

Chief Petty Officer Second Class (Ret'd) Cheryl Bush, MMM, CD

CPO2 (Ret'd) Cheryl Bush enrolled in the Naval Reserve at HMCS CHIPPAWA in 1985. She was also a member of HMCS SCOTIAN for about 6 years. She spent an extensive time on active duty as a Marine Technician and is a certified Maritime Coastal Defense Vessel (MCDV) “Chief Engineer”. She has various seagoing experience in different RCN ships, and over her career has experienced several “firsts” for women in the Navy, including the original trial for women at sea in HMCS PROTECTEUR in 1988 during a NATO deployment. She trained as a Ship’s Team Diver, and Dive Supervisor, again at a time when women were just entering into the Regular Navy hard sea trades.

Some of Cheryl’s key staff positions while serving in Ottawa include the Royal Canadian Navy’s 100th Anniversary, Vice Chief of Defence Staff – Transition Move Coordinator for DND’s move to the new Carling Campus, working as an Events Planner for CAF – Reserve Executive Trex’s and coordinator for Reserve Employer Support Program within the Chief of Reserves. Due to her dedication to the military and community work, she was invested as a Member of the Order of Military Merit in 2010, was honored for her support to Veterans by investiture into the Order of St George, as a “Dame”, and has been awarded two Command Commendations, one each from the Commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff.

In 2017, Cheryl was selected by Soldier On to be a member of Team Canda – INVICTUS GAMES Toronto, where she competed in cycling and was an assistant coach for wheelchair basketball.

She retired after 37yrs (mostly Class B service) in July 2022 and has been dealing with Veterans Affairs and Manulife for the past 2 years for physical and mental injuries sustained while in uniform. She is currently the Committee Chair for NRAC Supports and Benefits and brings knowledge to the position based on her own experience with Veterans Affairs, the Bureau of Pensions Advocates, and other veterans support organizations.

Cheryl resides in Ottawa with her husband Bob Bush (Cdr Ret'd) and is proud of her son who chose to join the Royal Canadian Navy and is a Naval Electronics Technician currently posted to HMCS Fredericton.