

UNITY is STRENGTH



Some Questions and Answers About **THE CANADIAN LEGION**



*We who have trod the borderlands of death,
Where courage high walks hand in hand with
fear,
Shall we not hearken what the Spirit saith:
"All ye were brothers there, be brothers here?"*

*Let us draw closer in these narrower years,
Before us still the eternal visions spread;
We who outmastered death, and all its fears,
Are one great army still, living and dead.*

— Canon Scott.

Unity Is Strength

IT is natural for people with common interests to form themselves into an organization; for unity is strength, and a strong organization can accomplish much, both for its members and the country as a whole.

A DEARLY-BOUGHT LESSON

The Canadian veterans of the First Great War took seven long years to learn that lesson. Of course, they had no precedent to go by and had to learn from experience. What a dearly-bought experience it was! All sorts of groups and associations of ex-Service men sprang up across the Dominion. There was no common policy or leadership, no united efforts to ensure that those who had fought and bled in the service of their country would receive a square deal for themselves and their dependents. As might be expected, the results obtained were just about in proportion to the disunited efforts put forth.

CANADIAN LEGION FORMED

Finally, in 1925, a really strong attempt was made to amalgamate all the various veterans' associations into one great organization at the Unity Conference held in Winnipeg. A few decided to remain apart, but the majority — including the largest of them all, the Great War Veterans' Association — agreed to unite, and the result was the formation of The Canadian Legion. The Legion was immediately given official recognition as the Canadian member-organization of the British Empire Service League, which in addition comprises the British Legion and similar ex-Service men's organizations in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Newfoundland, India and many other parts of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

LEGION'S STRENGTH

In the succeeding years the Canadian Legion has increased its enrolled membership to over 215,000 and is organized into more than 1,500 Commands, Branches and Auxiliaries located in practically every community in the Dominion and in many parts of the United States. Its prestige and influence have increased correspondingly and have made possible many important achievements benefiting veterans of both the last and the present war.

ROOM FOR ALL IN LEGION

Yes, in unity there is strength, and it is to be hoped that the lesson learned by the veterans of the First Great War will not go unheeded by the fighting men of the present war. The Legion is big enough and broad enough to hold them all, and the members of the Women's Services as well. Don't let us dissipate our strength again as in the days before 1925. Let every ex-Service man and woman of both wars join the great brotherhood which is the Canadian Legion and make it an even greater and more influential force than it is today. There is no better way of making sure that our sailors, soldiers, airmen, merchant seamen and service women are not forgotten when this war is won. There is no better way of making certain that this time we shall also win the peace.

Quaker.

Dominion President.

*Dominion Headquarters,
The Canadian Legion,
Ottawa, August, 1943.*

Purposes and Objects

(Excerpt from the Legion's Constitution)

UNITY

To bring about the unity of all who have served in His Majesty's Navy, Army, Air Force or any Auxiliary Force;

COMRADESHIP

To further among them the spirit of comradeship and mutual help, and the close and kindly ties of active service;

VIGILANCE

To preserve the records and memories of their services, and to see that their services generally shall not be forgotten by the nation, and that due attention shall be paid to their welfare and that of their dependents;

REMEMBRANCE

To perpetuate the memory and deeds of the fallen and of those who die in the future; and to promote and care for memorials to their valour and sacrifice; to provide suitable burial; and to keep an annual Memorial Day;

WELFARE

To see to the maintenance and comfort of those who require special treatment, of the disabled, sick, aged and needy; and to promote the welfare of the women, children and other dependents;

EDUCATION

To educate public opinion regarding national duties to the dead, the disabled, and others who have served, and their dependents;

LOYALTY

To foster loyalty among the public and education in the principles of patriotism, duty and unstinted public service;

EMPLOYMENT

To support suitable undertakings for the training, employment and settlement of ex-Service men and women, and the education of their children;

RIGHTS

To preserve their statutory, acquired and legitimate rights, and those of their dependents; and in so doing to offer the Legion's co-operation to those officially charged with the responsibility of administering such rights by federal or other governments;

TRADITIONS

To pass on to their families and descendants the traditions for which they stand;

REHABILITATION

To assist comrades now serving, especially in connection with their return to civil life, and to safeguard the interests of their dependents whilst they are in service;

WAGES

To assist ex-Service men to secure not less than the recognised standard rates of wages, in accordance with their ability;

PENSIONS

To secure adequate pensions, allowances, grants and war gratuities for ex-Service men and women, their dependents, and the widows, children and dependents of those who are dead, and to labour for honourable provision being made for those who in declining years are unable to support themselves;

CO-OPERATION

To co-operate with Empire and Allied associations of similar aims and objects.

Legion Service

EVER since the formation of the Legion a free service has been provided to war veterans and their dependents covering problems of every description. This work has mainly to do with the adjustment

of pensions, treatment, re-establishment, employment, rights of dependents and, indeed, any matter relating to veterans' post-war rights and benefits.

A FREE SERVICE

The Legion employs experienced adjustment officers to handle individual cases. Veterans of this and the last war are entitled to this free service whether they are members of the Legion or not.

The problems of re-establishment and rehabilitation after this war have long engaged the attention of the Legion. Expert advice regarding their rights under post-war measures is available to all now serving.

If space were available, a long list of accomplishments on behalf of veterans of the last war could be given. They would illustrate not only how effective the work of the Legion has been but also how closely, in their main features, the post-discharge problems of ex-Service personnel of both wars are related. This is why the Legion can render the same effective service to members of the armed forces of this war, both before and after they become veterans.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Here are just a few of the more important, recent activities undertaken by the Legion, also some of the measures benefiting men and women of the Navy, Army and Air Force, both while serving and after discharge, regarding which either Legion counsel was sought or direct Legion representations to the Government were effective:—

1. Establishment in 1939 of Canadian Legion War Services, to render educational, personal and recreational services to the armed forces in Canada and overseas. Up to January 1, 1943, 136,953 had registered for Legion Educational Services' courses; 322,791 Personal Service cases had been handled, 88 Recreation Huts, 1,187 Libraries and 123 Moving Picture machines were being operated; 39,503,100 cigarettes and 36,162,048 sheets of notepaper had been distributed, and many other services had been rendered the troops.
2. Legion's nation-wide campaign for adoption of a "Total War" policy in Canada.
3. Establishment of Radio Message Service, enabling relatives in Canada to broadcast to their boys overseas.
4. Increased rates of dependents' allowances for wives and children, including a cost-of-living bonus.
5. Payment of allowances extended to six children instead of two.
6. Broadening of assigned pay regulations, enabling a man to assign pay to a person other than a dependent.

7. Improvement in position of widowed mothers, whose sole support is serving in the armed forces.
8. Establishment of Dependents' Board of Trustees, who make grants additional to pay and allowances in cases of need.
9. Improvement in the discharge procedure of disabled men to the Department of Pensions and National Health to eliminate hardships.
10. Improved treatment regulations, including new rates of allowances for veterans undergoing treatment for non-pensionable conditions, and free treatment for all veterans for one year subsequent to discharge.
11. Introduction and development of the Post-Discharge Re-establishment Order, with subsequent upward revision of rates for Vocational Training and Out-of-Work Benefits.
12. Establishment of Welfare Division, Department of Pensions and National Health, with whose officers the Legion co-operates through all its Commands and Branches.
13. Legion representation on the following Government advisory or statutory committees, councils and boards:—

National Employment Committee and Regional and Local Employment Advisory Committees;

Dependents' Board of Trustees and Regional Dependents' Advisory Committees;

Vocational Training Advisory Council;

National Selective Service Advisory Committee;

Provincial Advisory Boards (The Veterans' Land Act).

Questions and Answers

HOW IS THE LEGION RUN?

The supreme authority of The Canadian Legion is the Dominion Convention, held biennially and attended by delegates elected by the members of all branches.

The policies approved by the Convention are carried out by the Dominion Executive Council, which is headed by the Dominion President and includes representatives from each Provincial Command, from the special sections composed of Naval, Air Force, Imperial and Tuberculous Veterans, and from the United States. The administrative work of the Legion is carried out by Dominion Headquarters in Ottawa and the Provincial Command offices located in each province.

All Dominion, Provincial and Branch officers are elected by the membership, and all policies are determined by a majority vote.

HOW IS THE LEGION FINANCED?

The Legion is financed mainly by a system of membership dues. The annual membership fee is set by each branch and includes constitutional per capita payments to Dominion and Provincial Commands for the maintenance of their offices and services. The membership fee varies in the different branches but the average is \$4 a year, which includes an annual subscription to the official monthly publication, *The Legionary*. Branch welfare work on behalf of necessitous comrades and their families is financed chiefly through receipts from the annual Poppy Day campaign.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any man or woman who has served in any of His Majesty's Forces or the Merchant Navy on active service and who has received an honourable discharge is eligible for full membership. Persons now on active service with the armed forces may obtain Active Service Associate Membership without cost.

Membership in the Legion is not exclusive, but provision is made for the formation of special group branches exclusive to Naval, Regimental, Air Force, Imperial, Tuberculous and Women veterans, where desirable and practical.

IS THE LEGION POLITICAL?

The Legion membership being composed of persons of all political faiths, the Legion constitution wisely bars partisan political activity and this provision is rigidly honoured by all members. The Legion, however, expresses itself freely about, and actively works for, the practical application of its policies by every legitimate means available, including representations to legislative bodies.

HOW IS VETERANS' LEGISLATION INFLUENCED?

The Legion, through its unrivalled service to individual veterans, obtains the information and evidence necessary to the framing of just demands for remedial legislation. By long experience the Legion is skilled in the preparation and presentation of such demands and has acquired a recognized status in the minds of the public, press, parliament and government.

HOW ARE INDIVIDUAL CLAIMS HANDLED?

Branch Secretaries or Service Officers throughout the Dominion have acquired a fund of knowledge and experience which is always available to ex-Service men and women, whether members of the Legion or not.

Cases that cannot be handled locally are sent to regional service bureaux, and those requiring personal representation to the authorities at Ottawa are sent to the Dominion Headquarters Service Bureau where expert adjustment officers prepare and present the claims directly to the appropriate government officials.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A LEGION MEMBER?

If on active service, associate membership may be obtained free of charge by presenting or mailing the form below to any Canadian Legion War Services' supervisor serving with units in Canada or overseas; or to Overseas Manager, Canadian Legion War Services, 123 Pall Mall, London, England; or to General Manager, Canadian Legion War Services, 158 Sparks Street, Ottawa, Canada.

If discharged, application form and full particulars concerning regular membership may be secured by presenting or mailing the form below to "The Secretary, Canadian Legion" in your own home town; or to "The Provincial Secretary, Canadian Legion" in your own province at one of the following addresses:—

British Columbia — 207 West Hastings St., Vancouver;

Alberta — 601 Leeson-Lineham Block, Calgary;

Saskatchewan — New Canada Life Bldg., Regina;

Manitoba — 203 Lombard Bldg., Winnipeg;

Ontario — 210 Dundas St. West, Toronto;

Quebec — 1117 St. Catherine St. West, Montreal;

New Brunswick — 69 King St., Saint John;

Nova Scotia — P.O. Box 112, Halifax;

Prince Edward Island — 57 Crafton St., Charlottetown.

Secretary,
Canadian Legion,

.....
(Town and Province)

Please send me

☐ ACTIVE SERVICE ASSOCIATE
MEMBERSHIP CARD

☐ APPLICATION FORM FOR
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

(Please mark with X which is desired)

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

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