



The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Provincial Command
CONSTITUTION & LAWS COMMITTEE
MEMORANDUM



To: Comrade Garry Pond, Provincial President

Date: August 13th, 2020

Subject: Branch Elections

From: Bruce McKittrick

A moratorium in response to COVID-19 was approved by Dominion Executive Council on March 20th, 2020 which suspended the holding of Branch Elections and placed all current and future Article III Complaints in abeyance until a return to normal Branch Operations. Dominion Command has now rescinded its moratorium respecting Branch Elections conveying the oversight authority to each individual Command. However, the moratorium respecting Article III Complaints remains in effect until further notice.

The present environment within the Province of Ontario continues to fluctuate and is being closely monitored as areas move to Stage 3 protocols within the Province. However, it is evident that the present and future protocols will continue to change and it appears that it will be some time before all Branches will be able to return to a fully operational status with the same level of equality province wide.

It must be noted that Dominion and Provincial Commands have rescheduled their respective Conventions and thus the current Term of Office for all Officers and Committee Chairmen has been expanded to a 3-year term with the next term also expanded to 3 years. It is therefore anticipated that Branch Officers and the respective Chairmen will see the need and benefit to retain a similar continuity while we progress towards a new era.

Declaration

Therefore, the Provincial President, with the concurrence of the Provincial Administrative Committee, has exercised his authority under Section 505, and pursuant to Section 418.a. of The General By-Laws, by making the following new declarations:

Declaration No. 4 -2020

‘Any annual Branch Election, and Nomination Meeting (if applicable), previously scheduled for earlier in 2020 and subsequently suspended due to COVID-19 will be rescheduled to the appropriate date(s) in 2021 pursuant to their applicable Branch Regulations.’

- And further –

‘Any biennial Branch Election (even numbered years), and Nomination Meeting (if applicable), previously scheduled for 2020 and subsequently suspended due to COVID-19 will be rescheduled to the appropriate date(s) in 2022 pursuant to their applicable Branch Regulations unless the Branch through approval at a General Meeting chooses to exercise one of the following options:

- i. Process an Amendment to their Branch Regulations and approved by Command respecting resorting to a one-year Term of Office which will take effect on the 1st day of June 2021; **or**
- ii. Convene the Elections, and Nomination Meeting (if applicable), on the appropriate day(s), as per their Branch Regulations, in 2021 to become a

“They served till death! Why not we?”

one-year Term of Office effective on the 1st day of June 2021 after which Elections and Nominations (if applicable) will revert back to a two-year Term of Office becoming effective on the 1st day of June, 2022.

The applicable provisions in the By-Laws and Branch Regulations respecting the convening of Branch Elections and Nomination Meetings, along with those provisions respecting the Term of Office, will be temporarily suspended in the year of 2021 to permit only those Branches that choose to action one of the two above choices listed.

These new declarations shall become effective at the start of the day immediately following the day of approval by the Provincial Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruce N. McKittrick".

Bruce N. McKittrick
Chairman