

# **Air Cadet League of Canada (Quebec and Ottawa Valley)**

## **Annual Report 2021-2022**



**September 2022**

**To Learn – To Serve – To Advance**

## **1. Introduction**

This document covers the activities of the QOVPC for the period from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This fiscal year began the day after the change of command of the Cadets and Junior Canadian Rangers (CJCR), as Brigadier-General Jamie Speiser-Blanchet took over the position of Commander on June 30, 2021. The CJCR has begun a re-scope exercise of the Cadet Program, which aims to "re-align Cadets Canada into an affordable, accessible, and agile program which provides opportunities equitably across Canada". More information is available at: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/services/cadets-junior-canadian-rangers/cadets/cadet-program-refresh.html>.

## **2. The QOVPC**

The Air Cadet League of Canada (Quebec and Ottawa Valley) (QOVPC) is a provincial committee authorized by the ACL Canada. The QOVPC is an organization incorporated in the province of Quebec since 1976. It is administered by a Board of Directors (BOD) of 13 members, elected annually. Its organizational structure extends to the provincial, regional and local levels.

### **2.1 Mission**

The mission of the QOVPC is to provide assistance, support and guidance to the Air Cadet Program in order to stimulate the interest of cadets aged 12 to 18 towards the field of aviation, to promote physical fitness and to contribute to the development of responsible citizens.

### **2.2 Our incorporating documents**

The QOVPC was incorporated by letters patent dated April 8, 1976. An update of these was made on January 7, 2019.

### **2.3 Our members**

The QOVPC currently has nearly 900 members spread across Quebec and the Ottawa Valley. The majority of these work at the local level on one of our 94 sponsoring committees. There are also regional teams, consisting mainly of regional coordinators and squadron advisors. The 11 regions of the QOVPC are grouped into 5 sectors, as follows:

- North sector: Abitibi and Saguenay/Lac St-Jean/Nord du Quebec regions
- South sector: Montérégie and North Shore regions
- Centre sector: Estrie/Bois-Francs and Mauricie regions
- East sector: Quebec and Lower St. Lawrence regions
- West sector: Ottawa Valley, Montreal West and Montreal East regions

Each sector reports to a sector vice-chairperson who is a member of the BOD.

## **2.4 The provincial office**

The provincial office is responsible for the administrative services of the QOVPC and reports to our executive director. The core responsibilities of the provincial office include providing support to sponsoring committees and regional teams, managing screening activities and maintaining current and historical records, financial management (as approved by BOD), and liaison with the national office and our military partner.

In addition to the executive director, the office has 3 employees and contracts accounting and IT support services.

## **2.5 The Board of Directors and its committees**

During the 2021-2022 year, the BOD comprised 11 directors, out of a maximum of 13. The BOD met nine times during the reporting period. Eight of these meetings were conducted virtually. BOD members met face-to-face in April 2022 for the first time since the start of the pandemic.

The Standing Committee on Sectors, composed of the chairperson, the 1<sup>st</sup> vice- chairperson, the past chairperson, the secretary and the 5 sector vice- chairpersons, met virtually three times. Sector reports were shared monthly throughout the reporting period.

## **3. The 2021-2022 year**

As in the previous year, activities within the QOVPC and society in general have been heavily affected by the pandemic. The QOVPC made several changes to accommodate the new reality. This included election dates for the sponsoring committees, virtual meetings only, changes to the amounts and deadlines of the assessment fees, and some changes to awards and bursaries.

### **3.1 The activities**

- A new intranet site was created to replace the Sharepoint site. It went live in January 2022.
- A BOD priority, imposed by the national office, was to sign an affiliation agreement with each of our squadrons, as provincial committees had previously signed with the national office. This agreement is necessary to clearly establish the link between each squadron and the Air Cadet League of Canada (ACL Canada) since the partnership agreement that allows us to work within the squadrons is signed by the Department of National Defense and the ACL Canada. Information sessions on this topic were offered to members in early March. A majority of the agreements were signed in the following months. This topic will remain a priority for the QOVPC until all agreements have been signed.
- The national annual general meeting was held in person in Saskatoon in June 2022. The number of delegates (and therefore votes) for each provincial committee is based on the cadet population within its territory. This year, the QOVPC had 6 votes that were

represented by 4 BOD members and 2 proxies, as permitted by the ACL Canada regulations.

- The BOD is currently developing a series of policies. The first of these, the Guardianship Policy, was approved by the BOD and shared with members in April.

### **3.2 Covid-19 impacts**

The 2021-2022 year was a difficult one for all levels of our organization. Covid-19 restrictions continued to limit the activities of the sponsoring committees and the Air Cadet Program in general. Key issues identified include:

- Challenges associated with recruiting and retaining volunteers at all levels of the organization;
- Difficulties associated with training facilities for cadets, particularly for squadrons meeting in schools;
- Restrictions imposed by our military partner on fundraising activities involving cadets; and
- Limitations on the presence of cadets or volunteers in activities.

### **4. Key issues for the upcoming year**

Key issues for the coming year will include recruiting and retaining volunteers at all levels, and training members.

Some municipalities in Quebec (or their boroughs) have recently adopted policies to recognize and support non-profit organizations. These can affect squadrons that meet in school premises if they benefit from reduced costs. This was the case with two squadrons in the greater Montreal area. They requested assistance from the provincial office and the BOD to obtain some of the documents requested by the borough, and were able to negotiate with the municipal authorities to develop a mutually agreeable solution. If your squadron finds itself in a similar situation, do not hesitate to contact the Permanence or the vice-chairperson for your sector to obtain the necessary support.