

Class of 65 Newsletter

Bulletin d'Information—Classe de 65

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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

It has been a while since I produced one of these simply because I have not received much input. In order to prevent complete dormancy, the following is comprised principally of a few random thoughts on a couple of issues that might provoke some feedback.

But first there is some legitimate stuff so I'll start with that before meandering off into editorial wonderland.

Professor in Leadership Update

By Dr Holly Ann Garnett

Dear Class of 1965,

I wanted to send a note to update you on my activities as the Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership in my first full academic year in the position. I applied for this position with the aim of engaging students and practitioners in research to build resilient democratic societies.

The cornerstone of my work this past academic year as Professor in Leadership was to engage undergraduate students with civil society and government organizations on the forefront of issues facing our democratic life in Canada. Thanks to the course release funded by the Class of 1965, I was able to offer ten undergraduate students from across Canada (including three RMC students) the opportunity to undertake advanced study on Canadian democratic life and research methodologies. Each student was then paired with a partner organization to prepare a report on a challenge for Canadian democracy. Projects included a statistical analysis alternative forms of youth participation in politics (OCdt Ellie Hwang, with partner CIVIX) and a study of Chinese-language media during the 2021 Canadian Election (NCdt Richard Sun, with partner Privy Council Office). Some of the students were able to present their work at the Canadian Vote Summit in Toronto. You can read the full reports from the 2023-2024 Undergraduate Partnered Research Programme online.

My own research has focused this year on two main areas. Firstly, I have engaged in research on the role of mis- and dis-information in democracies. With my co-author Toby James and several students, I prepared two reports for the Canadian Privy Council Office – Democratic Institutions: a systematic review of the causes and consequences, and a scan of policy responses in comparable democracies. We are now preparing a book based on this work for the Cambridge Elements series. I also presented public talks on this work at the Canadian Vote Summit (which can be viewed in full on youtube) and at the European Consortium



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Professor in Leadership Update

for Political Research. I have also engaged with a variety of government agencies and departments outside of Canada, including the UK House of Commons Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and the newly formed Irish Electoral Commission.

My second major area of work this year has considered the role of money in Canadian politics. The additional time afforded by the Professorship has permitted me to complete my book manuscript "Who Gives? Who Gets? Who Wins? Money in Canadian Federal Elections" which I submitted in December to the University of Toronto Press. I also had an article based on this work published in the international journal Political Geography. I have presented this work in a variety of settings this year, including to the Organization of American States Inter-American Meeting of Electoral Management Bodies this Fall and as my Cowan Prize lecture at RMC this Winter. I was also interviewed about this work on the Toronto Star Podcast "It's Political" this Spring.

Looking ahead to the 2024-2025 academic year, I will be running the undergraduate partnered research programme again (with a new cohort of students). In January 2025, I will be on sabbatical and will be the Fulbright Research Chair in Canada-US Relations at Johns Hopkins University campus in Washington DC.

I sincerely thank the Class of 1965 for supporting my work and look forward to continue to engaging with you in the future. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Holly Ann Garnett

Class of 1965 Professor in Leadership, Royal Military College of Canada

What do we want to be?

By 6533 Gord Forbes

In his excellent book about the US Civil War, 'Battle Cry of Freedom', James M. McPherson writes the following about the aftermath of that war, "Before 1861, the two words 'United States' were generally rendered as a plural noun, 'the United States **are** a republic'. The war marked the transition of the United States to a singular noun." The US Civil War was fought for states' rights, in this case the right to own slaves.

Why is this relevant to Canada? Because Canada is also being challenged by a movement of provincial rights. At a time where provinces (and territories) are demanding more money from the federal government, they also want more autonomy from federal actions. Alberta has toyed with a law to that effect. Quebec has trampled on several constitutional rights by use of the 'not withstanding' clause.

You have to wonder what the provinces really want in this struggle. Do they want total control of their rights above federal law? Do they want to control their own destiny as the Confederate States of America (CSA) did in 1861? (By the way, the states' rights were a key policy of the southern states but were one of the key weaknesses of the CSA). Do they want to bleed the federal treasury dry with their demands for ever more money? Do they want to reduce the federal government nothing more than a money pit, and oh yeah, national defence? Do they want to abrogate the Supreme Court of Canada from hearing and judging constitutional challenges? Their increasing use of the not withstanding clause would seem to indicate that, in some cases, this last is true. Do they want one Canada or ten or twelve individual entities?



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What do we want to be (Concluded)

Nonetheless what do the people want? Surely the majority of us want one Canada. Surely the effort to win over Quebec during the last referendum showed us that we want to stay together as one country; one that includes Quebec and Alberta. Surely, we want one set of overall laws that govern all of us equally more than twelve sets of laws that divide us.

There are a number of factors that divide us. Limits on interprovincial trade are one. Perhaps we should be looking for something like the US interstate commerce laws to try and govern this issue. The provinces would, of course, loudly protest against such a move, but perhaps this is where a strong federal government can overrule. We complain about health care in this country, too often comparing ourselves to the United States (even although our lifespans are longer, and our infant mortality is lower than that country). Our model, however, should be government health systems in Europe. The difference? European health systems are national in scope, not provincial.

You may have discovered in this and previous writings that I am strongly opposed to the section 33 (the not-withstanding clause) of the Canadian Constitution. And you would be right. I find it a real threat to our rights that has been used for some of the more ridiculous abuses in Canada (to limit the size of the Toronto City Council? Really!). However, the thought that one of our national political parties would threaten to use it is abhorrent. It is quite conceivable that such a government could limit or eliminate every right we think we have before the law. Even if it were only effective for the five years allowed under the Constitution, it could badly change the way our entire society works.

What, you may ask, do I want by these writings? I want the elimination of the 'not withstanding clause' and a federal government that is strong enough to ensure that equality and opportunity are available from coast to coast in this country.

Letter

6602 Jim Cale: During my trip to Halifax I was happy to have the opportunity to have lunch with 4 of our classmates, Tony Goode, Jim Boyd, L. T. Taylor and Roger Chiasson who organized the gathering. Great to see everyone. We had a good time and you will be happy to know that once again we solved the world's problems.





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Editorial Rants and Ramblings

I don't pretend to have the depth of feeling or frankly, the depth of knowledge as expressed by Gord Forbes in his thought provoking blogs and by other classmates in their various inputs to this Newsletter. However, in the interest of stirring up some discussion I would like to address a couple of issues of personal concern

First, we are being treated, yet again, to the prospect of a misogynistic, convicted criminal, inveterate liar who provoked a physical assault on the seat of government, and, who appears to favour the form of government employed by dictators, becoming the President of the most powerful country in the world with his finger on the nuclear button. Scares the hell out of me. How about you?

On a related, representative but humorous note, Terry Colfer provided the following You Tube clip <https://youtu.be/3BrCvZmSnKA?si=C6oFDg-YKhZegG7I>

I think it is time to have an in-depth look at the shape and form of our Armed Forces. If they are not nuclear powered why do we need submarines? What are Canadian surface ships doing in the Straits of Taiwan thumbing our nose at China? In my opinion, we should be restructuring our navy as a modernised "Corvette Navy" with more, smaller, capable anti-submarine made in Canada vessels. If things deteriorate to the point where our navy is engaged, it will be as part of an Alliance effort and, in my opinion, better employed in a specialist role with more ships in the inventory.

The same could be said of the Army. Instead of trying to be "jacks of all trades" specialise as mechanised infantry with an advanced home grown anti-tank capability. Get rid of the current tank inventory (give the all to Ukraine!). What are we going to do with them?

Our Air Force should be focussed on the NORAD role, in which case I have to ask if the single engine F35 is the best aircraft for that role. Specialist roles for the airforce should focus on Airborne Early Warning, Air Transport, Search and Rescue and Anti Submarine. In my view, helicopters should be assigned and manned by their respective services rather than having them all belong to the airforce.

Finally, and very nitty picky, the other day while working in the War Museum I was treated to a group of recruits from St Jean. With their shoulder length hair, various facial hair adornments and mis-matched combat gear (are there no longer walking out uniforms in the CF to denote service or regimental pride?) they made for a pretty scruffy looking lot that did little, for this observer at least, to imbue much confidence in their ability to become effective soldiers, sailors or airpersons. Maybe I'm just getting old and grumpy.

Anyway, that's all I have for this edition. Please feel free to comment, critique or cancel.



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Freedom (Concluded)

During the convoy protest in Ottawa in 2022, I was hoping that those found guilty of fomenting the protest would be sentenced to spend a year in Venezuela, Saudi Arabia or even Russia. Then they might understand the amount of freedom they have in this country.

Closing Notes

Please get any thoughts on the forthcoming Reunion and your current intentions with respect to attendance to Hugh Spence as soon as possible. I hope everyone is having a good summer and bearing up under the current heat wave. Please keep those inputs coming.



REAR: Luedemann WF, Riddolls PA, Boulton JD, Moore K, Kittredge D, Monette JJ, Daoust JP. CENTRE: Lt/Cdr WA Schroeder (Chairman), Sanford ED (Captain), Gale CM, Harrison RC, Soucy JY, Comeau JG. FRONT: Lay DC, Shareck JD, Cviteovich GE, Piscor WG, Guay EP, Harrington DA, Higuchi HT. ABSENT: Anderson CW.

1964-65 Judo Team