

**CONFERENCE OF DEFENCE ASSOCIATIONS (CDA)**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Wednesday, 15 February 2017, 1400hrs  
151 Elgin Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, KPMG Office, Ottawa, Ontario

Chair, CDA	Denis Rouleau
Chair, CDA Institute (ex officio)	Daniel Gosselin
Honourary Counsel	Bob Booth
<b><u>CDA Regular Members</u></b>	
Canadian Forces Communications and Electronics Association (CFCEA)	Bill Richards
Canadian Forces Logistics Association (CFLA)	John Page
Canadian Infantry Association (CIA)	William Kedziora
Canadian Military Engineers Association (CMEA)	David Burke Richard Dickson
Canadian Military Intelligence Association (CMIA)	Andrea Siew
Canadian Military Police Association (CMPA)	Douglas Boot
Electrical Mechanical Engineers Association (EMEA)	Peter Holt
Naval Association of Canada (NAC)	Jim Carruthers Ken Lait
Navy League of Canada (NLoFC)	Harry Harsch
Royal Canadian Artillery Association (RCAA)	Bob Elliot
Royal Canadian Armoured Corps Association (RCACA)	Robert Brown
Royal Canadian Dental Corps Association (RCDCA)	Frank Hedley
Royal Canadian Air Force Association (RCAFA)	Dean Black
Royal Canadian Legion (RCL)	Richard Blanchette Charls Gendron
Royal Canadian Medical Association (RCMA)	Absent

### **CDA Associate Members**

Atlantic Council of Canada (Observer)	Julie Lindhout
Edmonton United Services Institute	Alexander Tsang
Canadian Corps of Commissionaires	
Royal Kingston United Services Institute	Gary Coulter
Royal United Services Institute Vancouver Islands	Chris Kilford

### **CDA Secretariat**

CEO CDA/CDA Institute	Tony Battista
Secretary-Treasurer CDA/CDA Institute	Pierre Désautels
Staff/volunteers	Matthew Overton
	Sean McGrath
	Robert Legere

### **Guest Speakers**

Acting Vice Chief of Defence Staff	VAdm Ron Lloyd
Deputy Minister VAC	Walter Natynczyk

Being a quorum of the members of the Conference of Defence Associations

VAdm Denis Rouleau (Ret'd) chaired the meeting, and Mr. Pierre Désautels acted as Secretary of the meeting.

Notice of the meeting having been given to all members, and a quorum of members being present the Chair declared the meeting to be duly constituted for the transaction of business.

### **CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS**

1. The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all those present.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

2. The agenda for the CDA AGM meeting was approved.

### **MOTION 1: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

3. On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the minutes of the previous AGM meeting of 17 February 2016 be approved with an amendment to the attendees list to reflect the participation of Gary Smith as a representative of the Royal Canadian Artillery Association in lieu of Gary Burton.

### **CHAIR REPORT**

4. The Chair discussed the close relationship between the CDA and the CDA Institute and the way forward to increase the level of exchange, participation and of sharing of information between the two organizations. He also highlighted the addition of a new member to the CDA Executive Committee, LGen Guy Thibault (Ret'd), as a Vice-Chair, and the addition of a part-time staff member, Sean McGrath, at the national office to increase the level of outreach to Associations.

### **MOTION 2: ELECTION OF INCUMBENTS OF CDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2017-2018**

5. On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the following incumbents were elected to serve as members of the CDA Executive Committee for 2017-2018:
  - a. Chair of the CDA: VAdm Denis Rouleau (Ret'd);
  - b. Vice-Chairs of the CDA:
    - i. VAdm Ron Buck (Ret'd);
    - ii. LGen Charles Bouchard (Ret'd);
    - iii. LGen Guy Thibault (Ret'd);
    - iv. BGen Gaston Côté (Ret'd).

### **CDA INSTITUTE CHAIR REPORT**

6. The Chair of the CDA Institute provide an update on the progress on the governance review and committee structure put in place to oversee the activities of the Institute, and the creation of a Council of Advisors. He also reported on the challenges facing the organization with regards to financing and fundraising, and the increasing number of competing organizations in the field of security and defence in Canada.

### **CDA & CDA INSTITUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT**

7. The CEO emphasized the symbiotic relationship between the CDA, the “Big Tent” advocacy organization, and the Institute with its charitable status related to research and education, re-confirmed last year following a Canada Revenue Agency audit. He also provided comments on several initiatives at the national office (ongoing discussions on the new approach for a DND grant, the addition of two team members to support and consult

the Associations, the negotiation of a new office lease, the development of a new website for the CDA Institute, and a follow-on upgrade of the CDA website later this year).

#### **A/VCDS PRESENTATION**

8. VAdm Ron Lloyd, A/VCDS, discussed current issues facing the Canadian Armed Forces, and took questions from members in attendance.

#### **TREASURER REPORT**

9. The Treasurer briefly presented the highlights of the Statement of Operations of the CDA for the period of 1 April 2016 to 31 December 2016 and of a Statement of Financial Position as of 31 December 2016, the reviewed Financial Statement as of 31 March 2016, along with the operating budget for 2017-2018. The Statement of Operations and the Statement of Financial Position for the third quarter of 2016-2017 ended on 31 December 2016 and the budget for 2017-2018 are to be distributed with the Minutes.

#### **MOTION 3: APPROVAL OF REVIEWED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

10. On a motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, the reviewed CDA Financial Statements as of 31 March 2016, were approved.

#### **MOTION 4: APPROVAL OF MEETING EXPENSES**

11. On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, it was resolved that the expenses for the AGM meeting be approved.

#### **MOTION 5: APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDITOR**

12. On an amended motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, Mr. Gary Smith was appointed to conduct a review of the Conference of Defence Associations' financial statements for the accounting year ending on 31 March 2017.

#### **DM OF VETERANS AFFAIRS CANADA PRESENTATION**

13. Gen Walter Natynczyk (Ret'd), Deputy Minister of Veteran's Affairs Canada, discussed current issues and challenges facing the Department and the changes implemented to improve support to veterans. He also took several questions from members, and particularly, discussed the concerns over the suicide rate among serving members and

veterans.

### **ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

14. Representatives of the Regular Member Associations and Associate Members Associations in attendance briefed the members on the activities of their organizations. Copies of reports provided to the CDA National Office have been distributed.

### **SUICIDE RATE AMONG SERVING MEMBERS AND VETERANS**

15. Given the previous discussion held during the presentation of DM VAC on this important issue, the representative of the Canadian Infantry Association proposed that this item be postponed.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

16. On motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously carried, two new Associate Members Associations, Prospect Human Resources, and the Office of the Ombudsman of Veterans Affairs Canada, were approved.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

17. The Chair thanked all for their participation and attendance. The meeting was adjourned.

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Meeting Secretary – Pierre Désautels



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Chief Executive Officer – Tony Battista



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Chair – VAdm Denis Rouleau (Ret'd)

Date: 2 March 2017