

### Edmonton Salutes Committee - 2021 Year in Review

For the year 2021, the Committee continued to implement the recommendations from the governance review and follow their strategic plan. A key milestone for the committee was the update to their bylaw with the establishment of the Edmonton Salutes Bylaw 19018 (passed on October 26, 2021) which came into effect on November 22, 2021. The bylaw specifies that the Edmonton Salutes Committee is a council committee, with a mandate to:

- provide advice to Council regarding appropriate official civic recognition initiatives for the military, veterans, and their families;
- provide leadership as champions of the military, veterans, and their families; and
- provide recognition of military members and veterans, and their families, by championing causes and sustaining meaningful collaborations with public, private, and nonprofit organisations.

The Committee is made up of 25 members with voting privileges:

- 1 CoE Councillor
- 8 community members (up from 7)
- 8 regional municipal governments appointing a rep (up from 7) including Bon Accord, Fort Saskatchewan, Gibbons, Legal, Redwater, St. Albert, Strathcona County, Sturgeon County.
- 8 designated organizations who appoint a representative (down from 9), including the Canada Lands Company, Canadian Forces Liaison Council, the Royal Canadian Legion, the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, the Edmonton Garrison Military Family Resource Society; the Edmonton Regional Airports Authority, the Edmonton United Services Institute, and the Government of Alberta Liaison to the Canadian Armed Forces.

In conjunction with passing the new bylaw on October 26, 2021, Council confirmed 6 individuals to serve in 6 of the 8 community member positions for a 2 year term ending April 30, 2023. Two positions are currently under recruitment, to be filled in May 2022 for the 2022-24 term. Brian Hodgson was elected chair on October 23, 2020, and continued to serve as chair with re-appointment on October 26th, 2021. Roza Parlin, organization member and Executive Director of Military Family Resource Centre was appointed to take on the role of vice-chair in December 2021.

During the 2021 year, sub-committees continued to meet as required. However, as part of the implementation of the new Committee Governance Structure and the onboarding of new members, four sub-committees were reestablished in December 2021 and planned to meet early 2022 with the intent of reviewing their terms of reference and establish a 2022 work plan. At the time of this report, all four sub-committees have met and include:

- Strategic Action;
- Membership and Orientation;
- Funding; and
- Bylaw and Policy.

It should be noted that the 2020 annual report included the intent to establish an Honours and Awards sub-committee. As the Edmonton Salutes Committee reviewed the purpose and work for the sub-committees, it was decided that the work of an Honours and Awards sub-committee could be addressed in other sub-committees and did not need its own subcommittee. This work will primarily fall to the Strategic Action sub-committee for 2022.

As for committee activities, many of the typical events Edmonton Salutes plans and sponsors were either cancelled or scaled back due to COVID and public health restrictions. However, even with COVID restrictions, Edmonton Salutes was able to support several events and activities throughout 2021, as follows:

- May 16, 2021, marked the 20th anniversary of Canada's entrance into the War in Afghanistan (2001—2014). Edmonton Salutes was involved in the rededication of the City Hall Cenotaph in honour of the military personnel who served in this conflict. The ceremony took place and was live streamed on June 13th, 2021. The 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron flew over the City Hall Plaza as part of the ceremony.
- Edmonton Salutes approved a donation of \$7,500 to the organisation, No Stone Left Alone, to sponsor a student focused event in November 2021.
- Remembrance Day events happened all around the city and surrounding communities, with ESC members participating and attending many of them. Wreaths for ceremonies were available through the Committee. The committee members reported attending the following events and locations, with all applicable public health restrictions in place:

- Griesbach ceremony
- Kingsway Legion ceremony
- Legal Lions Club Ceremony
- Edmonton City Hall cenotaph
- Redwater ceremony
- Calgary sunset ceremony
- Just under 400 tickets to the Citadels' "A Christmas Carol", were purchased and given to Military families to enjoy in December 2021.
- Volunteers with the Committee were celebrated with a small volunteer appreciation luncheon at the Art Gallery of Alberta in December 2021.

The budget and actuals provided in Attachment 2 reflect many of the plans typically made by the Committee and the actual money spent for 2021.

### **Next Steps and Direction for the Edmonton Salutes Committee**

Considering recent international events, the Edmonton Salutes Committee Chair often quotes a British Military Historian and Veteran of the Second World War: *"History is littered with the wars that nobody ever thought would happen."* in relation to the approach to management and administration of committee activities, ensuring flexibility, adaptability and preparation for many possible scenarios.

Although not specifically articulated in the 2021-2024 strategic plan, the committee anticipates, based on recent international events, an increased tempo and presence for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 2022, which includes the Edmonton Garrison, the surrounding communities in which CAF members live, and the ESC activities and presence overall. The need to raise awareness and recognition for our regular forces, reservists, veterans and CAF families, will be key to the City's military community and partners.

With public health measures loosening, there will be more opportunities for the Committee to plan and implement many of their in-person events and activities, as outlined in the 2021-2024 strategic plan, which is still relevant and valid to guide the Committee's work for 2022. It will be imperative that the Committee execute the actions in their plans and continue the excellent community building they have done for the past 24 years.