

PTACC Chair Report to the AGM 21 October 2017

On the completion of its tenth year of operation as the Pan Territorial Air Cadet Committee, I am pleased to provide this report to the 2017 Annual General Meeting. I would like to start out by mentioning some statistics. When PTACC was first formed in 2007 our northern Air Cadet population was 105. This number was relatively static until 2010, when we suffered a large downturn to 78 cadets. However from that point, I am pleased to say that population began a slow and gradual increase reaching 112 at the end of 2016 and surpassing the numbers from 2007. Although the setback may have been significant, it is more significant to recognize a strong recovery and further projecting trend of higher numbers. Our Committee is stronger and more experienced than it was in 2007 and we have had time to accustom ourselves to operating within a larger region. All of our partners play a part in strengthening the program and we have developed stronger relationship with each of them. We have stronger community relationships, strengthened involvement from parents, sponsors such as the Legion in Iqaluit, the Elks in Yellowknife and the Lions Club in Whitehorse, sponsoring committees and industry partners.

The Regional Cadet Support Unit has become more experienced with managing the challenges of running a program in the large expanse of Northern Canada and Also is to be mentioned, the continued support of the volunteer members of the Pan Territorial Air Cadet Committee which is involved and engaged in all matters relating to Air Cadets in the three territories..

Our biggest challenge has been geography, however our strengths have been the commitment and common sense approach by our volunteer residents of the north.

During the regular course of this past year the PTACC executive committee has met monthly to discuss and conduct business for the Air Cadet program and the northern Squadrons.

Beginning in October, PTACC voted to amend the bylaws to clarify and streamline our operations to bring them in line with the National Air Cadet League initiative synchronizing all Provincial Committees on National Operations and to develop a formally recognizable and workable structure to interact with the Canadian Revenue Agency. The opportunity was also taken at that time, to make changes to clarify and update the bylaws, improving readability and adopting gender neutrality. One additional change will be required during this AGM to conform to legislative changes to the NWT Statutes on Bylaws which will clarify the financial relationship and of directors in PTACC. With changes last year, this committee became officially registered as "Pan Territorial Air Cadet Committee", until then, it had been legally known by its previous name of Yukon/NWT Zone Committee.

Committees were established this year in the following areas: Finance and Administration, Volunteer Registration, Advance Training and Selection, Effective Speaking, Aviation, Industry Liaison and Fundraising and Squadron Liaison. Each committee has engaged with its national counterpart. We participate on more than half of national committees. This is with encouragement to participate in more. However with limited finances and numbers, we select those which most affect our squadrons at home.

This year PTACC was involved in the following activities

This was our fifth year joining with the Civil Air Patrol and 551 RCACS in the Wreaths across the Border ceremony on December 3. Cadets from both the Yukon and Alaska met at the border to take part in this auspicious event.

The Stage III Zone Biathlon Competition in Whitehorse in February included the Territorial Effective Speaking Competition and Advanced Training and Selection interviews and panelling of Northern Cadets. This year's winner for the Effective Speaking Competition was Cpl Sivakumar from 825 RCACS Yellowknife and he attended the national Effective Speaking Competition in Winnipeg in June.

The Remembrance Day Ceremonies in Yellowknife were attended by the CO RCSU (NW) LCol Michele Claveau

Our Executive and a northern cadet were represented at a Dinner and activities at the annual meeting of the Northern Air Transportation Association in Yellowknife.

Nationally, PTACC Attended the Semi Annual Meeting of the National League in Ottawa and the National Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg. We also participated in three Regional Cadet Advisory Group meetings with RCSU(NW) one in person in Winnipeg and two by teleconference.

PTACC supports the Community Consultation "CCC" initiatives by DND.

This year, on the tenth anniversary of PTACC, we commissioned the striking of a challenge coin in the shape of an ULU. Two hundred and twenty five coins were issued and sequenced. The purpose of this coin is to recognize the efforts of individuals and organisations which have brought value to the Air Cadet program in the North and as awarded, names will be recorded in a journal against the issue of each coin. I have awarded a number of these coins this year to previous chairs, members and organisations which bring credit to the Air Cadet program. More are yet to follow.

With respect to our status, Our filings and financials are up to date with noted exceptions and our overall health is excellent.

Our challenges looking forward will include:

We will be asked to step to the plate more, both in a support and an administrative role. Two major factors affect this. One is the ever more difficult exercise of matching funds to programs. Doing more with less. To continue to participate in the program in a safe, challenging and rewarding manner for youth, the league will require us to engage meaningfully in all aspects of the program with increased volunteers and sponsorship support. This will require PTACC to broaden its volunteer base. I would urge that this take place in a deliberate and planned manner. Select where the support is needed and seek out individuals with the requisite interests and skill levels. The changing organisational model for the league will require more administration.

The second area is financial. As PTACC engages more, we must be ever mindful of the costs of doing so. Any national initiative which brings costs to the provincial committees can be scalable and can easily overwhelm our resources. We need to remind and warn larger Provincial Committees and National Executive when we might be in danger of becoming overwhelmed or overburdened and have identified for our protection, our core needs.

I am confident, with the enthusiasm and experience of our directors and volunteers that the Air Cadet program in the north will continue to strengthen and strive. All the best for 2017-2018

Dale Crouch/Past Chair/Pan Territorial Air Cadet Committee