



The UNTD Association of Canada
L'Association UNTD du Canada

President's Post-AGM letter to the Membership

December 8, 2022

On November 15th, 2022, we held the first Annual General Meeting of the UNTDA as an incorporated body. I am delighted to say that we had 74 in attendance, almost all of whom were full voting members.

As it is important that all members be informed of our actions, this letter is intended to assist those who did not attend, and perhaps did not read the materials on the website, to be aware of not only the establishment of our new corporation and its basic operating system but crucially, the members approval of our new membership structure that marks a turning point in the ongoing evolution of the UNTDA. The decision underlines the change from an association that was built solely around the successful UNTD program from 1943 to 1968 to a new national, more diverse and inclusive Naval Reserve association. The meeting was more than simply a milestone in the history of the UNTDA and involved several important decisions:

Ø Confirmation of the Incorporation of the UNTDA from an unincorporated voluntary association to a Canada Non-profit Corporation.

Ø Approval of our first by-laws

Ø Increase of our Board of Directors to a maximum of 20.

Ø Expansion of our membership base to welcome all naval reservists, active and retired, of all ranks.

President/Président

Graham W. S. Scott, CM, QC

First Vice-President/ Première vice-présidente

Jennifer Bennett, CMM, CD,
RAdm (Retd)

Second Vice-President/ Deuxième vice-président

Daniel Haché, CD

Secretary/secrétaire

Ken McCaw, CD

Treasurer/Trésorier

Ross Connell, CD

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Bob Blakely

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Glenn Carroll

Bill Clearihue

Roger Elmes

Kim Kubeck

Marta Mulkins

Iain Munro

Nick Slonosky

I wanted you to be aware of the decisions, to understand the rationale and logic and encourage you to share the enthusiasm of the membership that attended the meeting. The AGM decision to expand the membership illustrates that UNTDs were not only prepared to move from a membership structure and Association that was only relevant to UNTDs but were prepared to endorse the advice from so many of our post-UNTD colleagues that a broader membership was essential to reflect the nature of today's reservists.

The evolution of the organization started following the 2018 – 75th Anniversary reunion in St John's by seeking to recruit post UNTD officer groups (ROUTP/NROCs/UNTD2 etc.) and many of them stepped up and got involved and provided the background in the changes in the Reserve and the Navy that, among other contributions, led to an initial expansion of membership to include all post UNTD officer training plans.

The next logical step was to review where the future of the UNTDA might lie. Consequently, we established the UNTDA 2025 Committee chaired by Marta Mulkins a new director, to consider "What could the UNTDA be in 2025?" This led to a questionnaire and interviews with the members of the Board which elicited their thoughts on both the current state and on possible future interests and roles of the UNTDA.

The major findings of the UNTDA 2025 Review highlighted several themes including a desire for the continuation of a Naval Reserve association aimed at, though not exclusive to, retired or soon-to-be retiring members of the Naval Reserve or members of the RCN with roots in the Reserve. The report stated that the Association should continue to place emphasis upon social connections, shared experience, and the mission of documenting, celebrating, and communicating our storied history. It was also determined that the Naval Reserve Centennial in 2023 could serve as a good pivot point for evolution and the initiation of transition of the Association.

To further consider the potential of expanding membership beyond officer training programs, a Membership Structure Review Committee was struck to undertake some initial consultation with a group of invited potential members across all ranks (retired and serving Naval Reservists) to obtain their on whether the new UNTDA mandate would be of interest to a broader membership group; if so - what should that memberships structure be; and further, to seek some initial thoughts on proposals for new names that might attract a broader range of members under a changed membership structure.

If you go to our website you will see the [documentation](#) for the AGM including the UNTD 2025 report and recommendations, the report of the Membership Structure Review Committee and my President's report which goes into more detail as to the changes

proposed.

Our UNTD and post UNTD officer training experience helped us appreciate the wonders of Canada and created a proud group of Canadians, who came together and learned about citizenship and service and to appreciate each other. It is this glue that led to the original creation of the UNTDA and its energy and activities long after the end of our program.

It is against this background of service and commitment to the country that I am asking for your continued support of the UNTDA as our process of evolution continues.

What can you do to continue to contribute? I would encourage you to consider the following:

- Encourage Naval Reserve friends of all ranks to join up; it is particularly important that we engage Non-Commissioned Members (NCMs) in the work of transitioning and serving in key roles with the Association now. If you know of particularly talented individuals you want to nominate for leadership roles, please write to me directly.
- Plan to attend the [Victoria Centennial Conference](#) in May and participate in our 2023 AGM where you will be engaged and informed about the future transition and join in the celebrations as we launch our new association.
- Find out more about Centennial events and reconnect with your Naval Reserve Division to increase awareness of our membership expansion. Check the [listing of centennial events](#) on our website is the only public version available nationally.

Another key step is finding an appropriate change of name. We hope to launch a process early in the New Year to provide some initial alternatives for our membership to consider. Your input on a new name would be very welcome.

In this period of evolution, the UNTDA has continued to be a vibrant organization, proven capable of mounting national events, founding partner of the [Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph project](#), and demonstrably supportive of the contribution of the Naval Reserve while remaining financially sound. The Commander of the Naval Reserve considers the Association a credible partner in his plans to celebrate the Naval Reserve Centennial.

While the Board has made considerable strides and our Association has evolved and initially expanded to a broader range of post-UNTD members in the past two year, our Centennial conference is only five months away and there is much to be addressed if we are to achieve our basic goal of readying the UNTDA for building the new naval reserve association. The UNTDA as it evolved resulted in the building of valuable relationships and traditions and not inconsiderable assets such as the Nominal list and a formidable website all of which contributed to our many activities following the creation of the UNTDA more than 30 years ago.

The Centennial Conference in Victoria, May 9 – 12, 2023 is a key opportunity for a celebration of the UNTD and an occasion for UNTiDy's to be part of leaving a legacy and contributing to the development of a new organization to serve Canadian Naval Reservists while passing the torch to a strong, diverse and more representative Board who will undertake the major responsibility of defining and building of the new Naval Reserve Association.

This is my call to you to be proactive about preserving our legacy while also contributing to the future and to "Muster One More Time" - to pull together as we create a new expanded national Naval Reserve organization with the UNTDA as its firm foundation.

Warm regards,

Graham

Citizen Sailors — 100 years/Matelot citoyen – 100 années

Celebrating Canada's Naval Reserve Centennial, May 8-12, 2023 Victoria BC

Célébration du centenaire de la Réserve navale du Canada, du 8 au 12 mai 2023 Victoria BC

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