



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

Board of Directors - News and Views

March 2009, Newsletter #4

From the President:

Thank you for the good wishes and yes my operation is over and I am at home recuperating. It is coming slow and painful.

I don't have a lengthy submission for the Newsletter but please mention that I am recuperating and hope to be front and center for upcoming video conferences and AGM.

I have received a reply to my correspondence on the Veterans' Independence Program from The Honourable Greg Thompson, Minister of Veterans Affairs assuring us that he will continue to do his utmost to ensure that Veterans' interests are represented. I have also had correspondence from The Honourable Peter Van Loan, Minister of Public Safety, advising that the RCMP has the lead on this file and they continue to examine the benefits available to serving and retired members.

From the Board:

Recently RCMP uniform kit and clothing being sold has developed a serious threat to us all. Please read the next paragraph. I am told more will follow to explain the Force's position.

Uniform and Equipment Program, would like to caution all RCMP members (and former members) that your uniform is more than just something you wear, it is your reputation and it is your safety. On Monday, February 2, 2009 a suicide bomber dressed in a police uniform walked into a police training centre in Southern Afghanistan and killed 21 officers and injured several others. Though this tragedy happened hundreds of miles away, if such a tragedy can occur in an environment under heightened vigilance for this kind of activity, it can happen anywhere. It is unfortunate that there are people who seek to acquire police uniforms with the ambition of ill-intent. It is the responsibility of every RCMP member to ensure that his or her uniform does not end up in the wrong hands. There are policies in place guiding the appropriate disposal of RCMP uniform with particular emphasis on those bearing RCMP identifying markers such as shoulder flashes. It is each of our responsibility to follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of ourselves, our fellow officers and the Canadian people.

Remember your old uniform is not to be sold on EBay for a few dollars potentially putting people at risk. Honour yourself and everyone else by protecting your uniforms. If you do not want the kit destroy it or turn it back in to the Force.

At the Board of Director's Meeting (BOD) on February 25th, 2009, Avis/Budget vehicle rental company has been taken on as a discount supplier to members of the Veterans' Association. We are working at crossing the 'Ts' and dotting the 'I s' and will soon have this as a benefit to our members. It appears that a 5% discount will be offered on top of any other discounts that are available at the time in Canada and USA and even higher discounts internationally. Stay tuned for further developments. Details will be shown on the National Web Site when it becomes available.

The BOD Meeting minutes will be available on the National Web Site. The four hour video-conference flowed along covering all standing committee reports as well as new and outstanding business. The four hour meeting is always a tiring event for the participants but it does get the business of the Association accomplished. Division presidents are invited to attend the BOD meetings if they like as a silent witness to the process. This invitation applies to attending video-conferencing sites used by board members.

Visit the National Web Site at: www.rcmpvetsnational.ca .

Jack O'Reilly, President, Toronto Division is giving a report to the Toronto Division meeting in March having attended the February BOD Meeting and it reads as follows:

Rick Morris invited me to attend the National Board of Director's video conference on February 25 as a spectator. The meeting was set for 12:00 Noon to 4:00 pm at the Airport RCMP office.

Rick gave me a copy of the agenda prior to the start of the meeting and I could see why the meeting would last 4 hours. It was a very lengthy agenda with ongoing topics which are currently being address by the Force and the Vets' Association.

I was very impressed that all the Directors had a working knowledge of every item on the agenda and there were no surprises. The Directors who were working on specific projects has sent a report to the Board Members prior to the meeting, so everyone was well versed on the status of that topic.

I won't dwell into the topics discussed on the agenda as I was a spectator, but would like to mention that Dale Lively has drafted an amended Constitution which will be reviewed and ready for approval at the AGM in Whitehorse.

At 3:55 there was one item left on the agenda. It was addressed and the meeting was over at 3:58 pm.

I appreciated the opportunity to sit in on this meeting. I had no idea how much goes on behind the scenes. It was like attending a mini AGM.

Produced by: COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Rick Morris, Immediate Past President and Committee Member