

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, 27 MAY, 2025

I would like to acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and traveling route to the Cree, Saulteaux (So-toe), Blackfoot, Métis, Dene (De-nay) and Nakota Sioux (Sue). We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

The President opened the meeting by ritual at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance: 41 Members 3 Guests

The meeting was chaired by Comrade S. Danyi

ROLL CALL:

Present: Comrades, R. Etmanski, C. Wills, J. Hazen, J. Hyshka, S. Danyi, N. Danyi, W. Hyshka, B. O'Brien, D. MacIntosh, J. Luce, M. Walsh, K. Deugau, and

Excused:

B. Wiebe, L. Foote, R. Torrie, S. Criss

PRESENTATIONS

Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund Chairman Rick Etmanski presented to Dr. Suzette Bremault-Phillips from HiMARC with a cheque in the sum of \$50,000.00.

The Kingsway Ladies Auxiliary presented Comrade President Etmanski a donation to the Kingsway Branch in the sum of \$10,000.00.

LAST POST

No report

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion: to accept the agenda as amended made by Comrade N. Danyi as amended
Seconded by Comrade C. Wills

CARRIED

7. Committee Reports

Strike the following reports 7.(g), (h), (j), (o), (r), (t) and (v)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATING 29 APRIL 2025

Motion: To accept the minutes was made by Comrade P. Earles as amended
Seconded by Comrade Roach

CARRIED

Amendment

Page 5 – Public Relations – corrected the spelling of Comrade Hazen

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER and FINANCE COMMITTEE: Presented by Comrade N. Danyi

The Finance Committee is pleased to present the following report:

- 1. Completion of Balance Sheet Audit**

After two years of diligent work, we have successfully completed an internal audit and correction of all balance sheet accounts. This significant milestone provides a clearer and more accurate financial picture of our branch.

- 2. Timely Completion of Financial Statements**

Our Fiscal Year End 2024 financial statements were completed on time and submitted prior to the March 31, 2025 deadline. This ensures we remain compliant with reporting requirements and able to make informed financial decisions moving forward.

- 3. Current Financial Position and Cash Flow**

As of this report, we are utilizing \$70,000 of our available credit line, and our liquidity ratio is below 1. This means managing day-to-day cash flow has become a top priority. We are actively monitoring expenditures and working to improve our cash position.

- 4. Revenue and Operating Margins**

While our revenue has increased by 40% year-over-year — equivalent to approximately \$33,000 — we are currently just breaking even. It's important to note that \$20,000 of that increase came from a generous donation by one of our members, which provided essential relief in March.

- 5. Ongoing Fixed Costs**

Our building continues to be our largest expense category, accounting for 43% of our fixed costs. We are evaluating all options to address this challenge and improve operational efficiency.

6. April Committee Meeting

Please note that no Finance Committee meeting was held in April due to urgent family obligations of the Committee Chair. We will resume our regular meeting schedule in May.

7. Budget Performance

We are currently operating within the locked budget that was approved by the membership. Expense management is on track, and we are projecting to remain within budgeted spending for the year. However, revenue performance is a concern — we are more than 15% below target. At 25% through the year, we anticipated revenues to be near \$350,000. While revenue may fluctuate seasonally, our goal is to close this gap and stay within 10% of target by year-end.

8. Operational Strategy Committee

A new committee is being formed, co-chaired by Ron Wills and Ron Charlet, to advise on changes to the operational structure of the Legion. This initiative is crucial, as our current operations are unsustainable and significant change is needed for the long-term survival of the Branch. This committee will operate separately from the Finance Committee.

All members are encouraged to participate and contribute their insights. If you are interested in joining, please see me after the meeting — I will compile a contact list to share with the committee chairs.

Thank you for your attention and continued support as we work to ensure the financial health and future of Kingsway Legion Branch 175.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

MOTION made by: Comrade N. Danyi – To accept the Financial Statements for the period ended December 31, 2024 as prepared by Ellis Group LLP Chartered Professional Accountants.

Seconded by: Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Hazen

The Raffle is well under way and ticket sales have been slow up until the Garage Sale. I want to give a big thanks to the Color Party members that came out to help sell tickets at the Garage Sale; they did an awesome job and looked sharp in their uniforms. The volunteer coordinator Dawna Buchanan has been trying her best to get volunteers to come out to our big events booked in the large banquet room to sell raffle tickets. I had good success, selling on the Election Day, the Blood Donor Clinic and the Firefighters AGM; unfortunately, I was unable to sell any tickets at the Alberta NWT Commands' AGM. There are a few more big events coming up and I am hoping

to continue to sell tickets at a steady stream.

I am asking you our members to help and do your part by taking a book or two of raffle tickets to sell to your relatives, golfing buddies or whomever you might think would like to support the legion by purchasing a ticket. I have sent a request to 25 legions in our local area to ask if they could put up our raffle poster. I received only two replies, one from Redwater and another from Fort McMurray saying they would share this information on their social media sites. You can tell your friends and family members they can purchase a ticket, just by calling the front desk. We all need to do our part to help promote and sell as many tickets as we can, every ticket sold will be much needed funds toward helping the Legion keep its doors open.

As the raffle is a very big project and has been consuming a lot of my time and energy, I have asked Jennifer Matheson to help with Ways and Means. She has embraced the opportunity to assist by her willingness to take on this role. She is a retired Logistic Officer and certainly has the expertise to facilitate and complete this responsibility, and I will certainly be there to assist her in any way I can. I am thanking both Jennifer and Kathy for doing the weekly audits on the raffle, their help is very much appreciated.

An application to the Poppy Fund requesting funds for the Kingsway Legion to host a Veteran's Dinner for 250 members was approved locally and has been forwarded up to Alberta Command for their endorsement, no word to date on approval. The dinner was scheduled for the 13 of June, but unfortunately if we do not receive approval soon enough from Alberta Command, this date will have to be moved to end of June or even into July.

The application for our raffle license was submitted and we received the Letter of Authority from AGLC for the Kingsway Legion to hold raffle schemes, this license will be valid through June 7, 2025 until June 6, 2027.

I have started to prepare for the Canada Day Celebrations, sent out many letters and applications for donations and support for this event. I have approached many local businesses for support and I have gotten news from Giant Tiger on Victoria Trail and they will be donating children's prizes or a large door prize to raffle on July 1st. I have received confirmation from all the dignitaries, that they will all be in attendance. Zaid Aboultaif MP, Heather Sweet MLA and Arron Paquette City Councilor and possibly Careful Curtis mascot from St John Ambulance. St John Ambulance Medical First Responders will be here to assist with first aid coverage. Heather Sweet will once again be covering the cost of the Canada Day Celebration Cakes. We are going to have some special surprises this year by having a large bouncy castle, axe throwing, a large connect 4, coloring contest and many more activities for all ages. Please come out and join in the fun!

I am continuing to update the website, Facebook accounts and continue to compile a data base of membership emails and other contacts to send out the Entertainment Newsletter each month.

Reminder for everyone, that I will be out of the area for the first week of June and June 16 to the 22.

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade N. Danyi

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 987 members for 2025 in good standing.

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate	Life Members
373	382	207	25

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade B. Charlet

CARRIED

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills

5 New Applications 3 Transfers 2 Reinstatement

New Members

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Holmes, Brian D.	Bobowsky, Jordanna	Segin, Jeannette M.
Matheson, Jennifer L.		Brogan, Donna Marie

Transfer

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Hogan, Michael Norwood 178	Marles, Cynthia (Cindy) Dominion Br 15	
Hawthorn, Debbie Dominion Br 15		

Reinstatements – 2

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Atkinson, Roger L.		
Jackman, Michael		

For a total of 10

I so move my report.
Seconded by Comrade K. Earles

CARRIED

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Comrade Hanzen

I am continuing to update the website, Facebook accounts and continue to compile a data base of membership emails and other contacts to send out the Entertainment Newsletter each month.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade N. Danyi

CARRIED

SPORTS: Comrade W. Hyshka

No report

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade Hazen

I just wanted to let everybody know that this weekend we are having a planting party (Saturday). We are going to plant flowers in the flower pots and just tidy up a little bit. I want to thank Dawna Buchanan for organizing volunteers. I believe we have 13 coming.

I so move Comrade Torrie's report

Seconded by Comrade J. Guillemette

CARRIED

HISTORIAN: Comrades Etmanski/S. Danyi

Veteran of the Month – Comrade S. Danyi

Thomas George “Tommy” Prince was born on October 25, 1915, in Petersfield, Manitoba, and was a proud member of the Brokenhead Ojibway Nation. A descendant of the respected Saulteaux leader Chief Peguis, Prince grew up in a large family on the Brokenhead Reserve. His early years were shaped by hardship and resilience, and from a young age, he developed skills in tracking and marksmanship that would serve him well in military life.

He enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1940 and initially served as a sapper with the Royal Canadian Engineers. Eager for more action, he later joined the elite 1st Special Service Force—an elite Canadian-American unit known as the Devil's Brigade. During the Second World War, Prince distinguished himself in combat, most famously in Italy, where he repaired a severed communication line under enemy fire by disguising himself as a farmer. For his courage and ingenuity, he was awarded the Military Medal by the United Kingdom and the Silver Star by the United States.

After the war, Prince re-enlisted and served with the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry during the Korean War. He took part in critical battles such as the Battle of Kapyong, where his unit earned international recognition.

Despite his military success, Prince faced systemic racism and was denied the same support and opportunities afforded to non-Indigenous veterans. He struggled to reintegrate into civilian life and

endured poverty, unemployment, and alcoholism. Over time, he was forced to sell his medals to support himself and spent his final years living in a Salvation Army shelter in Winnipeg. He died on November 25, 1977, at the age of 62.

Tommy Prince remains one of Canada's most decorated Indigenous soldiers and a symbol of both valor and the injustices many Indigenous veterans have faced. His legacy lives on through commemorations in schools, buildings, and public campaigns to honor his contributions and remember the challenges he overcame.

While the government and VAC have come a long way in regards to accessibility to Veterans benefits and services regardless of race we still face a great issue with veterans and homelessness. This continues to be due, in no small part, to the lack of support for mental health issues and assistance for veterans and, as a consequence, access to proper medical care which then leads to complications with employment and self-medication.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade P. Earles

CARRIED

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe

No report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade J. Luce

Radio Ads are currently running. This is a 9 week Radio campaign with every second day 4 times per scheduled day. We will be doing a contest on 96.3 The Breeze. Thought this was to start May 22, 2025 but this is changed to June 2 – June 27, 2025.

- 28 x inclusion in Breeze Rewards Club promotional messages (June 2-8)
- 20 x live announcer mentions
- 1 x Rewards Contest Listing (June 2-8)
- 1 x Events Listing
- 1 x Rewards Club Newsletter inclusion

96.3 The Breeze TOTAL PROMTIONAL VALUE: \$11,700.00

Kingsway Legion Branch #175 to provide:

- 5 x double guest dinner & show passes for June 27 performance

Legion Events for April

Legion of Laughs Comedy Nights are continuing until June 23rd, every second Monday. Will look at it for September for a different day of week.

Ukrainian Dinner & Dance was a Success Thank you Jackie!

Extreme Bingo was huge this past month. Thank you goes out to all who helped with the event. Karaoke Night was a surprise as to the numbers and money brought in. Thank you to the members who attended the evening. We'll look at it for more future events.

When all said and done the Month of April:

Total Gross Income \$21,650.77

Total Net Profit: \$10,028.22

As what May looks like

May 2025 (as of May 20, 2025)

Total Gross Income \$9,735.39

Total Net Profit \$3,060.24

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade N. Danyi

CARRIED

WEEKLY DANCES: Comrade O'Brien

No report

POPPY: Comrade Etmanski

Strathcona Legion has official announced that they are starting proceedings to separate from the GEPPF. There is a long drawn-out process.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade C. Wills

CARRIED

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade M. Walsh

I have completed 1 request for Poppy Fund assistance and referred 2 individuals to the Command Service Officer for additional assistance.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade C. Wills

CARRIED

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade J. Hyshka

No report

CADET LIAISON OFFICER: Comrade S. Danyi

504 Blatchford Field Royal Canadian Air Cadets

Comrade Fecteau attended 504 Squadron on May 14, 2025. Happy to announce 23 cadets have been approved for gliding and summer training. Sponsored a cadet Mess Dinner on April 6th where fun was had by all. 504 Annual Ceremony Review (ACR) will be held on June 11th and awards to be handed out on June 14th. Time for both events are still to be determined.

I so move Comrade Criss' report.

Seconded by Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade L. Foote

No report

LADIES AUXILIARY: Madam B. Charlet

We had our annual honours and awards on May 20. It was well attended. We do not have another meeting until September. Our weekly meat draws will still continue through the summer. A huge thank-you to the Ladies who came to help with the garage sale. We were able to present the Branch with a cheque for \$10,000.00 as we continue to support our Branch through meat draws and raffles. Eldean Baskerville and I will be attending a cadet function at the armory on June 3. Have a safe and happy summer.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade J. Hyshka

CARRIED

LEST WE FORGET: Comrade R. Torrie

No report

KIPNESS CENTRE: Comrade K. Deugau

I feel we as a Legion could host another dinner in 2025 for our veterans. Possibly in December. We are able to apply to the poppy fund to support this event. Unfortunately, we have not received the funding for the June 13 dinner. I have to see what happens to the June dinner.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

VETERAN'S VILLA: Comrade P. Earles

No report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Comrade R. Etmanski

The only thing that I will mention at this time is on Friday night the Honour Guard will be doing a celebration of life at the Base golf course for a veteran and friend of a lot of the Honour Guard. I believe he was a MWO with the MPs. He passed away of cancer this year.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade N. Danyi

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Nominations for Legionnaire of the Year – Comrade Etmanski

So, what I would like is think about it between now and our next meeting. We will announce the winner of the Legionnaire of the Year. Think of someone in here that donates a lot of time, does a lot for the Legion, selflessly, puts in a lot of hours. So, I would like nominations over the next three weeks. You can hand them in to the front office in an envelope with my name on it. We will announce the winner at the June General Meeting.

B. Garage Sale – Trese Biddiscombe

I want to thank everyone who donated so generously. Without your amazing contributions we would not have had the success we did.

Now for the volunteers. Each and every one of you is truly a blessing. You worked hard, we had some laughs and we were successful beyond my hopes. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. For those of you who wonder what kind of village it takes to put on something like this...there were 521.75 volunteer hours from Wednesday the 21st to Monday the 26th.

Thanks to our ambassadors on Global News Jan, Bill and Ember. So many people came Sunday because of your message.

Last but not least thank you shoppers for your support.

So here is the breakdown of what we did.

Raffle ticket sales \$715.00 - 68.60 (gift basket items) expensive= \$646.40
Thanks to those who donated to the raffle.

Garage sale as of Monday 8442.95- 101.00 (pop, supplies for popcorn, chips & hot dogs)
= 8341.95.

Today we had an additional \$250.00 added for grand total for the garage sale of 8591.95

So total of raffle and garage sale is \$9238.35

C. Senior Executive Officers of AB-NWT Command

Our new Senior Executive Officers for AB-NWT Command are:

President – Dave Velichko

Immediate Past President – Rosiland LaRose

1st Vice President – Scott Sadler

Vice Presidents – Kelly Lindbeck, Bob Peterson and Tim Penney

Treasurer – Bill Hart

Chairman – Terry Kuzyk

D. Veteran's Dinner November 7 at WOs & Sgts Mess

There is going to be a Veteran's Dinner on November 7, 2025 (4:00 pm) at the WOs & Sgts Mess at the Garrison. The official invitation will come out later.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175

DRAWS

50/50 # 351906 Winner: Rosemary Lennie
Amount: \$60.00

The next General Meeting will be on June 24, 2025

Motion: To adjourn was made by Comrade W. Hyshka

The President closed the meeting by ritual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:33 P.M

 Rick Etmanski President Kingsway Branch #175	 Jackie Hyshka Executive Secretary Kingsway Branch #175
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