

President's Report to the NRAC/ARNC Board of Directors

October 6, 2023

As I prepare this Report we are moving into the last quarter of this very special year of celebrating the 100 Years of service of the Naval Reserve in Canada. The Reserve has had a very meaning role in nation building in Canada in the last 100 years whether in wars or in providing aid to Canadians confronted by natural disaster.

We all should be proud of our participation in these events and in creating NRAC/ARNC to serve the members of the Naval Reserve and help preserve the recognition of the accomplishments of the Naval Reserve in serving Canada.

We have had a very active summer since our June board meeting and this is particularly true for the Transition Committee chaired by Ray, the Naval Reserve Liaison Committee chaired by Daniel and the Communications Committee, with Ross as interim Chair. Almost all the other committees have met to start their organization processes except for the Archives Committee and the Governance and Nominations Committee which meets on the 25th of October.

While the summer has seen a substantial amount of activity and enthusiastic engagement, there remains a lot to be done before we get our organizational "sea legs".

In governance terms all the committees are ultimately responsible to the board but in any well-run organization it is important that in their deliberations they continually have regard for and work closely with each other. This is particularly important in our case as NRAC/ARNC is made up only of volunteers who must carry the workload as we open new ground and expand the activities from those of the UNTD Association.

There is little at this stage that one committee can do that does not rely and or impact on others.

This is an important consideration as without careful management of our time and capacity, we can unevenly manage our human and financial resources and create unrealistic expectations in the short term.

Our design for the future lies in the capable hands of Ray and the Transition Committee as it develops our vision.

The Committee has gotten off to a quick start and has made a number of positive and constructive recommendations but without a priorities platform there is a danger that we can too easily get ahead of our ability to effectively manage ourselves.

In light of this the Executive Committee (Marta, Ross, Nancy, Ray and I, Daniel is on holiday) met on October 4th to discuss how we can organize our plans and ideas into a priority structure that will allow us to make progress that realistically takes into account our human and financial resources.

In light of these concerns the Executive Committee has put together a priorities paper for consideration by the Board that will guide us over the next several months. The paper is attached.

There is no secret that our number one priority is Membership and Recruitment. NRAC/ARNC only exists to serve reservists past and present and only through their involvement can we achieve our goals. The committee involvement takes two forms, we provide the value proposition primarily camaraderie and connections and they supply the support we need to serve them effectively.

The Communications Committee with the involvement of the Committee chair has developed a CARD that will be distributed to NRDs that promotes the value proposition of NRAC/ARNC. That and other initiatives coordinated with NAVRES should ensure a basic communication with the NRDs, but the most fruitful area of recruitment lies with former Reservists that wish to maintain their connections.

There are a number of other initiatives identified such as modern software, administrative support and charitable status that hold great promise, but we cannot let those reforms delay the drive to attract new members!

We are a team that is committed to serving our naval reservists and we are on the cusp of making things happen that will have a lasting beneficial impact on being a reservist in Canada.

We must “roll up our sleeves” and together make it happen.

I look forward to our meeting on the 23rd and your advice on our priorities at this pivotal time in our development.