

Honorary Patron of EUSI – Her Honor, Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

APRIL 2017

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President's Comments

8 April is the Eve of Victory Gala Dinner and Silent Auction, to be held at CFB Edmonton Golf and Curling Club. Cost is \$160.00 per person. For tickets, call Barb Booker at 780-973-4011, Ext 6300.

9 April is Vimy Ridge Day – Sunday, 9 April marks the 100th Anniversary of the Battle at Vimy Ridge. The Vimy 100 committee has organized a number of activities in Sir Winston Churchill Square to commemorate this significant milestone.

Vimy Vigil - 9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Camp Vimy in Winston Churchill Square is a truly unique opportunity for you to see, touch and feel history. Meet and talk with WWI Soldier interpreters in period dress as they share their stories and letters from Vimy; you'll also be able to collect commemorative Vimy soldier cards. Get a sense of the size and treacherous nature of Vimy as you view a map of the battlefield and the infamous ridge. Talk to the Lord Strathcona soldiers and see their horses in the Vimy corral. Write out a wish for the next 100 years on a maple leaf and hang it on the Vimy Wish Tree – a metal sculpture by artist Slavo Cech. The commemorative sculpture is reminiscent of a battlefield tree that bore witness to the battle that forged our nation. A program of musical moments will happen throughout the day every hour, on the hour.

Vimy 100 Parade - 11:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Follow almost 150 members of 41 Brigade and 300 cadets from across the province as they parade from the Legislature down Jasper Avenue to Sir Winston Churchill Square where they will be reviewed by Mayor Don Iveson and Brigadier General Simon Hetherington, Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division. We would be delighted if you and your family were to join us for one or all of these activities.

30 April is the deadline for filing your income tax.

In this ever changing world, there are three things in life that do not change, at least not in Canada. That is Herpes, death, and paying taxes. Yes, folks, April 30 is the deadline to file your income tax. In the January 2016 Enews, I have published a helpful tip on recapturing your medical and dental premiums. It is being re-published again for those who needed a reminder:

If you are receiving Federal Pension, chances are you are also subscribing to the Federal health and dental plan. You may be getting a tax break, if you are not already aware of this. You can claim your Public Service Health Care Plan (PSHCP) & Pensioners' Dental Services Plan (PDSP) on your taxes.

CF Pensioners receive a T4 from Specialized Services Division (Cdn Forces Pension Forces Cdn); however, the T4 DOES NOT include the premium paid to PSHCP or PDSP. Both premium payments ARE CLAIMABLE, therefore:

to learn how much you can claim, and to obtain a copy of the letter you will need in order to make a claim, please consider calling:

PSHCP, for health care plan details, call [1-800-267-6542](tel:1-800-267-6542); or,

PDSP/Dental, for dental plan details, call [1-800-267-0350](tel:1-800-267-0350)

The person answering will place your name in a database and send you a letter which is for use with your tax submission.

You can request it be back-dated if you've paid for years but have not claimed in the past

This will also ensure in future years you automatically receive the letter without having to call again.

The call, once connected, takes about four minutes.

I requested the letters sometime in October, 2015 and received confirmation letters for both dental and medical premiums paid sometime in February, 2016.

If you file your income tax by paper format, please attach a letter to explain you are claiming the accumulative sum for all the years(up to ten years) that you have not made a claim.

If you file your tax electronically, you will need to do the following:

The CRA process is not so easy as submitting the receipt with your taxes. You must write to CRA and request an Adjustment to Line 3-30 of your income tax return for the last ten years. Include your SI number, your full name and phone number. Attach the tax receipt you received from the pension offices. Sign and date the letter and mail to Canada Revenue Agency, 4695 12th Ave Shawinigan, Quebec G9P 5H9

2017 Federal Budget in Relation to National Defence

In addition to the deferred defence purchases and programs, there are a number of items of direct interest to members of the Defence Team.

Among them:

- The creation of a new Veterans' Education and Training Benefit to provide up to \$80,000 to veterans in support of post-secondary education.
- Re-establishing lifelong pensions as an option for injured veterans. This will provide an option for injured veterans to receive their Disability Award through a monthly payment for life, rather than in a one-time payment.
- Undertaking a transformation of both DND and Veterans Affairs Canada programs to ensure that women and men in uniform have a better transition from the Canadian Armed Forces to Veterans Affairs Canada.

The Budget also reaffirmed the following:

- In support of the Government's plan to replace Canada's legacy fleet of CF-18 fighter aircraft, it will explore the acquisition of 18 new Super Hornet aircraft to supplement the CF-18s until the permanent replacement arrives.
- A Canada-led multinational NATO battlegroup in Latvia as part of the Alliance's enhanced Forward Presence in Eastern Europe, and a renewal of Operation UNIFIER, its support for Ukraine's efforts to maintain sovereignty, security and stability.
- A commitment to international peace operations. Up to 600 well-trained Canadian military personnel have been pledged for possible deployment as part of a broader whole-of-government approach that includes political, security, development and humanitarian responses to conflict situations.

To view all budgetary highlights, please visit www.budget.gc.ca.



The Soldier by Rupert Brooke

If I should die, think only this of me:
That there's some corner of a foreign field
That is for ever England. There shall be
In that rich earth a richer dust concealed;
A dust whom England bore, shaped, made aware,
Gave once her flowers to love, her ways to roam;
A body of England's, breathing English air,
Washed by the rivers, blest by suns of home.
And think, this heart, all evil shed away,
A pulse in the eternal mind, no less
Gives somewhere back the thoughts by England given;
Her sights and sounds; dreams happy as her day;
And laughter, learnt of friends; and gentleness,
In hearts at peace, under an English heaven.

Forestburg Cenotaph



Humor



Get trained!



What's Out There?

BEIJING, Feb. 13 (Xinhua) -- China plans to launch its first cargo spacecraft via a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket in April, sources said Monday.

The Tianzhou-1 cargo spacecraft, which departed from north China's Tianjin on Feb. 5, arrived at the Wenchang Space Launch Center in south China's Hainan Province on Monday for assembly and testing, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA).

Consisting of a cargo capsule and a propellant capsule, Tianzhou-1, the first cargo spacecraft independently developed by China, has a take-off weight of about 13 tonnes, up to six tonnes of which is payload. It can remain in space on its own for as long as three months.

It is capable of docking with the Tiangong-2 space lab and refueling it in addition to carrying out experiments and tests.

The Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket is scheduled to arrive at the launch center in March, the CMSA said.

The launch of Tianzhou-1 will be a crucial step for China in building a space station by 2020, as cargo spacecraft are required to ship necessities to astronauts aboard the station.



Canadian Gear

HMCS Saskatoon – On March 26, 2017, HMCS Saskatoon, in a joint naval operation with the US Coast Guard captured the biggest narcotics smuggling volume in record. One of her sister ship, HMCS Edmonton, participated in similar operations between October and December, 2016.



HMCS Saskatoon is a Kingston-class coastal defence vessel that has served in the Canadian Forces since 1998. Saskatoon is the tenth ship of her class which is the name for the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessel Project.

Construction started: September 5, 1997

Launched: March 30, 1998

Length: 55 m

Draft: 3.4 m

Builder: Halifax Shipyard

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IT IS TOO LATE TO SHARPEN SWORDS, WHEN THE DRUMS OF WAR ARE BEATING