

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

MARCH 11, 2021



I bid you welcome to 2021! One year ago today, March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus to be a global pandemic, and the world, for all intents and purposes, shut itself down. Over 900 thousand confirmed cases have been detected in Canada, and over 22 thousand deaths have been experienced in Canada. I am thankfully not aware of any CAVUNP member being included in that number. We have effectively been under some level of quarantine since, and we have not been able to meet in almost a year; no Chapter meetings

and we used videoconferencing to conduct our BGM last autumn.

Veterans Affairs Canada, through its Veterans Organizations Emergency Support Program, offered funding specifically designed to help Veterans' organizations continue to operate and serve Veterans and their families in their communities. CAVUNP asked VAC to support us to the tune of \$5350, which VAC approved. Your Executive has sent correspondence to all Chapter Presidents and Regional Directors, asking them to give us an indication as to how we can effectively spend this money (caveat: we need to provide VAC with a summary of how the money was spent by end-January 2022). To date, we have spent approximately \$1100 to support various Chapters and on advertising in a few Base newspapers. We have over \$4 thousand we can use to support you, our Chapters and members. Any ideas?

Vaccines have begun to arrive in each province and territory, and jabs are being arranged individually by province/territory. I received my first jab here in Calgary (Pfizer/BioNTech) on February 28<sup>th</sup>, and my second jab will be on April 9<sup>th</sup>. I urge all members of CAVUNP to get yourselves, and your families, inoculated as soon as it becomes available to you.

I have sent out a Recommended Change to By-Law 2.03 – Associate Membership to all Chapter Presidents. Unfortunately, to date less than half of Chapters have replied to the Special Resolution, and unless they all respond, I will wait until the

next BGM in 2022 to include the Special Resolution as an agenda item. Chapter Presidents, please poll your members. I would hope that we will begin to be able to hold meetings again across this country by the July/August timeframe.

I regret to inform you that Tony Keene, our Thin Blue Line editor, has resigned. In the interim, Ron Griffis, our Board Chair has offered to fill in. He is presently putting the next issue together for us, but it will probably take a wee bit longer than usual. If there is any CAVUNP member who wishes to assume the mantle of TBL Editor, please let your Executive know.

We have been unable to keep our web page up to date as our Web Master, Frank Misztal, has been diagnosed with a brain tumour. I would like to personally like to thank Frank for all the work he has done to set up and run the webpage since its inception, and truly hope that he, with his doctors and family support, will beat this tumour. I also would like to thank Sylvain Bouliane, who is the Ottawa Chapter Web master, for volunteering his services to help Frank and our organization to bring the website up to date and keep it so.

Fellow Peacekeepers, I hope that 2021 will be the year that we are able to return life to a more normal way. Hopefully, by this autumn, we will be remarkably close to returning to the life we were living before COVID-19 struck.

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