



## Report from the Provincial Chairperson

April 2023

Dear Members,

I am pleased to provide you with my second quarterly report, which coincides with the arrival of spring. I would like to take this opportunity to speak to you about the progress of the return to normalcy, the work of the Board of Directors (BOD) and the relationship we have with our military partner.

### The evolution of the return to normalcy

**2023 Annual reviews:** Your annual reviews are a celebration of a successful year of training and collaborative work among partners. We encourage you to share them with your community and stakeholders. Board members, regional coordinators and squadron advisors would be pleased to attend at your invitation.

**Royal Canadian Legion Air Cadet:** Each year, one air cadet is chosen as the Royal Canadian Legion Air Cadet of the Year and will represent all of Canada's air cadets at the National Remembrance Day Ceremony in Ottawa. This year, a cadet from our region (Quebec and Ottawa Valley) has been chosen for this honour. The identity of this cadet will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of the Air Cadet League of Canada to be held on June 17 in Halifax.

**Elections 2023:** As you have seen in the April 28 e-mail from the provincial office, elections of 2023-2024 sponsoring committees must be held before June 30, and the documentation sent to the provincial office by July 15. I thank you for your attention to these dates.

**Glider Flight Program:** Glider familiarization flights are back this spring, but at a more limited pace. Zone officers will work with the squadrons to set the dates and number of cadets based on the capacity of the flying sites. The glider course will be held this summer in St-Jean for those candidates who have been selected. The aftermath of the pandemic continues to affect the flight program due to the lack of qualified staff. It is hoped that over the years the number of flights will return to pre-pandemic levels.

**International Exchange 2023:** The international exchange program is back this summer. The QOVPC will be hosting twenty cadets - 10 from Great Britain and 10 from the United States - from July 14 to 26.

## The Partnership in action

As you all know, the air cadet program is based on a **partnership** between the Air Cadet League of Canada and the Department of National Defence's Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers program. Our partnership is essential at all levels of our organization and we can only benefit from its success. Communication is key to preventing problems and resolving those that do arise. For example, we had a very busy weekend last month, which included national camp interviews, the music competition, and many regional and local activities. This busy schedule posed challenges for officers, volunteers, and cadets. Working with my military partner, we have agreed that for the upcoming training year, the QOVPC and RCSU-E will coordinate the dates of major events to better manage cadet and staff/volunteer participation in these activities.

In this same vein, squadron commanders will have initiated or will initiate discussions with the squadron committees (chair) to determine the dates for 10 mandatory training events for the upcoming training year. This important dialogue will allow the committees to be aware of these dates and collaboratively develop the baseline schedule for the upcoming training year. I ask that SSC Chairs ensure that they are available for these meetings.

The weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup> was also very busy! I chose to wait until after this one to send you this report, so that I could share the results of the **Provincial Effective Speaking Competition** that took place on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Drummondville and that I had the honour to chair. Cadets representing eight of our regions participated in this first in-person competition since the pandemic. I would like to congratulate all our candidates for their presentations and thank our volunteers. I would also like to acknowledge the participation of our three judges, Ms. Aileen Vivan, Senior Branch Manager, BMO Bank of Montreal; Ms. Liette Desrochers, Retired from BMO Bank of Montreal; and Major Isabelle Lebrun-Dupuis, Deputy Commanding Officer, RCSU-E as well as our masters of ceremony, Ms. Lynn Sénécal and Ms. Maureen Hamilton-Sirois, from the Ottawa Valley Regional Team. The provincial winner, Flight Sergeant Diana Peters of 500 Outaouais Squadron, will represent the QOVPC at the national competition next June.

At the invitation of the RCSU-E, I attended the final round of the **2023 Provincial Marksmanship Championship** at the Valcartier Garrison on April 23. The zone competitions were held in mid-March. These competitions combined a portion conducted locally at the CC/Sqn (2 standing targets) and a portion conducted at the shooting site (4 prone targets). The winning teams from each zone competition were selected to participate in the Provincial Championship (Stage III) held on April 22-23, 2023. In addition to the 19 winning teams from the zone competitions, the seven other top scoring teams were also invited to the Provincial Championship. A total of 77 teams from 51 air cadet squadrons participated in the zone competitions for a total of 397 air cadets. I would like to congratulate 338 Junior Wildcats Brossard Optimist Squadron for being the highest scoring air cadet squadron at the zone competitions. The winners of the Provincial Marksmanship Championship were announced at the Provincial Cadet Marksmanship Championship Awards Ceremony.

It should be noted that the RCSU-E is experiencing a backlog in processing **CDT 135's**. This delay is a direct consequence of the lack of personnel. The strike, coupled with this lack of staffing, amplifies the situation. The RCSU-E would normally reimburse CDT 135's within 60 days, however many squadrons have not received the expected reimbursement in a timely manner. Please be assured that RCSU-E is working to resolve this issue and make reimbursement for CDT 135's a priority.

I mentioned in my January message the discussions and consultations that are taking place regarding the [rescope](#) of the cadet program. As this process continues, I have asked the RCSU-E to consider organizing local presentations. I will keep you informed of any developments in this matter.

## Work of the Board

**New publications:** One of the priorities of the Board of Directors is to update the documentation. Since October, we have developed or updated the following documents:

- Expense reimbursement policy (October 2022)
- Squadron sponsoring committee assistance policy (March 2023)
- Information Sheets for SSCs - Meetings (March 2023)
- Information Sheets for SSCs - Annual Ceremonial Reviews (March 2023)

These documents will be posted on our internet and intranet sites shortly. Other policies and fact sheets are being developed and will be announced when available.

**A new email address:** As I indicated in my January 2023 message, recruiting new volunteers at all levels of our organization is a priority. In particular, we are looking for current QOVPC members who would be interested in participating on subcommittees of the Board, including the Aviation Committee and the Fundraising Committee. If you are interested in getting involved at this level, or at the regional or local level, please email us at our new email address, [benevoles@cadetsair.ca](mailto:benevoles@cadetsair.ca).

**Annual General Meeting (AGM) and QOVPC Congress:** After 3 years of virtual AGMs, online training sessions and meetings, the Board is currently looking into the possibility of finally meeting our members in person. After tightening our belts at all levels of the organization and with prices rising everywhere, we need to evaluate all options. The Board is looking at all options with the goal of having in-person training and meetings. Costs are being reviewed, with fiscal responsibility being the priority, while respecting the responsibilities of the organization.

## Air Cadet League of Canada Annual General Meeting

A specific number of delegates from each provincial committee are invited to attend the National Annual General Meeting, based on the number of cadets in the province. Although the QOVPC may send six delegates, only three members of the Board of Directors will be attending and will be in possession of proxies to fully represent the interests of the QOVPC.

## Feedback

Feedback is essential to our organization. If you have any comments, suggestions, questions, or even compliments, please feel free to share them with me or another board member. My next quarterly report will be available in July.

*Marie Christine Lalonde*

**Chairperson of the Board of Directors  
Quebec and Ottawa Valley Provincial Committee  
Air Cadet League of Canada**