

LETTERS PATENT

Incorporating

(Without Share Capital)

"THE CANADIAN LEGION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE SERVICE

LEAGUE"

Dated 17th July, 1926.

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(Signed)

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RG.

C A N A D A

BY THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE HALSEY PERLEY, K.C.M.G.,

SECRETARY OF STATE OF CANADA

To all to whom these presents shall come, or whom the same may in anywise concern,

GREETING:

WHEREAS, in and by The Companies Act as amended by The Companies Act Amendment Act of 1917, it is amongst other things, in effect enacted, that the Secretary of State of Canada may, by Letters Patent, under his Seal of Office, grant a Charter to any number of persons, not less than five, who having complied with the requirements of the Act, apply therefor, constituting such persons, and others who thereafter become members in the Corporation thereby created, a Body Corporate and Politic for any of the purposes or objects to which the Legislative Authority of the Parliament of Canada extends, except the construction and working of Railways or of Telegraph or Telephone lines, or the business of Banking and the issue of paper money, or the business of Insurance or the business of a Loan Company or of a Trust Company, upon the applicants therefor establishing to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State of Canada, due compliance with the several conditions and terms in and by the said Act set forth and thereby made conditions precedent to the granting of such Charter.

AND WHEREAS, Maurice Ollivier, Barrister-at-Law; LEO RICHER LAFLECHE, Secretary; THOMAS CLARKE LAPP, Journalist; JOHN CONRAD GEORGE HERNIG, Adjustment Officer; and BERTHA MARGARET CAMPBELL, Clerk; all of the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario,

have made application for a Charter under the said Act, constituting them and such others as may become members in the Corporation thereby created, a Body Corporate and Politic, under the name of

"THE CANADIAN LEGION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE SERVICE LEAGUE".

for the purposes hereinafter mentioned, and have satisfactorily established the sufficiency of all proceedings required by the said Act to be taken, and the truth and sufficiency of all facts required to be established previous to the granting of such Letters Patent, and have filed in the Department of the Secretary of State a duplicate of the Memorandum of Agreement executed by the said applicants in conformity with the provisions of the said Act.

NOW KNOW YE that I, the said George Halsey Perley, Secretary of State of Canada, under the authority of the hereinbefore in part recited Act, do by these Letters Patent, constitute the said

Maurice Ollivier, Leo Richer Lafleche, Thomas Clarke Lapp, John Conrad George Hernig and Bertha Margaret Campbell,

and all others who may become members in the said Corporation, a Body Corporate and Politic without share capital, by the name of

"THE CANADIAN LEGION OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE SERVICE LEAGUE".

with all the rights and powers given by the said Act and for the following purposes and objects, namely:

- (a) To bring about the unity of all who have served in His Majesty's Navy, Army, Air Force or any Auxiliary Force;
- (b) To further among them the spirit of comradeship and mutual help, and the close and kindly ties of active service;
- (c) To preserve the records and memories of their services, and to see that their services generally shall not be forgotten by the nation, and the due attention shall be paid to their welfare and that of their dependents;
- (d) To perpetuate the memory and deeds of the fallen and of those who die in the future; and to promote and care for memorials to their valour and sacrifice; to provide suitable burial; and to keep an annual Memorial Day;
- (e) To see to the maintenance and comfort of those who require special treatment, of the disabled, sick, aged and needy; and to promote the welfare of the women, children and others their dependents;
- (f) To educate public opinion regarding national duties to the dead, the disabled, and others who have served, and their dependents;
- (g) To foster loyalty among the public and education in the principles of patriotism, duty and unstinted public services;
- (h) To support suitable undertakings for the training, employment and settlement of ex-service men and women, and the education of their children;
- (i) To defend their statutory, acquired and legitimate rights, and those of their dependents; and in so doing to offer the Legion's co-operation to those officially charged with the responsibility of administering such rights by Federal or other Governments;
- (j) To pass on to their families and descendants the traditions for which they stand;
- (k) To assist comrades now serving, especially in connection with their return to civil life, and to safeguard the interests of their dependents whilst they are in service;
- (l) To assist ex-service men to secure not less than the recognized standard rates of wages, in accordance with their ability;
- (m) To secure adequate pensions, allowances, grants and war gratuities for ex-service men and women, their dependents, and the widows, children and dependents of those who are dead, and to labor for honourable provision being made for those who, in declining years are unable to support themselves;
- (n) To co-operate with Empire and Allied Associations of similar aims and objects;
- (o) To establish, organize and regulate provincial, district and local bodies, or commands and branches, in convenient centres throughout Canada and elsewhere;
- (p) To establish, organize and regulate provincial, district and local bodies of women for the purpose of assisting the legion in seeing to the maintenance and comfort of disabled, sick, aged and needy ex-service men and women and their dependents, and to co-operate with the legion in the promotion and carrying out of all the aims and objects of the legion. Such groups to be known as the Ladies' Auxiliaries of the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League;
- (q) To acquire and hold such property in the nature of club rooms, canteens, hospitals, rest homes, offices, equipment of all kinds and material, as may be necessary for the administration of the legion and its authorized Provincial and District Commands, Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries, in pursuit of the aims and objects of the legion as herein described;
- (r) To raise and co-ordinate funds for assisting those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, to provide for the administration of the legion and its authorized Provincial and District Commands, Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries, and to see that these and other funds raised for such purposes are applied to those purposes and none other.

And it is hereby ordained and declared that the following shall be included with the by-laws of the company:

PRINCIPLES.

The Legion shall be democratic, non-sectarian and shall not be affiliated to, or connected directly or indirectly with, any political party or organization.

The Legion shall stand for loyalty to the reigning Sovereign, Canada and the British Empire, for maintenance of the foundation principles of the British Constitution, for the development of a national and united spirit, and for ordered government in Canada, and while striving for peace, good will and friendship among all nations, will advocate the maintenance in and by Canada of adequate and efficient forces, on land, sea and in the air, for the defence of our country and for the discharge of those obligations which rest upon us by virtue of our partnership in the British Empire.

The Legion shall stand for strong and united comradeship among all those who have served in His Majesty's forces throughout the Empire, so that neither their rights nor their interests shall be forgotten, and so that their welfare and that of their dependents, especially the dependents of the disabled, sick, aged and needy, may be safeguarded.

GOVERNING BODY.

The supreme authority of the Legion shall be vested in the Dominion Convention and shall be exercised by that body as long as it shall be in session. When not in session, its powers shall be deemed delegated and exercised by the Dominion Executive Council.

The Dominion Convention, and when it is not in session, the Dominion Executive Council, shall have supreme jurisdiction in all matters within the aims and objects of the Legion, and its policy and its decisions as to the course of action to be taken in respect thereof shall be authoritative and binding upon all subordinate Commands, Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries.

The Dominion Convention shall meet annually, at a time and place settled by vote of the next previous Convention, unless referred to the Dominion Executive Council; provided, however, that such Convention may be called by the Dominion Executive Council at a date prior to that fixed, if in their opinion there is sufficient demand therefor by the membership and further provided that such Convention must be called by the Dominion Executive Council at any time on request therefor by two-thirds in number of the Branches;

DOMINION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

The Dominion Executive Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Treasurer and one other member from each Province, except Ontario which shall have two other members, who shall all be elected at the Annual Dominion Convention. The Dominion Convention may, at its discretion, elect not more than four additional members to represent special classes of ex-service men and women.

Quorum of the Dominion Executive Council shall be seven.

REAL PROPERTY.

The Legion or any duly established and organized Provincial or District Command, Branch or Ladies' Auxiliary of the Legion may take, hold, possess, and acquire by purchase, lease, exchange, donation, devise, bequest, endowment or otherwise, real or immovable property required for the actual use and occupation of the Legion, Provincial or District Command, Branch or Ladies' Auxiliary, or necessary or requisite for the carrying out of the aims and objects of the Legion, and may sell, or alienate such property in any manner whatever, but the total annual value of all such property shall not exceed one million five hundred thousand dollars and any such property not required for the aims and objects of the Legion.

PROPERTY. - The Legion, Provincial and District Commands, Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries.

The Legion shall not have any right in the assets of any such Provincial

and District Commands, Branches and Ladies' Auxiliaries or be liable for any of their debts or obligations.

No Provincial or District Command, Branch or Ladies' Auxiliary shall have any rights in the assets of, or be liable for any debts or obligations of the Legion or of any other Provincial or District Command, Branch or Ladies' Auxiliary.

BADGES.

The official badges of the Legion shall always remain the property of the Legion. The badge of the Legion may be worn only by the members of the Legion in good standing and it shall be returned by any member who resigns or ceases to be a member of the Legion.

Each badge issued shall bear a number, and a record shall be kept by the Secretary of each Branch, for the information of the Dominion Executive Council when requested, of all persons to whom the badge has been issued.

GENERAL.

There shall be nothing in the Constitution of the Legion to prevent the adoption of a definite policy on any question directly or indirectly affecting ex-service men and women, and taking any constitutional action considered necessary in pursuance of it, provided that such action has been considered and endorsed by a majority of the Provincial Commands after due notice to the Branches of the Legion; and also providing that such a policy or action is strictly in accordance with the principles, aims and objects of the Constitution of the Legion.

FIRST DOMINION CONVENTION.

The Dominion Executive Council shall have authority to call the First Annual Dominion Convention at such time and place and on such notice as the Dominion Executive Council may decide.

And it is further ordained and declared that, if authorized by by-law, sanctioned by at least two-thirds of the votes cast at a special general meeting of the members duly called for considering the by-law, the directors may from time to time:

- (a) Borrow money upon the credit of the corporation,
- (b) Limit or increase the amount to be borrowed,
- (c) Issue bonds, debentures, debenture stock or other securities of the corporation and pledge or sell the same for such sums and at such prices as may be deemed expedient;
- (d) Hypothecate, mortgage or pledge, the real or personal property of the corporation, or both, to secure any such bonds, debentures, debenture stock or other securities and any money borrowed for the purposes of the corporation.

Nothing in this clause contained shall limit or restrict the borrowing of money by the corporation on bills of exchange or promissory notes made, drawn, accepted or endorsed, by or on behalf of the corporation.

The operations of the Corporation to be carried on throughout the Dominion of Canada and elsewhere.

The chief office of the said Corporation is situate at the City of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario.

That the said Maurice Ollivier, Leo Richer LaFleche, Thomas Clarke Lapp, John Conrad George Herwig and Bertha Margaret Campbell, -----
are to be the first or provisional directors of the said Corporation.

And it is further ordained and declared that the business of the said Corporation

shall be carried on without the purposes of gain for its members and that any profits or other accretions to the Corporation shall be used in promoting its objects.

PROVIDED ALWAYS that nothing in these Presents expressed or contained shall be taken to authorize the construction and working of Railways or of Telegraph or Telephone lines, or the business of Banking, and the issue of paper money, or the business of Insurance, or the business of a Loan Company or of a Trust Company by the said Corporation.

Given under my hand and Seal of Office, at Ottawa, this ~~seventeenth~~ day of ~~-----~~ July, ~~-----~~ 1926.

(Signed) George H. Perley

(SEAL)

Secretary of State of Canada.