

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION KINGSWAY BRANCH #175
MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 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: 37 Members 1 Guest

The meeting was chaired by Comrade R. Torrie

ROLL CALL:

Present: Comrades, Etmanski, Wills, J. Hyshka, Matheson, W. Hyshka, O'Brien, Walsh, Deugau, Foote, Torrie, Criss

Excused:

Werner, Wiebe and Luce

LAST POST

The following Comrades have passed since our last General meeting:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Deceased</u>	<u>Service (if applicable)</u>
Earl Bridges	91	08 June 2025	Ordinary

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA:

Motion: to accept the agenda as amended made by Comrade Lawrence as amended

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

7. Committee Reports

Strike the following reports 7 (a), (b), (f), (g), (j), (k), (m), (o), (p), (t) and (v)

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING DATING 27 MAY 2025

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

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

TREASURER REPORT:

No report

FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:

No report

WAYS & MEANS: Comrade Matheson

1. 50/50 Raffle – Total tickets sold \$14,875.00 as of Thursday 19 June 2025. Thank you to all who have been working hard to sell tickets.
2. Building AGLC Liquor Licence has been renewed for the year, next expiry 31 May 2026.
3. We have received the AGLC Letters of Authority for in-house gaming and are good for two years, expiry 6 June 2027.
4. Use of Google drives and shared calendar held by Kingsway Legion. There are some of us on the executive and entertainment committee who would find it extremely helpful to have access to the Google drives in order to share documents with each other and to use the shared calendar to keep track of events etc. remotely.
5. Ways&Means email address. Now that we have had several resignations from the executive, I would like to formally request that one of those be converted to Ways&Means@kingswaylegion.ca

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade O'Brien

CARRIED

Comrade R. Charlet – we have bingos Thursday, July 10th and Friday, July 25 and Friday, August 8. I have sign up sheets here and we are looking for volunteers.

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills

MEMBERSHIP: Comrade C. Wills reported that we have 1029 members for 2025 in good standing.

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate	Life Members
387	399	218	25

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

NEW MEMBERS: Comrade C. Wills

11 New Applications 1 Transfers 0 Reinstatement

New Members

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Beddow, Robert	Fitzpatrick, Gary	Machnee, Elsie
Stauffer, Lois	Fitzpatrick, David	Lanuk, Larry
Harrison, Robert	Jago, Raymond	
Gagnon, Robert	Khan, Arif	
Forst, Jerry		

Transfer

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate
Hannah, Thomas Evansburg Br 196		

Reinstatements – 0

Ordinary	Associate	Affiliate

For a total of 12

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade R. Charlet

CARRIED

PUBLIC RELATIONS:

No report

SPORTS: Comrade W. Hyshka

No report

Comrade Etmanski – we are still carrying on with Thursday afternoon drop in darts and we also have Thursday evening drop in darts. Up until now they have been a bust because of hockey but hopefully it will continue and get a little stronger with numbers showing up. So if you can pass it on that we have Thursday drop in darts.

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Comrade Torrie

Continued routine maintenance of the grounds, with a big “Thank You” to those that donated and planted the flowerpots in the front of the Branch. As for the building, the Beer Cooler in the Juno Lounge froze up on Saturday, 14 June and was repaired the following week. Awaiting that invoice! The big ice machine stopped making ice and was repaired today (24th)! The quote for this repair is \$1,460.00 plus GST. Down the calendar, we have quote to repair the Expansion Tank on the Boilers (Replace the Internal Bladder) and the Isolation Valve before this upcoming winter. The quote for this repair is approximately \$4,570.00 plus GST.

I so move my report
Seconded by Comrade Walsh

CARRIED

HISTORIAN: Comrades Etmanski

Veteran of the Month – Comrade J. Hyshka

Sergeant (Retired) Fiona Zilberman

Sergeant Fiona Zilberman is a Canadian Armed Forces veteran and advocate for LGBTQ+ rights within the military. Enlisting in the 1990s, Fiona served with distinction in a variety of administrative and operational roles across Canada. Her career spanned the transition period when the Canadian Forces lifted its ban on LGBTQ+ service members in 1992.

Throughout her service, she remained quietly open about her identity, choosing to lead by example and support others who faced discrimination or uncertainty. After her retirement, Fiona became more vocal, using her platform to share her experiences as a lesbian in uniform and to advocate for a more inclusive and understanding military culture.

Her work has contributed to better education, policy reform, and the development of support networks for LGBTQ+ service members and veterans. She continues to speak publicly about mental health, inclusion, and the lasting impact of both silent and overt exclusion within military institutions.

Fiona Zilberman stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, courage, and the importance of visibility in shaping a more equitable Canadian Armed Forces.

I so move the Historian report.
Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

SICK & VISTING: Comrade Wiebe

No report

ENTERTAINMENT & SPECIAL EVENTS: Comrade J. Luce

No report

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 Etmanski

No report

SERVICE OFFICER'S REPORT: Comrade M. Walsh

I have completed 1 request for Poppy Fund assistance.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade Gwilliam

CARRIED

HONOURS & AWARDS: Comrade Torrie

No report

CORRESPONDENCE: Comrade J. Hyshka

No report

CADET LIAISON OFFICER: Comrade Criss

Comrade Guillemette: 180 20TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, ROYAL CANADIAN ARMY CADET CORPS

Comrade Hazen and I attended the 180 20th Field Artillery Regiment Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps 85th Annual Ceremonial Review on June 14, 2025, at 11:30am at the Alberta Aviation Museum Parade Square on 11410 Kingsway Ave. There were 21 cadets on the parade and many presentations and awards were presented to many well-deserving individuals. On behalf of Alberta-NWT Command Royal Canadian Legion, Jocelyn Guillemette and Janet Hazen presented the Troop Commander Cadet WO A. Koffi with the Award of Excellence.

After the ceremony the cadets proudly presented many clinic tables on the activities and training, they have accomplished throughout the year. Light lunch and refreshments were served.

We were approached by a representative from the parent group wanting to know if there were any occasions for the 180 Cadet Corp to volunteer at the Legion as the cadets are always enthusiastic and eager to help out.

I so move my report.

Seconded by Comrade K. Earles

CARRIED

SGT-AT-ARMS: Comrade L. Foote

The following Comrades have passed since our last General meeting:

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I am also pleased to announce that we have had no funerals to attendance since our last meeting.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade Lawrence

CARRIED

LADIES AUXILIARY: Madam B. Charlet

We continue to have our Saturday meat draws. Thanks to Mary and the Ladies we are doing well.

Eldean Baskerville and myself attended the ACR of the 504 Blanchard Cadets.

The Ladies Auxiliary will be having a meat draw and bake sale on July 1, 2025.

Our Saturday meat draws will continue through the summer.

We donated \$1,000.00 to the Branch for July 1 celebrations.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade E. MacIntosh

CARRIED

LEST WE FORGET: Comrade R. Torrie

No report

KIPNESS CENTRE: Comrade K. Deugau

The Legion is hoping to do a veteran's dinner in September. I have to get numbers from Kipness as to the number of veterans, spouses and/or caregivers. I will also need to check on any allergies.

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 I have is for the rest of the summer we will be alternating between the colour party and executive members for doing meat draws. This week it will be the executive members.

I so move report

Seconded by Comrade K. Earles

CARRIED

Comrade O'Brien: I have \$2.00 raffle tickets for sale for the barbeque and blanket that is out in the foyer along with a few other items.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Comrade Etmanski:

1. Resignation of 2nd Vice President – Janet Hazen
2. Resignation of volunteer coordinator – Donna Buchanan
3. Front office – the main office will be closed at 5:00 and there will be someone either at the front or in the canteen selling tickets until at least 9:00. That is for the summer months and then we will look at the fall as to whether we hire individuals back on for the evening shift in the front office.
4. Bursary

Motion by: Comrade R. 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 Engineering Degree - Section 402(vi)(a) of the Poppy Manual

Seconded by: Comrade W. Hyshka

CARRIED

5. Legacy Place

Motion by: Comrade Walsh – to approve this request for Veteran’s Assistance to Legacy Place Society from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$12,911.83 for a new furnace

Seconded by: Comrade Hazen

CARRIED

Motion by: Comrade Walsh – to approve this request for Veteran’s Assistance to Legacy Place Society from the Greater Edmonton Poppy Fund for a total of \$9,023.40 for handi-accessible driveway and sidewalk

Seconded by: Comrade Zech

CARRIED

Comrade D. MacIntosh: under the new summer hours what is happening to the Looney Draw.

Comrade O’Brien: it is being drawn the following morning

Comrade D. MacIntosh: it is being drawn the next morning, where do you sign in and pay for it

Comrade Etmanski: right now it is supposed to be closed at 5:00 pm and that includes the Looney Draw. For now you need to sign in on the Looney Draw prior to 5:00 pm. That may change next week. I will speak to Flo and work that out

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD & WELFARE OF KINGSWAYS BRANCH # 175

Comrade R. Charlet: I am a little disappointed in our turn out and we don’t have a lot of people hear considering we have over 1000 members. I have something rather important to deal with for the good of the Legion and for the good of the Branch. For the good of the Legion, Comrades, it certainly has been called before but in the last six months I have watched as we are burning our Branch down around us. Our President and his Executive have worked extremely hard and receive more abuse than anyone should have to deal with. A number of Executive have resigned their positions which passes on more work to those who are left. Let us remember the old saying – if you have nothing nice to say perhaps you should say nothing at all. Comrades, we truly want a successful Branch that people want to be a part of and want to represent the executive members then we must put ourselves into a position to be successful. At present we are slaves to a building we cannot afford. If we did not have a mortgage we probably could make it work however, we do have a mortgage and at present we cannot not afford it and this is destroying us. Not only the general membership with the Executive should be able to come to the Branch and enjoy themselves without having to work all the time and be worried about how we are going to pay out next bill. Comrades, at this point, I call on our President to call a Special Meeting prior to the end of July 2025 to deal with the findings of this Committee that I sit on looking after the building. At that point I will make a Notice of Motion at that Special General Meeting in July I move or comments to be moved for one of the two following motions and they will be the only topic for discussion at that meeting:

1. I so move that the President and his Committee be given the authority to pursue the sale of this property and purchase something smaller and more fitting to our needs as a Branch; or
2. I so move that the President and his Committee be given the authority to pursue the renovation for lease of a piece of our property.

I ask you to support this Comrades and we will be moving forward, getting more information to have a Special General Meeting we will present one or the other with some back up information for you to make a decision but I don't see how we can continue to the way we are and be successful and continue to lose people from our Executive and our membership.

DRAWS

50/50 # 850231 Winner: Janet Hazen
Amount: \$50.00

The next General Meeting will be on September 30, 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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