



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

AUGUST 2023

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### PRESIDENT'S COMMENT

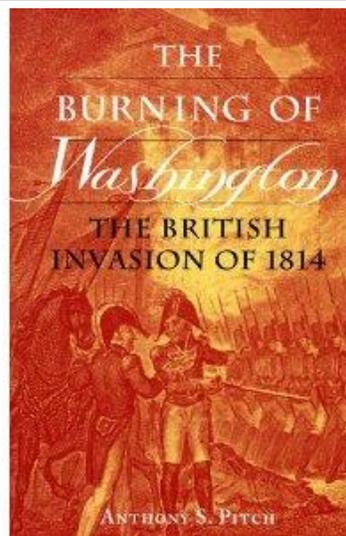
#### President's Comment

Recently, a well known Professor at a Canadian University voiced his opinion publicly through various media outlets to suggest that Canada does not owe veterans any moral or monetary obligations. We cannot compel anyone to feel morally obligated to veterans, whether they are seriously wounded physically or suffer from any psychological difficulties as a result of their military services to Canada.

There are many who think this way. Some are "liberal intellectuals" who are able to express their view publicly, no matter how twisted it is, and obviously forgets that it is through the sacrifice of our soldiers that they are able to express their beliefs freely. The same view is shared by our current Prime Minister.

In 2006, while serving as Deputy Formation Commander for Ops Auguru in Ethiopia/Sudan, under command to the African Mission in Sudan, AMIS, I experienced the same mistreatment by then Treasury Board, no doubt proposed by similar liberal governmental officials who has little appreciation of military life and their sacrifices. Basically, the Treasury Board decided to downgrade the danger pay and tax exemption for the Christmas pay period and the reduction would be retroactive to June. Consequently, for my Christmas pay, I have zero income and owed the government over \$7000.00. I did post my grunt of the day on social media. I am reposting my grunt below and the pay-statement issued by DND, as below:

" Well, guys. I just want to add another injustice to how the CF are being treated. As you know, I am at Addis Ababa with TFAA, supporting the African Union in Sudan. This month, someone in Ottawa has decided that our mission should have the Risk Level down graded from Level 2 to Level 1 and have our danger pay reduced. In addition, with Risk level reduced to 1, the tax exemption was gone. This is retroactive to June 2006. Well, the pay system took all the taxes owed in one shot and for my Dec pay, I owed the Feds \$11000.00. This is just bloody insane. I have lost 25 lbs in the last four months and got intestinal amoebic infection twice and is constantly on Anti-biotic which leaves this metallic taste in your mouth. At any given time, 60 to 70% percent of the TFAA members are down with something. In October, all members had dysentery,



amoeba infection, and one repatriated member had malaria. A replacement MCPL for the clerk who was away on HLTA got Amoeba in the three weeks she was there. Now, that is not including the other aspects of hazards and isolation typical of a tour. If that is not risk, I don't know what is Risk, in the matter of CF interpretation. I went to Africa with the hope that my efforts can make a difference and gave it 100% of myself to my job and I expected my country will look after my welfare while I leave my family and my home to further the interest of Canada. I certainly did not expect the treatment, without prior notice, handed out just before Xmas. One of my sergeant had already spent the money and he now is wondering where in hell he will get the money to pay the Gov back. Because ours is a small mission and therefore, attracts little attention. But the risk and hardship in my opinion is just as tough as in Afghanistan. When I was in Kingston for my pre deployment training, I was told specifically by a member of the Treasury Board that my mission is tax free. To have them now clawing back our benefits is just unacceptable. That is my opinion of the day."

Major Alexander H Tsang  
DCO, Task Force Addis Ababa/TFAA

### **My pay statement for December 2003. It is scrambled and cannot show real dollar figures.:**

Canadian Forces - Forces canadiennesPAY STATEMENT - ÉTAT DE SOLDECurrent PaymentPaiement  
courantDateStatement DateDate du relevéCurrencyDeviseRECONCILIATION TO PREVIOUS  
STATEMENTCONCILIATION DEPUIS LE RELEVÉ PRÉCÉDENTYear to DateTotal année couranteOpening  
BalanceSolde d'ouvertureAdd: Current Payand AdjustmentsPlus : Solde et ajustements courantsTaxable  
AllowancesIndemnités imposablesNon-taxable AllowancesIndemnités non imposablesEquals: Current Pay and  
AllowancesÉgal : Solde et indemnités courantesLess: Pay DeductionsMoins : Retenues courantesEquals:  
Current Pay Entitlement Égal : Solde exigibleLess: Current PaymentMoins : Paiement courantEquals: Closing  
Balance Égal : Solde de fermeturePAY DEDUCTIONS - RETENUES COURANTESTRANSACTION DETAILS  
- DÉTAILS SUPPLÉMENTAIRESIncome Tax - ImpôtsFederal - FédéralProvincialSuperannuationPension de  
retraiteC.P.P. - Q.P.P.R.P.C. - R.R.Q.EmploymentInsuranceAssurance emploiMedical Insurance PlansRégime  
d'assurance médicalProvincialP.S.H.C.P. - R.S.S.F.P.Charitable DonationsDons de charitéYear to Date Total  
année couranteYear to DateTotal année couranteGroup Term - Collective à termeMember - MembreSpousal -  
ConjointSurvivor BenefitsRevenu survivantsService Income Security Insurance Plan / Régime d'assurance -  
revenu militaireDisabilityInvaliditéSuppl. Death BenefitsPrestation décèssuppl.Other DeductionsAutres  
retenuesOther Pay AllotmentsAutres délégations desoldeSavings BondsObligations d'épargneYear to  
DateTotal année couranteP. P. I . P.R.P.A.P.00000 -7820.51 0.00 0.00 24.95 0.00 0.00 0.00 3251.76  
38498.80 10872.72 -4568.75 1732.44

### **To Professor Dwayne, the obligation is inscribed in the Canadian legislations.**

This obligation, on the part of the Government of Canada to its Veterans, is stated clearly in such legislation as the [Pension Act](#), the [Veterans Review and Appeal Board Act](#), and the [War Veterans Allowance Act](#), for example. Each states that the acts shall be liberally construed and interpreted to the end that the recognized obligation of the people and Government of Canada to those who have served their country so well and to their dependents may be fulfilled.

This is as it should be because we ask of everyone who puts on the uniform in defence of our country to be ready to pay the ultimate sacrifice. In recognition of that bond, they write a blank cheque to the people of Canada up to and including their lives.

It is this act of joining the Canadian Forces voluntarily and willingly accepting the unconditional obligation to follow orders—whatever the danger and risk of harm or death—that distinguishes those who serve in the military and police from other Canadian professions. In return for their selfless dedication to serve Canada, the

Government of Canada has a recognized obligation to ensure that if they are injured or become ill and can no longer continue in uniform that it will help them rebuild their lives and restore, to the greatest extent possible, their health, financial independence, and quality of personal and family life.

This reciprocal obligation is necessary for a country to effectively defend itself and protect its interests, encourage recruitment and retention in its armed forces and maintain a high morale throughout the organization. The members of its armed forces must believe that its citizens and its government support their efforts, and recognize the risks that they willingly accept to defend the ideals and values that we so often take for granted. This has always been the Canadian way, and we can be very proud of it.

For generations, this obligation has been a central part of the national fabric of our country, and past Veterans' legislation recognized and affirmed it. Our Veterans deserve no less.

## **Korean War Veteran Memorial**

While the Government of Canada has short of stopped commemorating the Korean War Veterans, the Edmonton Chapter of the Korean War Veterans Association and the Edmonton Korean Canadian Association will have a commemoration ceremony to be held at the West ground of the Alberta Legislature on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 1030 AM. This is open to the public. Parking in the area is restricted. I will be representing the Edmonton United Services Institute to pay my tributes. EUSI members are welcome to attend. Business casual with medals.

## **August 19 is the 81 the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Dieppe**

While the Raid did not accomplish all of its intended goals, the lessons learned at Dieppe proved invaluable for the subsequent D-Day invasion. Sadly, the battle came at a very steep price for Canadian participants. Of the nearly 5,000 brave Canadians who participated in the Raid, less than half returned, many of whom were wounded. More than 1,900 were taken as prisoners of war, and 916 made the ultimate sacrifice.

On this day of remembrance, let us honour the thousands of selfless Canadians who fought with bravery, pride and conviction 81 years ago at Dieppe to free Europe from tyranny.

Let us also thank the current members of our Canadian Armed Forces who continue to serve our country in the same proud tradition, promoting peace, democracy and freedom around the world.

I encourage Canadians to participate in the commemoration ceremonies across Canada and France, to honour the sacrifices made by those who fought many years ago in Dieppe for our freedom. I also encourage fellow citizens to learn more about Canada's important contributions to the Second World War, which earned our country enormous international respect and recognition as a proud and independent nation. To the City of Calgary Councilor, who feel offended by celebrating Canada Day, I hope you take a few minutes to embrace our proud history.

"Lest we forget."

**On another note**, DND has been under public scrutiny often these days. I have picked out the following two reports that I think is ironic. According to a defence department audit, Canada's "military's diversity targets unattainable". This audit suggests that Canada's military need more than 400 new recruits each year just to maintain 68,000 full-time troops. Like other federal departments, Canadian Forces is also required by law to increase the number of women, visible minorities and people with disabilities in its workforce. A complex calculation has been used to establish targets for diversification. Dozens of initiatives have been launched to help meet these goals.

On another defence department audit recently, it was reported that many new recruits are unfit and the average formal education has fallen a few percentage points. Even so, DND is still having difficulty recruiting. Reserve force is particularly affected.

Can you see the irony in this? I am hoping the standard of the Canadian Armed Force is not compromised because of the need to meet quotas.

Perhaps someone should tell our MND that lowering the standards and loosening disciplines, allowing manifestation of individualism such as dyed green hair, piercing nose, foot long beards etc. has the opposite effect of recruiting and keeping recruits. When I completed my basic officers training years ago, I was proud of completing the gruesome training and would not compromise for anything less. Today, the same sense of accomplishment is not there. Yes, we have an inclusive military and everybody is welcome. No, the military is not like the other professions, we are trained to fight and to kill the enemy when required.



The old Beverly Cenotaph

### Goodbye Young Soldier

We said goodbye tonight to a soldier whom I did not know  
He did his duty well but sadly he had to go  
He did not travel this far to leave behind family & friend  
He came to do his duty, he did not know it would be his end  
His short life was just that, a soldier's ultimate commitment he gave  
This earth deserved him longer, he went too early to his grave  
He is one of many heroes, another poor young soldier  
For he is not alone, no years left in which to grow older  
What comfort lies for those he left never again to be by their side  
A gallery of happy memories and deservedly this Nation's pride  
So farewell young soldier, whilst here you did just right  
I hope your life was not a waste, farewell young soldier, sleep tight.



What's Out There?

### Kreml Class Aircraft Carrier Cruiser

The 67,500-ton Kreml class aircraft carrier supports strategic missile carrying submarines, surface ships and maritime missile carrying aircraft of the Russian fleet. The ship is capable of engaging surface, subsurface and airborne targets. Superficially similar to American carriers, the design is in fact "defensive" in support of SSBN bastions. The lack of catapults precludes launching aircraft with heavy strike loads, and the air superiority orientation of the air wing is apparent. Nevertheless, this vessel is sufficient to blockade the movements of grains, food products from Ukraine to other parts of the world.





Get trained!



## HUMOUR

### **Liberal Benefits - Government of Canada Seniors' Stimulus Package:**

I just wanted to let you know, I just received my Government of Canada Seniors Stimulus Package.

It contained two tomato seeds, pancake mix, two discount coupons to KFC, a "Trudeau Build Back Better" bumper sticker, a prayer rug, a Trudeau Speech Decoder Ring, a machine to blow smoke up my ass, and a "Blame it on Alberta" poster for the front yard. The directions were in French.

Yours should arrive soon.....



### **A Little Bite of Local History – About Edmonton**

**Submitted by LCol GG McClean (retired), He not only looked beautiful, but smart too.**

**How it all began:** --- Undeniably, the first people in what eventually became the Edmonton area were First Nations. The land also belonged to countless species of animals.

In the province of Alberta of today, approximately 45 First Nations groups live in three treaty areas, with 40 First Nations reserves on approximately 812,711 hectares of land. The First Nations languages spoken most commonly today include Blackfoot, Cree, Chipewyan, Dene, Sarcee and Stoney.

The first white person to enter this area, pinpointed at around 1754, is believed to be a man named Anthony Henday (hence the name of the city's latest ring road). At the time, Henday was an explorer working for the Hudson's Bay Company (HBC). It was part of his job to travel across the untamed Canadian prairies and make contact with First Nations people interested in participating in the fur trade.

Back then, the Hudson's Bay Company and their rival, the North West Company, were incredibly competitive. To establish a presence in the area, a fort was established on the north bank of the North Saskatchewan River in 1795 to act as a major trading post for the HBC. The post was named "Fort Edmonton."

Why "Fort Edmonton"? The Hudson's Bay Company's deputy governor, Sir James Winter Lake, originally came from an area in the east of the London Borough of Enfield, England, called Edmonton.

**Quite the Feat:** --- How long does it take to walk from Winnipeg to Edmonton? In 1880, two men---Frank Oliver and Ken McLeod---found the answer to that question the hard way. Over the course of three months, they quite literally walked to Edmonton from a place that was then called Fort Garry (and is now called Winnipeg). The distance between the two is approximately 1300 kilometres. It is a 13-hour drive today.

Why did they choose their own feet as their mode of transportation? It sounds like the punch line of a bad joke, but they walked because they couldn't take the train...because there was no train! It wasn't until 1891 that travelers could take a train from Winnipeg to Edmonton.

Once he was settled in Edmonton, Frank Oliver became co-founder of the city's foremost newspaper at that time: the *Edmonton Bulletin*. The other co-founder was Alex Taylor, the city's first telegraph operator.

**Editor's Note: For those who changed the name of Oliver District because these wokes thought he was racist, please take note.**

**Growth Spurts:** --- In early 1891, the population of Edmonton sat somewhere around 300 people, all clustered in a settlement on the east side of 101 Street. That changed dramatically within the year, with the arrival of the first train to Edmonton, courtesy of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Soon, a competitive movement began for settlement in the area where the train tracks stopped: what is now Old Strathcona, on the south side of Edmonton.

Just one year after the arrival of the CPR, Edmonton was incorporated as a town. At the time, in 1892, the population had more than doubled, with 700 people not settling in the area.

**Then It All Went Boom:** --- The year 1905 was boom time for Edmonton. With travel by train firmly established, people were flooding into Edmonton, and the city started to grow super rapidly. Put it this way: in 1891, there were 300 people in Edmonton. By the mid-1920s, only 30 years later, the city boasted a total of 60,000 people.

From 1907 to 1912, the housing boom was so great that it wasn't possible to get building materials to Edmonton fast enough. The housing shortage forced many people to live in tents, not just for a weekend but for a good two to three years!

A particularly big land rush occurred in 1910 because the Hudson's Bay Company was selling off everything north of present-day 118 Avenue. In order to get a city lot, a person had to stand in line and take a number. Land was at such a premium that the maximum number of lots a person could buy was four.

By 1911, most of the homes in Edmonton were being made with stucco. The reason? The housing boom had caused a severe shortage of wood.

## **More about Edmonton's past**

**More About Tent City:** --- During the housing boom that lasted from 1907 to 1912, so many "tent city" areas were situated on the public lands that the City of Edmonton had to regulate them to keep disease from spreading.

In 1907, one third of Edmonton's population lived in tents. (The city's population at that point was 14,000 people.)

Despite the large number of people living in tents, these tent cities had a sense of order to their setup. Generally, areas were formed according to people's ethnic, religious and regional backgrounds. Think of the saying "birds of a feather flock together."

Even in times when people were relegated to roughing it, aspects of human nature such as ego and classism still reared their ugly heads. And so lawyers and doctors had "upper class" tents. In truth, the exterior of their tents looked pretty much the same as other people's tents, but on the inside they were furnished with Persian rugs and oil paintings. The tents also tapped into the electrical lines and had phones.

**Home Sweet Home:** --- One of Edmonton's more unusual homes for its time---shortly after 1912---was the Firkins home. Mr. Ashley Firkins was a dentist who originally hailed from Chicago, where the famous Frank Lloyd Wright was considered to be "the father of arts and crafts style homes."

It was fitting, then, that Mr. Firkins had the first "arts and crafts style home" built in Edmonton, at 78 Avenue and Saskatchewan Drive. Because he was a trailblazer, his neighbours thought his choice of home was, well, kind of weird. It was a "kit" house, which meant that you literally built the house from a kit you got from Sears or Eaton's. The Firkins home still stands today. You can find it at Fort Edmonton Park.

**Rival Cities:** --- Edmonton and Calgary have had a rivalry going on long before the existence of the Edmonton Oilers and the Calgary Flames, and long before the Edmonton Eskimos and the Calgary Stampeders football teams. The whole "Battle of Alberta" began in the 1880s when the Canadian Pacific Railway changed its planned route across western Canada. The route was supposed to be northern one via Edmonton but the southern path via Calgary was chosen instead.

Edmonton got revenge, when it became Alberta's capital city in 1905. At that time, because Edmontonians seemed to vote Liberal for the most part, the federal government at the time (Liberal) decided to name Edmonton as the capital instead of Calgary. Edmonton also got the jump on its rival to the south when it was chosen as the site for the University of Alberta campus in 1908.

**Well, you have it. City of Edmonton Councilors may want to research into the past to deal with the City'[s current homelessness situation to fund some answers.**

The C8 assault carbine is a compact version of the standard C7 rifle. The C8 features a telescoping butt-stock and a shortened barrel, while retaining all normal placement of common parts to the C7. This weapon is standard issue to armoured crews and can be issued to troops on special missions that require compact weapons.



Securitas

*Alexander Tsang CD*

MAJOR (RETIRED)

PRESIDENT

EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

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

