



President's Report

8 August 2019

It has continued to be a busy and productive period for the PPCLI Association since our last AGM in May 2018. The Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Workshops have been a tremendous success. We have conducted five workshops across Canada over the past 15 months at a cost of \$34,700. We did this with a True Patriot Love grant of \$14,000 and a private donation of \$12,500. 111 Association and serving members have completed Mental Health training along with 49 individuals from a wide range of other organizations.

To date, the Volunteer Patricia Program has helped over 100 individuals. Four were Association members, at least 10 were non Patricias and the remainder were Patricias who were not members of the Association. Cases continue to be referred by VETS Canada, other agencies, local Branches or word of mouth. The point is that we are making a difference in peoples' lives and well-being by referring them to the appropriate support agency and providing them with social support. I have noticed that people are going outside their normal comfort zone and helping people they did not know. I believe this is a direct result of understanding the challenges that people face when they feel isolated and alone.

Canada Revenue Agency approved the addition of Mental Health training and home modifications as charitable objects to the Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund. To my surprise, this was accomplished in less than three months. We are now in the process of adding additional objects to include:

Assistance with medical costs, medical equipment, physical fitness and other specialized equipment not covered by the Canadian Armed Forces, Veterans Affairs Canada, Provincial Health Care or any other source;

Support to accredited agencies that assist veterans and their families with provision of PTSD Service Dogs, homelessness, substance abuse, mental health issues or that provide medically recognized alternative therapies; and

To promote the history, heritage and legacy of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and Canadian Armed Forces by making disbursements to the Regimental Museum and Archives, funding the development and maintenance of Regimental Memorials, including the Frezenberg Memorial in Belgium, Lansdowne Memorial in Ottawa, Patricia Park in Edmonton, and funding Regimental heritage and historical projects.

At the August AGM we will be electing new members to the Board of Directors. Full disclosure, both Doug Salmon and I will stand for reelection as Vice President and President respectively. We will be nominating six new directors to the Board including Brittany Laramie and Sherri Casey Petersen who are both Patricia spouses. This will greatly assist us in understanding the challenges faced by families and improve our support to Veterans and their Families.

Three members of the Board will step down. Mike Austdal has been on the Board since 2010, serving as National Secretary, Chair of the Student Bursary Committee and President all while serving as President of the Wainwright Branch. Fred Goldring has been very active in the Association as President of the Edmonton Branch and joining the Board of Directors in 2015 as the membership chair. Art Chase also joined the Board in 2015.

We are also in the process of updating the purposes the Association. This is a complex process that will take 14 – 16 months. It involves ensuring the membership is aware of the proposed changes, updating our Articles of Continuance, ensuring that our purposes are synchronized in a number of documents ranging from the Regimental Manual, Association By-laws, Director’s Handbook and our website.

The theme for the 105th is “**Celebrating our PPCLI Veterans of the Past, Present and Future**”. It will be a busy period which will culminate with a Dedication Service at Patricia Park on the morning of 10 August 2019, where we will add names of ten Patricias who made the ultimate sacrifice in World War One and Two and unveil 26 newly installed Personal Legacy Stones.

Congratulations to 3003 Battle River Cadet Corps who are the top PPCLI Cadet Corps for 2019.

Special thanks to the volunteers from the Edmonton, Wainwright and in particular the Calgary Branches who raised \$62,000 from the Calgary Casino. This combined with funds from True Patriot Love and the HGMF, will result in the following for 2019:

Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Workshops	\$22,500
Student Bursaries	\$21,000
Regimental Museum	\$12,500 (TBC)
PPCLI Cadet Corps	\$10,525
Kipnes Centre Edmonton	\$10,000
Valour Place Edmonton	\$10,000
Col Belcher Calgary	\$10,000
Mental Health Video	\$ 5,300
The Military Museum	\$ 5,000
Soldier On	\$ 1,500
Memorial Maintenance	<u>\$ 2,200</u>
Total	\$110,525

In order to provide the same level of support in future years, we must continue to fundraise, especially as we continue the Mental Health and Suicide Awareness Workshops and increase our support to Veterans and Families. The Mental Health video will be shown at the AGM and distributed to Branches as an information and fundraising tool. You can donate by e-transfer to association@shaw.ca, by cheque to Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund, 4520 Crowchild Trail SW,

Calgary, AB T2T 5J4 or by using Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/hamilton-gault-memorial-fund/> .

I encourage everyone to reach out to those who served with the Regiment and are not members of the Association. The fact that the majority of people we have helped to date were not members of the Association speaks for itself. It has been pointed out on numerous occasions that Sgts and below, medically released with less than 10 years of service, are the group that have the most challenges. The Association is making a difference in peoples' lives and we are continuing what was started by the PPCLI Service Clubs in 1917.

Paul Hale
President
PPCLI Association