

# President's Report

## UNTDA Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Welcome to Craig Walkington who is joining us for the first time and congratulations Jennifer Bennett and Daniel Hache who you elected in January as 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents respectively.

Most of us have been very busy since our December meeting in **carrying on** the work of the Committees. Given that we all are volunteers and that many are still very much actively employed I appreciate the time and effort involved.

I want to particularly thank Glenn Davidson for chairing the VP Selection Committee. He and the committee did a fine job and were very creative in the development of the final recommendation.

I imposed on Ross Connell to serve as acting chair of the Communications Committee a year ago and he has done a superb job in recruiting an excellent committee and overseeing our ability enhance the use of French on the website and in recruiting Barry Frewer and overseeing the launching of Gunroom Shots. I am most appreciative of work, energy and fresh ideas he put into a job that he did not seek!

The decision by the Board to broaden the reach of UNTDA has resulted in the substantial changes and new initiatives to become more representative of Canadian Naval Officer Reservists post the UNTD period of 1943 to 1968.

We pursued this course on a reasonably pragmatic basis by focusing on recruitment of Post UNTDs, substantially updating the UNTDA website, including adding bilingual content, expanding the Nominal List to include all Reserve officers post UNTD, broadening of the board membership and planning for the 2023 Celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Navy Reserve.

On our website we have a very long Mission Statement and place great emphasis on “connection” which we define by outlining our initiatives we undertake:

- Curates an archive of information relating to the UNTD Program, its successor programs, their members, and their accomplishments;
- Facilitates camaraderie and communication between our members;
- Publishes a newsletter periodically; and occasionally, other articles, books, and press releases;
- Maintains a web site containing news, information, photos, archives, and links to members and other web sites of interest to our members;
- Promotes regional and national gatherings of our members; and
- Supports [Naval historical projects](#) of relevance to the Naval Reserve.

I suggest it is time to have a look at our Mission and initiatives to make sure they reflect where we would expect to be in the next few years. Most organizations review their Missions every few years to ensure that they reflect the needs of their membership in a changing environment.

Following discussion with the Vice-President's, I have asked **Marta Mulkins** to undertake the leadership of a small committee to review where we are and what changes may be desirable to our Mission. The committee would interview current board members and other non-board members with an interest in our activities and report back to us at the September Board meeting with recommendations for a full discussion with the board.

Consequently, I will move at the next meeting:

**That the Board of the UNTDA establish a Committee: Planning for the Future of the UNTDA – 2025 chaired by Marta Mulkins to examine what changes are desirable to our mission as an organization to best serve our membership in the future. The Committee will report in September 2021.**

In light of the expanded initiatives we have underway, there is a growing amount of activity between meetings and I think that rather than deal with things on an ad hoc basis we should have an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the board between meetings. I don't see this as extensive but it should ensure more timely action when needed. It is also consistent with having an engaged team that can advance support for the committees and help me plan for effective board meetings. I have discussed this with the VPs and suggest that the committee consist of me as chair, the two VPs, the **T**reasurer and the Secretary. The

Executive Committee is to facilitate our Board meetings and would not in any way undermine our board governance.

Consequently, I will propose at the meeting:

**That the board of the UNTDA establish an Executive committee chaired by the President consisting of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, the Treasurer and the Secretary to advance the work of the Board between meetings. The Executive Committee reports to the Board.**

As always, I am very appreciative of the work of all the Committees. As you will see in the committee chair's reports a great deal has been going on in our committee work.

Special thanks to Bob Blakely for providing quick legal advice to the 2023 Committee.