



Nova Scotia/Nunavut Command
The Royal Canadian Legion

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All Branch Mail Out #28 - 2017

Date: June 20, 2017

To: NS/NU Command Branches
NS/NU Zone Commanders
NS/NU Executive Council
NS/NU Past Presidents
NS/NU Command Staff

From: Membership,
Dominion Command, RCL

Subject: Membership

Message: Comrades: Please see attached

June 19 2017

Greetings Comrades:

Attached please find the new Application for Membership Form and the new optional Member Initiation Guidelines and Ceremony.

During the Dominion Executive Council meeting in April a motion was passed to update the current member initiation process. The Membership Committee recommended including the initiation on the application for membership form so when a member signs their application they would be initiated in The Royal Canadian Legion. This motion also included working with the Rituals and Awards Committee in streamlining the current initiation process and making it optional for the branches to conduct this ceremony moving forward.

The background behind this decision was based on the following:

- DEC recently approved a significant additional investment for Marketing to be allocated over the next 5 years with a sole purpose of increasing new RCL memberships
- To ensure we maximize every new opportunity created by this additional investment the recommendation was made to simplify the current sign up process and eliminate any potential barriers to new members joining the Legion
- Signing up should be easy: 1) Complete member application process 2) Remit payment of dues 3) Receive membership card
- Current operational status:
 - Some branches only initiate members at general meetings (wait times of 1-4 months)
 - Some branches remain unclear on exact requirements for initiation, further delaying new members
 - Some branches do not initiate members

The application form will still need to be accepted and processed by the branch providing the opportunity to continue vetting new members and the branches will continue with the option of providing a ceremonial initiation if desired.

The new member application form and the new optional branch initiation ceremony will be available in both official languages within the next week on line at legion.ca. Once fully available, these changes are effective immediately.

We would appreciate if you would distribute these changes within your respective commands.

Yours in comradeship!



RANDY HAYLEY

MANAGER MEMBER SERVICES

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION DOMINION COMMAND

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The Royal Canadian Legion

Application For Membership



Applicant Name: Mr Mrs Ms _____
Surname Given names

Address: _____
Street / PO Box / RR # / Site # City Prov Postal Code

Home Tel: _____ **Other Tel:** _____ **E-mail:** _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Citizenship:** _____ **M** **F**
dd/mm/yyyy

Have you ever been a member of the Legion? No Yes If yes, Membership # _____

Membership Type

- Ordinary** – Indicate Type of Service and Service # _____
Type of Service: Reserve "C Class" Wartime Can. Reg. Force Her Majesty's Reg. Force Reserve
 NATO RCMP R.N.F. Constabulary Wartime Allied Force Underground Force
 Coast Guard NORAD US Force Vietnam Police Force
 Cadet Instructor Cadre (CIC) Non-military

- Associate**
Relationship: I am the spouse, widow/er, child, grandchild, sibling, niece/nephew of a person who is/was eligible for Ordinary membership. Indicate relationship: _____
 I am the child, spouse, sibling of an Associate member of Command/Branch #: _____ and whose Name and Membership # is: _____

- OR** Type of Service Cadets or Cadet Civilian Instructor Navy League of Canada Service #: _____
 Federal or Provincial Emergency Response Service Polish Armed Forces

Affiliate Voting: I am a Canadian citizen or Commonwealth subject from an Allied nation and support the aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion.

Affiliate Non-Voting: I am a non-Canadian citizen or a non-Commonwealth subject from an Allied nation and support the aims and objects of The Royal Canadian Legion.

LEGION Magazine Subscription

Membership dues include a one-year subscription rate of \$9.49 plus applicable taxes.

I would like the French insert. I do not wish to receive my copies of LEGION Magazine.

Membership Declaration and Initiation

The Royal Canadian Legion's mission is to serve veterans, which includes serving military and RCMP members and their families, to promote remembrance and to serve our communities and our country.

I support the mission statement of the Royal Canadian Legion

I have read and agree to support the purposes and objectives of the Royal Canadian Legion (located in the General By-Laws)

I hereby solemnly declare that I am not a member, nor affiliated with, any group, party or sect whose interests conflict with the avowed purposes of the Legion, and I do not, and will not, support any organization advocating the overthrow of our government by force or which advocates, encourages or participates in subversive action or propaganda

I hereby certify that I have never been expelled from any Legion Branch or any other Veterans organization

I hereby certify that I have never been dishonourably discharged from, deserted from nor evaded service in the Forces of any country

I agree to participate in the annual Poppy Campaign

I agree to abide by the constitution, rules and by-laws of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Your signature indicates that you agree with the above listed requirements and attest to the correctness of all the particulars contained herein:

x _____ Date: _____

Congratulations you are now an initiated member of the Royal Canadian Legion (Further welcoming ceremony processes are at the discretion of your local Branch)

Permission to Release Information for RCL Member Benefits Package

Dominion Command, The Royal Canadian Legion, does not rent or sell the names of members to any organization or advertiser. On occasion, Dominion Command may provide a Partner in the Member Benefits Package program with members' name and addresses to advise them of products and services being offered. Please indicate whether you consent to this procedure:

I consent I do not consent... to share my name/address with the Member Benefits Package program.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEGION BRANCH

Command: _____ Branch Name: _____ Branch #: _____

Branch Address: _____

Service Information

Person who served: Self or (Name): _____ Relationship: _____ who is/was
an Ordinary Member of Command/Branch: _____ Membership #: _____

Service # _____

Documentation

Service Record Discharge Certificate Marriage Certificate Birth Certificate Adoption Certificate

Other: _____

Discharge Date: _____ Type of Discharge: _____

Theatres of Service: _____ Medals/Decorations: _____

Next of Kin

Name: _____ Relationship: _____ Tel: _____

Administration

Certified that section 221 of the General By-Laws has been applied and that satisfactory proof of service and relationship has been submitted where applicable.

Branch Membership Committee: _____ Date: _____

Date Passed at General Meeting: _____ Date of Initiation: _____

Membership Dues Paid: _____ Date: _____

Membership Registration Form and Per Capita Tax Submitted to Dominion Command Date: _____

Record of Legion Service

Date of Original Admission to Legion: _____ Membership #: _____ Date of Initiation: _____

Branch Joined			
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Command & Branch #	Location	Date Joined	Date Left

Office Held		Honours and Awards Held		
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Command & Branch #	Office	Date	Command & Branch #	Award	Date

Initiation of Members

General

401. The formal initiation ceremony is an optional process to membership in The Royal Canadian Legion. If a Branch chooses to retain the initiation ritual for its membership, the ceremony should be conducted as follows:

402. The Branch President, or an officer delegated by the President, will preside over this ceremony; those members of the Branch Executive Committee taking part in the ceremony are required to be in Legion dress. There is no requirement for the person(s) being initiated to wear Legion dress.

Initiation Guidelines

403. Upon review of the membership application and payment of membership dues, the Branch should make the new member aware of the time and date of the initiation. This can be done at a regular general meeting or an executive meeting, or if not convenient, at any other time and performed by the Branch President or an officer designated by the President with a witness present.

Initiation Ceremony

404. PRESIDING OFFICER:

Sergeant-at-Arms, please assemble the member(s) for this ceremony.

(When the member(s) are in position)

Comrade Membership Chairman, please present the member(s)

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

I am pleased to present to you ___ name(s) ___ for initiation into the Royal Canadian Legion as a member/as membres of Branch ___ name and # ___ .

PRESIDING OFFICER:

Your application(s) for membership into (Branch name and #) of The Royal Canadian Legion has/have been reviewed and approved. The purposes and objects of the Legion are to constitute an association of those who have served or are serving in

Her Majesty's armed forces or any auxiliary force and others who support the purposes and objects of the Legion.

The Legion shall stand for strong and united comradeship among all members and those that have served or are serving, so that their rights nor their interests are forgotten, and that their welfare and that of their dependants, especially the dependents of the disabled, the sick, the aged and the needy may always be safeguarded.

The Legion shall encourage, promote, and engage in or support all forms of national, provincial, municipal or community service, or any charitable purpose.

Having heard the purposes and objects of this great organization, are you prepared to subscribe to them and labour to advance the Legion's cause, including active participation in Poppy campaigns?

NEW MEMBER(S):

I am.

PRESIDING OFFICER:

I now declare you duly admitted to membership in The Royal Canadian Legion, subject to all obligations contained within the organization's By- Laws.

Comrade(s), it gives me great pleasure in extending to you the right hand of comradeship and present you with your Legion badge. It is important that new Legion members become aware of the meaning and significance of our Legion Emblems. The explanation of our Legion Emblems may be found in Section 405 of our Ritual, Awards and Protocol manual.

Comrade Sergeant-at-Arms, please conduct the member(s) to their seat(s).

This completes the ceremony of initiation.

405. EXPLANATION OF LEGION EMBLEMS.

The following is an explanation of the emblems of The Royal Canadian Legion. It is important that new Legion members be aware of their meaning and significance.

THE NATIONAL FLAG OF CANADA – represents our country throughout the world. The red and white are the colours of Canada. The Maple Leaf has been regarded as a Canadian Emblem since 1700. Since it's inauguration in 1965, it has flown over Canada during the Gulf War, the Afghanistan War on Terrorism and many United Nations and NATO Missions.

THE CANADIAN RED ENSIGN – holds a special place in the hearts and minds of veterans and all Canadians. The 1922 to 1957 version flew over Canada during World War II, the Korean War, the reigns of George V and George VI, and the Coronation of Elizabeth II.

THE ROYAL UNION FLAG – more commonly called the Union Jack, is a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown and our affiliation with the Royal Commonwealth Ex-Services League (RCEL).

THE BLOOD RED POPPY OF FLANDERS – is immortalized as an emblem of sacrifice and Remembrance for the honouring of the thousands who laid down their lives for those ideals which we, as Canadians, cherish. The Poppy calls upon us to remember not only those who have died, but also those they left dependent and those who still suffer from honourable wounds and disabilities. The Poppy challenges us to serve in peace, as in war, to help those who need our help and to protect those who need our protection.

THE TORCH – is symbolic of justice, honour and freedom for which our comrades fought and died. We who are left must pledge ourselves to hold it high lest we break faith with those who died.

OUR BADGE – is a symbolic badge.

THE CROWN – is the St. Edward Crown used by the Sovereign.

THE RED MAPLE LEAF – on a white background is derived from the Canadian coat of arms.

OUR PLEDGE AND MOTTO – Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus (We Will Remember Them) - is in the outside circle. It is in Latin, a language generally used on badges, crests and banners of national and military emblems.

THE WORD LEGION – in gold, and the background in blue represents the official colours of the Legion.

THE POPPY – is the symbol of Remembrance.

THIS BADGE – was approved by the Sovereign. It is to be worn honourably and proudly.

