

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

I'd 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: 64 Members 0 Guest

The meeting was chaired by Comrade R. Torrie

ROLL CALL:

Present: Comrades, Etmanski, Wills, J. Hyshka, W. Hyshka, Deugau, Foote, Torrie, Leben, Wiebe, Walsh, Matheson

Excused:

O'Brien

Absent:

Criss

PRESENTATIONS – Comrade Wills

Comrade Richardson – 10 year pin

Comrade Fader – 25 year pin

Comrade Fecteau – 60 year pin

LADIES' AUXILIARY PRESENTATION – Madam Charlet

On behalf of myself and the hardworking ladies of the Ladies' Auxiliary we have a \$10,000.00 cheque to present to the Branch.

LAST POST

No report

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion: to accept the agenda as amended made by Comrade E. MacIntosh as amended

Seconded by Comrade Zeck

CARRIED

7. Committee Reports

Strike the following reports 7 (b), (f), (j) (l), (n), (o), (q) (u), and (v)

Comrade R. Charlet – additions to the Agenda, one I do not see any report from the committee that was suppose to report to this meeting

Comrade C. Wills – it is not ready yet

Comrade R. Charlet – and there are no Minutes to the Special General. Both of those should be on here. On this agenda there should the Minutes of the Special Meeting from July and there should also be somewhere on there for the Committee to report back to this meeting. That is what is suppose to be happening.

Comrade Nelson – the Special Committee was to report at the end of October

Comrade R. Charlet – Comrade Chair the Committee was supposed to report back to this meeting. Now we are being told that is not going to happen. What is the story

Comrade Leben – the Motion that was tabled at the Special General Meeting read as follows “Table this Motion until the nine-person panel has been established and have had an opportunity to study the problem and report back to the general membership within three months”. Which would take it to the end of October.

Comrade R. Charlet – Comrades, I hope everybody understands what kind of serious trouble this Branch is in. We need to get something done sooner than later. Putting this off and putting this off is just not the answer. We may not have a Branch to come to if we are not careful. If the bank steps in, we lose everything.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATING 24 JUNE 2025

Motion: To accept the minutes was made by Comrade L. MacIntosh
Seconded by Comrade Lawrence

CARRIED
1 abstained – Comrade R. Charlet

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACTING TREASURER REPORT – Comrade Leben:

At the Special General Meeting I volunteered to take part in a committee to study the situation of our Branch. This has been my priority. In the meantime, I have been looking at the financial statements that we have. Not only from the first of January until the 30th of June but I have also looked at July and August. There are still some things in there that I am not comfortable with and it is the matter of the way it is presented. When I am comfortable, which will be at the next general meeting, I will present a consolidated financial report. In the meantime, I have discussions with our bank and with our auditor and I am comfortable with reporting that they are comfortable at this point. However, that does not mean that we are out of the woods and that we need to buckle down and do our part to make sure that this Legion stays afloat. One of the opinions that has been brought forward has been an open house which has been scheduled for this Saturday coming the 4th of October. At the Open House we will have military vehicles, we will have military antique vehicles here, we will have a weapons display, we will have a bouncy castle and a number of things here to encourage folks to come in. We will have a big banner made for the front fence. We have some handouts, a box of handouts and I am hoping that everyone will participate.

Comrade D. MacIntosh – can you address the information that is going around that we are having issues with staff maybe not cashing their cheques when they are supposed to and withholding payroll so that bar things can be bought or that they have to make a choice between one of the two until there is enough money to cover their cheques.

Comrade Leben – I will leave that to the President

Comrade D. MacIntosh – why would that be the President

Comrade Leben – because I am not up to speed with everything that is going on with the finances as of yet and as soon as I am, I will be comfortable in responding.

Comrade Etmanski – as far as I know and I have been talking to Flo daily there has not been any issue with nobody cashing their cheques to cover for

Comrade D. MacIntosh – it was through Flo and it was to Regan and it was like do you want to beer order paid or do you want to get paid

Comrade Fecteau – Point of Order

Comrade D. MacIntosh – so I think we need to be aware of this as a general

Comrade Fecteau – Point of Order

Comrade Torrie – I will Comrade as soon as she is finished talking, so be polite

Comrade Fecteau— a Point of Order means everything stops. Can we get a mike so everyone can hear what is going on

Comrade Torrie – Sargeant-At-Arms come get the stand

Comrade D. MacIntosh – so are you going to answer

Comrade Torrie – you have received an answer. He said Flo has said nothing to him and I am here everyday bright and early ahead of Flo and she did not say anything to me. So that is a rumour. I have a saying “kill the rumour shot the bloody messenger”.

Comrade Etmanski – where are you getting your information

Comrade D. MacIntosh – between Flo and Regan

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

No report

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Matheson

1. 50/50 Raffle – Total tickets sold \$27,450.00. We have made our minimum amount. Thank you again to all who have continued to sell tickets.
2. Province of Alberta Community Development Unit: Last month I requested some assistance/information from the Province’s Community Development Unit and I have been contacted by one of their experts last week, who also happens to be the President of the Mayerthorpe Legion. She has forwarded me some information on resources available from the government to help non-profits succeed. Much of what is offered is training for the executive and staff, for example I have signed up for a grant writing workshop to help me in my role. As I dig into the information, I will provide more details and suggest training opportunities for persons who are interested. I do have a flyer for the fall training with me tonight if anyone would like to take a look at it.
3. Grants. In the coming months the application window for applying for provincial and city grants will open for the January deadlines. These grants are usually for very specific purposes but anyone who has any requests for funding specific projects or for programs you might want to run, please email me your requests by 1 December and I will see if we can apply for funding.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Wiebe

CARRIED

Comrade R. Charlet – we have bingos Wednesday, October 8 and Tuesday, October 14 and we are looking for volunteers. Please see me

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 1225 members for 2025 in good standing.

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate	Life Members
390	591	219	25

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade T. Biddiscombe

CARRIED

I will now talk about the Open House. I know it is short notice. You know it and I know it. There is not a lot I can do about it. I was told last Tuesday that I was doing this so I am doing it. We have a few volunteers and I am very grateful for however we are short five. Executive I expect you to go see Norma and volunteer in uniform on Saturday, October 4 for the Open House. Also, I have fliers up here at the front so if you could go for a walk around your neighbourhood and post them for me, I would be ever so grateful. The cadets could not help as they are busy but if we could all lend a hand and hopefully it will be successful.

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills

13 New Applications 3 Transfers Reinstatement

New Members - 13

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Andres, Bradley	Pearson, Robert	Wright, Tina
	Sagriff, Lisa	Arnold, Lyle
	Dauphney, David	Arseneau, Joseph
	Wheaton, Kathryn	Petrov, Jessica
	Dargatz, Gail	Ewasiuk, Randall
	Dargarz, Herman	
	Bendera, Marlain	

Transfer - 3

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Macciaszek, Angela Norwood Br 178	Fairbrother, Darlene Norwood Br 178	
Hogan, Michael Norwood Br 178		

Reinstatements – 0

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate

For a total of 16

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Leben

CARRIED

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

No report

SPORTS: Comrade W. Hyshka

I have attended the Fall Rally and confirmed sports dates with no changes to dates or locations.

Have replaced one backing on dart board with carpet as this is one of the cheapest and it lasts longer.

Have provided an updated meat draw list for the year and created a master list which I have loaded to the Sports USB for future reference.

We have 2 entries for Euchre and 2 entries for Legion darts. Just a reminder that if we wish to host a sport, we must have an entry in that sport.

I repaired 2 sink taps behind the bar as requested by Flo.

I assisted where I was able.

Jackie and I attended the annual ANAVETS veterans' dinner on September 22, 2025.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Wills

CARRIED

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade Torrie

Continued routine maintenance of the grounds. Starting to get ready for winter. I want to thank Cheryl and her sidekick for trimming up the caraganas out front.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade Fecteau

CARRIED

HISTORIAN: Comrades Etmanski

Most of the display is set up in the main cabinets. You will see a lot of WWI and WWII medals and Korea veteran shirt, jacket and hat and a plaque from the Korean Embassy in Ottawa. Everything in that cabinet has to do with veterans. The display over by the men's washroom we are still adding stuff to it as we get it. Padre Wiebe has graciously said that we would bring in a RCMP uniform in a glass case for the Open House on October 4.

Veteran of the Month story provided by Comrade Sean Danyi– Comrade J. Hyshka

July (Military and RCMP for the Padre)

Sir Sam Steele (1848–1919) – Mountie, Soldier, Nation-BUILDER

Sir Sam Steele was one of Canada's most iconic figures in both policing and military service, embodying the spirit of the expanding Canadian frontier in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

He began his career in the military during the Fenian Raids. In 1873, he joined the newly formed North-West Mounted Police (later the RCMP), where he quickly rose through the ranks due to his discipline and leadership.

Steele gained fame for his firm but fair enforcement during the Klondike Gold Rush, where his leadership brought law and order to the chaotic Yukon. His reputation for incorruptibility and justice became legendary.

Returning to military service during the South African War, Steele commanded Lord Strathcona's Horse, earning praise for his effectiveness in mobile operations. In World War I, despite his age, he was appointed to command the 2nd Canadian Division in England and later oversaw Canadian forces in the UK.

Knighted in 1918, Sir Sam Steele's legacy lies in his foundational role in shaping both the RCMP and Canada's early military tradition—combining frontier justice with professional soldiering in service to the nation.

August (Air Force . . .because I suppose I have to include one, just to be fair)

Major Micky Colton (Retired)

Major Micky Colton is a trailblazing Canadian Air Force veteran and one of the first women to earn her pilot wings in the Canadian Armed Forces. Born in 1958 in Ontario, she joined the military shortly after women were first permitted to train as pilots. In 1982, she earned her wings and went on to serve as a Search and Rescue pilot, flying the CC-130 Hercules aircraft.

Over a distinguished 32-year career, she became the first Canadian woman to log over 5,000 hours on the Hercules, eventually accumulating more than 7,100 flight hours. Her contributions to military aviation were recognized as part of Canada's centennial celebration of flight, where her

name was displayed on the side of a CF-18 Hornet.

After retiring from active duty in 2011, she continued to serve as a reservist until 2018, coordinating SAR operations. In civilian life, she became an author and founded Horse Sense Equine Guidance, an organization that blends equine-assisted learning with leadership development. Her story continues to inspire as an example of perseverance, leadership, and dedication in both military and civilian life.

September (Truth and Reconciliation)

Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau (1887–1917)

Alexander Wuttunee Decoteau was a pioneering Cree Canadian who made significant contributions as an athlete, police officer, and soldier. Born on the Red Pheasant Cree Nation in Saskatchewan, he overcame early hardships, including the loss of his father and time spent in residential school, to emerge as a remarkable long-distance runner. His athletic prowess earned him a spot on the Canadian team at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, where he competed in the 5,000-metre event.

In 1911, Decoteau broke barriers by becoming Canada's first Indigenous police officer when he joined the Edmonton Police Service. His commitment to service extended beyond policing; in 1916, he enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force during World War I. Serving as a dispatch runner, a perilous role requiring him to carry messages across battlefields, he utilized his running skills under the most dangerous conditions.

Tragically, Decoteau was killed by a sniper on October 30, 1917, during the Battle of Passchendaele. He was 29 years old. His legacy endures through various honors, including inductions into multiple sports halls of fame and the naming of public spaces in his memory. Decoteau's life remains a powerful testament to resilience, dedication, and the profound impact of Indigenous Canadians in shaping the nation's history.

I so move the Historian report.

Seconded by Comrade B. Gwilliam

CARRIED

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe

No report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade J. Hyshka

Upcoming dates and bands are as follows:

September 26/27 – CC & High Ryder
October 3/4 - Norman and the Country Jammers
October 10/11 – New Lumberjacks
October 17/18 – TBD
October 24/25 – CC & High Ryder
October 31/November 1 – Trick Ryder

UPCOMING EVENTS - **all prices are GST applicable

Saturday, October 18, 2025
The Bratwurst Betrayal
Due to lack of ticket sales, this event has been cancelled.

I have booked the New Year's Eve band and more information will be forthcoming.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

Comrade J. Guillemette – how much was the downpayment for this
Comrade J. Hyshka - \$1,000.00. We lost \$1,000.00

WEEKLY DANCES: Comrade O'Brien

This Thursday is our last jam until September. We don't know what is going to happen other than on September 4 everything will be back to normal.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade Fecteau

CARRIED

POPPY: - Comrade Biddiscombe

Thanks for all the volunteers who put the school kits together on Monday. There are roughly 82 schools, I think, that we put kits together for. They will be delivered on the 8th and 9th to the respective depots. There is a phone change for the Greater Edmonton Poppy Office number. If you notice the old number, please let myself, Ron or Rick know and we will get it changed. Thousands of honour boxes have been changed with the new phone number so hopefully everything that goes out this year will have the right phone number.

We need volunteers. The signup sheets are in the hall. I know lots of people say we will wait to see where you need me. We start to panic as it rolls closer to the end of October and there are still empty spaces. So, if you can spare a little bit of time and help out where ever you can there is something for everyone. I can use help in the office, there is hockey, there is drivers needed, there is mall sitters needed, there is people needed to put kits together for businesses. I think

there is over 400 businesses that we put kits together for. If you are interested in driving for a business or a school, I have those routes printed out. I did not leave them out because people were putting their names on them instead of the signup sheets. If you want to know where a particular route goes let me know – I have those sheets and I can show you where it goes.

There are six hockey games in total – 3 Oiler games and 3 Oil Kings. On the 1st is a doubleheader – they have an Oil Kings game in the afternoon and an Oilers game in the evening. So, if you can volunteer it would be greatly appreciated.

Just a FYI – I am working with Costco and some of our outlying Legions. We are unable to man the Costco's – that the Greater Edmonton in general, so Kingsway does not have a Costco within our boundary. I have reached out to some Legion outside of the GEPF and in principle they will provide workers and supplies and collect for their Legion on their specific day.

I so move my report
Seconded by Comrade Hazen

CARRIED

Comrade Torrie – FYI and for information that Strathcona #150 has officially withdrawn from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund and this was authorized by AB/NWT Command this past summer.

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade M. Walsh

No report

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade J. Hyshka

Received an email from Wayne Telcs regarding survey from Monday Night Darts people and he was concerned about this survey. It sounded like you had to become a Legion member to play. Comrade Etmanski will speak to this and clarify that you do not need to become a Legion member to play in Monday Night Darts.

CADET LIAISON OFFICER: Comrade Criss

No report

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade L. Foote

The Honour Guard participated in a celebration of life on Saturday, September 27 – 9 of us where in attendance for that. We also have a funeral this Saturday and graveside at the Northern Lights and 5 of us will attend that and then we will come to the Open House.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade J. Guillemette

CARRIED

LADIES AUXILIARY: Madam B. Charlet

Not much to say as we were not that busy this summer except the ladies were here every Saturday to do the meat draw. Also, they are selling tickets for the winter bake sale and raffle. Tickets are on sale for \$2.00 each. Please support the Ladies' Auxiliary because we also support the Legion.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade Fecteau

CARRIED

Madam J. Hyshka – on September 20, 2025, AB/NWT Command voted at their PEC meeting to dissolve the Ladies' Auxiliary Provincial Executive Council. All Ladies' Auxiliaries will remain under the direction of the Legion Branch it is founded through.

Comrade Hazen – does that mean independently the Ladies' Auxiliary will still exist

Madam J. Hyshka – yes as far as I know. I do not have a whole lot of information right now.

LEST WE FORGET: Comrade R. Torrie

Had a meeting in Fort Saskatchewan this past Thursday night. There will be 3 Lest We Forget Concerts. The first one will be here at the Branch with 200 tickets available and that is Tuesday, November 4, the following night the Colour Party along with the Concert will be at the Kipnes Centre for the residents and Saturday afternoon we are going to Morinville with the Lest We Forget Concert to their community cultural center and there will be 300 tickets available at 2:00 pm.

I so move my report

Seconded by Comrade Fecteau

CARRIED

KIPNES CENTRE: Comrade K. Deugau

No report

VETERAN'S VILLA: Comrade P. Earles

No report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Comrade R. Etmanski

1. October 4 Open House – this is to show off the Legion and the different events we have going on
2. The clipboards are out for volunteers for our upcoming Poppy Campaign. Sign up where you can
3. At our November meeting we will be electing new executive members. We will be voting on 1st Vice, 2nd Vice, secretary, treasurer and executive members. Start thinking about who you want in these positions.

OLD BUSINESS:

Comrade R. Charlet – just a reminder that we are going to need the Minutes from the Special Meeting and to make sure that Don's motion is in there. We are going to have to have it for the next meeting.

Comrade Hazen – in regards to the Minutes for transparency it is really hard as a member to come here and have three months of Minutes. Can we make sure we get them on the website. I don't think it is fair that we come here and have five Minutes before the meeting to go through and read all those Minutes to see what is going on.

Comrade Torrie – the only problem is that when you put them on the website something that belongs to us as a club

Comrade Hazen – all the other Minutes are there Mac. Just from June to now there has been no Minutes and I am the one who updates and I help Ron with updating the website. If you send it to me, I will put it on. It is just the members here are a little sad that they don't get them timely so that they can look at them before the meeting.

Comrade Torrie – that is a very valid point

Comrade Hazen – and I just want to clear up one thing. There have been some rumours going around and I want to defend my friend Gail because people say that I have ousted the Legion. I haven't. I haven't gone away. As Kim said today, she was happy to receive my email about the upcoming Open House. I haven't ousted. Blondie can tell you that I go to the bingos. I will volunteer if somebody asks me. So please, I have not ousted and neither has Gail. We are here to support and we really believe in the Legion and want this organization to survive and thrive and so I am still here.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Bursary

Motion by: Comrade Etmanski – to approve this bursary of a grandchild of a veteran from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$2,000.00 for their continued education towards their Business Degree - Section 402(vi)(a) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175

Comrade Yerex – I am looking for volunteers. Thank for first of all for all the volunteers who have volunteered. I have gone through the month of October and I need 70 people to volunteer – 70 positions to fill during the month of October. That is not counting bingos, that is not counting LA, that is not special events, that is just here. We have most filled but we now have people picking up dishes from 11:30 to 2:00, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We have people scheduled for Friday and Saturday all the time but the Wednesday and Thursday are hard to find. So, if anybody, it is not to long. Most of my volunteers are those who volunteer over and over and over again. I have some new volunteers coming in for the Open House. I only need two more people now. So, thanks to everybody.

Comrade R. Charlet – just a reminder to come by and sign up for the bingo

Comrade Torrie – if you see garbage on the ground, please pick it up. We want our grounds to look tidy.

The next General Meeting will be on October 28, 2025

Motion: To adjourn was made by Comrade W. Hyshka

The President closed the meeting by ritual.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 P.M

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