

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

Number/Numéro 139



May/mai 2021

Disclaimer: This Newsletter is produced for members of the RMC Class of 1965 and is based primarily on inputs from members of the Class of 65. It is not an official publication of the Royal Military College nor does it purport to represent the views or opinions of all members of the Class. Unfortunately, the Editorial staff lacks the linguistic skills to produce a bilingual version. Items are published in the official language in which they are received.

Editor's Corner/Coin du rédacteur

Janet and I have just returned from three months on Vancouver Island visiting our daughter and grandson. Beautiful break from the Ottawa winter and an opportunity to visit some old haunts from almost sixty years ago as well as a chance to break some new ground. Thanks to BC Health we were also able to receive our first Covid-19 shot, although it has become somewhat more difficult to book the second shot through the Ontario system.

This will be a short edition. First up is a report from the Class Gifting Committee on ongoing initiatives. Our resident blogger, **Gord Forbes**, has confronted two timely topics, and with the dearth of other inputs, I have decided to print both with the hope that they might stimulate some comment. Finally, with thanks to Wayne McQuinn, who maintains the current Class list, I have included the list of deceased classmates and invite any of you who might wish to share a memory or two for a future newsletter.

A Report from the Class of 65 Gifting Committee

The purpose of this Report is to bring all of you up to date on the Class of 1965 Endowment Fund, the two Teaching Excellence Awards (TEAs), and our sponsorship of the Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership.

On the Fund:

- The 2020 year-end Fund value was \$1.1M, a 12% increase from the year prior.
- 5 classmates donated a collective \$14K to the Fund in 2020.
- The Fund only paid out \$1K in 2020, but a further \$32,500 has since been paid out to meet 2020 obligations.
- The projected payments for 2021 currently stand at \$35,500 (\$25K for the Professorship, \$7.5K for the RMC TEA, and \$3K for the CMR TEA).

Based on a 5% payout rule of thumb, the Fund could be paying out about \$50K/yr in perpetuity. So we have room to take on some additional funding commitments.



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Giftng Report (Concluded)

On the two TEAs:

- The RMC TEA award was raised from \$5K to \$7.5K a number of years ago. It continues to be considered one of the best 'impact' Class gifts ever.
- The Committee has decided to raise the CMR TEA from \$1K to \$3K to create a more appropriate balance between the two TEAs.

On the Professorship, please read Prof. Leuprecht's report below:

Dear Class of 1965 Gifting Committee,

The RMC Professorship Review Committee, chaired by Prof. Bates, approved the Professorship extension by two years, and is supportive of the two projects I have been working on (i.e., the comparative Military Colleges study and the RMC Graduates survey). The reason I hadn't yet circled back to you is that higher ups have been leaning on me to take on the position of Editor-in-Chief for the Canadian Military Journal. That would entail a fair bit of heavy lifting, but I've made it abundantly clear that I am fully intend to live up to my commitment to seeing through my two Class of '65 projects, not just for your sake and mine, but because I am convinced that the data these projects will generate are more important than ever in raising the level of informed debate and understanding of RMC and its mission. In this light, I've made it clear that if they want me to take on CMJ, they need to come up with a workable proposal on how to square that with my '65 commitment and duties. At the same time, there are obvious synergies between the Leadership chair and the mandate and mission of the CMJ. I should have more details for you early May, and I'll be sure to run it by you for your input before I make any decisions.

You may have seen my recent OpEd in the G&M: <https://www.macdonaldlaurier.ca/outsourcing-foreign-intelligence/>

On the comparative Military Colleges project, I'm quite happy at the pace and quality of revisions to initial draft chapters and will keep you apprised about the roundtable at the July ERGOMAs conference, at which point all authors should be on final revisions of their chapters. On the survey, I'll be reaching out to the Club as soon as I dig out from end-of-term work and grading.

Thanks for your patience and support,

Christian

This ends our Report. Please let us know if you have any questions and/or suggestions.

John Adams, Keith Ambachtsheer, Jim Carruthers, Charlie Emond, Mike Houghton



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Freedom by 6533 Gord Forbes

Apparently, there is a freedom to infect others, at least according to some people, even including some politicians. Everyone is talking about freedom these days. Freedom to do anything you want or don't want to do. We are, we are told, in a free country.

But freedom never is or was absolute. As long as you live in any society your freedom is limited. And in most cases, you agree to these limitations.

If you want to drive a car, you must be licensed and obey traffic laws. If you want to live in a home, either by ownership or rental, you have to accept municipal laws to keep the home safe and secure, pay taxes or rent. If you want to own a pet, you have to obey animal safety regulations. Even if you want to live in isolation and off the grid, you are still subject to the law of the land. You are not free to rob, rape or murder someone, deprive them of their property or otherwise do them harm. The penalty for ignoring these laws is the forfeiture of your wealth or incarceration.

So why do people who otherwise accept all of these other limits of their freedom now think it is acceptable to ignore health warnings and threaten the health of others? Many of them recite reasons for their noncompliance based on questionable assumptions. Some examples:

- Maxime Bernier recently told a crowd that they have a Constitutional right to travel anywhere in Canada they want to the extent of breaching 'bubbles' that have been set up by some provinces to prevent the spread of the virus. In fact, no such barrier was ever really in place. The only stipulation that was put on travellers was the requirement to quarantine when entering a different province;
- Politicians in Ontario, including one MP, Derek Sloan, and one MPP, Randy Hillier, (both sit as Independents) have been travelling around the province apparently looking for trouble. In particular, they are seeking out religious ceremonies where more than the limited number of people allowed are in attendance. Their own presence adding to that number. Their reason – freedom of religion. Many other church groups are trying the same ploy. But no one says that you cannot maintain your religion on your own. No one is taking your faith away. All that is called for is a limitation on the number of people who can worship together, in the common good; and
- Businesses demand the right to remain open during lockdowns. My question to them is; what price is an acceptable price in human death to your business?

It is a shame that the Charter of Rights and Freedoms does not come with a Charter of Responsibilities. Many of those who cry freedom do not accept any responsibility for their actions. That is why this pandemic goes on and on. To quote one famous person;

“Liberty means responsibility. That is why most men dread it.”
- George Bernard Shaw



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No to Military Justice by 6533 Gord Forbes

The recent stories of the handling of military cases of sexual harassment and sexual assault are very troubling particularly to ex military officers like me. The headlines have concerned the most senior officers in the Canadian Forces, but we know that this situation permeates all ranks. The most recent case concerns discussions, during a Zoom meeting with over 100 participants, of bondage and kinky sex (or as one proponent described it, creative sex). The person who reported it was soundly admonished by his superiors. The officer who was tasked with investigating it was junior that many of the call participants and was told that his career would be in jeopardy if he came to the 'wrong' conclusion. The military is trying to deal with these cases through the military justice system. But that does not seem to be working very well. Don't get me wrong, I respect the military justice system. I lived under it for the 28 years of my military career. But for sexual cases it is obviously the wrong venue.

All such cases should be referred automatically to the civilian justice system. One of the things that we hear from military victims is that the chain of command gets in the way of advancing any complaint. In most cases of sexual crimes, the victim is of a lower rank than the alleged perpetrator. As this goes up the chain of command, the senior officers tend to give the benefit of the doubt to the more senior person. This makes an objective decision hard. In addition, military officers, who may only see one or two cases in their career, would have a hard time determining a suitable punishment for any person found guilty.

There would be several advantages to having cases referred to the civilian justice system, among them:

- The civilian system has people who are used to investigating and prosecuting such cases;
- Judges can order that a publication ban be imposed so that the name of the victim not be revealed thus tending to make it easier for victims to come forward;
- The civilian justice system will tend to be more impartial and not take such things as rank into account;
- Civilian courts are tending toward requiring judges to have sexual sensitivity training before handling such cases; and
- The power of the chain of command in such cases would be nullified.

There are no doubt things that would have to be considered in moving all such cases into the civilian system. Which police force would have jurisdiction; municipal, provincial or the RCMP (which has its own problems with sexual crimes)? What about crimes perpetrated at sea or at overseas deployments? But these and other issues can be addressed in a well thought out plan for such a move.

One last point. How do you court martial a General or Admiral in the Canadian Forces? There is only one of them at any one time. The National Defence Act requires the President of the court to be of equal or senior rank to the accused. Any attempt to rectify this situation by appointing a new General could be easily challenged since the members of the court are to be selected arbitrarily. The Minister of National Defence can appoint a new general but that would raise the question of the arbitrary nature of the new appointment.



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Military Justice (Concluded)

In view of the recent cases now being brought to light and the problems with any cases being properly handled by the military justice system, this move must be given very serious consideration now.

Departed Comrades

6426 Serge Arpin	6513 John Bart	6590 Thomas Barton
6465 Jean Beaulne	6427 Richard Belanger	6498 Germain Bolduc
6517 Richard Briese	6519 Ross Burns	6226 Steve Burrige
6388 Jacques Carignan	6524 Barrie Corden	6487 Sylvio Cote
6613 Gord Coulter	6616 Steve Crutcher	6065 Lew Darbey
6622 R.A. Deachman	6478 Jay Demiany	6507 Jacques Desautels
6332 Gaetan Dextras	6528 CM DiGenova	6529 John Disney
6375 Ken Eyre	6246 Bob Fraser	6534 JJHP Gagne
6408 Noel Gauthier	6356 P Godbout	6484 Rick Guitar
6412 John Hadfield	6634 Bryan Harwood	6466 Pierre Hatin
6636 W.H. Hubbs	6459 Boris Izweriw	6397 Lorne Jackson
6543 Ron Jackson	6033 Pat Johnston	6642 William Kelly
6365 Paul Kervin	6545 NL Kitt	6645 Ron Klassen
6648 Ivan Lancaric	6368 Hugh Landerkin	6384 Gaston Lapointe
6265 D.D. Larsen	6454 Bill Leach	6386 Laurent Lord
6462 Cameron Macauley	6663 Ed Mallory	6363 Pierre Marcotte
6665 D.S. Matheson	6657 Dave McCartney	6651 Jon McLaren
6666 Kenneth Menzies	6447 Jacques Michaud	6557 Thomas Mitchell
6455 Ken Moore	6504 Jean Morin	6383 Robert Mulvihill
6015 Robin Murrell	6338 James Mussell	6366 Roch Nappert
6351 Richard Ouellette	6437 Verne Pecho	6563 Gordon Reay
6564 John Reid	6565 Ken Robertson	6482 Ronald Salmon
6376 John Salter	6568 Ed Sanford	6569 Glenn Savigny



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6685 Gary Sayant	6687 R.M. Selig	6688 Pat Shamber
6571 Bruce Shiga	6450 David Smith	6390 Ron Staple
6573 Charles Stevens	6691 Pat Stewart	6367 Peter Thackray
6499 Gilles Thibault	6696 R.L. Treleaven	6697 Gary Umrysh
6698 Gerrit Van Boeschoten	6444 Ashley Waigh	6353 Peter Walker
6354 Richard Walker	6699 George Walker	6700 Bob Walker
6578 Barry Watson	6708 WH Young	

RIP

Closing Notes

Thanks to our Gifting Committee for their diligence in keeping the Class of 65 out front with respect to “payback” to our alma mater. Special thanks also to Gord Forbes for his thought provoking blogs that I hope will stimulate some discussion for future editions.

The observant might notice that I have the year right for this edition!