



The Royal Canadian Legion
Ontario Provincial Command



To: All Members

Date: December 3rd, 2020

Subject: Declaration 7 - Branch Special General Meetings – Virtual **From: Garry Pond**

I have reviewed the situation pertaining to the need for matters such as amalgamation, relocation, co-location, and property sales/purchases/leasing that require the approval of General Meetings pursuant to provisions of S. 615. of The General By-Laws, S. 1. The Royal Canadian Legion Act, 1990, the Ontario Command Officers' Manual (2020) and other Policies and Procedures of Ontario Command. It is my opinion that these matters can be addressed through the authority afforded me under S. 505 and pursuant to S. 418.a. of The General By-Laws.

Branch Special General Meetings

The current situation, which continues to prevent Branches with total Membership numbers above the permitted COVID-19 levels from being capable of convening General Meetings has resulted in Branches being unable to pursue the above cited matters. It is evident that the effects of this pandemic continue to impact the Province and no end is presently in sight. It is therefore reasonable in my opinion to suspend the provisions respecting the need to convene physical General Meetings and permit Special General Meetings to be held re the above cited matters in a virtual manner until such time as Branches are permitted to return to their normal operational process.

Therefore, I make the following declaration under the authority provided in Section 505, and pursuant to Section 418.a. of The General By-Laws as follows:

DECLARATION NO. 7 – 2020 (AS AMENDED)

Any Branch unable to convene a physical General Meeting due to the current restrictive COVID-19 protocols in their locale will be permitted to convene a Special General Meeting(s) via teleconferencing, video conferencing, or other electronic means of communication that permits simultaneous access to all eligible Branch Members to discuss and/or vote on any of the following business matters which shall form the specific subject of the Meeting:

- 1) Mortgaging, leasing, or conveyance of real property; or
- 2) Branch Amalgamation; or
- 3) Branch Charter surrender; or
- 4) Branch Co-locating; or
- 5) Branch Construction and/or renovation; or
- 6) Branch Relocation; or
- 7) Creation or Amendment of Branch Regulations.

- And further -

The Branch will be required to follow all provisions applicable to the special business matter as prescribed in the following:

- a) The Royal Canadian Legion Act, 1990;
- b) The General By-Laws;
- c) The General By-Laws of The Ontario Provincial Command;
- d) The General By-Laws for Branches of The Ontario Provincial Command.
- e) The Royal Canadian Legion (Ontario Provincial Command) Officers' Manual;
- f) Any other policy and/or procedure of Ontario Provincial Command.

- And further -

All eligible Branch Members shall be notified, pursuant to the appropriate provisions found in S. 918. of The General By-Laws of Ontario Provincial Command and such notification shall include the virtual format employed to conduct any such Special General Meeting, the available methods of participation, and the special business for which the Meeting is being called;

- And further -

If a Branch Special General Virtual Meeting is being held, the Zone Commander and District Commander of that Zone/District shall be invited to attend for procedural and information purposes only.

- And further -

A quorum shall be established at the commencement of any such virtual Special General Meeting and maintained throughout any such Meeting to legally conduct business;

The above Declaration was approved during a Provincial Executive Council Zoom Meeting held on the above date, after an Amendment thereto respecting the involvement of the applicable District and Zone Commanders, was advanced and concurred with by the Members who in turn subsequently concurred with the Amended Declaration as listed above. The invitation of the District and Zone Commanders shall be received by them at least ten (10) days in advance of any such Special General Meeting.

The above declaration will remain in effect until, after considering all the circumstances at the time, it is no longer required.

Yours in Comradeship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Garry Pond', written in a cursive style.

Garry Pond
Provincial President