



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

NOVEMBER 2020

The information in this newsletter is for informational purposes only. The Edmonton United Services Institute assumes no liability for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

REMEMBRANCE DAY

There will not be serving soldiers participating in Remembrance Day Commemoration in Edmonton as per direction of the CDS. However, Depending on current Alberta Health Services regulations, there are a number of ceremonies are scheduled to take place by invitation only and with social distance in place. If no further restrictions put in place, I will represent EUSI and the Edmonton Salutes Committee to lay a wreath at the Aviation Museum where the 700 Wing Association will hold a small ceremony.



EDMONTON SALUTES COMMITTEE

Effective October 23, I stepped down as Chair of the Edmonton Salutes Committee but will continue to sit in the Committee as representative of EUSI. I have been the Chair for ESC for the last three and a half years. The last ten months have been extraordinary with many hours spent on Reviewing bylaws and governance, as well as suspended meetings due to COVID-19. How ESC support the military will need new ideas and innovative thinking. The new Chair for ESC is LCol (ret'd) Brian Hodgson.



FREE PARKING FOR VEHICLES WITH VETERANS PLATES IN VANCOUVER

On the 22nd October, Vancouver City Council directed City staff to prepare the necessary bylaw amendments by November 3, 2020 to implement it. A one-year pilot project will examine actual usage and revenue details. Retired LCol Archie Steacy, President of BCVCA, has led this effort for the last year, working closely with councillor Melissa De Genova and former RCAF Officer, 15 Fd Officers' Mess Associate member and RUSI Vancouver member, Eric Mold. Other veterans and friends of the military spoke in favour of the free parking motion including our former 15th Field RCA Honorary Colonel, Judge Bill Rodgers.

It was stated at the meeting that there are currently 14,000 Veterans license plates in BC, with 4,900 across the Lower Mainland and just 350 within the City of Vancouver but city council decided that the staff had overestimated the financial impact of the motion. NPA councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung personally expressed her regret for any hurt or perceived disrespect for the veterans and went on to say "they're not just any group, they are people who were willing to put themselves in harms way and pay the ultimate sacrifice, and if they were lucky, they came back. But they didn't necessarily come back the same, some suffered from physical afflictions and mental issues like PTSD. Some were able to integrate into society, but it doesn't matter. Regardless of that, it's not about the cost of parking, it's the fact that their service was priceless and from my perspective if we stop remembering and honouring them, we lose part of ourselves and our humanity there. A lot of our veterans who were in significant wars are getting older, and we're losing them. We can't lose the memory of what they actually stood for. I want to thank each and everyone of our veterans. If it weren't for them, we might not be here today."

My thought on the above is that Edmonton should be considering the same gesture, especially many of the activities adopted to support the military have now been suspended due to COVID-19. I will pursue this with our city council and the Edmonton Salutes Committee.

ONE-TIME PAYMENT TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND SENIORS.

A date has been published to start this payment on 30 Oct 2020 if you qualify for this benefit. You do not need to apply.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/covid19-emergency-benefits/one-time-payment-persons-disabilities.html#shr-pg0>

This **non-taxable, non-reportable**, one-time payment provides **up to \$600** in recognition of the extraordinary expenses faced by persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This payment complements other emergency supports, such as the one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax Credit and the one-time payment to seniors.

Eligibility

We will automatically issue this payment if:

- you have an existing valid Disability Tax Credit (DTC) certificate
- you are eligible and applied for the DTC by **September 25, 2020**
- you are a beneficiary as at July 1, 2020 of:
 - Canada Pension Plan Disability
 - Quebec Pension Plan Disability Pension
 - **One of the disability supports provided by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC)**
 - **Disability Pension**
 - **Disability Award**
 - **Pain and Suffering Compensation**
 - **Critical Injury Benefit**
 - **Rehabilitation Services and Vocational Assistance Program**
 - **Income Replacement Benefit**
 - **Canadian Forces Income Support**

Note that it can take up to 8 weeks for the CRA to inform you of their decision as to whether you are eligible for the DTC.

Payment for seniors

If you were eligible for the one-time seniors payment you may also be eligible for the one-time payment to persons with disabilities.

You will receive a cumulative amount of up to \$600 broken into 2 payments:

- if you received the \$300 one-time seniors payment for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, you will receive an additional \$300

if you received the \$500 one-time seniors payment for both the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) or the Allowance, you will receive an additional \$100



DISTINGUISH SPEAKER, NOVEMBER 18, 2020

The Royal United Services Institute of Nova Scotia and the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command (NORAD and NORTHCOM) extend an invitation to hear video-conference presentations Wednesday, 18 November 2020 by Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Burke, Director of Operations, Joint Task Force North, and Mr Todd 'Charley' Davis, Chief, NORAD Campaign & Arctic Branch, J5 Strategy, Policy & Plans, NORAD and USNORTHCOM. LCol Burke's talk is titled "Op Nanook: Meeting northern challenges with regional collaboration," and Mr Davis' talk is titled "NORAD and USNORTHCOM perspectives on Arctic Defense and Security." The speakers will address the importance of collaboration and relationships for protecting northern and Arctic North America. The talk will start at 1 pm Halifax time, Wednesday, 18 November, then be followed by Q&A and finish by 3 pm Halifax time.

Registration is required. There is no fee to attend this event. To register, email RUSINovaScotia@gmail.com by close of business Sunday, 15 November. As the subject line for your registration email, put: RUSI(NS)/N-NC Distinguished Speakers 18 November 2020 Registration. In addition to your name please also provide your organization.

The event will be done by Zoom. Instructions will be emailed to registrants by end Monday, 16 November.

RUSI(NS) events may be cancelled at short notice. Email RUSI(NS) if there is a question about an event occurring.

Commander, Royal Canadian Navy (retired)
Vice-President, RUSI(NS)

For Alberta, the presentation will commence at 1000 Hours, local time.



FRIENDLY FORCE

The US Air Force is working with a company based in Virginia, Parsons Corporation, to build a vehicle that will have the capability to detonate landmines from just under 1000 feet away. Parsons Corporation has won a contract valued at \$40 million to build a RADBO (Recovery of Airbase Denied by Ordnance). The company will equip a mine-resistant Cougar infantry vehicle with a three-kilowatt ZEUS Laser System developed by Parsons, and a manipulating arm to clear obstacles and debris out of the way. Parsons indicates that the laser will have the power to detonate cluster bombs, general-purpose bombs, thick-cased artillery rounds, landmines, and other small submunitions. Parson is building the vehicle in Huntsville, Alabama, and they plan to have the vehicle ready for deployment in 2023.



HUMOR - Our Korean veteran, Sgt (Ret'd) Al Bince, decided he has enough trouble and submitted a clean joke for all ages, as an after thought for Thanks Giving.

A young man named John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every phrase out of the bird's mouth

was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity.

John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to 'clean up' the bird's vocabulary.

Finally, John was fed up, and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot, and the parrot got angrier and even more rude.

John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer.

For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed.

Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer.

The parrot calmly stepped out on John's outstretched arms and said "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions,

and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behaviour."

John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude. As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behaviour, the bird spoke up, very softly, "May I ask what the turkey did?"

This ought to make you feel better about your computer skills .

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Tech support:

Click on the 'my computer' icon on the left side of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print.

Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it.

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer:

A teddy bear my boyfriend bought for me at the 7-11.



To a Conscript of 1940

A soldier passed me in the freshly fallen snow,

His footsteps muffled, his face unearthly grey:

And my heart gave a sudden leap

As I gazed on a ghost of five-and-twenty years ago.

I shouted Halt! and my voice had the old accustom'd ring

And he obeyed it as it was obeyed

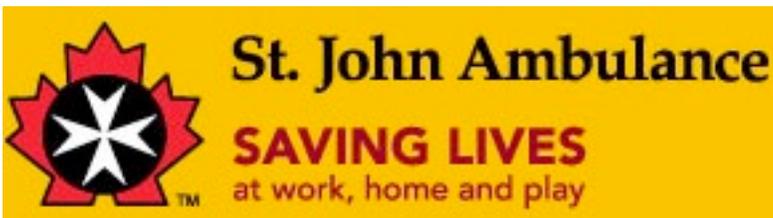
In the shrouded days when I too was one
Into the unknown. He turned towards me and I said:
'I am one of those who went before you
Five-and-twenty years ago: one of the many who never
returned,
Of the many who returned and yet were dead.
We went where you are going, into the rain and the mud:

We fought as you will fight
With death and darkness and despair;
We gave what you will give-our brains and our blood.
We think we gave in vain. The world was not renewed.
There was hope in the homestead and anger in the streets,
But the old world was restored and we returned

The glitter of garland round their head.
Theirs is the hollow victory. They are deceived.
But you my brother and my ghost, if you can go
Knowing that there is no reward, no certain use
In all your sacrifice, then honour is reprieved.
To fight without hope is to fight with grace,
The self reconstructed, the false heart repaired.'
Then I turned with a smile, and he answered my salute
As he stood against the fretted hedge, which was like
white lace.



WWI Japanese War Memorial



Get trained!



T

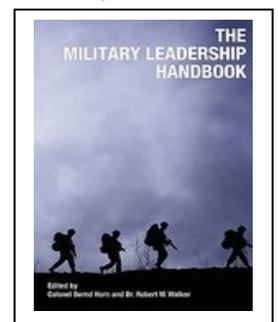


CANADIAN MILITARY READING

The Military Leadership Handbook

Bernd Horn, Robert W. Walker

A concise and complete manual that identifies, describes and explains various concepts, components and ideas that directly relate to military leadership. This book focuses on cohesion, command, cultural intelligence, discipline, fear and trust.





SECURITAS

MAJOR (RET'D) ALEXANDER H. TSANG CD
PRESIDENT, EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE
ALEXANDERHTSANG@HOTMAIL.COM



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