



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

**52nd Annual General Meeting
Army Cadet League of Canada (British Columbia)
15 May 2024
Via Zoom Teleconference**

In Attendance:

Members of the ACLC BC Branch:

Andrea Newton

Christine Alexander

Martin Hilmer

Elisabeth Mortlock

Graeme Menzies

Suman Kumar

Roger Prouse

Marc Halliwell

Robert Thompson

Celine Gee

Louise Prouse

Non-Members in attendance:

Jonathan Ho

Skip Triplett

Maija Dadds

Kevin Barnes

Christopher Lee

Heather Tait

Jennifer Robson

Mike King

Tina Fraser

Wendy Igbinedion

Financial Consultant ACLC Treasurer:

Michael Johnson

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting began at 7:02 p.m., and Ms. Christine Alexander was the chairperson. She opened her remarks by welcoming everyone to the 52nd AGM of the BC Branch of the Army Cadet League. She briefly explained the procedures and format for the meeting. Eleven members and eleven nonmembers were present at the teleconference.

2. Notice of Meeting

Under the By-Laws of this Branch, a Notice of Meeting was sent to the membership and posted on the League's website dated 11 April 2024.

3. Quorum

Under the By-Laws of this Branch, a quorum was present and gave authority to proceed with the 52nd AGM.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

4. Minutes of Previous AGM (17 May 2024)

The 51st AGM was held on 17 May 2023, and the minutes were distributed to the membership and posted on the League's website. The Chairperson asked if there were any errors or omissions. S. Triplett moved that the minutes of the 51st AGM be adopted as presented. C. Gee seconded the motion. All agreed, and there were no abstentions. **Carried.**

5. Business Arising

No questions were raised concerning any business arising, and the Chairperson closed this item.

6. Report of the President

The Vice-President, Christine Alexander, presented her report. M. Hilmer moved that the President's Report be adopted as read. L. Prouse seconded the motion. All approved the motion. There were no abstentions. **Carried.**

7. Report of the Treasurer

Mr. Michael Johnson gave the Branch a thorough financial report, and no questions were raised in the motion. The unaudited 2023 Financial Report is attached to these minutes. The Treasurer's unaudited report was moved to be accepted by C. Gee and seconded by R. Prouse. There was no discussion, and all agreed. There were no abstentions. **Carried.**

8. Election of Directors

E. Mortlock read the names of the present Executive Board: Ms. Christine Alexander, Ms. Suman Kumar, Mr. Martin Hilmer, Mr. Robert Thompson, Ms. Celine Gee, Mr. Graeme Menzies, and Ms. Andrea Newton. E. Mortlock announced that this Board of Directors is hereby dissolved on this date, and a selection of new Directors will be appointed for the ensuing year or until these new Directors are replaced. The following individuals are running for directorship for the ensuing year or until they are replaced. Those names are Ms. Christine Alexander, Ms. Suman Kumar, Mr. Martin Hilmer, Mr. Graeme Menzies, Mr. Robert Thompson, Ms. Celine Gee, and Ms. Andrea Newton. L. Prouse moved that the list of the Directors as presented be accepted for the next year or until replaced. A. Newton seconded this motion. All were approved, and there were no abstainers. **Carried.**



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

9. Other Business and Termination

a) The National office has asked for several alterations to bring the BC Branch into compliance with policy at the National level, including new types of National membership. Our insurers have also required National to limit the age of directors for the Society or be denied coverage. In addition, the BC Branch Bylaws were somewhat outdated and needed to be modernized by excluding gender-specific language and contemplating electronic communications. By the By-Laws of this Branch, a notice for approving these acts was sent to the membership and posted on the League's website on 11 April 2024.

i) WHEREAS the ACLC (BC Branch) is affiliated with the Army Cadet League of Canada (ACLC) and subscribes to and represents the goals and objectives of the ACLC in British Columbia in furtherance of the Army Cadet program in Canada;

ii) WHEREAS the ACLC has created a universal membership program that would empower the National President and Executive Committee to credibly represent the national interests of all members across the country;

iii) WHEREAS the BC Branch is required to align its membership eligibility with that of the ACLC, specifically to include the membership classes of Corporate and Associate Membership;

iv) WHEREAS the BC Branch is required to align its directors' eligibility for insurance purposes with that of the ACLC;

v) WHEREAS the reasonable insurability of all ACLC directors ends at age 85;

vi) WHEREAS the ACLC(BC) has members throughout the province of BC and in-person meetings are not generally practical, and the Society wishes to hold electronic meetings;

C. Alexander moved that the current Bylaws of the Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch, last filed on April 19, 2017, be amended by adopting the proposed Bylaws dated for reference May 12, 2024. C. Gee seconded the motion. All were approved, and there were no abstainers. **Carried.**



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

10. Termination: Since no further business was on the agenda, the Chairperson called for the termination of the 52nd AGM of the Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch. R. Prouse moved the motion, which S. Triplett seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM. **Carried.**

Christine Alexander, Vice-President

Elisabeth Mortlock, Executive Director



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

ACLC BC Branch Presidents Report Annual General Meeting 2024

No doubt we are all surprised to find me penning this report – especially me, the VICE President- but here we are.

We are all thankful for Norm Campbell's tenure as President. Norm contributed much time and effort to our branch, and that effort deserves recognition. I am disappointed we are not able to acknowledge him in person. Today, as we reflect, it's important to acknowledge Norm's significant contributions to our Branch. Despite facing unprecedented challenges, including the complexities brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and his relocation to Alberta, Norm's unwavering commitment to his role and the BC Branch cannot be overstated. His dedication helped maintain our branch's stability and support committees during turbulent times.

At the end of 2023, discussions of succession became increasingly pertinent. And then, the unexpected happened. Norm tendered his resignation in February, leaving us to navigate an unforeseen transition process. While this development was a shock, it also allowed our organization to demonstrate resilience and adaptability.

To Elisabeth – I want to acknowledge her vital role in the day-to-day operations of our Branch. Her efficiency and attention to detail allow us to meet the demands of our committees, our communities, our National Board, and the RCSU. Her ability to multitask and handle various responsibilities gracefully and professionally is commendable. Being truly on the inside now, I can see that Elisabeth ensures that everything from scheduling to paperwork and reporting is managed seamlessly. When I see the minutes from the National League or RCSU showing outstanding tasks – we in British Columbia are NEVER the League or the branch they are waiting on. Our box is *always* ticked as complete. Elisabeth – you may not fully appreciate what a relief that is on my end, and no doubt on theirs too—but then again, you might as you persist with our committees. I also appreciate the board members who have supported me and the League in filling in where we have needed you. We truly have some remarkable team players with us! Norm wanted to ensure we did not fail to recognize our past board members who moved on during stricter times. So specifically, to that end, we will celebrate Michael Johnson on June 1.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

We are also very grateful to our community donors and stakeholders. I think of Roger and Louise who have stepped away from us formally but continue to be alongside us in our goals. I, think of Col Deane. I actually think about him a lot, and I really did, particularly as I pieced the quilt we want to honour him with. I thought about him as I considered our role in the cadet program, our strengths and weaknesses and new solutions for old problems. I thought about what he tried to create. And I thought about how steadfast he has been in his support. We owe our stakeholders a lot.

I want to highlight some top cadets –MWO Karminderjit Singh from Kelowna BC is this year’s President’s Award Winner and Walsh Sword nominee. I am so happy that the Awards Committee had several excellent cadets to choose from and we had to really work to decide. Also I was able to have lunch and tour Quadra with our top cadet of 2023 last summer, Cadet CWO Jada Bryanton. I want our members to know how incredible these young people are. Your support of the cadet program through the League is making a difference. Your dedication of time and expertise is an investment in our youth. In these cadets we can witness values like discipline, teamwork, confidence, and resilience. Let’s talk about civic responsibility - among his many accomplishments, MWO Singh is integral to his school’s Remembrance Day program. I am excited that we can give him an opportunity to attend the ceremonies in Victoria – and perhaps even in Ottawa.

Looking forward - we know the top issue we need to address remains the same—recruiting adult volunteers. Our partners at RCSU also face this challenge. Momentum is growing around us. The Army cadet numbers are increasing. Camp spaces are increasing. Where corps have been most at risk for closure, the RCSU is seeing some significant progress, particularly with on-the-ground efforts and they would encourage us the same way. Our team at the National League has been working hard on our behalf. You should know they are a truly exceptional group and I will bring you into the National Conference at a more detailed level in a monthly report to follow. Together with the DND, our National League is investing in our partnership. They both are highlighting Trust, Relationships and Communication as together they continue to steer the cadet program to meet the demands of this generation.

So, Elisabeth has held our place and now it is time for us to join the action. The directors in this past year have served their respective support committees (and more) to continued success in this era of re-scope. We serve 47 committees. But many are underserved. With the National League and RCSU alongside, we have the strength around us to try something different. It is time for us to have more boots on the ground. Our role is to serve our support committees. We can and will begin a year of action and progress by meeting



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

the support committees literally where they are and helping them succeed. We can and will continue work to make committee involvement easier and less intimidating. This will mean many things that our directors have put forward:

- i) changing some of our terms to be clearer to our volunteers;
- ii) having a more visible League identity;
- iii) taking steps to make a personal connection with each committee through our zone representatives;
- iv) continuing our effort to help our committees access the most funds easily available to them.;
- v) equipping our zone representatives to foster respect and cooperation from all levels, resolving issues before they are too large;
- vi) delivering worthwhile benefits and training through both the branch and National level to all our volunteers; and
- vii) continuing to motivate and assist our support committees to communicate the information we need to deliver our best (aka let's make Elisabeth's job easier.)

Our Branch directors and Zone Representatives do an amazing job offering presence, perspective, and expertise within their geographic areas. As we have noted for years now— the outlying areas don't have that level of attention. They need to see action from us. They need to know we are here *with* them and *for* them. Finding and supporting these volunteers is not Elisabeth's job; this is work of our Branch. This year we need to find more help. I'm calling each of you to join me.

Together with our support committees, and with our partners in the CIC, we empower Canada's finest citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

We serve too. Let's deliver.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Alexander

May 15, 2024