

Honorary Patron of EUSI – Her Honor, Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta



EDMONTON UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE

## PRESIDENT'S ENEWS

MARCH 2018

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### President's Comments

I had waited until the Federal Budget was announced on February 27, 2018 to see if any provisions for military upgrades or veteran benefits. I should have known better from the Trudeau government. The budget is design to appease the younger voters. If you are a senior citizen on fixed income, you are going to feel the pinch from all three levels of government, especially in Alberta. My federal pension or provincial pension has increased 1.5%. At the mean time, my utility bills have gone up 30% from carbon tax. With minimum wages also going up 50% by October, you can bet the ripple effect will affect every spectrum of the economy. There is an economic panel in Alberta proposing an 8% sales tax to be implemented to offset the provincial deficit. As a senior citizen and a veteran, I am offended, but will I get an apology?



### Commonwealth Day – March 14, 2018



Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday of March. It is the day when Commonwealth countries, which represent a quarter of all humanity, acknowledge their common bonds and the contribution of the Commonwealth of Nations to the creation of a harmonious global environment. This year, we celebrated the Commonwealth Day with a presence at the Alberta Legislature., followed by a reception at the Officers' Mess at the Jefferson Armoury. The Queens' greetings will be delivered via satellite. The Commonwealth does not have the power as United Nations and certainly do

not have the might as NATO to enforce any conditions or sanctions. It is effective in its own way to promote respect for diversity, democracy, religious freedom, and cultural values. Unfortunately, not unlike other institutions, it is getting less known to people, especially among the younger generations. I dare to say, many will not know that Canada is a Commonwealth nation and the head of the Commonwealth is Queen Elizabeth. The Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton has a Video available on YouTube and on its website:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UvrXsRQU0Ng>

**An invitation to ALL EUSI members to the reception at the Jefferson Armoury is attached below**



St. Julien Memorial

They ask me where I've been,  
And what I've done and seen.  
But what can I reply  
Who know it wasn't I,  
But someone just like me,  
Who went across the sea  
And with my head and hands  
Killed men in foreign lands...  
Though I must bear the blame,  
Because he bore my name.



### **Conference of Defence Association Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting**

**Our media director, Capt Grant Cree attended the CDA annual conference and AGM, held in Ottawa between February 22 and 24, 2018. The following is Grant's report"**

On behalf of the Edmonton United Services Institute, I attended the CDA (Conference of Defence Associations) annual conference on 22 – 23 February 2018 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa.

The theme was "Canadian Security and Defence in the New World (Dis)Order". This is the largest annual public conference of its kind in Canada to address security and defence policy, military capability, planning and analysis. Over 450 delegates were there, including key decision makers from the Department of National Defence, Canadian Armed Forces, NORAD, the defence and security industry, and academia.

Each guest speaker and panelist delivered their thoughts (some with PowerPoint presentations) on what they perceive as challenges facing our military as Canada adapts to rapid geo-political changes

Around the globe. Some high-profile speakers included Jody Thomas, Deputy Minister of National Defence; General Jonathan Vance, Chief of Defence Staff; and Darrell Bricker with Ipsos.

Providing an international perspective were Major-General Philippe Montocchio of France, Major-General Mitch Mitchell of the UK, and Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Ben Hodges, former Commander of US Army Forces in Europe. Other speakers included Senator (Ret'd) Romeo Dallaire, Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Marc Caron, and Rear Admiral Darren Hawco, Chief of Force Development.

There was an enormous amount of insightful and timely information shared during those two days. For those who are interested in current national defence matters, stay tuned for my video presentations featuring several speakers. That way you'll be able to stay aware of what's happening on a strategic level with our military.

**To see photos of this conference, visit my website at [www.grantcree.ca](http://www.grantcree.ca) then click on the "Portfolio" tab and select the gallery "CDA February 2018 Conference". You'll be able to access my videos at the same website under the "Videos" tab; they will be available by mid-March 2018.**

Final note: Thanks to EUSI President Maj (Ret'd) Alex Tsang who arranged with a private sponsor to support my photo and video coverage of this high-profile event.



Panelists discuss the topic "Implications For Building Military Forces Into The Future" during the Conference of Defence Associations annual conference on 22 – 23 February 2018 at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. (Left to right): Rear Admiral Darren Hawco, Chief of Force Development; Senator (Ret'd) Romeo Dallaire; Dr. Dave Pedlar of Queen's University; and Lieutenant-General (Ret'd) Marc Caron





Get trained!



President Bush became what he *believed* (at the time) to be the youngest aviator in the U.S. Navy. I also believed that, but lately have learned differently.

For years, the former President, a TBM Avenger torpedo bomber pilot, *thought* he was the youngest Naval Aviator of the war, but Chuck Downey, of Poplar Grove, Illinois, has the President beat by 11 days, a fact the President has since acknowledged.

Downey was born Aug. 2, 1924, in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and commissioned an Ensign in the U.S. Navy on July 16, 1943. He earned his Wings of Gold at the tender age of 18 years, 11 months and 14 days and later flew SB2C Helldiver dive bombers off the carrier U.S.S. Ticonderoga. You can read more about Mr. Downey at [The Youngest Naval Aviator of WWII](#)

Mr. Downey passed away on February 19, 2016.



1945 - Eisenhower and Patton examine a trove of stolen artifacts that the Germans hid in salt mine

**An officer and a gentleman are pre-requisites for a good president.**



**HUMOR**

A flight attendant was stationed at the departure gate to check tickets. As a man approached, she extended her hand for the ticket and he opened his trench coat and flashed her. Without missing a beat, she said, 'Sir, I need to see your ticket, not your stub.'

A woman is standing nude looking in the bedroom mirror. She is not happy with what she sees and says to her husband, 'I feel horrible; I look old, fat and ugly... I really need you to pay me a compliment.' The husband replies, 'Your eyesight's damn near perfect.'



Securitas

**Alexander Tsang CD**

Major (retired)  
President  
Edmonton United Services Institute  
[Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com](mailto:Alexanderhtsang@hotmail.com)



*The Chair and the Directors of the*

*Royal Commonwealth Society of Edmonton*

*request the pleasure of your company at the*

*Commonwealth Day Reception*

*to be held at*

*The Officer's Mess*

*at the*

*Brigadier James Curry Jefferson Armoury*

*11630 - 109 Street, Edmonton*

*on Monday, March 12, 2018*

*at five o'clock*

*Call 780-218-5630 Dress Uniform, Morning Attire,*

*Email [edmonton@rcs.ca](mailto:edmonton@rcs.ca) or Business Suit with Medals*