



**COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT
QUARTERLY UPDATE
FRIDAY, 17 JANUARY 2025**

INTRODUCTION

1. I hope the festive season was enjoyed by everyone. It is now time to put a highly successful 110th Anniversary year behind us and continue moving into the future as a Regimental Family.
2. This quarterly update will go to the RHQ controlled Regimental Senate lists, serving, and retired. As in the past if you find other Senate members who do not get these updates, please get their contact details, and notify RHQ at rhqppcli@forces.gc.ca.

POINTS OF REPORTAGE

3. **Broad issues at Defence.** The world security situation is continuing to evolve at a rapid pace. No one knows how our physical, economic, or environmental security will be affected as a new government transitions into office in the United States but one thing is clear – it will be affected. This could in turn have a dramatic impact on how our own government and DND deals with issues such as modernization, personnel shortages, slow procurement, limited funding and insufficient political support. All that to say, the world, Canada, and our military face an uncertain future but one way or another our PPCLI soldiers will be impacted and continue to play a needed role in it.

4. **The Regiment – Serving Component.**

The following are of note:

a. Colonel of the Regiment. I had the opportunity whilst participating on a tour celebrating the 60th Anniversary of Canadian Peacekeeping in Cyprus in early November to visit 3 PPCLI elements located there carrying out high readiness contingency work for evacuation of Canadians from Lebanon. I was very impressed by the planning and readiness of our soldiers. A photo of the 3 PPCLI personnel in Cyprus is shown below. Later in November I visited 1 PPCLI personnel training Ukrainian soldiers in southern England and had the honour of presenting the Special Service Medal or bar to them. Again, our soldiers were



doing a fantastic job and are to be commended for their efforts. LCol Cole Peterson (CO 1 PPCLI), CWO Brad Worth (RSM 1 PPCLI), and I also took the opportunity to visit Countess Mountbatten of Burma's grave site which was near our Canadian training sites. See photo below. Last, I also took the opportunity to visit John Townson, Jane Odgers, and her husband Robin to present a PPCLI Camp Flag. See photo below. John and Jane are related to Dorothy Gault the second wife of Hamilton Gault and do much to commemorate the PPCLI whenever possible. John owns about 200 acres of the former Hatch Court estate (the former UK home of Hamilton and Dorothy Gault). Interestingly enough, one of the items in Jane's possession is a 22 March 1910 letter to Hamilton Gault from Captain Robert Scott, the Antarctic explorer. Hamilton Gault had sent a letter asking to participate in Scott's upcoming Antarctica expedition. In this letter Scott states that "your letter does not show me that you have the necessary special qualifications for any of the few important positions which still remain to be filled". Scott and his team later died on this expedition. So who knows what Hamilton Gault's fate would have been had his request been successful and, therefore, the impact on the creation of the PPCLI!



The Colonel of the Regiment visiting with deployed elements of 3 PPCLI in Cyprus.



Visiting Countess Mountbatten of Burma's grave site.
From left to right: LCol Cole Petersen, BGen (Ret'd) Ray Romses, CWO Brad Worth.



The Colonel of the Regiment presenting a PPCLI Camp Flag to Mr. John Townson.



b. 1 PPCLI – Soldiers from 1 VP began redeploying from Op UNIFIER in December. The remainder of the battalion will return home in February having finished their mission in support of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. The next 3 months, overall, will be fairly quiet. The battalion will reorganize and over the rest of the winter conduct courses and low-level training in advance of a busy spring/summer period where it will prepare to support the RCMP at the upcoming G7 conference in Kananaskis, AB.

c. 2 PPCLI – “C” and Combat Support Companies deployed with the LdSH(RC) Battle Group on Op REASSURANCE to Latvia in December 2024. The remainder of the Battalion will start 2025 by participating in the 1 CMBG sports and military skills competition - Exercise STRONG CONTENDER. The unit will compete with a marksmanship team and military skills team, and pair up with 1 RCHA to provide a hockey and soccer team for the competition. Simultaneously, the unit will conduct Exercise FRIGID KAYPONG which will enhance their ability to fight and live in winter conditions. This will be followed by a short Primary Combat Function cycle and Exercise KAPYONG MUSKETEER, a unit marksmanship camp. Throughout the January thru April period, unit leadership will be participating in the Exercise VIGILANT RAM series which will set the conditions for the unit to support our Whole of Government partners on Operation CADENCE, the security task for the upcoming G7 Summit in Kananaskis, AB.

d. 3 PPCLI – Soldiers from the battalion were involved with the Global Response Task Force (GRTF) contingency duties in Lebanon and Cyprus throughout the late summer and fall periods. They have now returned to Edmonton. The unit will maintain GRTF high readiness until end February when 3 R22eR will assume the high readiness responsibility from them. This task is normally taken for a 12-month period but in 3 PPCLI’s case this is being shortened as they will be needed to support the G7 Summit in Kananaskis. The unit in January will participate in Ex STRONG CONTENDER with various teams. Other activities over the next three months include “A” Company with Reconnaissance Platoon supporting an Advance Tactical Aviation Course urban operations training in Cold Lake, winter warfare training, possible Level 2 to 3 live fire training, and Exercise VIGILANT RAM in preparation for the G7 Summit.

e. Commanding Officer and RSM Appointments – The Commander Canadian Army announced the 2025 Annual Posting Season command and RSM appointments. Those that impact the PPCLI are: LCol Mark Litzenberger will become CO 1 PPCLI, LCol Daniel Hogan will become Comdt of the Infantry School, and CWO Ron Sellers will become RSM of the Peace Support Training Centre. Our congratulations are extended to these individuals.



5. 110th Anniversary Activities. The only ongoing 110th activity is our PPCLI Art Exhibit at the Calgary Military Museums “Founders Gallery. The exhibit will conclude as of 17 February. Our thanks are extended to LCol (Ret’d) Bill Bewick the Exhibit Curator and those volunteers who helped with put up and those who will be helping with take-down of the exhibit and restoration of the Founders Gallery.

6. PPCLI Association. The last quarter of 2024 saw the Association wrapping up an eventful 110th Anniversary year on a very high note. During events across the country the Association presented a variety of Honours and Awards to members of the Regimental family (serving and retired alike). These included: King Charles III Coronation Medals to Sgt Wayne Doyle – RHQ Kit Shop Manager; Capt Mark Frère - Regt Adj; Paul Hale - SW Ontario Branch; Nora Hewson - Ottawa Branch; Herb Kenny - Edmonton Branch; Cpl Andrew Mullet - Regimental Museum; and Terri Orser - Victoria Branch. Also presented were Association Certificates of Merit to: John MacGregor - SW Ontario Branch; Sandra MacGregor - SW Ontario Branch; Blair Neatby - E-Branch; Stephen Newman - Victoria Branch; Brigadier- General Wade Rutland - E-Branch; and Robert Stewart - Victoria Branch.

During the final months of 2024, the Association also launched a successful project in partnership with Burwood Distillery in Calgary Alberta. We succeeded in raising funds that will be distributed to the Association Branches across Canada that can be donated to veteran centric charities in each branch area. A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to the Patricia Fund to support members of the serving component. The Association looks forward to continuing this momentum as 2025 begins and intends to work with all members of our Regimental Family to keep the legacy of the PPCLI front and centre from coast to coast to coast. With that in mind keep checking the Association Website www.ppcliassn.ca for new and exciting announcements. Amongst the announcements will be information relating to the Association’s AGM and Reunion which will be held in Halifax, NS 23-24 May.

7. Hamilton Gault Memorial Fund (HGMF). The September to December period has been relatively quiet for the HGMF. The Fund Trustees would like to thank the President of the PPCLI Association, Greg Ferguson, for putting out an end-year donation appeal to the Association on the HGMF’s behalf. It generated a number of donations that will help the Fund activities transition to 2025.

There are no major events or activities planned for 2025; however, planning for a commemorative battlefield tour to South Korea has commenced for the period 19-27 April 2026. This will tie in with the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong. Paul Hale, who was one of the primary organizers of an excellent 2024 Sicily/Italy



Battlefield tour as part of our 110th Anniversary activities, has initiated this project. Further details will be provided in the coming months. You are encouraged to take note of these dates and consider participating.

Preliminary plans for a Balkans Commemoration in September 2027 are also being developed to commemorate the 35th Anniversary of the start of Canada's major contributions to peacekeeping and stability operations in the Balkans 1992 to 2004. The intent is that this would be a pan-Army activity so all regiments and corps would have an opportunity to contribute to the planning and execution of this commemoration.

8. Regimental History Volume V. With the completion and publication of our Regimental History Volume VI, a writing team is now being organized in accordance with Guard Policy Directive 013 to complete Volume V. This will include the Roll of Honour, Unit Nominal Rolls and potentially several other appendices related to Korea. The writing team will include Blair Neatby, Steve Newman, and James Morgan.

9. Liberation of Achterveld and the Netherlands 80th Anniversary. The town of Achterveld in the Netherlands, which the PPCLI liberated in WW II, will be holding 80th Anniversary celebrations this May and have asked for PPCLI representation. Sydney Frost's D Company was involved in the Town's liberation. Arrangements have been made for Patricia's serving in Europe to take part. These will include Col Lee Mossop, MWO Troy McEachern and potentially others.

10. Passing of the 21st Lady Saltoun of Abernathy. The Regiment was well represented at the 25 November Memorial Service held in Scotland for Lady Saltoun. Both Sgt Kevin Durham, who is a 3 PPCLI member posted in Scotland, and Mr. Eric Schelderup (son of Ida and Roger Schelderup) who lives in England and is a member of the PPCLI Association Ottawa Branch were present. Lady Saltoun's daughter Katharine Nicholson who has now become the 22nd Lady Saltoun sent a message expressing her appreciation for our representation and wreath.

11. Canadian Infantry Association (CIA). This association became dormant as a result of COVID and a revitalization team has been working hard to begin the process of bringing it back to life. A new website has been created and anyone who has served or is currently serving in the infantry is encouraged to become a member regardless of rank. There is no membership fee. All you have to do is go to: <http://www.ducimus.army> click on the 'Join Us' icon and then complete the sign-up form. The website should provide answers to any questions you might



have including what the objectives of the CIA are. I encourage you to become a member.

CONCLUSION

12. In conclusion, the Regiment is functioning well. We continue to develop fine leaders that we can be very proud of and our soldiers have represented us superbly on operations over the past year. All elements of the Regimental Family are doing fine work to support both our serving and retired members, and I continue to be very proud of you. Take care and enjoy the winter months.

VP

Ray Romses
Brigadier-General (Retired)
Colonel of the Regiment
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry