the acceptance of this report. (The motion was moved, seconded and approved by the delegates).

INDEX TO RESOLUTIONS

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ABBREVIATIONS

Each resolution has retained the number assigned in the Convention Committee Reports and resolutions booklet.

Those abbreviations for Commands such as QUE., ALTA-NWT, etc. are well known. Two new abbreviations are NS/NU for Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command and BC/Yukon for what was formally known as Pacific Command. The number following the Command is simply a control number.

The ~/C™ following a resolution indicates that it was approved by a Provincial Convention.

Various standing or national committees have generated resolutions and the following is a list of the abbreviations used:

C&L	-	Constitution & Laws	R&A	-	Ritual & Awards
P&R	-	Poppy & Remembrance	SE	-	Sub-Executive
L,D & Y	-	Leadership, Development & Youth	MEM	-	Membership
TVS	-	Tuberculous Veterans Section	VU	-	Veterans Unity
VSS	-	Veterans, Seniors & Service	DEF	-	Defence

**LOYALTY RESOLUTION
13 JUNE 2004**

THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION SEND GREETINGS TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND HUMBLY DESIRE TO CONVEY TO HER MAJESTY THIS EXPRESSION OF LOYALTY AND ALLEGIANCE.

MEMBERS WILL MEET IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 40TH DOMINION CONVENTION AT LONDON, ONTARIO DURING THE PERIOD 13-17 JUNE 2004.

WE PRAY THAT YOUR GRACIOUS MAJESTY MAY LONG BE SPARED TO GUIDE THE DESTINIES OF THE GREAT BRITISH COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS.

**RÉSOLUTION DE LOYAUTÉ
LE 13 JUIN 2004**

LES MEMBRES DE LA LÉGION ROYALE CANADIENNE ENVOIENT LEURS SALUTIONS À SA MAJESTÉ LA REINE ELIZABETH II, ET DÉSIRENT HUMBLEMENT TRANSMETTRE À SA MAJESTÉ L'EXPRESSION DE LEUR LOYAUTÉ ET DE LEUR ALLÉGEANCE.

NOS MEMBRES SE RÉUNIRONT POUR CÉLÉBRER NOTRE 40IÈME CONGRÈS NATIONAL QUI AURA LIEU À LONDON, ONTARIO DURANT LA PÉRIODE DU 13-17 JUIN, 2004.

NOUS PRIONS POUR QUE VOTRE GRACIEUSE MAJESTÉ PUISSE CONTINUER À GUIDER LES DESTINÉES DE NOTRE GRAND COMMONWEALTH BRITANNIQUE DE NATIONS.

RESPONSE

**Buckingham Palace
13 June 2004**

THE QUEEN WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR MESSAGE OF LOYAL GREETINGS SENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 40TH DOMINION CONVENTION WHICH IS BEING HELD FROM TODAY TO 17 JUNE IN LONDON, ONTARIO.

HER MAJESTY MUCH APPRECIATED THE ASSURANCE OF YOUR PRAYERS AND, IN RETURN, SENDS HER BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING.

PRIVATE SECRETARY

RÉPONSE

**Le Palais de Buckingham
Le 13 Juin 2004**

LA REINE ÉTAIT RAVIE DE RECEVOIR VOTRE AIMABLE MESSAGE DE SALUTATIONS LOYALES AU NOM DES MEMBRES DE LA LÉGION ROYALE CANADIENNE À L'OCCASION DE LEUR 40IÈME CONGRÈS NATIONAL, TENU À PARTIR D'AUJOURD'HUI JUSQU'AU 17 JUIN, À LONDON, ONTARIO.

SA MAJESTÉ APPRÉCIE VIVEMENT L'ASSURANCE DE VOS PRIÈRES ET, EN RETOUR, TRANSMET SES MEILLEURS VOEUX À TOUS CEUX ET CELLES PRÉSENTS POUR UN RASSEMBLEMENT COURONNÉ DE SUCCÈS.

SECRÉTAIRE PRIVÉ

**THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS WERE PASSED BY
THIS
40TH DOMINION CONVENTION**

SUB-EXECUTIVE

**203. Gun Control Legislation
ONT 9/C**

WHEREAS we Legionnaires, Veterans and Auxiliary personnel request that the Federal Government cease any further action regarding arrest and detainment of Canadian citizens as a result of current Gun Control Legislation; and

WHEREAS this government has spent in excess of 800 million dollars, and has been unable to finalize the legislation, and now intends to prematurely prosecute Canadian citizens as a result; and

WHEREAS these methods are unacceptable and need to be withdrawn publicly to establish the democratic free country that so many of us fought for, and so many others gave their life for between 1939 and 1945:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Zone Command, District Command, Provincial Command and Dominion Command endorse this resolution and petition the political parties to drop the Firearm Registration Program.

VETERANS, SERVICE AND SENIORS

GENERAL

**3. The Obligation of Canadian Citizens to Veterans
VSS 1**

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Legion since its inception in 1926 has advocated programs and benefits for those who serve or who have served in the Armed Forces of Canada; and

WHEREAS the nature of military conflict and the organization and operation of forces has changed; and

WHEREAS this would address Peacekeeping, a common theme; and

WHEREAS the government of Canada primarily through Veterans Affairs Canada has built up a system of programs and benefits over the years; and

WHEREAS these well intended programs and benefits have evolved apart from other social programs in such a way that many gaps and inconsistencies have been introduced into the system; and

WHEREAS the needs of those who serve or who have served Canada and their dependants can no longer be efficiently met:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Forces, the Department of National Defence, Veterans Affairs Canada, The Royal Canadian Legion and other major veterans organizations work together to develop a modern vision that will encompass the obligation of Canadians to those who serve or have served in the Canadian Forces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this vision address an integrated approach to the diverse aspects of this obligation now covered by legislation, plans or programs such as the Pension Act and related statutes

and regulations, the Service Income Security Insurance Plan, the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act, Canada Pension Plan, Employment Insurance legislation and the like; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requirements which flow from the obligation identified in the determination of the vision be addressed by a comprehensive, integrated plan modelled on the elements of the Veterans Charter to the extent they are still relevant; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the solutions proposed be analysed to determine whether the proposed integrated system would be cost effective in comparison to the program and infrastructure costs under the current systems.

4. Eligibility for Veterans Affairs Assistance VSS 2

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada has traditionally provided programs to veterans based on service eligibility criteria; and

WHEREAS criteria specified in Regulations and Policy have become increasingly complex; and

WHEREAS with the aging of the veteran population the overriding factor has become the necessity to meet the needs of the veterans and their spouses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada in consultation with veterans organizations shift from a program-based to a needs-based system for the purpose of meeting the needs of veterans and their spouses.

5. Study in Survivor Pension Benefits VSS 4

WHEREAS the disability pension system has evolved significantly over time; and

WHEREAS a number of changes have been introduced without necessarily integrating all the concepts effected by the changes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada in consultation with The Royal Canadian Legion and other veterans organizations study the disability pension scheme, particularly with respect to survivor benefits, so that a more equitable result based on needs can be achieved.

PENSIONS

6. Revision of VAC Table of Disabilities VSS 3

WHEREAS the Veterans Affairs Canada Table of Disabilities was designed to assist advocates and VAC staff as a guideline for consistent and fair assessment of disability pensions; and

WHEREAS the Table of Disabilities has undergone significant revision and expansion over the last two years; and

WHEREAS resources appear to have been allocated to other projects hindering completion of this important document:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada, in consultation with The Royal Canadian Legion, continue to review and update the Table of Disabilities to make it a more effective guideline to assist in the proper assessment of pensioners–disabilities.

**7. Redetermination of Basic Pension Rates
VSS 10**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada disability pensions are paid in accordance with Schedule I to the Pension Act, which is updated annually per subsection 75(1); and

WHEREAS the basic pension is determined in relation to the average annual gross composite wage of categories of unskilled members of the Public Service of Canada designated by the Minister; and

WHEREAS the unskilled categories and pay levels used for comparison purposes have been in use for about 20 years; and

WHEREAS pensioners are for the most part members of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, whose modern pay scales recognize a high level of skill, knowledge and responsibility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs designate categories and pay levels from the Canadian Forces and RCMP to arrive at a bench mark for determining basic pension which is more in keeping with current norms.

**8. Spouses' Pension Inequities
BC/YUKON 1/C**

WHEREAS section 7 of the aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion as contained in our General By-Laws provides: To secure adequate pensions, allowances, grants and war gratuities for personnel, their dependents, and the spouses, children and dependents of those who are dead, and to labor for honorable provision being made for those who, in declining years, are unable to support themselves; and

WHEREAS the spouse of a veteran who was receiving a 48% disability pension will be receiving a \$1448.56 spousal pension; and

WHEREAS the spouse of a veteran who was receiving a 47% disability pension will receive a \$543.21 pension. This rate represents a difference of \$905.00 per month difference in the pensions of these two spouses, where the difference in their husband's disability pension rate was only 1%; and

WHEREAS the majority of these spouses would be spouses of World War II veterans and the majority would be from 75 to 85 years of age, which should most certainly be classed in their declining years; and

WHEREAS similar resolutions have been concurred in by past Dominion conventions and has met with little results:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that our Dominion Command representatives bring this matter to the attention of the Federal Authorities and point out these so called proportionate rates are not proportionate at all. And that the rates be adjusted to more reasonable rates so that these dear ladies may get a bit more enjoyment in their declining years.

**9. Widows' Pensions
SASK 3/C**

WHEREAS a 100% pensioner receives \$2344.76 per month; and

WHEREAS a 50% pensioner receives \$1172.38 per month; and

WHEREAS when the above pensioners die, a year later the spouses receive the same pension - \$1406.86 per month; and

WHEREAS the spouse of a 48% pensioner receives \$1406.86 per month, and the spouse of a 47% pensioner receives \$527.57 per month; and

WHEREAS in example (1) the widow of 100% pensioner loses \$937.90 per month income. The widow of 50% gains \$234.48 in example (2) though only 1% difference in disability, the widow of 47% disability receives \$879.29 less per month:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Veterans-Service Committee study the matter and suggest a more equitable way for widows-pensions, to close the gap in amounts paid to surviving spouses.

**10. Advocacy - Pension Increase
ONT 4/C**

WHEREAS veterans of World Wars I and II and Korea are reaching the age of needing assistance to remain in their homes; and

WHEREAS the cost of drugs and remedial appliances are continually rising; and

WHEREAS veterans receive only a small cost of living increase on the pension; and

WHEREAS the entry level cap to DVA or VIP programs is so low most veterans do not qualify; and

WHEREAS these are the citizens of this great country who sacrificed and gave so much to preserve our way of life and democratic way of government; and

WHEREAS the Federal Members of Parliament are the only people who can correct this inequity by Act of Parliament:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command refer this matter to the Veterans Seniors Committee and request the members of our government pass an Act to give a substantial increase in the base pension for our veterans immediately, so they can live comfortably; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all Members of Parliament in this great country be requested to state their position on this resolution in writing to the branches in their riding and also to the zone, so we as members would know their position on this most troubling matter, for future consideration.

VETERANS INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM

**11. Restoration of VIP to Spouse
VSS 5; NS/NU 16; ONT 33**

WHEREAS Veterans Independence Program helps entitled veterans and their spouses to live independently; and

WHEREAS spouses lose the benefit of the Veterans Independence Program when veterans enter an institution; and

WHEREAS many spouses desperately continue to require VIP benefits to remain self-sufficient in their own homes:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Veterans Independence Program be expanded to include the continuation of benefits for spouses of institutionalized recipient veterans where due need exists.

**12. VIP For RCMP
VSS 6**

WHEREAS recent changes to eligibility for the Veterans Independence Program now allow Canadian Forces members to qualify while still serving or after release when qualified as a result of their pensioned condition; and

WHEREAS the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are eligible for disability pension payments while still serving or after release, with request funding allocated from the Solicitor General's fiscal envelope:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Veterans Independence Program be made available to members of the RCMP on the same basis as for members of the Canadian Forces with required funding allocated from the Solicitor General's fiscal envelope.

**13. VIP Benefits
SASK 5/C**

WHEREAS that more progress be made re the resolution made at the Dominion Convention in Edmonton in the year of our lord 2002:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the V.I.P. benefits be extended to a spouse of a veteran, this to include medical, long term care facilities, housekeeping and ground keeping for the life of a surviving spouse as long as the need for the program continues to exist.

**14. VIP - Groundskeeping
SASK 6/C**

WHEREAS a veteran who is on the Veterans Independence Program (VIP) and is living in a condominium does not qualify to claim for a reimbursement for groundskeeping from the Department of Veterans Affairs(DVA) unless he/she appeals; and

WHEREAS a veteran on VIP residing in condominium/co-op type of housing pays a monthly maintenance fee to cover the costs of grass cutting and snow removal, that is to say, groundskeeping:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that DVA pay the veteran on VIP residing in a condominium his respective share of the groundskeeping either monthly or yearly, without requiring the veteran to appeal his claim. Further in such event that if a veteran has not been reimbursed for groundskeeping, that he be refunded his costs of groundskeeping for the last two years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event of the veteran's death receiving VIP, that his/her spouse continue to receive payment for groundskeeping for so long as he/she requires the service.

**15. VIP - Hearing Loss/Tinnitus
ONT 3/C**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada is not approving the Veterans Independence Program for some pensioners with hearing loss/tinnitus conditions; and

WHEREAS there is evidence that further exposure to housekeeping and groundskeeping equipment causes additional deterioration to the affected individual with the hearing loss/ tinnitus condition:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion advocate to Veterans Affairs Canada the fact that pensioners with hearing loss/tinnitus be entitled to the VIP program in the same manner as for other pensioned conditions.

**16. Program to Assist Widows/Widowers
NS/NU 12**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada extended the Veteran Independence Program for widows/widowers, no provisions were made for widows/widowers whose spouses died prior to September 1990; and

WHEREAS many of these Veteran's-widows/widowers live independently and on low fixed incomes and would benefit from this program; and

WHEREAS the former Minister for Veterans Affairs Canada, The Honourable Ray Pagtakhan, had the unanimous vote in the House of Commons to include all widows/widowers:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the new Minister for Veterans Affairs Canada, take immediate action to establish a program to compensate these forgotten widows/ widowers.

LONG TERM CARE

**17. Allocation of Veterans' Beds
VSS 7**

WHEREAS the Minister of Veterans Affairs has responsibility for Long Term Care for veterans in Canada; and

WHEREAS all but Ste. Anne's-hospital have a mix of veteran and non veteran residents; and

WHEREAS the allocation of beds in specific areas must balance the needs of veteran and non veteran populations; and

WHEREAS it is desirable to accommodate veterans near families and familiar community support; and

WHEREAS it is frequently desirable for spouses of veterans to have the opportunity to reside in the same facility:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada work closely with the veterans—organisations, provincial and municipal authorities to define appropriate criteria for the allocation of beds to veterans to ensure that their needs are met; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the criteria include the provision for accommodating the spouses of veteran when that would be appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Ste. Anne's be made available to spouses of veterans provided the needs of veterans are given priority.

18. Oversight for Transition from Acute Care

VSS 8

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada is responsible for veterans in priority access beds and a number of long-term care facilities across the country; and

WHEREAS from time to time veterans in those facilities require acute care; and

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada through the Veterans Independence Program provides health care to veterans at home; and

WHEREAS some of these veterans from time to time require acute care; and

WHEREAS there is no comprehensive program conducted by Veterans Affairs Canada to ensure the needs of veterans are met when they are in a state of transition to or from acute care; and

WHEREAS cases have arisen where veterans have been released from acute care and have found themselves in perilous circumstances as a result of the lack of such a program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada institute a transitional care program to meet the needs of those veterans whose circumstances result in their transition to or from acute care by overseeing a comprehensive care plan that will ensure the safety and dignity of the veteran.

19. Palliative Care of Veterans

VSS 12

WHEREAS *Canadian Norms of Practice for Hospice Palliative Care* prepared by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association sets out current societal standards for timely access to comprehensive, coordinated, quality care to relieve suffering and improve the experience of living and dying; and

WHEREAS numerous veterans entitled to care in accordance with *Veterans Health Care Regulations* are in the latter stages of life; and

WHEREAS many major veterans care facilities and community long term care facilities accommodating veterans under contractual and other arrangements established by Veterans Affairs Canada have limited palliative care capacity and resources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada enter into partnership agreements with provincial health authorities and contract facilities to ensure veterans receive a common level of palliative care that meets current societal standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada establish practical arrangements for the delivery of appropriate palliative care services to veterans in community facilities.

**20. Ensuring Quality Long Term Care for Veterans
VSS 15; ONT 6/C**

WHEREAS the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to veterans requiring long term care has been affirmed in the June 2003 report of the standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs entitled *Honouring the Pledge: Ensuring Quality Long Term Care for Veterans*; and

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion had the privilege of addressing the committee and highlighting shortcomings in veterans care which arose in large part through the administration of contracts with provincial health authorities by which the Minister of Veterans Affairs discharges his responsibilities for the long term care of veterans; and

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion fully endorses the 25 recommendations contained in the report but is concerned that the implementation of the recommendations may be hindered and the Minister's responsibility obscured by contract administration process; and

WHEREAS the recommendations are collectively directed at ensuring a common high standard of care for veterans irrespective of provincial jurisdiction:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of Veterans Affairs affirm his responsibility for the long term care of veterans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the recommendations of the report be endorsed by Government and be afforded priority for Implementation by Veterans Affairs Canada; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada promulgate and institute its national standard for long term care of veterans everywhere in Canada.

**21. Long-Term Care Facilities - Management of Waiting List
ALTA-NWT 9/C**

WHEREAS the veteran has been receiving care at the physical expense of the family up until the time of assessment; and

WHEREAS the family is willing to carry on that care until a bed becomes available in the facility of choice; and

WHEREAS the family already knows the hardship of caring for that veteran; and

WHEREAS it is recognized that the family contact and participation contributes to the well-being of the veteran in his/her later years; and

WHEREAS it would not be in the best interests of the veteran to be miles from home, where it is a hardship for the elderly spouse or family and friends to visit (who are likely elderly as well):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The Royal Canadian Legion lobby the provincial governments through Veterans Affairs Canada to change their policy and allow veterans to stay in their own homes with the care provided up to this point in time by their families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the long-term care facilities not penalize the veteran by taking him/her off the waiting list, or putting him/her at the bottom of the list because they are waiting in their own home for an available bed in their facility of choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the veteran continues to receive services he/she is entitled to through Veterans Affairs Canada, or the provincial government, while in his/her own home awaiting a bed in the facility of choice.

**206. Priority Access Beds
SASK 16/C**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada has recognized the need of Priority Access Beds based on health need and where health needs of any clients are similar, the access shall be given to the clients in accordance with the following order of priority;

- a. first, to Veteran pensioners who need care for a war-related pensioned condition,
- b. second, to income-qualified veterans; and
- c. third, to overseas service veterans and merchant navy veterans; and

WHEREAS his or her health would qualify for this program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion, through Saskatchewan Command and Dominion Command lobby Veterans Affairs Canada to give consideration to Canada Service Veterans in need, who have 365 days of service to qualify for Priority Access Beds.

308. **Criteria for Admission to Ste-Anne's Hospital** **QUE 9**

WHEREAS a veteran of the Canadian Forces who does not meet the criteria for admittance as determined by Veterans Affairs Canada is denied the highest quality care for which he or she is entitled; and

WHEREAS a veteran, who through no fault of his or her own, remained in Canada and served and supported those who did serve in a theatre of war is denied admittance; and

WHEREAS these veterans who, for example :

- a) served in Maritime patrol aircraft over the western Atlantic
- b) served as an expert instructor in various fields
- c) served and suffered as a human guinea pigs for various germ and chemical warfare trials
- d) served in radar stations on both Coasts

and numerous other situations, are denied access to the highest quality care for which he or she is entitled:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion bring pressure to bear on Veterans Affairs Canada to change the criteria for admittance to Ste. Anne-s-Hospital for any Canadian who served his or her country during either the First or Second World War, thereby entitling them to the highest quality medical care that is provided to other veterans.

FUNERALS & BURIALS

22. **Last Post Fund Extension to Canadian Forces Veterans** **VSS 14; NB 5/C**

WHEREAS the Last Post Fund funeral and burial programme is generally a "needs based" programme which has provided funerals and burials for Canada-s-wartime service veterans and their survivors since its founding in 1909; and

WHEREAS the funeral and burial programme is also available "as a matter of right" to wartime and peacetime veteran pensioners who die from a VAC pensioned condition or a condition that can be related to military service; and

WHEREAS the definition of "veteran" has recently been changed by VAC to include all members of the CF who have met DND-s-occupational qualification requirements, and who have been honourably discharged; and

WHEREAS these veterans may not have suffered death or a pensionable disability prior to discharge they have accepted the "unlimited liability" associated with military service in Canada and abroad, and may subsequently suffer financial hardship which would make the veteran or survivors unable to provide a dignified burial for the veteran:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Last Post Fund funeral and burial assistance programme be extended to all Canadian Forces Veterans who would otherwise be denied a dignified funeral and burial for lack of sufficient funds.

23. Last Post Fund, Estate Exemption and Fee Maximums
VSS 19; QUE 1/C; QUE 2/C; NS/NU 2/C

WHEREAS a significant number of aging war veterans and their families have limited income and assets; and

WHEREAS funeral expenses may impose a heavy financial and psychological burden on a veteran, survivor, or family living in necessitous circumstances; and

WHEREAS the Last Post Fund is charged with providing a dignified funeral and burial to eligible veterans who lack sufficient funds; and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has effectively restrained the ability of the Last Post Fund to meet its mandate by reducing the estate exemption from \$24,030 to \$12,015 in 1995 and by setting low maximum rates for funeral and burial expenses below the customary fees; and

WHEREAS a veteran's funeral and burial may provide the last personal recognition of a veteran's service by a grateful nation:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Veterans Affairs restore the estate exemption to the former level plus a current economic adjustment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that maximum rates payable for funeral and burial expenses be brought into line with customary fees for these services.

24. Funeral Expenses GST Exemption
SASK 4/C

WHEREAS families of veterans were being charged with a G.S.T. on funeral expenses:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this is considered to be inappropriate and that veteran's families should be exempt from this tax.

CANADIAN FORCES/RCMP

25. Representation on the Canadian Forces Pension Advisory Committee
VSS 9

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act provides for representation of a member of a representative organization on the Canadian Forces Pension Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS the CFPAC provides policy guidance and advice to the Minister of National Defence on superannuation issues under the CFSA; and

WHEREAS the current representative, the Federal Superannuates National Association, has a wide mandate to represent all federal public servants; and

WHEREAS the membership of The Royal Canadian Legion contains a significant number of annuitants under the CFSA; and

WHEREAS the Armed Forces Pensioners Annuitants Association endorses the membership of the Royal Canadian Legion to fulfill the role of representing ex-military annuitants:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Minister of National Defence appoint a representative from The Royal Canadian Legion to serve on the Canadian Forces Pension Advisory Committee.

26. Determination of CFSA Survivor Pensions
VSS 11

WHEREAS career members of the Canadian Forces and their dependants rely largely on superannuation (pension for service) to provide the main portion of their retirement income; and

WHEREAS CFSA provides for a survivor allowance paid at only 50% of the members superannuation pension based on a formula conceived in different economic times; and
WHEREAS a survivor faces many lifestyle adjustments, particularly with regard to basic living expenses typically exceeding 50% of the expenses borne by a couple prior to the pensioners death:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CFSA survivor allowances be paid in an amount equivalent to 66% of the members pension.

**27. Employment Insurance, Canadian Forces
VSS 17**

WHEREAS the federal government maintains an unused surplus in the Employment Insurance account; and
WHEREAS members of the Canadian Forces are required to make Employment Insurance contributions despite their unique terms of service; and
WHEREAS the possibility of a member of the Forces deriving any benefit on ceasing employment under any release item, whether for early retirement, medical condition or disciplinary action, is largely academic:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that members of the Canadian Forces be exempted from the provisions of the Employment Insurance Act.

**28. Honouring Returning CF Veterans
VSS 18**

WHEREAS Canadian Forces personnel experience deployments in complex and dangerous circumstances around the world; and
WHEREAS many of these personnel have sacrificed some aspect of their own familial or personal well-being in the course of their service; and
WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion take to heart their obligations to these modern veterans; and
WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion have programs, staff, members and experience with the heartbreak, trauma, and homecoming difficulties encountered:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada and The Royal Canadian Legion collaborate with Canadian Forces to develop programs to welcome and honour returning personnel and acquaint them with the support available to them.

**29. Canadian Forces Superannuation Act Annuities
ONT 15/C**

WHEREAS the Canadian Forces Superannuation Act (CFSA) deducts from any veterans annuity amount equal to 35% of average pensionable earnings at age 65 or upon entitlement to a disability pension under paragraph 44(1)(b) of the Canada Pension Plan or provision of a similar provincial pension plan; and
WHEREAS this practice causes financial hardship to those disabled veterans unable to work yet still have the responsibilities to maintain a family; and
WHEREAS the application of this deduction is a further victimization of our service casualties who have suffered psychological and/or physiological traumas while honourably serving Canada in areas of conflict; and
WHEREAS this legislation in application discriminates against disabled veterans as healthy veterans may claim Canada Pension Plan Benefits as early as age 60 without penalty or reductions of their CFSA annuity; and

WHEREAS the commission established under the Human Rights Act is unable to resolve this issue of discrimination in application, as Pension Funds established under Federal Statutes prior to 1978 are excluded from their authority to respond to such discriminatory practices on behalf of individuals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command petition the Government of Canada to amend this legislation to ensure disabled veterans receive equitable treatment.

**30. Bill C-44 Compensation to Injured Service Personnel
NS/NU 19**

WHEREAS Bill C-44, an Act to compensate military members injured during service for dismemberment and the total and irrecoverable loss of sight, hearing and speech as a result of service in the Canadian Forces; and

WHEREAS this legislation would apply to the period from October 1, 1972 to February 12, 2003 for the loss of a hand, foot and eye; the loss of hearing and speech would be covered from April 1, 1986 to February 12, 2003; and the loss of thumb and index finger of the same hand from November 1, 1988 to February 12, 2003; and

WHEREAS benefits would be payable to Regular and Reserve Force members:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command contacts National Defence and asks that the proposed dates of effectiveness be the same for all, that is October 1, 1972.

MISCELLANEOUS

**31. Veteran Priority for Health Care
VSS 13**

WHEREAS various legislative acts concerning veterans provide for a liberal interpretation and application so that the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to those who have served their country and their dependants may be fulfilled; and

WHEREAS the Canada Health Act has been drafted without specific reference or regard for veterans and their dependants; and

WHEREAS members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, personnel of the Canadian Forces, clients of provincial workplace health and safety insurance boards and prisoners in federal custody are exempt from the strictures of the Canada Health Act effectively giving them place ahead of veterans and dependants on increasingly long wait lists for health care and specialized medical sources:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that government legislation and regulations be amended to afford veterans and their dependants priority access to health care in Canada.

**32. In-patient Treatment Facilities for Critical Cases of Operational Stress Injury
VSS 20**

WHEREAS a larger number of currently serving or retired members of the Canadian Forces are being diagnosed with Operational Stress Injury: and

WHEREAS in-patient facilities are only available at St. Anne's-Hospital and these are very limited; and

WHEREAS the only other contracted civilian treatment facility is not dedicated specifically to military personnel; and

WHEREAS there are specialized veteran/military facilities in the United States which provide in-patient treatments:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that specialized Operational Stress Injury (OSI) in-patient facilities dedicated to military personnel be established in Western and Central Canada to augment the very limited in-patient facilities provided at St-Anne-s-Hospital; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as long as sufficient facilities are not available in Canada, that VAC/CF negotiate agreements with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to utilize their treatment facilities for critical referrals from Western and Central Canada.

**33. Taxi Fare Expenses
NFLD/LAB 2/C**

WHEREAS Veterans Affairs Canada is deducting, in most cases \$5.00 (five dollars) from taxi fares of Veterans going to treatment at doctors, hospitals, etc. which applies each way for some treatment; and **WHEREAS** this was discussed through resolution at Dominion Command Convention in 2000 and again at 2002; and

WHEREAS exemptions are only given in some cases:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this Royal Canadian Legion Convention of Newfoundland & Labrador Command now assembled, request that Dominion Command Executive Council to again ask Veterans Affairs Canada to have the exemption removed for all Veterans and/or other clients of V.A. Canada.

SENIORS

**34. Canada Seniors Independence Program
VSS 16**

WHEREAS Canadian seniors generally value their independence and prefer to age in their own familiar home and community; and

WHEREAS age-related physical limitations or health needs, which restrict a seniors ability to maintain a home or live without support, prematurely drive seniors into care facilities; and

WHEREAS the cost effectiveness of providing properly administered support services to defer the institutionalization of seniors with the desire and capacity to remain independent in their own familiar home and community has been demonstrated through the Veterans Affairs Canada, Veterans Independence Program:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Government of Canada develop a Seniors Independence Program to assist seniors to live independently in their own homes and communities for as long as they are able.

POPPY AND REMEMBRANCE

**35. VAC Assistance with the Care and Restoration of Canadian Memorials
P&R 01**

WHEREAS cenotaphs and monuments dedicated to the memory of Canadians who have fought for Canada are falling into disrepair; and

WHEREAS the Department of Veterans Affairs exists to repay the nation's debt of gratitude toward those whose courageous efforts have contributed to our growth as a nation and to keep the memory of their achievements and sacrifices alive for all Canadians; and

WHEREAS VAC's Commemoration Program is designed to honour all those who served Canada in the cause of peace, while reaching an audience that includes the entire Canadian population as well as the world community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion rigorously advocate to the officials of Veterans Affairs Canada that they proceed as quickly as possible with the examination of options to assist

municipalities in Canada in the care and restoration of local memorials to the achievements and sacrifices of Canadians in war and peace.

36. Maintenance and Repair of Monuments and Cenotaphs
P&R 02

WHEREAS the number of wartime Veterans are declining, and
WHEREAS in accordance with the Legion's Long Term Plan Poppy Funds should be considered the Promotion of Remembrance of the Sacrifice of our Veterans, and
WHEREAS many of the monuments and cenotaphs in communities across Canada today were originally established with the financial or advocacy support of the local Legion branch; and
WHEREAS many of these monuments are deteriorating as local municipal authorities resist allocating sufficient funds for their maintenance and preservation; and
WHEREAS these monuments are crucial in promoting Remembrance in Canada and act as centers for memorial ceremonies; and
WHEREAS the Legion should be prepared to assist the local community in preserving these essential tributes to our veterans:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that branches, with the prior approval of their Provincial Command, be authorized to expend up to 25% of the balance in their poppy trust account on the thirtieth day of September in the year preceding the expenditure provided that the allocated 25% does not exceed 50% of the total funds required to maintain and preserve local monuments to veterans.

37. Cadet Support
P&R 03

WHEREAS the number of wartime Veterans are declining; and
WHEREAS in accordance with the Legion's Long Term Plan Poppy Funds should be considered the Promotion of Remembrance of the Sacrifice of our Veterans; and
WHEREAS there is a very special bond between Veterans and Cadets; and
WHEREAS the Cadets continue to support the Veterans by assisting in the Legion's Poppy Campaign; and
WHEREAS the Veterans are passing the torch of Remembrance to Cadets; and
WHEREAS the Legion wishes to provide meaningful support to the Cadet organization in its objective to provide the best citizenship and development program in the country for young Canadians; and
WHEREAS branches have great difficulty in finding the funds to support their local Cadet unit:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, with the prior approval from Provincial Command, branches be authorized to expend up to 10% of the balance in a poppy trust account on the thirtieth day of September in the year preceding the expenditure to support Cadet Units which have assisted with the Poppy Campaign.

38. Use of the Poppy
ALTA-NWT 8/C

WHEREAS having established that the Poppy has evolved since the time of The Great War of 1914-1918 as the symbol of remembrance commemorating conspicuous sacrifice and commitment made during time of war, in service of the Nation; and
WHEREAS having further established society's current tendency to also use the Poppy to commemorate victims of general instances of domestic tragedy, including disasters, act of terrorism and murder:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Royal Canadian Legion make every effort to ensure that the Poppy™ remain the symbol of veterans— sacrifice and commitment to the nation and to educate the public as to this distinction

**39. Poster and Literary Contest - Recognition of Winners
ONT 8/C**

WHEREAS Dominion Command convenes an annual Poster and Literary Contest through its Provincial Commands and acts as the final level in the contest; and

WHEREAS Dominion Command posts only the First and Second place finishers in the Poster portion of the contest in their web site and within their annual Awards Brochure; and

WHEREAS Dominion Command only promotes the First Place Winners in the Literary Portion of the contest; and

WHEREAS this situation creates a double standard for the participants who enter the contest by not recognizing their achievement in an equitable manner; and

WHEREAS there is a greater opportunity for public acknowledgment for those entering the poster portion rather than the literary portion of the contest:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command commence to recognize through their web page and printed materials the first and second place finishers at the national level in all categories of the Poster and Literary Contest.

**213. Use of Poppy Trust Funds
ONT 1/C**

WHEREAS the Poppy Manual allows us to help a Veteran in need on a one time basis only; and

WHEREAS it does not allow Poppy money to be spent in the community on non-veterans; and

WHEREAS we have no problem with money going to assist seniors in the community; and

WHEREAS there is little the Branches can do for Veterans due to decreasing membership and financial shortfalls; and

WHEREAS we feel there should be some latitude in allowing the Branches to do more for their Veterans; and

WHEREAS the Veterans are passing away in large numbers and we don't seem to attract those who have served since the Korean War; and

WHEREAS many Veterans are alone and need some contact with others to help relieve loneliness and depression; and

WHEREAS many Veterans do not feel that the Legion has anything to offer them:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that with the express approval of the appropriate Provincial Command, poppy money may be used to provide an annual visit to branches both from veterans who are Legion members and those in the community, to offer a meal and camaraderie and that serious consideration be given to the use of limited poppy funds for this purpose, not to include the cost of any alcoholic beverages.

**214. Poster and Literary Contest - Registration Form
ONT 7/C**

WHEREAS Dominion Command establishes the rules and regulations respecting the annual Poster and Literary Contest; and

WHEREAS Dominion Command publishes printed materials containing these guidelines and rules along with maintaining the same information on their web site; and

WHEREAS one of the stipulations relates to the entrant providing their information on a separate piece of paper which will include their name, age, school and address; and
WHEREAS Branches are supplied with kits from their respective Provincial Commands which include an official Registration Form to be completed by the entrant and parent/guardian; and
WHEREAS the materials provided by Dominion Command and their web site make no reference to the completion of a Registration Form:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command amend the rules and guidelines of the Poster and Literary Contest to reflect that each entrant must complete a Registration Form supplied by Dominion Command to form part of their entry.

MEMBERSHIP

42. Membership Recruitment SASK 13/C

WHEREAS there is now more strife and disagreement among nations of the universe than ever since the Second World War; and
WHEREAS as a nation, Canada is known for its expertise in peacekeeping abilities throughout the world; and
WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion is a service organization second to none; and
WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion is losing strength through natural causes mostly due to age, although some progress has been made in attracting younger members:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that at the 40th Biennial Convention of The Royal Canadian Legion, Sask. Command stress the necessity for Dominion Command to put emphasis on membership recruitment of non military recruits by a nationwide information campaign through the media and all education facilities and stress the fact that one can become a Legion member even though they have no military family connection.

43. Amalgamation of Branches - Years of Service ONT 17/C

WHEREAS some branches of The Royal Canadian Legion unfortunately come to the conclusion that they must surrender their charter either to close down completely or amalgamate with another branch; and
WHEREAS existing, healthy branches of The Royal Canadian Legion may not wish to lose their years of service in their community because they have agreed to amalgamate with the branch or branches experiencing difficulties; and
WHEREAS all of the branches involved in this transaction have been valuable assets to their communities and veterans often for many years and losing these years will in fact indicate that they never existed in their communities; and
WHEREAS it is desirable that The Royal Canadian Legion remain prominent in these communities and it is desirable that these existing branches of The Royal Canadian Legion be encouraged to continue their valuable works in their communities and care of their Veterans; and
WHEREAS it has to be assumed that years ago, the oldest branch of The Royal Canadian Legion in that area originally cared for the larger area prior to the granting of a charter to a new adjoining branch, probably because the area was too large for the first branch to handle and probably with spin off members of the original branch:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the newly amalgamated branch will be allowed to retain the years of service of the branch that has the longest history in that community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that branches who have successfully completed the amalgamation process be retroactively granted the years of service lost due to the amalgamation rules during their time of amalgamation.

**46. No Further Expansion of Ordinary and Associate Categories
ONT/26**

WHEREAS the term "Ordinary Membership" has long been associated with those Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects who qualify under section 205. of The General By-laws; and

WHEREAS the term "Associate Membership" was assigned to those Canadian citizens and Commonwealth subjects who qualify under section 206. of the General By-laws; and

WHEREAS much confusion has been created with the suggested recent changes and the intent of those changes; and

WHEREAS the membership would like to see limits placed on categories reflecting military service or which **indicates** a direct relationship to an Ordinary Member:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there be no further additional membership clauses permitted under section 205. and section 206.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the section 207. of the General By-laws remain in its present state.

**221. Membership - Application for Membership
MAN/NWO 6/C**

WHEREAS The Ritual and Insignia Manual recognize other Veterans' Organizations by allowing Legion members to wear their awards on Legion uniforms in the spirit of cooperation and camaraderie that lean toward acceptance without question within our Organizations; and

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion has traditionally accepted applications from members of other Veterans' Service Organizations without question and then subsequently learning that the person does not support our Purposes and Objects and that it was a terrible mistake in accepting this person's application for membership; and

WHEREAS other Veterans' Organizations have seen fit to include in their application for membership the requirement to declare whether the applicant has ever been refused membership or expelled from any Veterans' Organization; and

WHEREAS Section 224. of The General By-laws place the responsibility onto the branch membership committee to conduct a thorough investigation on each applicant to The Royal Canadian Legion; and

WHEREAS there is always limited access to information that would allow a thorough investigation to be properly carried out, and no requirement for the applicant to volunteer any past disparaging information that may tend to jeopardize his application:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that these incidents can be easily corrected by amending the present APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP forms under the Honours and Awards Held section, "Have you ever been expelled from any Legion Branch?" by adding "or any other Veterans' Organization"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Section 224. of The General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended by adding, "or from any other Veterans' Organization".

LEADERSHIP, DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH

47. Amend General By-laws Section 805 L,D & Y1

WHEREAS the wording in the current General By-Law Section 805 refers to youth in the Legion as Junior Auxiliary; and

WHEREAS this situation leads to some confusion between the Women's Auxiliary and youth/junior:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the wording should be changed from Junior Auxiliary to Youth Auxiliary.

49. Nomination - RCL Cadet Medal of Excellence NS/NU 10

WHEREAS the nomination form currently used when presenting The Royal Canadian Legion Medal of Excellence to a cadet, is in need of additional information which would assist the Corps/Squadron Commanding Officer and the Secretary/Treasurer of the RCL Provincial Command:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Dominion Command of The Royal Canadian Legion petitions the Department of National Defence to include additional information to the Nomination form CATO 13-16 Annex F which could include the service (sea, land or air); rank; CO's signature must also be printed c/w rank and telephone number; the name, address & telephone numbers of the Legion presenting the Medal; a note stating that only one Medal of Excellence may be awarded to a Corp/Squadron in the same training yearTM and that to be nominated for the Medal, a cadet should have at least one remaining year in the Corp/SquadronTM

DEFENCE

50. Defence Capital Acquisition Process DEF 1

WHEREAS the Capital Equipment process by which equipment such as vehicles, aircraft and ships are purchased for the Canadian Forces is a lengthy process rife with domestic political interference; and

WHEREAS when this equipment acquisition process and the contracts given are based on a overriding requirement for domestic content designed to satisfy non military requirements, the equipment ends up costing significantly more than it would cost if purchased based on military requirement. Thereby further decreasing the effectiveness of the already limited defence budget and producing unacceptable delays in equipment delivery, i.e. up to 60% of the cost of purchasing equipment is wasted this way; and

WHEREAS essential equipment such as Ship borne Helicopters (Sea King Replacement), vehicles for the Army, Logistic Support Ships for the Navy, and others are all critical and overdue for replacement:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the current method of acquiring military equipment be replaced by a system based on military requirements which would provide the best equipment at the best price to be delivered as soon as possible.

51. Government Responsibility to the Canadian Forces DEF 2

WHEREAS in all democracies the military is a servant of the state and the state bears responsibility for the well being of its military; and

WHEREAS over the last decade our government has shown little interest in our military and has allowed it to decline to the point where capabilities have dropped to seriously low levels; and
WHEREAS in Canada there is no such effective watchdog on defence matters and they fall under the sole jurisdiction of the Prime Minister and the Minister of National Defence:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Members of the Parliament of Canada exercise this binding oversight through the Commons Standing Committee on National Defence and Veterans Affairs (SCONDVA) and the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence to end this long standing practice of government abuse-by-neglect on Defence issues.

**52. Increased Budget – Canadian Forces
BC/YUKON 3/C**

WHEREAS the Auditor General, parliamentary committees, the Conference of Defence Associations, and the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century have all stated the Department of National Defence requires an additional one to two billion dollars added to its base budget in each of the next several years; and
WHEREAS without more money and a new Defence Policy the Canadian Forces won't be able to support the existing level of operation activity, take on new missions related to the war on terrorism, or address needs in the area of homeland defence; and
WHEREAS serious, chronic under funding over a number of years led to personnel, equipment, training, and sustainability shortfalls:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the Members of The Royal Canadian Legion call upon Parliament to substantially increase the base budget of the Canadian Forces to sufficiently address these needs.

**53. Veterans Affairs - Lapel Pins - Ex-Service Personnel - Regular Force
ALTA-NWT 3/C**

WHEREAS there are thousands of personnel who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces during peace time; and
WHEREAS many never served on peacekeeping duties or for a period of twelve years or more; and
WHEREAS the latter were therefore not eligible for peacekeeping medals or the C.D.; and
WHEREAS so that their military service may be recognized, there should be some item that can be worn by persons who do not qualify for any military medals:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Veterans Affairs Canada be approached and requested to strike a lapel pin that can be worn by ex-Canadian Armed Forces personnel who have been honourably discharged so that their service to their country would be easily recognized.

**54. Canadian Forces Funding
ONT 10/C**

WHEREAS our Canadian Armed Forces are being called upon throughout the world for various military and peacekeeping assignments; and
WHEREAS the equipment used by said Forces are, or nearing antiques, especially our Sea King helicopters and our "second-hand" submarines; and
WHEREAS we Canadians, proud of our Armed Forces, believe they are performing their duties with pride, courage and honour to our Country with inadequate equipment which should be completely up-dated by our Canadian government:
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, The Royal Canadian Legion, urge our Canadian government to budget and supply adequate funds to properly equip our Army, Navy and Air Force to fulfill their required duties at home and abroad.

RITUAL AND AWARDS

55. Amend the Period for the Wearing of Summer Dress BC/YUKON 4

WHEREAS climatic conditions across Canada vary greatly; and

WHEREAS in many areas of the country the months of May and September may be quite balmy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the first sentence of Section 103 of the Ritual and Insignia manual be amended to read: "This order of dress may be worn in Canada from the 1st day of May to the last day of September each year, in accordance with climatic conditions."TM

58. Korean War Service Medal SASK 8/C

WHEREAS in 1953, Mr. Syngman Rhee, President of the Republic of South Korea awarded all of those members of the United Nations Forces who served during the Korea War 25 Jun 50 to 27 Jul 53, the Korean War Service Medal; and

WHEREAS the only nations to initially decline this medal were those of the British Commonwealth and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS this award has now been accepted by the governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and the United States of America, as a foreign decoration, worthy of being worn with national and United Nations medals:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian Government be requested to recognize this award as a "foreign decoration"TM and allow it to be worn as such with National and United Nations medals previously awarded for said services.

60. Ritual & Insignia Manual - Amendment NS/NU 8

WHEREAS article 103 chapter 1 of the Ritual & Insignia Manual states that Service Ribbons may be worn on summer dress shirts; and

WHEREAS members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Federal and Provincial members of Fisheries and Oceans, National Parks, RCMP, Veterans organizations and others, wear their Service Ribbons on their uniforms and blazers; and

WHEREAS article 113 chapter 1 of the Ritual & Insignia Manual states that if medals are not available, ribbons may be worn:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the wording "undress Service Ribbons may be worn on Legion Dress" be inserted within article 103 chapter 1 of the Ritual & Insignia Manual.

61. Normandy Medal NS/NU 13

WHEREAS the Dominion Command has authorized the Dutch Medal of Remembrance to be worn on Legion dress, for those who participated in the liberation of Holland in 1944-45; and

WHEREAS the medal was presented by the Government of the Netherlands to Canadian Veterans; and

WHEREAS the Normandy Medal was presented by the French Government to those Canadian Veterans who participated in the liberation of that region of France and Europe:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command give the same respect to the Normandy Medal which has been given to the Dutch Medal of Remembrance, by authorizing the wearing of it on Legion dress, to the right of Legion Medals.

CONSTITUTION AND LAWS

63. Complaints and Appeals Processes - Devolution of Responsibility to Provincial Commands C&L 1, NS/NU 4/C and 5/C

WHEREAS all Provincial Commands have received numerous complaints and appeals from branch members; and

WHEREAS all Provincial Commands have expended thousands of dollars reviewing appeals and holding complaint hearings; and

WHEREAS the majority of complaints are due to some members not being able to get along with other members and can be deemed of a frivolous nature; and

WHEREAS all Provincial Commands are responsible for their branches and members:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Dominion Command amend The General By-Laws of the Legion to permit Provincial Commands to hold Complaint Committee Hearings and Appeals as appropriate to render final decisions on all complaints and appeals within the jurisdiction of the Command; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Dominion Command involve itself only in Complaint Hearings for those matters concerning complaints against a Provincial Command President or complaints against a Dominion Officer, or for appeals relating to the expulsion of a member or the revocation of a branch charter.

64. Constitution and Laws - Deprivation of Privileges and Reprimands MAN/NWO 4/C

WHEREAS breaches of clubroom rules or privileges vary in degrees of severity, so must any discipline arising from same; and

WHEREAS this has been recognized in the past, as defined in Article III, Section 307. (3) of The General By-laws, as amended June 2000, now being considered for change, a change to eliminate imposition of a reprimand:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article III, Section 311.b. (General By-Laws edition 2002) be amended by deleting the words "only penalty" in the line and replacing with the following:

"Committee may dismiss the charges, or, if proven, impose one or more of the following":

- i. Deprivation of clubroom privileges for a period not to exceed 12 months;
- ii. And/or issue a reprimand that may also require a letter of apology to the Branch and/or if applicable, to the individual or individuals that may have been aggrieved.

238. Constitution and Laws - Complaint Form MAN/NWO 2/C

WHEREAS most members have no knowledge of how to lay a complaint; and

WHEREAS most members who do have a copy of our General By-laws have considerable difficulty in fully understanding the intricacies of Article III:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we petition Dominion Command to issue a "Complaint Form" to all branches outlining the information required.

TUBERCULOUS VETERANS SECTION

65. TVS Affiliate Membership - General By-laws Amendment TVS 1

WHEREAS the by-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion provide for the establishment of the Tuberculous Veterans Section for the purpose of safeguarding the special interests of tuberculous veterans and veterans suffering from chest ailments; and

WHEREAS the Tuberculous Veterans Section is desirous of maintaining its unique identity in all categories of membership; and

WHEREAS incidental variances have developed among by-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion and those of the Tuberculous Veterans Section concerning criteria for affiliate membership in the Tuberculous Veterans Section; and

WHEREAS the Tuberculous Veterans Section has approved changes to its by-laws which restrict Tuberculous Veterans Section affiliate membership to a person who is tuberculous or chest disabled, or a professional who was or is engaged in the treatment or research of tuberculosis or other related chest disability; and

WHEREAS the By-Laws of the Tuberculous Veterans Section must be consistent with the By-Laws of The Royal Canadian Legion; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article II of the General By-laws of The Royal Canadian Legion be amended to add the following sub paragraph:

228.b. Affiliate membership in the Tuberculous Veterans Section is only open to a person who is:

- i. tuberculous or respiratory disabled; or***
- ii. a professional who is or was engaged in treatment or research of tuberculosis or other related respiratory disability.***

CONVENTION

358. Using Yes and No Cards for Voting at Dominion Conventions BC/YUKON 33

WHEREAS The Royal Canadian Legion continues to allow a vote to occur by "Yeas"™ and "Nays"™; and

WHEREAS this system is a most outdated and an inappropriate system of voting at a convention; and

WHEREAS such a system as this is not democratic, nor necessarily a reflection of the will of the membership:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Article IX Section 915. be revised as follows:

Except for election of officers, the vote of the convention will be by card indication YES or NO, unless a vote by ballot is directed by the Chairman or is demanded by at least 20 percent of the delegates on the floor of the convention. In such instances proxies cannot be used.

**OPENING ADDRESS TO THE
40TH BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BY
THE HONOURABLE JAMES K. BARTLEMAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO**

I am delighted to be with you this afternoon, for the opening ceremony of the 40th Dominion Convention.

We are embarking on a year of anniversaries, marking 60 years since the Allies began their march to victory in the Second World War, from D-Day on June 6th 1944 to V-E Day on May 8th 1945, and V-J Day on August 15th of that same year, signaling the end of the most devastating war in human history.

La solennité de ces anniversaires réside non seulement dans la célébration des soixante années qui se sont écoulées depuis la fin de cette terrible guerre, mais aussi dans la réalisation qu'il reste trop peu d'anciens combattants à honorer et à remercier de leurs nombreux sacrifices.

I took part in some of this year's ceremonies to commemorate D-Day, and it was a real pleasure to see the proud bearing of the veterans, marching through the streets of Toronto.

As the largest community service organization in Canada, with almost half a million members, The Royal Canadian Legion branches across Canada play a significant role in their communities, and in provincial and national projects, such as housing for the elderly and the National Track and Field Championships for young athletes, which I had the pleasure of opening when they took place in Kitchener last year.

But the Legion's greatest responsibility, underscored by the theme for this year's Convention "United in Remembrance" - is, and always will be, keeping alive in our hearts the memory of those who have fought and died in two World Wars, the Korean War and other military undertakings around the globe. For what other group can evoke such heart-warming appreciation of the great and the good, more than The Royal Canadian Legion?

As the Queen's representative in Ontario, and on behalf of all Ontarians, it is my privilege to bring greetings to the members of The Royal Canadian Legion, and your honoured guests from Britain and the United States, and to thank you for the work you do to make sure that we can never forget the sacrifices that have been made to preserve our freedom.

I now declare this 40th Dominion convention open.

**ADDRESS TO THE
40TH BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BY
THE HONOURABLE JOHN MCCALLUM, P.C., M.P.
MINISTER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Thank you Allan for those thoughtful words of introduction.

My first order of business is to thank Allan Parks, your out-going president, who has represented your organization so commendably, providing sage advice to me and my departmental officials. I know that this tradition of able leadership will continue when you swear in your new Executive later in the convention. In the months to come, my Department will continue to count on your collaboration - and counsel - as we take on new priorities and challenges at Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC).

And that is what I want to talk about today. Priorities and challenges.

In many ways the Legion and the Department are in the same business. Our business - ours and yours - is to do our utmost to better the lot of Canada's Veterans. Our challenge - and one of yours too I think - is this:

How do we continue to meet the requirements of our traditional Veterans and also meet the needs of today's Canadian Forces Veterans?

Our goal is to serve both groups of clients in an exemplary fashion.

The Challenge

I am proud of our record of success in balancing our response to the needs of both these groups of Veterans, as well as their families.

VAC and DND - and I have the advantage of having worn both ministerial hats - have over the past few years launched exhaustive reviews and developed a whole range of services all designed to better address the needs of Canadian Force members and their families. But over time these initiatives have been hampered by an existing patch-work of programs, which have not allowed us to be as comprehensive as we would have liked.

Partly because the stresses and strains we are putting on our men and women in uniform are very compelling. Compelling and complex.

Consider this. Since 1947, the CF has completed 72 international operations. On any given day, about 8,000 Canadian Forces members - one third of our deployable force - are preparing for, engaged in, or returning from an overseas mission. Deployments can be lengthy and stressful in the extreme.

Our personnel come home - often with very challenging physical or psychological ailments - the treatment of which can transcend the immediate solutions of medical treatment and a disability pension.

Most of our Veterans sign up when they are young and fit. By the time they leave service, many of them, whose average age is about 39, are not so fit. They hit "civvy street" with unresolved medical problems at the same time they are trying to adjust to going from a very structured environment to a completely unstructured one. So they are grappling with health, employment, income, and other disability support issues while trying to find a job in an unfamiliar civilian life. All this can add tremendous strain to the family dynamic.

VAC's CF client population has increased 58% in the past three years, rising from 23,600 in 2001 to 37,300 in February 2004. According to Dr. Peter Neary's report which I will talk about in more detail, CF clients

are expected to reach over 58,000 by 2013. VAC currently provides disability pensions to approximately 7% of the total eligible CF population of 490,000 and that is expected to rise to 11% in just five years.

Solutions - First Steps

That is why we established a **Services and Program Modernization Task Force** last September to examine the current ways we are doing things. We have been looking to the very human side of the equation as we considered which of our current programs meet these new needs and what new programs will be required.

In October of 2000 we also established an independent **VAC - Canadian Forces Advisory Council** under the guidance of Professor Peter Neary. The Council, which has *substantial Veteran representation*, was tasked with providing us with expert advice. Its report was completed in March of this year. It called for a *complete overhaul* of the way Canadian Forces members and Veterans are compensated for injury, as well as the development of a substantial program of benefits to assist modern-day Veterans with the transition to civilian life.

On May 4th, 2004, I publicly committed to the following five new key program components.

1. disability awards and wellness programs to replace today's disability pension program for new applicants;
2. physical and psychological *rehabilitation* services, including vocational training and education;
3. *earnings loss support* for Veterans undergoing rehabilitation, as well as longer-term income support for those who can no longer work because of a service-related illness or injury;
4. *job placement* assistance; and
5. *a health care plan* for Veterans and their families.

Over this summer my Deputy and members of the Task Force will be undertaking detailed consultations with the major Veterans' organizations, including the RCL, across the country as well as other involved groups. We have already begun these consultations in May.

Our agenda is ambitious, as I have committed to the Prime Minister to have legislation introduced by the end of this calendar year.

Operational Stress Injuries

Last February we opened an Operational Stress Injury Clinic at Parkwood Hospital in London, Ontario as part of our National Mental Health Strategy. This clinic joins a national network of treatment and diagnostic clinics that provide Canadian Force members with access to specialized treatment for Operational Stress Injuries, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, anxiety, depression, and addiction. Psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, and clinical social workers all work together to develop a treatment plan tailored to meet the individual needs of the CF Veteran/member. Group and family counselling are also available. The sum total is a comprehensive Mental Health Strategy which also encompasses ongoing clinical research in the field of psychological injuries, as well as specialized training for health professionals and on-going educational forums.

Traditional War-Era Veterans

Whether we are seeking to recognize a special contribution or making sure we have an equitable response to a service-related disability, we are in no way lessening our commitment to our traditional clientele. On the contrary, more money and more services are slated for our wartime Veterans than ever before. Well over half our \$2.8 billion dollar budget this year will be paid out in the form of disability pensions, the vast majority of which go to war era Veterans. Another 800 million dollars is slated for health care, including \$200 million for the Veterans Independence Program (VIP), and \$300 million for Long-term care.

Urgent Needs

You will recall that late last year the House passed Urgent Needs legislation and regulatory amendments, which have resulted in a number of improved benefits and services to our war-service Veterans.

I would like to stress that the major national Veterans' associations such as yours were a driving force in getting us to the place where in December we made changes to the VIP regulations. We have now extended survivor coverage for VIP housekeeping or grounds maintenance services *back to September 1, 1990 - the time of original entitlement for such benefits*, and have included primary care-givers of those Veterans who were in receipt of the one-year extension of services.

As of last month, more than 4,000 of the 14,000 applications received by the Department have been processed. It is our goal that we will have processed 10,000 by the end of June with the total backlog processed by the end of July. It is our commitment that all 20,000 anticipated applications will be processed by the end of December. We estimate that some *20,000 survivors and qualified care-givers* of Veterans who have died since September 1990 will benefit from the provision of these services. In addition, an estimated *10,500 more survivors* are expected to benefit over the next five years. Our contribution will exceed \$237 million dollars over that time frame.

VIP is a very successful program. I don't need to tell you that. You can take pride in the fact that your leadership was instrumental in bringing national attention to the potential for VIP to help all Canadian seniors. The Prime Minister's recently released Task Force report "Creating a National Seniors Agenda" contains 17 recommendations including "testing a home independence program for seniors" modelled on VAC's VIP program.

Long-term Care & Client Satisfaction

We remain committed to helping all Veterans and seniors enjoy a high quality of life in their later years, including access to quality long-term care.

We have been partnering with the Legion to have volunteer RCL surveyors conduct client satisfaction surveys with up to 4,000 veterans living in more than 1,500 community care residences across Canada.

In the first year of the contract, more than 100 of your surveyors were trained by VAC and the RCL. To date they have interviewed about 600 veterans in 215 community long-term care residences. During year two of the contract, they will continue to interview veterans in community residences across the country and now will also start to visit some of our Department's smaller Priority Access Bed facilities.

You have become our eyes and ears for these elderly residents. I am told that both the surveyors and those they interview - including family members - really appreciate that someone is taking the time to ask them how they are doing.

National Contact Centre Network

Because we are expanding our services so rapidly we expect to get over a million phone calls from our clients this year. *A million phone calls!* That means we have had to centralize our phone service with three contact centres. For those of you used to calling District Offices directly, well, I know some of you have not been happy about the new system. First, let me assure you that when you are calling our toll-free number, you are not being re-routed to some operator at the other side of the world. You are getting a Veterans Affairs Canada employee who is working out of one of three centres - in Winnipeg, Kirkland Lake or Dartmouth. Many operators staffing the lines have a wealth of experience. Seventy percent of those calling in find that the person who answers the phone is able to help them right away. And if your case is more complicated then the operator will have the a District Office staff person call you back as soon as possible.

Now we've had growing pains. We understand that you want to talk to someone who can help you, quickly and efficiently.

By the end of June, we anticipate a 90% response rate *within 45 seconds* of your placing a call. I want to emphasize that these changes were made to free up staff in our District Offices to spend more time with those clients who are at risk and in most need of our immediate assistance.

Finally, I would like to speak to the commemorative part of the Department's mandate.

Commemoration:

The other priority we share with you is that of passing on our military history and heritage to the next generation. We are just a week back from the wonderful 60th anniversary D-Day and Normandy celebrations in France. The welcome we received was quite overwhelming. It was proof positive of the continuing affection and esteem held for our Canadian Veterans.

One change to this overseas event was that not only did we take our usual contingent of Veterans selected by their respective regiments - we also subsidized those qualified Veterans who went over on their own ticket. To the tune of \$1000 each. We will be doing the same thing for the Veterans of the Italian campaign in the fall - offering 1500 veterans \$1000 each.

An important change this year was our focus on in-Canada events. Here in Canada, thousands of people, young and old, attended more than 50 events held on June 6 in every province and territory. In Ottawa, thousands also attended a national service of remembrance at the National War Memorial and many more watched from coast-to-coast-to-coast this nationally televised event. This is the beginning of an increased emphasis on activities in-Canada, where Canadians can fully demonstrate their appreciation to Veterans.

I should take this time to let you know that Veterans Week 2004 will pay special tribute to Canadian veterans who took part in the Italian campaign. My departmental officials have been busy planning for activities to recognize the Italian campaign this fall as well as the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 2005.

We will be continuing and indeed expanding our efforts to engage Canadians to take leadership roles in remembrance activities.

In April I announced the contribution of \$130,000 to the Dominion Institute's "Memory Project", which brought 1000 Veterans into 1000 schools across Canada to speak to youth about the 60th anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. I can't think of money better spent. We intend to have a similar partnership for other military anniversaries - the next being Italy in the fall.

In addition, we provide opportunities for youth to participate in overseas learning events and delegations and to become employed as youth guides at our memorial sites in France. The end game is to have them return to their schools and communities as ambassadors of remembrance.

Conclusion:

So there you have it. Priorities and challenges. And I should add consultation and collaboration. In all these things we will continue to need your input. We expect on many items you may be ahead of the curve. I am sure you will continue to hold our feet to the fire on issues about which you have a burning passion. We continue to be your partners in seeing that those passions play out in compassionate and caring programs for all our Veterans.

In closing, I wish you a successful and enjoyable convention.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS TO THE
40TH BIENNIAL DOMINION CONVENTION
OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
BY
THE GRAND PRESIDENT
CHARLES BELZILE C.M., C.M.M., C.D.**

Good morning Comrades.

This is my second appearance in front of convention since I was honoured by The Royal Canadian Legion, when offered the post of Grand President.

The most satisfying aspect of this appointment is that it affords me the chance to witness first hand what this great organization does in meeting the terms of our mission which I remind you is "To Serve Veterans and their Dependents, to Promote Remembrance and to act in the Service of Canada and its communities". I am happy to report that you do that very well, on all fronts and at all levels. You continue to devote yourselves to making us all better Canadians, and I can only encourage you to continue to do so.

As your representative on the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee for the 60th Anniversary of D-Day and the Battle of Normandy, I had the privilege of travelling to France for the commemorative activities associated with those momentous events. While there I met several veterans of the Normandy Campaign, many of whom were Legionnaires, in Legion uniform. Some of you at this Convention might well have been there.

Despite the hot and humid weather, despite the emotional impact of such a visit, despite the arduous pace of commemorative events, and despite the often frustrating but necessary security measures, all of our veterans showed a toughness and resilience reminiscent of their youth. One could not but admire all of them and be proud of them of their past accomplishments. I returned home to this Convention, more determined than ever, to remind all Legionnaires to ever enhance their support for those National heroes, most of them in their waning years. We owe them big, and I know you all feel the same..

Later on during this convention, I will have the occasion to discuss the issue of Veterans Unity, as charged by our Dominion President, Comrade Allan Parks, following the 2002 Convention in Edmonton.

I would not wish to pre-empt those later comments, but would like to say to you all that somehow we, the representatives of our war, and post war veterans, must find a way to work more closely together, for the benefit of our veterans and their families. Such coordinated effort may well lead to areas where we do not always see eye to eye, but we must somehow, with compromise, find a way to reduce the existing fragmentation of the veterans—community to the betterment of our representation and advocacy on their behalf.

At this time, I would like to avail myself of the opportunity to salute our Dominion President, Comrade Allan Parks and thank him for his outstanding leadership during the last 2 Å years. He has been a stalwart and indefatigable worker for the Legion and the pursuit of its aims.

Thank you Comrade Allan from all of us for having been such a supporter to our common cause and to all of us personally. I dare not speak of retirement for such a young man, but we will probably continue to tap on, and even abuse his good will for the foreseeable future. Good luck to you, Allan, to Janice and your family.

Finally, I wish you all a great convention, have a good one.

Thank you Comrade Chairman.