



**2nd Regiment
Royal Canadian Horse Artillery**

**MEETING TO DISCUSS A REGIMENTAL SENATE FOR
2ND REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN HORSE ARTILLERY
22 AUGUST, 2015**

Background

The RCA Family Strategy, signed by the Colonel Commandant and Senior Serving Gunner, 23 March 2015, provided guidance on the establishment of unit Senates. See: <http://www.artillery.net/beta/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Family-Strategy-final-ev-signed-23-Mar-2015.pdf>

“Establish Unit Senates. For the purpose of positioning themselves to best fulfill their institutional mandate, unit command teams (Regular and Reserve) establish unit senates that will provide them with support and judicious guidance on institutional matters. These senates consist of current and former unit command teams and, where applicable, Honoraries. They may also include community leaders. These influential individuals provide counsel and guidance to the command teams of the units they are associated with; they offer a particular focus on those activities and functions that fall under LOs 3, 4 and 5 of The Family Strategy. Unit senates enhance the ability of the command teams to interface on a multitude of family issues with other units in a given region; they also facilitate the integration of those units into the communities that support them.”

It has not been customary for RCA Regular Force Regiments to have a Senate, although most RCA Reserve component units do, with great benefit to their unit. With the experience of being a Reserve Honorary and the Regimental Strategy guidance in mind, BGen (Retired) E Beno, a former Commanding Officer of 2 RCHA recommended to the Commanding Officer 2 RCHA, LCol Sonny Hatton, that the Regiment explore the establishment of a Senate. LCol Hatton agreed and supported the concept. A draft Senate “Constitution” was developed, circulated and modified, and a meeting/conference call of all former Commanding Officers and RSMs was called for 22 August 2015. Former Commanding Officers and RSMs of 2 RCHA were contacted by email and all supported (a few with some cautionary notes) or enthusiastically supported the concept.

The discussions were most useful and productive. A pre-meeting discussion with the Colonel Commandant was also beneficial. You will note that the bottom line is that we will treat this as an “initiative” for now, seeking endorsement of the Colonel Commandant and Senior Serving Gunner in mid-September, 2015.

With that as background, the following are the Minutes of the 2 RCHA Senate Initiative Meeting of 22 August 2015.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 12:00, Petawawa time, 22 August, 2015. In attendance at 2 RCHA were BGen (Retd) Beno, Commanding Officer 2 RCHA LCol Sonny Hatton and RSM 2 RCHA CWO Wayne Lundrigan.



2. **Roll Call:** A Roll Call was conducted and attendees may be noted, above. In addition LCol Sonny Hatton, Commanding Officer 2 RCHA and CWO Wayne Lundrigan, RSM 2 RCHA attended in person. On the phone were LGen (Retd) S Beare, Col L McGarry, Col (Retd) D D Marshall, CWO (Retd) T Tomaso, and CWO (Retd) JR Flanagan. **Note:** Several others indicated by email that they would not be available for the call but expressed great interest and support.
3. **Moment of Silence:** Past Decade – LCol Dan Bobbitt, Col Dave Stothers, CWO Spike Mcdiarmid, CWO Don Paul, Col Bill Dawes, Col Jim Fleming, Mrs Evelyn Tomaso (Former spouse of Tom Tomaso)
4. **Opening Remarks:**
 - a. **BGen (Retd) Beno.** BGen Beno explained the purpose of the call, which was to determine the desire for and value of creating a Senate. He reflected as to how great an honour and wonderful experience it was to have commanded 2 RCHA – the greatest and most personally rewarding experience of his military service, and the great friendships he developed particularly with RSMs Les Skinner and Charlie Pollock. He would personally like to give back to the men and women serving today, and lend support to the CO and RSM when and how he can. He reminded all that the operational environment (doctrine, training, organization, establishment, equipment, personnel, succession planning and so on) are sound and retired former leaders need not and must not meddle in such. He gave an overview as to why it would be of value to 2RCHA to create a Senate. He explained the concept of financial support, free from NPF and public funds accounting regulations to 2 RCHA and the extended Regimental Family, using examples of Reserve Regiments and the example of the Royal Canadian Dragoons.
 - b. **LCol Hatton.** LCol Hatton offered that all ranks of 2 RCHA want to be part of something meaningful, their Regiment and the Royal Regiment. It is a great challenge for the greater RCA Family (Regimental Fund, RCA Heritage and RCAA) to provide much support to the soldiers of 2 RCHA, and their own NPF Fund, while successful, is limited by NPF accounting rules. Examples of initiatives that could use greater support are: Saint Barbara's Day, Men's Christmas Dinner and Family Day. There are several ill or injured soldiers in the area, and with the operational tempo and limited resources in the Regiment they cannot help them. As Commanding Officer he wants to give current and former members of 2 RCHA a sense of belonging to a greater cause – an understanding of history, heritage and tradition. He is trying to re-invigorate the Regimental Family so that soldiers feel it is more than just a job. He wants to build buy-in and commitment within the Regiment, and if the team has that, then together the Regiment can achieve almost anything. This supports the Regiment's operational capacity – his aim. Fifty percent of the Regiment does not contribute to the RCA Fund – and a Senate can help educate and inform the soldiers why it is important to be involved. He wants to continue to build pride, high morale and cohesion in the Regiment and it all starts with connecting with the past, including history and traditions, but the challenge he faces is time and resources. In



the end, this initiative has the support of the CO and RSM especially because it will support the soldiers of 2 RCHA.

- c. **RSM Lundrigan.** RSM Lundrigan offered that such an initiative would promote family welfare of the Regiment. They are financially handicapped on the non-public side. He recently spoke to the RSM of the RCD. Their Regiment received about \$200K from their Guild last year – which greatly helps morale of the unit. He believes that this is a positive initiative that will help make the Regiment a better place to serve.

5. Goals and Objectives

BGen Beno went on to explain the goals and objectives of a Senate, as follows:

- a. **Aim.** The aim, as BGen Beno described it, is to enhance support to the Regimental Family of 2 RCHA – be it moral support, morale, volunteer service, financial, historical or simply advisory on matters that are non-operational. IE, to support the CO and RSM in looking after serving Gunners of 2 RCHA (and their families), and to reach out to those who formerly served in 2 RCHA.
- b. **Objectives:**
 - Create a Senate. Draft Constitution disseminated.
 - Create a Foundation, further down the road. Concept: A legal entity. It would be a charitable trust fund which can receive and dispense financial donations for specified causes.
 - Create an Association, perhaps at a later stage. No fees required. No need for physical annual meetings, except for the Executive body. Include all ranks. Include a website and other social media networks (Facebook, Twitter, etc).
- c. **Linkage to RCA Family Strategy and RCA Institutions.** These concepts are in sync with the RCA Family Strategy. The Senate would not report to the RCA Senate, no more than Reserve Regiment Senates do not – not at all. The Foundation is “stand-alone,” and not linked to but can be supportive of the RCA Heritage fund. These initiatives are intended to increase support to The Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery and all of its initiatives.
- d. **Secondary Effects/Long Term Benefits. Examples, the list is not exhaustive:**
 - Moral, morale and financial support to the soldiers of 2 RCHA.
 - Support to families.
 - Cause more retired members of the RCA to remain in touch with former and serving members.
 - Help people re-connect.
 - Help those in need – mental, physical, financial, relationships, bereavement, connecting.
 - Share news. Communicate, communicate, communicate.
 - Help retiring/departing members find job opportunities.



- Get former leaders re-engaged with their Regiment, and the RCA as a whole.
- Support the greater Royal Regiment and its initiatives (certainly 2 RCHA can do little to nothing given the current status).

6. **Outline of Proposed “Constitution” (attached).** BGen Beno reviewed the draft Constitution, which had been disseminated to all former COs and RSMs.

- a. He asked that they note changes from the original, which were few.
- b. He offered the opportunity for feedback.

7. **Foundation Concept.** BGen Beno described the concept of a “Foundation” – an initiative to be developed (if desired and agreed upon) over the coming year. There are several models/templates available. A legal entity. It would be a charitable trust fund which can receive financial donations and generate money. The fund can hold capital as an investment if donors so wish, or can be directed toward specific causes. Monies must be dispensed on defined purposes. Causes can be sports equipment, bursaries, trips of military/educational value, events such as Family Day or Ball – whatever is defined. The Foundation would need “officers,” such as President, Vice-President and Treasurer as a minimum. Annual reporting for tax purposes, and audits are required. The Foundation would be at “arms length” to DND.

8. **Volunteers/Nominations**

BGen Beno sought volunteers and/or nominations for the following:

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice-Chair
- c. Foundation Pres

Col (Retd) Marshall volunteered to assume the role as Chair for a one year period. He will seek out a Vice and others as required. There were no objections. BGen Beno volunteered to support and assist when and where possible.

9. **Other Business**

BGen Beno emphasized the two points which follow, then opened the forum for discussion:

- a. **Senate Members:** All former COs and RSMs (even though they cannot participate regularly) UNLESS they specifically opt out, plus others that we’d like to have join.
- b. **Serving Members Potential Conflict:** Great care will be taken to avoid conflict of interest, real or perceived.

10. **Open Discussion**

- a. **LGen Beare.** Gen Beare reinforced that there is a need and opportunity to move forward on such an initiative, and it is in line with the RCA Family Strategy. He agreed with moving out beyond the “status quo.” However, Gen Beare would like the group and the RCA as a whole to have time for reflection and would like to see certain constraints (must do’s) and restraints (don’t do’s) applied, particularly in regards to fundraising (if a Foundation is created). Constraints: evolve this as an initiative within the RCA Family



Strategy and seek endorsement from the Sr Serving Gunner and Col Comdt at the earliest opportunity; present the initiative at the next RCA Annual Training Event - exposing it to the broader RCA leadership and family; establish the mechanisms to share information, experience, and lessons learned with other Regiments - in particular Reg Force units - as they undertake their own Senate initiatives; and remain mindful of other units (42 Fd Regt) in the area. Restraint: don't compete with RCAA membership efforts, RCA Fund and Heritage Fund raising, and programs delivered by those funds. This initiative should promote and advance unity (not necessarily uniformity) of thought, purpose and action in and across the RCA to the benefit of the family locally and nationally.

- b. **LCol Hatton.** LCol Hatton pointed out that he understands General Beare's concerns. He has discussed this concept with the Colonel Commandant, Regimental Colonel and Director of Artillery. He understands their position as well. As an aside, he pointed out that 2 CER recently held a dinner for several companies in the construction line of business, and they charged \$2,000 per plate. He went on to say that he would have no intention of encroaching of initiatives of 42 Field, especially given the "donor fatigue" in the Petawawa region. In fact he would see any 2 RCHA initiatives being supportive of the Royal Regiment in the Ottawa Valley and beyond.
- c. **Further Comments:** Col McGarry: Agree – no competition with other RCA local or national initiatives; Col Marshall: Understands the greatest concern is the potential for negative impact of competition; CWO Tomaso: Soldiers need better information and education on departing from the CAF, so Regiments should reach out to them. There are probably 20,000 retired members of the CAF in the Petawawa area – but they are abandoned when they leave the military. More must be done; CWO Flanagan: This is a top notch initiative. We have to get on with it to support our troops; LCol Hatton: Facebook shows that there are many disgruntled retired members, but the Regiment has no list of former members and no clerical or other capacity to develop such.

11. Vote to Proceed – Yes/No? There was no vote held to determine whether we should proceed with a Senate or not. Note that several responded positively by email. There was general agreement that this "initiative" should be socialized further with the view of endorsement by the Colonel Commandant and Senior Serving Gunner in mid-September, 2015.

NAME	Attended Conf Call	YES e=email	NO	COMMENTS
Col G.W. Ivey		-		Not Available for call
Col L.P. McGarry	√			Yes
Col (Retired) L.C. Dalton		√ e		Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
LCol S.A.A. Johnson		√ e		Fully Supportive
BGen S.C. Hetherington		-		Not Available for call.
BGen K.R. Cotton		√ e		Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
LGen (Retired) S.A. Beare	√			Yes, with provisos
Col (Retired) D.D. Marshall	√			Yes
LCol (Retired) D.M. Chupick		√ e		Not Available for call.



			Cautiously supportive.
BGen (Retired) D.L. Ross		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive.
BGen (Retired) K.C. Hague		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive.
Col (Retired) J.D. Briscoe		-	Not Available for call
Col (Retired) R.B. Mitchell		-	Not Available for call
BGen (Retired) E.B. Beno	v		Yes
LCol (Retired) M.C. Brown		-	Not Available for call
Col (Retired) C.J. Mialkowski		-	Not Available for call
MGen (Retired) H.R. Wheatley		v e	Not Available for call. Cautiously supportive.
BGen (Retired) J.A. Cotter		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
LCol (Retired) J.C. Henderson		-	Not Available for call
CWO G.E. Hoegi		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
CWO (Capt) J.A.M. Provencher		-	Not Available for call
CWO D.T. Moyer		v e	Not Available for call. Fully supportive.
CWO (Retired) C.P. Rusk		-	Not Available for call
CWO (Capt) D. Tibbel		-	Not Available for call
CWO (Retired) W.C. Tattersall		-	Not Available for call
CWO (Retired) D.L. Tomaso	v		Yes
CWO (Retired) G.N. Raymond		-	Not Available for call
CWO (Capt Retired) C.F. Pollock		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
CWO (Retired) L.E. Skinner		v e	Not Available for call. Fully Supportive
CWO (Retired) J.R. Flanagan	v		Yes

12. Next Steps

BGen Beno recommended the following steps:

- a. September, 2015 – Confirm that 2 RCHA will create a Regimental Senate
- b. September, 2015 - Senate executive (if formed) to meet and plan the future
- c. Sep/Oct - Revise the Constitution as result of this meeting
- d. November, 2015 - Develop the framework for a Foundation
- e. November, 2015 - Legally incorporate the Foundation
- f. November, 2015 - Recruit Foundation volunteers and fundraisers
- g. November, 2015 – Seek out former members to solicit interest in a Regimental Association.
- h. November, 2015 - Plan for the next Senate meeting for around Saint Barbara’s Day
- i. Winter-Spring 2016 – Activate Foundation
- j. Spring 2016 – Develop Fundraising Objectives and Budget

13. Final Words

a. Commanding Officer and RSM

LCol Hatton and CWO Lundrigan expressed their desire to have a Regimental Senate which would be able to support the serving and former members of 2 RCHA and their broader Regimental Family.



b. Potential Chair

Col Marshall noted the wishes, opportunities, potential secondary effects (both positive and negative) and the guidance of Gen Beare. He would be prepared to take this to the next stage, and will plan for such. His first action will be to find a Vice-Chair, preferably a former RSM.

14. Conclusion

Beno and Marshall will develop a letter to advise Colonel Commandant and Senior Serving Gunner of this initiative and seek their endorsement.

The meeting closed at 1300 hrs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E.B. Beno', is positioned above the typed name.

E.B. Beno, OMM, CD
Brigadier-General, Retired
Former Commanding Officer 2 RCHA, 1982-84