

# RCEME GEMRC

## RETIREMENT MESSAGE



**Colonel François Lavoie, CD**

Col François Lavoie will be retiring on 13 November 2019 after 29 years of service in the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) and the Corps of Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (RCEME).

Born in Baie-Comeau, Québec, Colonel Lavoie enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in June 1990. He attended the Royal Military College (RMC) Saint-Jean from 1990-1993 and graduated from the Royal Military College of Canada (RMC) Kingston, with a Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering as a Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Officer.

On his first posting, he served with the British Forces in Germany with 2 Battalion REME, 7th Armoured Brigade, in Fallingbommel. He was then posted to Valcartier from 1998 to 2004, where he completed various staff officer and command assignments in 5 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group Headquarters, 5 Service Battalion and as the Maintenance Officer of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Royal 22e Régiment.

He was promoted to the rank of Major in 2005, while completing his Master's Degree in Systems Engineering in Oregon. He was then posted to Director General Land Equipment Program Management (DGLPMP), where he served as part of the Mounted Soldier Survivability Project team from 2006 to 2008.



**Arte et Marte**

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Posted to Valcartier from 2008 to 2011, he served as Officer Commanding, Maintenance Company within 5 Service Battalion. Colonel Lavoie began the Joint Command and Staff Program at the Canadian Forces College (CFC) in Toronto in 2011 which was followed by a second tour in DGLEPM where he worked as a Senior Staff officer in the divisional operations cell (formerly DLEPS 4-2).

On promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in 2014, he was posted to the Chief of Program organization, where he worked on the review of high profile Corporate Accounts. He commanded Technical Services in Valcartier from 2015 to 2017 and returned once again to DGLEPM, this time as the manager of the Land Equipment Management Systems plans and operations section (formerly DLEPS 4).

Promoted to his current rank in 2018, his last post within the Materiel Group was as a project manager, working on the acquisition and delivery of logistics and support vehicles fleets. The last 17 months have been the most rewarding professional experience of his career, where he played a major role in two key Canadian Army projects. The only downside of this gratifying professional period was that he was on Imposed Restriction, away from his family.

Colonel Lavoie has completed three Operational Tours in a command role, twice as a platoon commander in Bosnia and as Officer Commanding Maintenance Company within the National Support Element, Task Force 3-10, in Afghanistan.

He is married to Annie Vaillancourt and is very proud of his three beautiful daughters, Samuelle (16), Justine (14) and Éliane (12). He enjoys downhill skiing. He will now be able to enjoy Québec City "full time" in his new role as a Public Servant at the Munitions Experimental Test Centre (METC), Valcartier. This will allow him to remain close to his other "family" in DGLEPM.

Col Lavoie's DWD will be held on Friday 8 November 2019 @ 11h30 at the Aulde Dubliner Pub, [62 William St, Ottawa ON K1N 7A3](#). RSVP and anecdotes can be sent to LCol Jeff Spitzig, DLEPS 3.



Arte et Marte