



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

54th Annual General Meeting Army Cadet League of Canada (British Columbia) May 20, 2026 Via Zoom Teleconference

In Attendance:

Members of the ACLC BC Branch: 14

Andrea Newton	Christine Alexander	Dana Garcia-Annand
Martin Hilmer	Suman Kumar	Elisabeth Mortlock
Richard MacDonald	Caroline Hopper	Darlene Woiden
Elena Schurygina	Skip Triplett	Jeanine Lynch
Jushan Chen	Cathy Bach	

Non-members and guests: 11

Nancy Kurschsenska	Jeremy Youngward	Wayne Johnson
Jessy Rusli	Ethan Hong	Sarfaraz Hussain
Tony Santos	Brittany Petterson	Taku Hokoyama
Christine DePauli	Commander Ben Seaby	

Regrets:

Nil

1. Opening Remarks

The meeting began at 7:03 p.m., with the Executive Director, E. Mortlock, delivering opening remarks, welcoming everyone to the 54th AGM of the BC Branch of the Army Cadet League, and offering the land acknowledgment. The meeting was handed over to ACLC BC Branch President, C. Alexander, for her welcome, and she briefly explained the meeting procedures and format. Fourteen members and eleven nonmembers were present.

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 April 28, 2026.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

3. Agenda

The agenda for the 54th AGM of the BC Branch was distributed to the membership and posted on the League's website on May 12, 2026. The President asked if there were any errors or omissions. E. Schurygina moved that the agenda be adopted as presented. J. Lynch seconded the motion. All agreed, with no abstentions. **Carried.**

4. Quorum

Under this Branch's By-Laws, a quorum was present, authorizing the 54th Annual General Meeting (AGM) to proceed.

5. Minutes of the Previous AGM (May 21, 2025)

The 53rd AGM was held on May 21, 2025, and the minutes were distributed to the membership and posted on the League's website on May 22, 2025. The President asked if there were any errors or omissions. M. Hilmer moved that the minutes of the 53rd AGM be adopted as presented. D. Garcia-Annand seconded the motion. All agreed, with no abstentions. **Carried.**

6. Presentation from ACLC President

Mrs. Cathy Bach presented to our members and volunteers. She discussed exciting changes for the upcoming training year and ACLC universal membership.

7. Presentation from the Regional Cadet Support Unit (Pacific)(RCSU(P))

Cdr Ben Seaby presented to our members and volunteers. He discussed cadet summer training, adult staff recruitment, and updates to the Local Support Allocation policy.

8. Report of the President

The President, Christine Alexander, presented her report. E. Schurygina moved that the President's Report be adopted as read. D. Garcia-Annand seconded the motion. All approved the motion. There were no abstentions. **Carried.**

9. Report of the Treasurer

Christine DePauli, CPA at Enkel Backoffice Solutions, joined the BC Branch treasurer, R. MacDonald, and presented a thorough financial report. The unaudited 2025 Financial Report is attached to these minutes. S. Triplett made the motion to receive the unaudited financial statements for December 31, 2025, as presented by the treasurer and C. DePauli. D. Garcia-Annand seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and all agreed. There were no abstentions. **Carried.**



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

10. Election of Directors

E. Mortlock announced that the current Board of Directors is hereby dissolved as of this date, and a new selection of Directors will be appointed for the ensuing year or until these new Directors are replaced. Nominations were invited in advance of this meeting, and the Board of Directors reviewed the names. S. Triplett moved to confirm the appointment of the directors on the list as presented: Christine Alexander, Suman Kumar, Dana Garcia-Annand, Richard MacDonald, Martin Hilmer, Darlene Woiden, and Caroline Hopper. E. Schurygina seconded this motion. There was no discussion, and all agreed. There were no abstentions. **Carried.**

11. Other Business and Termination:

a) Approval of Acts: No acts were approved; this item is now closed.

b) New Business: The floor was open to any items the members wished to discuss. There was no further business to attend to, and this item is now closed.

c) Termination: Since no further business was on the agenda, E Mortlock called for the adjournment of the 54th AGM of the Army Cadet League of Canada, British Columbia Branch. R. MacDonald made the motion, which E. Schurygina seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM. **Carried.**

Christine Alexander, President

Elisabeth Mortlock, Executive Director



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

President Report

Welcome members and guests – what a year it has been. For anyone new to us this year, we are the BC Branch of a larger organization, the Army Cadet League of Canada. Together we endeavour to strengthen Canada by supporting local youth empowerment, specifically through our Branch and our 47 Support Committees to the youth of the army cadet program.

It has been our privilege to work with amazing League volunteers and CIC leadership teams. In particular I want to mention **Cmdr Seaby** who you have heard dove into the deep end and has come out swimming for us. I also want to give specific mention to **Chris Adams** of **100 Mile House** who was awarded the Charles Whisker Award for top volunteer this year. Chris is really a force for cadets within their corps and within the community. He is humble and very positive and proud of their program and their cadets. Also nominated was **Cindy Holder** of **2483 Esquimalt**. Lastly, I want to introduce you to **Richard MacDonald** who joined the Board and took on the Treasurer position right at the end of 2025. He will tell you more about himself with the Treasurer report.

2025 brought the launch of the **Army Cadet Medal of Merit** with its four bars. In Pacific Region we had 8 Howard and 4 Roger Bars. Our President Medal award winner **WO Zara Ahmed** came from **2947** in **Richmond**. She proudly attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies in Victoria with her family to place a wreath on our behalf. Thanks to League Liaison **Leslie Triplett** for overseeing that honour. In addition to the Medals of Merit we awarded **118 Service medals** to committed cadets across the province.

In 2025 the National League sent support to **2827** in **Port Moody** through the Gerard Buckley Cadet Fund. Also, BC was proud to nominate Cadet **Jaxon Volk** from **3005 Victoria**, who was awarded one of five Colonel's Commandant and National President's Scholarships from the National League. At the Branch in 2026 we have been awarding scholarships including two from the Bolin Award that will be announced next week at the **2276** in **Ft St John** and, I am aware that some of us have been actively developing more scholarships, awards and bursaries for our young people. Thank you, and more to come on that in the fall.

Closer to home, I want to remember **Ted Hawthorne** who passed away this month. Ted was a dear friend to many here, and an incredible example of a man devoted to youth service in every aspect. He was a loyal supporter of the League, a mentor to many CIC officers, and a friend to generations of cadets. He was a champion among us and leaves an incredible legacy. We celebrated with **Martin Hilmer** and **Ken Usher** – long-time League volunteers who received their Sovereign Medal for Volunteers. We are grateful to be included in the list of organizations they spend their time on.

Celine Gee stepped back and we welcomed Richard MacDonald, who joined our Board to take the Treasurer position in December after long service with the Support Committee in North Vancouver.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

I'm thankful he has joined us and note that he is here tonight just days away from his daughter's wedding. Thanks for stepping up!

After many years with the League, **Graeme Menzies** is leaving us to focus on other regimental duties like the Seaforth Museum and his career as a best-selling author. I will quickly mention his book here, as we are very proud of our members! **Rob Thompson** has finally been able to retire to Princeton – he also had a family wedding this year and I'm told has his eyes on the Ranger program.

Andrea Newton has been an integral part of the team, stepping in where others fear to tread with our evolving finances and serving as an interim treasurer for corps that required it. She has brought many excellent resources to us including Lotus Accounting and Tachyon IT. Andrea is a first-class dog lover and was a shoulder to cry on when we lost our family dog in 2025. I will continue to stay in touch with Andrea as I will owe her reports on my St Bernard's wellbeing, but she needs a break from the books.

Thank you to Graeme, Rob and Andrea – you have all well served this program and the army cadets. Those that are still standing (**Martin, Dana, Suman** and now **Richard**) can attest, this Board works hard. I warned them all when I was asked to consider the presidency that things would be very different, and they have been. We meet as a Board less than we used to, but meet often in our dual capacity as League Liaisons and in other Board taskings. One cannot question the commitment of this Board to the army cadets and our Branch. I am so grateful and I applaud their extraordinary service. Alongside the Board are our current League Liaisons – **Jonathan, Mike, Skip, Caroline** and **Darlene**. That number is a lot smaller than we need it to be, but the Liaisons we have are extraordinary. Almost all of these liaisons (and the Board) serve several cadet corps. We were happy to come together in October to train together for the benefit of our Support Committees.

I am sometimes guilty of forgetting that these people have jobs and lives outside the cadet program. Suman started the first grandchild trend, followed by Dana, and now me too. In twelve years we will all support an even better support program for that generation! Of course, we would not forget **Elisabeth**, our 16-hour behind-the-scenes powerhouse who ensures nothing falls through the cracks. I promise you, if she were not with us, things absolutely would fall through the cracks. She also turns the wheel that keeps information flowing to the Support Committees, responds to information requests from across the province, shakes the tree for award nominees, kicks the tree again just in case, and then hits it with lightning to be sure we have a great bunch of candidates to consider – and then ensures the awards arrive where and when they need to. This is not as fun or easy as you might think, despite the large number of incredible cadets in BC. Then add 118 Service medals on top. And that barely touches on what she does for us. And let's be clear – this also 100% benefits the army cadets in BC. Thank you, Elisabeth, for sticking with us and frequently adjusting your life to the needs of this program.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

Corps Statistics

I'm happy to see that across the country and in BC, all cadet numbers are up, especially in urban areas. According to the most recent statistics I have been provided, **Army** has a current count in BC of **2,095** cadets. Interestingly, Sea has 1,230 and Air has 6,172. This means Army constitutes 22% of the 9,497 cadets in Pacific Region. Interestingly, that 22% is exactly the same percentage of cadets as the last formal 2025–2026 placemat statistics from March of 2026 that I'm going to refer to now. Our average corps size is 47; Sea is 38 and Air is 104.

In BC we have no corps with more than 150 cadets, but Air has 13. We have one corps over 120, 4 corps between 90–119, and 5 in the 60–89 bracket. Here are the bigger numbers: 18 of our corps are 30–59 cadets and 19 are at 1–29 cadets. This means **37 of our 47 corps have 59 cadets or fewer**. As a result, we are experiencing some consolidation of corps, particularly in rural communities. By consolidation I mean where two smaller corps of different elements parade side by side under one Commanding Officer. Typically, this has been a result of difficulty finding adults willing to step into leadership roles with the Canadian Forces. Our CIC are supplemented by Civilian Instructors and Civilian Volunteers, but a cadet corps cannot run under the leadership of civilians. Sometimes consolidation is a practicality brought about by low cadet numbers, and a small corps will be tucked in with a larger corps of a different element. And sometimes corps weakness results from a lack of community and parent involvement in a Support Committee to lift up a corps to its highest potential. Every year we experience this in varying degrees, and all corps are closely monitored by the Branch and the RCSU. This year we had three corps enter the category of “distress corps,” where it was necessary for the League to take over the finances of a corps. Two were for lack of sufficient Support Committee volunteers, and one was an anomaly due to a brief security risk. Happily, all three corps are back on track, and I credit our League Liaisons for steering these Committees.

Regrettably we may have one closure before the year is up, primarily due to a lack of CIC and some saturation of a small community with all three elements. We expect this will be announced soon, but we respect the request of the CO and Support Committee to not make this public until after their ACR, when they will inform their cadets.

In Pacific Region I am happy to report that we have excellent working relationships within the Branch, with our National Office, all the provincial branches, our Sea and Air League partners in the region, and RCSU Pacific Region. We are fortunate to be part of a positive and hard-working team where we can freely commiserate or celebrate together as the circumstances require.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

2025–2026 Overview

I would describe 2025 and 2026 as transitional years. We determined to set out to do things differently - to more proactively serve our Support Committees and the cadets in the region. We are moving forward, but the process has been slower than I would have wanted.

By way of National policy:

- i. We have awarded our first round of **Army Cadet Medals of Merit**. The cadets have been very excited about this, and presenting these, especially to the younger cadets, has been fantastic.
- ii. We have adopted the Communy software used by National in the universal **membership** initiative.
- iii. We rolled out the National **reporting survey** to our corps and had fairly good compliance. Gathering important information from our corps this way allows us at the Branch and National level to efficiently analyse and address both where our Support Committees need help and also assess the positive impact we are bringing to the program, financially and in kind.

At the Branch level, after exhausting several treasurers we took the necessary step to bring on a professional **bookkeeping** company. We started with a sole practitioner who was incredible but soon realized we were beyond her scope, and this resulted in moving our books to **Enkel Backoffice Solutions**. We are paying Enkel a fair amount of money, but this was a strategic decision to move toward grant readiness and a new funding model. At the time we were without a treasurer, and this ensured our accounts, particularly payroll, were being handled properly. Enkel also gave us the opportunity to have the benefit of a CFO to assist us in producing better financial statements and reports that will be transparent and useful to donors and funders, and give us more insight into our own financial situation. You will meet **Christine diPauli** shortly when she presents the 2025 financial statements.

We have been somewhat sidelined with the onboarding process at Enkel, which has taken a lot of time from both Elisabeth and myself. I am hopeful that it has been a necessary sacrifice and we will now be positioned to pursue our other goals with more time and energy.

Nevertheless we did get some things underway:

- i. We have adopted initiatives toward improving **privacy** and keeping our data within Canada and subject to Canadian law.
- ii. We have implemented a **budget policy** that requires Support Committees to provide us their budget for the training year, which we hope will foster a strong start to communication and cooperation with their corps staff and help them plan for appropriate cash flow. It also ticks a large box towards preparing a BC Gaming Grant application.
- iii. We have begun negotiations with the provincial government **Gaming Branch** to contemplate a universal army cadet application.
- iv. We led a grant application process with the **City of Surrey** that resulted in \$20,000 for the four army corps and one sea cadet corps in Surrey.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

v. We have started working towards a “best practices” model to offer our **Regimental Associations** that would help stabilize corps relations with the Support Committees in their regimental families. This may also offer pathways for regimental associations to inspire and serve more cadets directly. The regimental family is a part of army cadets that is often undervalued or untapped on both sides, and can be a fantastic draw for the army element.

vi. We trialled an app called **Zeffy** with the **2277** in **Langley** that allows corps to receive online payments including by credit card. We hope to extend this to other interested corps and to take advantage of the app’s ability to receive charitable donations, but we are not policy-ready to do this immediately.

vii. We paused our new **branding** templates as it appeared we had some interest from National – however, National has been swamped with other priorities and we are now returning to this initiative with a view to a fall launch.

viii. Similarly, cross-League **Effective Speaking** was backbenched as we dealt with our financial priorities, but we hope to have new announcements for a trial this fall.

ix. Elisabeth took the initiative to re-establish our relationship with the family of **Sam Meckbach** – for whom our **Outstanding Army Cadet on Basic Para Award** is named. I believe Sam Meckbach’s son was on hand to present the award to **Cadet Sison** at **2483** in **Esquimalt** this year, and I expect he will continue to attend for the foreseeable future if he is able. I believe Cadet Sison’s parents were or are both military, based in Esquimalt, so there was great attendance at this presentation and it was a feather in our cap.

x. We have made our presence known outside the metropolis of Greater Vancouver and Greater Victoria – **Darlene Woiden** has taken on the four Dragoon-affiliated corps in the interior and occasionally steps in to assist in corps emergencies. **Dana Garcia Annand** has become a force in the Fraser Valley and will also attend wherever she is needed. Since our last meeting, outside of the Lower Mainland and Victoria, I think the League has attended 18 of our remote corps – we were in **Kelowna, Vernon, Chilliwack, Comox, Duncan, Salmon Arm, Hope, Aldergrove, Fort St John, Kamloops, Revelstoke, Sechelt, Kitimat, Prince George, Powell River, 100 Mile House, Enderby, Williams Lake and Merritt.**

Looking Ahead

Looking toward the summer and the next training year – we still have a lot of work to do. I hope the Board will continue to focus on these nine priorities, in no particular order:

1. **Financial growth and stability** – continuing to put the financial house in order and to start seeking alternative funding. This also includes continuing our conversation with the Gaming Branch.

2. Develop effective support strategies with **community partners at Branch level** to benefit our corps and Support Committees.



THE ARMY CADET LEAGUE OF CANADA (BRITISH COLUMBIA)

3. **Strengthening our relationships and engagement** with our Support Committees, maintaining a province-wide focus and increasing training participation, Gaming Grant applications and overall revenue to Support Committees.
4. **Reworking our governance policy** to increase funding opportunities at the Branch level for the benefit of Support Committees on the ground.
5. **Recruiting, recruiting, recruiting** – improve both our League Liaison numbers and Support Committee strength with recruitment initiatives.
6. Improving the **quantity and quality of nominations** to our awards.
7. From the National office – **CANADA FIRST**: set an example and showcase Canada First opportunities.
8. Continue to **improve compliance** with reporting and policy-required tasks, e.g. **universal membership and screening**.
9. Provide **revamped Support Committee resources** that reflect current National and Branch policy requirements and priorities.

Thanks to all of the supporters of the Army Cadet Program in the Pacific Region – we know you are working hard and we are too!

Sincerely,

Christine Alexander
President