

4020-RCEME Corps (Corps Adjt)

26 May 2015

Distribution List

ROYAL CANADIAN ELECTRICAL AND  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERS CORPS FUND  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING HELD AT  
THE ROYAL CANADIAN ELECTRICAL  
AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS SCHOOL  
CFB BORDEN 1000 HOURS 24 FEBRUARY 2015

Chairman: Colonel K. Hamilton, RCEME Corps Fund President

Members: Lieutenant-Colonel L.R. Dencsak, Administrative Committee Chair  
Major S. Tousignant, 2<sup>nd</sup> Canadian Division Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant A. Ormsby, Acting 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Representative  
Chief Warrant Officer J.G.R. Gilbert, National Capital Region (NCR)  
Representative  
Chief Warrant Officer J.A.L. Moreau, Training Systems Representative  
Chief Warrant Officer J.P.R. Dionne, Air and Navy Command Representative  
Master Warrant Officer J.L.G. Grondin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Canadian Division Representative  
Corporal M.J.F. Brosseau, 4<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Representative

Ex-Officios: Colonel (Retired) Andrew Nellestyn, RCEME Corps  
Colonel Commandant  
Colonel (Retired) T. Temple, President, EME Association  
Lieutenant-Colonel B. Playfair, RCEME Reserve Representative  
Master Warrant Officer K.T. Osborne, RCEME Association Representative

Absent: Captain G.S. Dzeoba, RCEME Corps Adjutant  
Lieutenant D.S. Coulter, 5<sup>th</sup> Canadian Division Representative  
Chief Warrant Officer (Retired) E. Kish, RCEME Association

Attendees: Colonel A.T. Benson, Chair, RCEME Heritage Committee  
Lieutenant-Colonel J.A.P. Fuller, RCEME Heritage Committee  
Sergeant S. Prince, CFB Valcartier  
Master Corporal F. Vallée, CFB Valcartier  
Corporal L. White, CFB Valcartier  
Corporal M. Wilkins, CFB Valcartier  
Private C.N. Arsenault, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private D. K. Banks, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private C. T. Terry, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private A.D. Villagomez, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private S. M. Daniels, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private C.W. Kellett, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School  
Private M.P.J. Toutant, Apprentice Platoon, RCEME School

Secretary: Mrs. G. Somerton de Jimenez, Corps Adjutant Administrative Assistant

## OPENING ADDRESS

1. The meeting was called to order at 1015 hours, 24 February 2015 in the RCEME School HQ conference room. Colonel Hamilton welcomed all to the meeting and upon their arrival, made special mention of the young Apprentices attending the meeting. The President emphasized to the young Craftsmen that their voices and their votes had the same consideration as his. He emphasized that the Fund is a well-managed Fund and it is there to provide benefits to its members and is about the Esprit de Corps. The Corps Sergeant-Major also encouraged the other areas to follow 2 Division's example of inviting other RCEME Corps members, particularly junior NCMs, to attend.

## REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

## ACTION BY

2. LCol Dencsak asked if there were any points with regards to the previous minutes dated 21 August 2014. No points were introduced and the item was closed.

## DISCUSSION

3. Budget 2014 Review. The final budget/income statement for 2014 was presented. The fund realized a net income of just over \$4002 in 2014.

Admin Cmte  
Chairperson

4. Budget 2015 Presentation. The proposed budget was presented for the calendar year 1 January - 31 December 2015. Director RCEME noted the transfer of \$200 to The Guild and stated this could be adjusted since in all likelihood there will not be a Guild by the end of 2015.

MOTION. A motion to accept the budget was made by CWO Dionne and seconded by Corporal Brosseau. The budget was approved by unanimous vote.

5. State of the Fund. The RCEME Corps has 3,661 members with 2,986 of members paying into the Fund by pay allotment and an additional 22 Reservists paying by cheque.

6. RCEME Museum Brief - General. As Chairman of the RCEME Heritage Committee, Colonel Benson provided a brief on the RCEME Museum Annex. He stated that the museum must be run properly and in a manner that it is sustainable and that there is also a responsibility of the Heritage Committee to report its progress and the status of its efforts to the Board of Directors on a continuing basis. A Museum Board of Directors will be created to run the museum and will coordinate with C&E staff for maintenance and operation of services. In addition to the anticipated financial support from the RCEME Corps Fund, the museum will expect to raise funds through ongoing donations. The EME Association volunteered to assist with the management of the museum, although there will be self-guided tours through the allotted RCEME area. In addition to the services accessible through C&E such as Wi-Fi and curatorial, members of the RCEME Corps will be able to access the C&E Mercury Kit/Gift Shop with the sale of RCEME items and souvenirs.

Chairman  
RCEME  
Heritage  
Cmte

7. Museum Annex - Budget. While the funding to build the museum was obtained from a public grant, the ongoing funds to operate and maintain the museum, with a few exceptions, are non-public. The forecast budget for the RCEME Museum Annex was presented. The forecast non-public amount required to sustain the museum is expected to be \$25K - \$30K annually. The museum is forecast to open in January of 2016, although some funds will need to be expended prior to opening for marketing and other start-up costs. As well, while there would be fundraising initiatives prior, there is no way of knowing how much could be raised as none of these initiatives have been put in place as yet. A Museum Foundation is being considered for the future; however, careful consideration will be given to the legalities of establishing it and insuring that it can be governed correctly.

Chairman  
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Heritage  
Cmte

MOTION. Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair put forth a motion to commit a one-time amount not to exceed \$30K to address museum operating expenses. Corporal Brosseau seconded the motion. After further discussion from some of the attendees, this motion was approved by majority vote.

8. RCEME Loyalty Coins. The distribution of loyalty coins will begin in Spring 2015. The order was placed for 214 members reaching their seventh year in the Fund and also for the 112 individuals who were reaching their 14-year anniversary as members.

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9. RCEME Artwork Contest. This year's theme was "Showcasing our Legacy", recognizing the anticipated opening of the RCEME Museum. The deadline for this year's contest was 23 February 2015. Three designs were submitted and an email will be forwarded to each Board of Director member and Ex Officio so they can vote on their choice. Once the votes have been tabulated, an order will be entered for the manufacture of 4,000 pins.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. The Corps Adjutant Administrative Assistant will make every effort to distribute the Loyalty Coins with the anniversary pin.

10. Distribution of the RCEME Journal. As previously requested, a survey was put in place to determine membership preference on how to deliver the journal. A small portion of the membership was contacted and the majority of responses was to continue with the mailing of the journal to their home.

MOTION. A motion was raised by the Corps Sergeant-Major to continue home delivery to lifetime members which was seconded by the RCEME School Regimental Sergeant-Major. The motion was approved by majority vote.

11. RCEME Corps Fund Dues. Before the Christmas break, approximately 306 emails were sent to those members who were still paying fees at their former rank level in order to inform them of the requirement to amend their pay allotment. A survey was conducted last year by members and invitees from Valcartier regarding a possible increase in the Fund dues, perhaps to a level contribution for everyone regardless of rank. Due to the anticipated merger of associations, it was recommended that this item be put on hold until the fee structure is proposed by the merger committee, Director RCEME and the RCEME Council.

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12. RCEME Trade Coins. Lieutenant-Colonel Dencsak expressed his concern about the present four RCEME trade coins that were developed that may not have received formal approval from Director RCEME and RCEME Council. He further proposed that the management and accounting of these coins, from the purchasing to distribution, be conducted as an activity under the Corps Fund.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. Director RCEME stated that this would be formally presented to Council in April 2015 and he did not foresee any challenges that would preclude its approval. Direction will follow at the August 2015 Board of Directors meeting. Further to this, on 29 April 15, RCEME Council approved the motion that trade coins be managed by the Corps Fund.

13. Colonel Commandant Visit Update. The Colonel Commandant expressed his pleasure that junior members of the Corps agreed to participate in the meeting and applauded the Valcartier attendees as adding value to the discussions. The Colonel Commandant began his term on 24 October 2014 and so far has visited 2 Service Battalion in Petawawa, Valcartier and the SOF operations in Ottawa. He has witnessed RCEME Corps members meeting special challenges very well and in a professional manner. Colonel (Retired) Nellestyn closed his comments, expressing his appreciation to everyone who has been involved with the RCEME Museum as an example of what RCEME has contributed to Canada as well as to technologies which are transferable to the private sector.

14. Merger of Associations. Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller provided an outline of what has transpired since the August 2014 Board of Directors meeting. During meetings in Fall 2014, both the RCEME and EME Association approved, in principle, the merger to be adopted once a revised constitution and by-laws were written and approved by the membership. This approval was based on the stand-up of a not for profit corporation, an idea which has since been revisited at the direction of RCEME Council. During his research, Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller discovered some of the disadvantages not previously known under the Not for Profit Corporations Act. The structure of the governance body would rely mostly on retired personnel as under the Not for Profit Corporation laws, no more than 50% of serving CAF personnel or government public servants can be directors on the Board of Directors. As well, all of the current memorabilia that currently belongs to the Fund would have to be turned over to the Not for Profit Corporation. The Corps Adjutant or the Corps Adjutant Administrative Assistant would not be authorized to continue to work full-time for the Fund under the Not for Profit Corporation guidelines. If the fund remains as an NPP entity, tax receipts for donations can be issued by the Fund. The guidelines (formerly CFAO 27-8) that dictate per rank what the dollar amount each member should be paying is being revoked and directives that will leave this decision to the discretion of the regiment are presently being written. Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller also pointed out that with the existing Fund membership, the Fund is presently receiving revenue of \$40K a year. With the addition of the other associations, this would increase by an additional \$14,500. He further proposed amending fees to \$2/person, which would increase revenues to \$90K a year and (a net amount of \$79,700 after returning \$1,000 a month to the associations to continue with their activities).

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Member

15. Lieutenant-Colonel Dencsak requested clarification of the newly proposed fee structure from a tax-deductibility perspective. Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller indicated that monthly membership fees were not deductible, but additional donations over and above, were. The fee structure, as it was set in 1997, had more buying power than it does today. The vast majority of members who attended the last Board of Directors meeting had no

Admin Cmte  
Chair

objection to raising their monthly contributions from \$1 to \$2 per month. It was also pointed out that while membership and collected funds would increase, an increase in expenses would also be expected and that needs to be made clear in the cost sharing model that will be presented at the next meeting. Lieutenant-Colonel Playfair asked if the Not for Profit Corporation Act was adopted by many regiments and why we have determined it is not in our best interest. Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller advised that while many regiments have stood up Not for Profit corporations, each of them also has a NPP entity.

16. The School Regimental Sergeant-Major expressed his concern that three-quarters of the membership of the newly merged fund/association would still consist of the then former RCEME Corps Fund membership base that would be responsible for picking up the brunt of the spending and funding, etc. Colonel (Retired) Temple, in his capacity as President of the EME Association, replied by saying that it did not seem that doubling the fees charged was the issue with the younger members.

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SECRETARIAL NOTE. An updated/detailed budget will be presented at the next meeting to address concerns.

17. Round Table. An update regarding the reprinting of "Canada's Craftsmen at 50", which was approved at the last meeting, was provided by Lieutenant-Colonel Dencsak. Between 300 and 500 volumes were to be printed which was considered at that time to be an adequate number to supply the Corps until 2020/2021 when it was expected that "Canada's Craftsmen at 75" would be published. When this motion was passed, it was not known that an electronic version of the book was not available in an acceptable desktop publishing format and the only intact electronic copy that remains is the one that was adapted for the RCEME Corps website. The cost of making the document "book publisher friendly" could cost in excess of \$20K - \$25K. The Colonel Commandant also mentioned that there is no longer an author for "Canada's Craftsmen at 75" and that it has been determined that this venture would cost \$250K. He further suggested that the film project, "A Day in the Life of RCEME" presently being produced by Daniel Rodrigue, and also perhaps the coffee table book, "Afghanistan: A Canadian Soldier's Story" could replace "Canada's Craftsmen at 50" as a suitable gift for graduating officers. Lieutenant-Colonel Dencsak reiterated that the re-print authorization for the book was now again in question. The Colonel Commandant volunteered to look into getting the book published, either on a less expensive basis, or at no cost to the Corps Fund.

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Chair

SECRETARIAL NOTE: The Administrative Committee Chairperson will contact the Colonel Commandant reference book publication.

18. Attendees discussed the feasibility of the Fund contributing monies to facilitate the attendance of family members to special RCEME events, specifically buildings/monuments that are being named after fallen members of the Corps. Such a dedication is taking place in Halifax later this spring to honour a former RCEME Corps member.

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Chair

MOTION. Lieutenant-Colonel Dencsak made a motion that the Fund contribute up to \$500/person up to a total of \$1,500/3 members of the fallen members' family to attend these kinds of events. The motion was seconded by MWO (ret'd) Osborne and approved by majority vote.

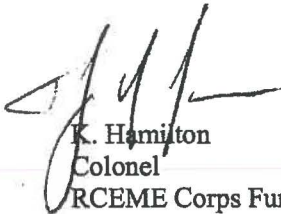
SECRETARIAL NOTE. The Administrative Committee will draw up a suitably worded constitutional amendment regarding this proposal to present at the next

Board of Directors meeting on 5 August 2015.

19. Adjournment. The Corps Sergeant-Major thanked everyone who attended the meeting, both in person and via VTC, and for their valuable input, especially that made by the junior ranking members. Director RCEME also added his thanks, encouraging everyone to stay active in the Corps Fund and to continue communicating its value to its members and their families. Director RCEME also thanked the President of the Heritage Committee, the Colonel Commandant, Colonel Jardine and Lieutenant-Colonel Fuller for their contributions to the RCEME Museum and the merger of associations. The next Board of Directors meeting is tentatively scheduled 5 August 2015 at RCEME School Headquarters, CFB Borden.



L.R. Dencsak  
Lieutenant-Colonel  
Administrative Committee Chairperson



K. Hamilton  
Colonel  
RCEME Corps Fund President

Distribution List

All members