

# The Right Marker



## Spring Edition 2014

### eVOTING AND THE RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION



Dear Members,

My name is Peter Sorensen and I am the Past President of Prince Edward Island (PEI) Division. I am currently the Chair of a working group of members tasked by the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act Committee to research and report to the Board on adopting electronic voting (eVoting) as the mechanism for conducting absentee voting within the RCMP Veterans' Association.

Executive Director Jack Briscoe recently spoke with me about the research being undertaken by the working group to modernize the Association's election process. Our conversation follows:

**Jack:** Peter, how did the idea of adopting electronic voting in the Association originate?

**Peter:** Since September 2013, I have been the PEI Division representative on the Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act Committee. Following an invitation from the Chairs of the NFP Committee at the AGM in Saskatoon, divisions representatives participated in a series of consecutive video/teleconferences to discuss the proposed amendments to the Association's by-laws and Articles.

During the consultation on elections and the mechanism for absentee voting, it was unanimously agreed by the representatives that a sub committee should be formed to more closely explore this alternative means of conducting absentee voting for the Association. I have some previous experience with electronic voting and so I was asked by the Committee Chairs, Vice President Dave Leblanc and Director Murray Milne, to lead the working group.

**Jack:** What exactly is eVoting?

**Peter:** As a member in good standing of an Association, or as a shareholder in a company, members are called upon by the organization's "constitution and bylaws" to vote on resolutions and to elect persons running for office, e.g. a director or officer of the organization. Such voting is either done by personally attending a meeting of members, e.g. an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or by casting their vote as an absentee voter by proxy.



The RCMP Veterans' Association has approximately 5,200 active and Life Members who are eligible to vote at the AGM. However, for a myriad of reasons, including the associated costs of attending an AGM, there are usually only 5 to 10% of the membership who actually attend the annual meeting. The Association must therefore rely on an effective absentee voting mechanism that will give all eligible members the opportunity to cast a ballot on important Association business decisions.

Electronic, or eVoting as it is called, provides a secure, easy and cost effective platform that will allow all members of the Association who are eligible to vote, and who do not or cannot attend the AGM, to cast their ballot online.

**Jack:** Has the Association not already used an absentee voting process at previous Annual General Meetings?

**Peter:** Yes, a proxy process for absentee voting has been used for many years. The list of resolutions and nominations for elections to the Board of Directors that are to be voted on at the AGM are sent to the Division Presidents by the National Secretary. The Division then distributes the information to their membership.

Our current bylaws and procedures require Divisions, at one of their regular meetings, to ask those present to decide whether the Division should support or reject, for example, a resolution. The Division proxy commits the entire eligible membership votes of that Division to a "yea, nay or abstain". The new bylaws, on the other hand, will require notice to each member "in good standing" and the counting of each member's vote.

**Jack:** We know that the attendance at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) is a relatively small percentage of the actual membership of the Association. The same is likely true for Division meetings principally because of the size of the division and the logistics of travel and so on. Peter, how can an individual member participate in the important business decisions of the Association when many may never attend the AGM or Divisional meetings? Is this not a fundamental right of Active and Life Members?

**Peter:** Under our current rules I would speculate that a lot of members have faith in the few who attended a Division or AGM meeting to vote for the best interests of all members and the Association. However, my personal view is that an Association such as ours will need to offer all members, from wherever they reside in Canada, an effective, user friendly, cost effective and secure means to participate in the affairs of the Association without necessarily being physically present. This is especially true if we are to continue to attract new members and grow the membership.

The members who are retiring from the Force today are very comfortable with the proliferation of technology and the ability to communicate by the use of e-mail and the internet. As a matter of fact, so too are most of our Veterans in all divisions.

Our responsibility, as a working group of the Board of Directors, is to identify and enable a process that will ensure every member of the Association is given the opportunity to cast a vote and has a voice in how the Association is governed.



**Jack:** Have other alternatives been considered rather than e-Voting?

**Peter:** Yes, the Canada Not-For-Profit Act provides for alternative means to conduct a vote, including proxies and mail in ballots. The proxy process has served us well when the proxy was in respect of the entire Division's membership count and not by individual members in the Division. We considered the implications of 30 Division delegates arriving at an AGM and having to potentially table hundreds of paper proxies with the Credentials Committee. It was the consensus of the division representatives, and the NFP Committee, that this was neither desirable nor effective.

The second option that we discussed was the "paper ballot" where each member receives a ballot in the mail and then returns the ballot to National by mail. This option was considered cost prohibitive largely due to the increasing costs of postage. If this was pursued, it would mean that a paper ballot is required to be mailed to every eligible member in every division regardless of whether or not the member will vote and return it. For this option to inspire a member to vote, the Association would need to pay the postage but this would not diminish the workload of the Credentials Committee at the AGM. Therefore, we unanimously concluded the mail in ballot would be an ineffective alternative. For these reasons, the notion of electronic voting became a more appealing option.

**Jack:** Ok, so how does it work Peter?

**Peter:** eVote has been available to organizations for over a decade in Canada and abroad. Perhaps, the best way I can describe how it works is by sharing the process I use each year as a member of the Project Management Institute, headquartered in Philadelphia. PMI is a global organization and their AGM is in October each year. In August, I receive an email indicating that I am eligible to vote in the upcoming AGM. To do so, I simply click on the link in

the email message and I am immediately transferred to the voters webpage where I enter my secure Username and Password. As soon as I am logged in to the website, I am presented with the ballot for the upcoming elections. In other words I see the list of candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors and I have the ability to review each of their biographies. When I am ready to vote on my choices, I simply mark my choices in the applicable boxes. My vote is however limited to the number of vacancies, e.g. if there are 10 candidates running for seven positions, I can only cast seven votes.

Next, I am asked to make a decision on any resolutions in the ballot, e.g. mark "accept", "reject" or "abstain". When I am finished, I click on the "Submit" button and the ballot is sent to the PMI Election Centre. I immediately receive an acknowledgement that my ballot has been received and recorded.

This entire voting process takes less than five minutes unless of course I wish to study the bios more closely before casting my votes. The tally of the voting results is done by an auditing feature built into the program and the results reported and attested to at the AGM when called for by the Presiding Officer of the AGM.

**Jack:** That sounds pretty easy - is that all there is to eVote?

**Peter:** The process is simple but we do need a few key components: first, the effectiveness of eVoting is predicated on the need for an up-to-date membership database which provides an accurate and reliable list of eligible members; second each member must have an email address or access to a computer; and third we need an "eVote" service or software to manage the process.



**Jack:** A membership database sounds rather difficult for an Association with 30 Divisions and over 5000 members, how will we achieve that component?

**Peter:** In December, we conducted a survey of how Divisions currently keep their membership records. Twenty-six (26) Divisions reported that their membership records are contained in a spreadsheet or in a database format, which will make it relatively easy to upload those records to an Association database.

Let me digress for a moment and underscore an important principle of designing and implementing a membership database. In the 1980's, I held the position of Chief Information Officer for Veterans' Affairs. When personal information on clients is collected and maintained by regions or departments, there is an immediate reaction to the concern about privacy, particularly how this information is controlled and protected. The security and privacy of the information that will reside on our Association database is a fundamental criterion and we will work very closely with the Divisions in establishing the infrastructure to ensure we implement a secure platform for receiving and maintaining personal information on all members.

We also believe one of the key factors to successfully achieve this component is to change the way membership data is collected and kept current. Currently, the Division Secretaries create and update their records as and when required. The working group believes that the secret to eliminating the estimated \$30,000 worth of volunteer time expended in the divisions to maintain our membership records is to simply allow each member to keep his/her own personal information accurate and current. This is no different than most of us already do for various organizations, like banking and other services where we have some kind of an account. The process that will allow this to be done will be designed with the input of the divisions.

**Jack:** What are some of the other key activities that the Working Group is planning to do?

**Peter:** We are currently researching the "eVote" service providers on the market and we fully anticipate having a shortlist to more carefully research in the days and weeks ahead. We are also developing a prototype for the membership database and we will be sharing our vision and the detailed specifications for the Absentee Voting mechanism with all Divisions for their review, feedback and consensus.

**Jack:** Who are the members on the Working Group?

**Peter:** Bryan Neville, President of Kingston Division is our Association webmaster. Bryan is responsible for the design of the membership database platform that will reside on the national website. Sheldon Boles and Bob McKee, Membership Director of the Board of Directors, each from from Vancouver Division make up the rest of the working group, along with you and me.

**Jack:** Any closing thoughts Peter?

**Peter:** We sincerely look forward to working with each Division on this important modernization opportunity. We welcome constructive feedback and suggestions from the membership and if any member would like more information, please contact anyone in the working group or email me at: [fairness@telus.net](mailto:fairness@telus.net) or call (902) 436-3930.

**Jack:** Peter, thank you for sharing this important initiative with our members. I am sure all of the delegates at the Ottawa AGM 2014 will be anxious to hear more from the working group at AGM 2014 in Ottawa in June.

**Editor's Note:** All organizations are perfectly aligned to get the results they are currently getting which simply means that in order to get better results, we must step away from the past and embrace the future. Good work Peter!



Ian Atkins, Past President of Nova Scotia Division, is a member of the Committee responsible for the legislative transitional requirements to the new Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act.

The *Canada Not-for-profit Act* (new Act), proclaimed in 2009, requires over 19,000 federal not-for-profit corporations previously incorporated under Part II of the *Canada Corporations Act* (old Act) to comply with the new legislation by October 17, 2014 or be deemed to have become dissolved. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Veterans' Association is a federal not-for-profit corporation, and to remain active, must comply.

The old Act has remained essentially unchanged since 1917, and was deemed to be lacking modern governance rules necessary to today's corporations. The new Act is much more detailed. It provides for rules to support sound governance; clarifies the responsibilities and duties of directors, officers and members; provides for rules for directors' liability for misfeasance, but also provides for proper defences against that liability; and provides for a greater ability for members to scrutinize the activities of the corporation.





The purpose of this essay is to describe the process engaged in by the Association to meet the requirements of the new legislation. The work-product of the process is too complex and detailed to include in this edition, however references to where this content can be found is included. The companion piece to this essay on e-voting, is one of the by-products of this work. You will see how that method of voting is much more representative and participatory than the Division-delegate block voting we currently practise. This is one example of how this new regime better allows for members, particularly those who cannot attend the AGM, to more directly scrutinize and participate in the activities of the Association.

In April 2012, Association President Cal Small called for the creation of the Canada Not-for-profit Act (CNFP) Committee to steer the Association towards complying with the new Act requirements, and the Committee of five immediately began its work.

As the Veterans' Association is already incorporated by Letters Patent, it is not necessary to file new Letter Patent, but rather it must file Articles of Continuance. This document was prepared, and contains, in prescribed format, essentially the same information as the Letters Patent. The Articles will be presented to the membership for endorsement by 2/3 majority vote at the 2014 AGM in Ottawa. If approved by the membership, the Articles will be filed with Corporations Canada within a few business days following the AGM, and at that time, the Veterans' Association comes under the new Act regime. A copy of that document (Form 4031) can be found on the national website in the "Canada Not for Profit" folder.

The second document requiring member approval by 2/3 majority at the 2014 AGM is the Association's By-laws. The new Act is written in such a way that the rules contained in it are often generic in nature (called "default" rules): the Act applies to over 19,000 active not-for-profit corporations, many with substantially different objectives and purposes than ours. The new Act allows for each corporation to customize the Act's application by way of its Articles, By-laws, or by something called unanimous member agreements (but because of the type of corporation we are, these are not available to us). If the Act's rules are not varied by the Articles or By-laws, then the default rules of the Act apply.

By the Fall of 2012, a draft of the revised By-laws was prepared using the old by-laws, and several "sample" drafts of by-laws from other major not-for-profits. Followed the preparation of the draft, approximately 12-14 almost weekly 3-hour videoconferences were held with the Committee to discuss and revise the draft. A one-day presentation of the work product to date was presented to The National Council at the 2013 AGM in Saskatoon. From this presentation, it was agreed that a consultation group would be formed from representatives from every Division. During the Fall of 2013, an additional series of videoconferences/teleconferences were held amongst the Division representatives to further revise the draft By-laws and the Articles.



Prior to each videoconferences/teleconference, a briefing document was prepared and distributed focussing on the matters to discuss at each conference. After each session, a Consensus document was prepared summarizing the agreements that were reached the previous week. In most cases, the consensus detail came about as the result of unanimous support from the Divisions' representatives. These briefing and consensus documents, as well as the end product of the By-law-building exercise can be found on the national website in the "Canada Not for Profit" folder. I would encourage those who are not familiar with the content of the By-laws, to review these documents at your leisure. Please visit [www.rcmpvetsnational.ca](http://www.rcmpvetsnational.ca).

At the 2014 AGM in Ottawa, two resolutions will be presented: one asking for approval of the Articles of Continuance; the second asking for approval of the By-laws. As stated above, both votes will be calling for a 2/3 majority in order to pass. Each document will be presented as a whole, and not clause-by-clause. The CNFP Committee has done its best to align these documents with the needs of the members of the Association, and has consulted extensively with the membership. We hope we have it right.

The current Board is asking for your support to approve the Articles and the By-laws. While not everyone may agree with all of the content of these documents, particularly the more detailed By-laws, please give serious consideration as to whether you can "live" with the content for the time being, and if necessary, seek an amending resolution for AGM 2015. This is a crucial point because if the Articles of Continuance pass, but the By-laws don't, then the Association has no By-laws, and all of the default positions contained in the new Act will prevail: a situation that is significantly less likely to meet the needs of our Association.

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**Editors Note:** Vice President Dave Leblanc and Director Murray Milne were co-chairs of the Canada Not-For-Profit Committee. Governor Larry Power, Newfoundland and Labrador Division along with the Executive Director and Past President Ian Atkins, author of this article, formed the nucleus of the working group. Advice throughout the discovery and consultation process was provided by President Cal Small and National Secretary Alex Geddes who participated as observers in each and every video/teleconference. The contribution of the Division representatives in achieving consensus is highly regarded.



# RCMP PENSION ADMINISTRATION UPDATE

Starting on July 2, 2014, the administration of RCMP pension plans, along with the pensioner medical and dental insurance plans, will be transferred to Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC). Since 2003, those services have been provided by Morneau Shepell, a private sector company. Through PWGSC, pensioners and survivors will benefit from access to specialists at the Government of Canada Pension Centre. These experts have extensive knowledge of federal public sector pensions and pensioner benefits. This arrangement will also take advantage of new technologies, while providing long-term stability.

Pension Centre staff routinely meet or exceed published service standards. You can find out more about these service standards by visiting the [Web site](#) and reviewing up-to-date [results](#). There are no expected changes to the amount of your monthly pension benefit. However, converting data from one system to another may result in small variances. The RCMP will be able to confirm those amounts after dry-run testing in April and will contact any affected plan members to explain individual variances. It's important to understand that the transfer to PWGSC involves the *administration* of pension services, and not the investment of the funds themselves.

Please note that Morneau Shepell will continue to provide insurance administration services for the RCMP Group Life and Accidental Death and Dismemberment Plans. In the coming months, you may wish to register for direct deposit of your monthly pension payment to take advantage of additional services available through PWGSC after July 2, 2014. You can request a copy of the direct deposit form by contacting the RCMP Benefits Administration Centre at 1-800-661-7595, Monday to Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET or visit [www.pbs-sra.ca](http://www.pbs-sra.ca).

## Why Change?

A detailed business case, endorsed by senior RCMP management and the Staff Relations Representative (SRR) Program, was presented to Treasury Board (TB) and approved in 2009.

There were two options to consider:

1. The status quo, which would have seen the RCMP continue to outsource the administration of pension services to the private sector; or
2. Transfer to Public Works and Government Services Canada which currently provides those services for public service pensioners.

The total five-year budget to complete the transfer to PWGSC is expected to be approximately \$118 million. It is a substantial amount, but it will generate the best long-term return on investment. In addition, once the systems are in place, the ongoing costs will be less than the budgets required to regularly re-tender the contract to the private sector. Going with Public Works is also far less risky than having to migrate personal data between private sector suppliers every 7 years.





## What's Next

In May, you will receive more information about PWGSC pension administration services as well as contact details for the Government of Canada Pension Centre which will be available to serve you after the transition occurs on July 2, 2014.

## Questions?

You can find additional information in the [Family Corner](#) section of the RCMP's public website.

English: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/fam/paop-piap-eng.htm>

French: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/fam/paop-piap-fra.htm>

If you have any questions related to your pension, please continue to contact the RCMP Benefits Administration Centre at 1-800-661-7595, Monday to Friday between 7:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET or visit the [website](#). Stephanie will be on hand on Friday at the AGM in Ottawa to answer your questions. Please visit her information session.

Further questions can be sent via email to: [PAOP-PIAP@rcmp-grc.gc.ca](mailto:PAOP-PIAP@rcmp-grc.gc.ca).



Stephanie Schreiber is the Acting Project Director for the Pension Administration Outsourcing Project (PAOP). An RCMP employee since 2007, she has worked in the Chief Information Officer (CIO) Sector and in National Compensation Services (NCS). With a background in information technology and project management, she has also worked at Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) and in the private sector.



## **PUBLIC SERVICE HEALTH CARE PLAN: LETTER TO ALL FSNA MEMBERS**

FSNA members:

The Federal Government indicated, in the budget, its intention to arbitrarily double the Public Service Health Care Plan premiums for retired members of the Canadian Forces, Veterans, RCMP and public servants. The government also signalled its intention to increase the eligibility period to require employees to work a minimum of six years in order to be eligible to receive coverage under the PSHCP in retirement.

FSNA through the Leader of the Opposition, Thomas Mulcair, tabled a petition in the House of Commons last Wednesday. Unfortunately Prime Minister Stephen Harper and most of his cabinet, including Treasury Board President, Tony Clement chose to leave the House immediately prior to the tabling of the petition. More than 24,000 members and citizens at large signed FSNA's House of Commons petition and online petition at [Change.org](http://Change.org).

More than 74,000 FSNA members wrote letters to the Members of Parliament and Mr Clement indicating their concern over the rumoured increase to their PSHCP contributions. Many provided a detailed account of the negative impact this increase would have on their ability to pay for life necessities at this stage of their retirement.

FSNA is reviewing all of its options and determining a go forward strategy. Yesterday, at a web conference, the Board instructed the Executive Director to ascertain the legal options, potential costs and potential outcomes and likelihood of success regarding the PSHCP matter. We will keep our volunteers and members informed and reach out to you to work together as we strive to get this government to listen to us and to Canadians.

Sincerely, Gary Oberg, National President



# TOGETHER THE RCMP FAMILY IS STRONGER



## RCMP VETERANS' ASSOCIATION RECRUITMENT POSTER

The RCMP Veterans' Association is pleased to announce that we are in the process of displaying 25 Recruitment banners in RCMP HQ buildings and large detachments across Canada. This initiative is being coordinated with the kind assistance of the RCMP Division Warrant Officers. These are the first recruiting banners for placement and others RCMP locations are being considered in consultation with the Divisions. The purpose of this advertising is to inform all RCMP employees that the transition from active service to retirement and membership in the RCMP Veterans' Association ensures that *"Together the RCMP family is stronger."*

The attached photos depict the "H" Division banner being strategically located in the rotunda of the new HQ building in Halifax, Nova Scotia on January 10, 2014.

### **From Left to Right**

C/Supt. Brian Brennan, "H" Division CROPS Officer, SSM Gary Latour (RCMP model), Garry McCay (Vet model), George Savage RCMPVA National Recruiting Chair, Gary Grant, RCMPVA Nova Scotia Division Membership Director, Julie Matthews and Larry Gallagher membership committee members RCMPVA Nova Scotia Division.



## THE HOWARD KEARLEY AWARD

Howard Kearley was a Life member of Manitoba Division who devoted himself to increasing membership in his own Division and provided tremendous time and effort to assist other Divisions and National in developing goals. Unfortunately, Howard passed away suddenly during the summer of 2009. At the AGM in Regina, June 5, 2010, Director of Communications, Dave LeBlanc brought forward a membership proposal to create an award to recognize the top recruiting Division each year. The proposal was approved and to honour Howard this annual award was named the Howard Kearley Membership Award.

The award is presented at the AGM to the Division that recruited the most new Active Members for the year. Nova Scotia Division was the winner for 2010 (69), 2011 (106) and 2012 (79). Unfortunately, the national membership was still not growing and enthusiasm needed to be generated within Divisions to compete for this annual achievement award. For 2013, it was decided that a formal, structured recruitment campaign might be a way to re-focus Divisions on the business of addressing the non-growth of the Association. A formula was developed that would make it fair for all Divisions to compete whether small or large in numbers. The Division with the Highest % Gain would be declared the winner.

Different membership forms were standardized, such as, the National Membership Application, Membership Criteria and Why Join? An appeal was made to Divisions to place 3 tabs on their website home page - Membership Application; Why Join?, and Division Addresses & Dues. Advertising was done in the Quarterly, VetsNet, CO's Communique, Pony Express, Member Discharge Letter and Frank's Fact & Funnies. At the end of the year, 25 Recruitment Banners were produced, featured on the previous page, and these were strategically placed in RCMP HQ buildings and large detachments across Canada.

The recruitment goal for 2013 was set at **468** new members. On Dec 31st, **457** members, or 97.6% of goal had been successfully achieved. Winner with the Highest % Gain for 2013 was Ottawa Division (70). **Congratulations Ottawa Division!** The runner-up was Nova Scotia Division (79). The Howard Kearley Membership Plaque and framed certificate, along with a \$250.00 hospitality gift, will be presented to Ottawa Division at the AGM in Ottawa on June 07, 2014.

The 2014 Recruitment Campaign has just been launched with a goal of **488**. All documentation, Campaign Rules, Membership Criteria and Why Join? can be found on the National website under Membership/Recruiting. **Please visit** [www.rcmpvetsnational.ca](http://www.rcmpvetsnational.ca)

Sincerely

George Savage, Chair  
National Recruiting Committee



## **Veterans Affairs Canada Transition Interview for Releasing Members**

Effective April 1, 2014, all releasing regular and civilian members as well as special constables will be eligible for a transition interview conducted by Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) staff. The purpose of the transition interview is two-fold:

- 1) to assist in identifying issues that may inhibit successful transition to civilian life; and
- 2) to determine the level of support/intervention required from VAC and other community support systems to address the identified need(s).

Members who have indicated a release date, by way of form 1733, will receive in their discharge package a document indicating that they can take advantage of a VAC transition interview (<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/services/transition/interview>). Interested members will be asked to sign a consent form allowing the RCMP to forward your contact information to VAC who will then make contact with you.

Due to geographic circumstances, some transition interviews may not be able to be conducted face-to-face. In such cases, videoconference or teleconference may be the methods of choice for the interviews. More information will be available on the Infoweb as we get closer to the implementation date.

I encourage all releasing members to take advantage of this service that our partners at VAC will be offering them.

Daniel Dubeau, D/Commr.  
Chief Human Resources Officer

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## **A Message from National President Cal Small**

In just over three months, many of us will meet again for the Annual General Meeting, this time in the beautiful City of Ottawa. Ottawa Division has been working hard to ensure those attending are properly cared for and entertained so I would encourage you to do your part and join us. Nothing adds to the success of an AGM/Convention more than having a great turnout.

Nearly two years ago, I was elected as your President. I said then that it was a privilege and honour to have the opportunity to represent you. I still feel that way. We are fortunate to belong to an organization that has a history dating back to 1886 and one which enables its members to make new friends and maintain old ones. I think the value of this, increases as one gets older.

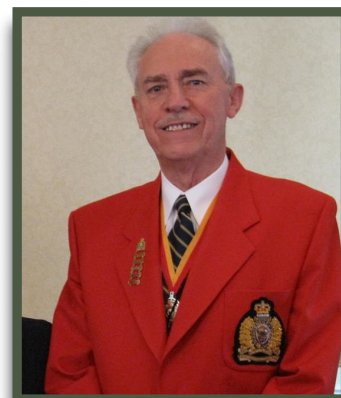
Because of the information contained in the Right Marker, which was created to ensure you are well informed about what's going on, I am able to make my comments brief. Much of what I might have said is already covered elsewhere.

I would be remiss, however, if I didn't say how pleased I am with the progress that has been made in creating the new by-laws which must conform with the requirements of the new Canada Not-for-Profit Act. As well, on how well the recruiting campaign has gone. Another noteworthy and satisfying aspect to this, is the overwhelming support provided by the divisions in the achievement of both initiatives. Also, I'm pleased with the progress the Graves Committee has achieved in identifying the graves of the Original 300 and those members that are on the RCMP Honour Role. The RCMP is aware of the work of this Committee but in time I feel its efforts will be more widely known and appreciated.

Advocacy is considered to be important to the membership and considered to be an appropriate role for the Association to be involved in. A position known as the National Advocate was created some time ago to help implement National's policies in that regard. In addition to the many other activities, much effort is expended by the Advocate and other members of the Board of Directors to maintaining close relations with the RCMP, key Federal Government Departments such as Veterans Affairs Canada, the Canadian Legion, National Association of Federal Retirees (FSNA), Federal politicians such as the Minister of Veterans Affairs and Opposition Critics. In spite of what I have just said though, this role of the advocacy is not well understood by many. It might be nothing more than a lack of understanding with regard to what the Association is trying to achieve. In any event, I feel it would be useful, at some future AGM, to have a wide ranging discussion on this topic.

You will be very pleased to know that as a result of much effort and the generosity of the Force, the National Offices of the Association are housed in fine comfortable offices in the Canadian Police College Complex. These offices should prove to be more than adequate for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your help during the last two years. It is when I see such dedication and tireless effort year in and year out by so many at both the National and Division levels I feel the future of the Association is assured.





The “Rendez-Vous Ottawa” theme was developed to capture the essence of the RCMP Veterans’ Association; we are proud to promote “*Friendship. Support. Stay Connected!*” One of our objectives this year is to offer you a “conference-style approach”. Look at our interesting program on our website at [www.rcmp-grevetsottawa.ca](http://www.rcmp-grevetsottawa.ca). You will note that, on Friday morning, we have a series of information sessions on issues that are of interest to Veterans, families and guests.

Don’t be disappointed, book early at the Westin Hotel. June is a busy month in Ottawa and a block of rooms has been reserved only until May 6. To book your room, you can use the direct link of the hotel on our website or you can call the Westin Ottawa at 613-560-7000 and mention the code that you will find in our information package on the website. The WestJet discount code is also in the package.

We can’t wait to see you!

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Register now! [www.rcmp-grevetsottawa.ca](http://www.rcmp-grevetsottawa.ca)  
Click on logo or on AGM 2014 on top menu for  
all information  
Questions : **Bill Lenton 613-841-1231**  
[chair2014ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:chair2014ottawa@gmail.com)



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**THE END!**