



UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO AND NORTH ISLAND

c/o Vancouver Island Military Museum
100 Cameron Road, Nanaimo, BC V9R 0C8

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Greetings to all our loyal USINNI Membership. This year we celebrate the 150th birthday of the founding of our great country. Through good

times and bad, this country has risen to be a shining example of what determination, cooperation and purpose of mind of its citizens can achieve.

We have set an example of what most other countries in the world like to be. We have so very much to be grateful for.

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President
WO (Retd) Edwin J. Peeters CD
ejpeeters@shaw.ca
250-751-2360

Vice President
Maj (Retd) Len Campbell CD
sqn439tiger12@telus.net
250-758-2292

**Secretary &
Military Committee Chair**
Col (Retd) Bill McCullough CD
wjmcullough@shaw.ca
250-756-0223

Treasurer
Capt (Retd) Robert Sears CD
rtomssears@yahoo.ca
250-616-3984

Director Special Events
Vacant

Director Member Services
CWO (Retd) Tony Pearson CD
tm-pearson@shaw.ca
250-758-9758

Director Hospitality & Events
Mrs. Pauline Langley
fujjarah@shaw.ca
250-758-7632

Director Public Relations
Vacant

Newsletter Editor/Publisher
Vacant

Sergeant-At-Arms
Cpl (Retd) Pieter de Heer
pdeheer1935@gmail.com
250-758-4384

Regalia
Capt (Retd) Charles Kemp
250-390-1358

Past President
Cdr Petre Betcher
cdrbetcher@shaw.ca
250-754-9232

Director-At-Large
Capt (Retd) Roger Bird CD
hcrbird@shaw.ca
250-751-2941

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Nanaimo, 19 May 2017... I've been sitting on this June column for three weeks, like a vulture on carrion, waiting on the Trudeau Government's

response to our and others' submissions to *The Defence of Canada Review Panel*. Our own eleven-page tome went out to them on May 8th of last year, Trudeau's reaction is not encouraging. Plain and simple: he's sloughing it off! Defence Minister Sajjan did address "insiders" at a 3 May meeting sponsored by CDA, but was not & is not at all impressive. He acknowledges CAF is in dire straits, but focused on apportioning blame anywhere but within his own government. The reality though is Defence just isn't a Liberal priority; it's not soft enough for any serious new money. As of today (19th May) smoke screens and dithering continues the norm at the confluence of the Ottawa and Rideau waterways.

Financial gurus are projecting the Federal National Debt will rise anew by almost \$30 Billion, just this year, set to reach the \$720 Billion total mark in 2019, when the current Trudeau Government is scheduled to leave office. Servicing our existing National Debt this year alone will cost the taxpayers between \$29

MILITARY & SECURITY MUSINGS

*Adequate National Defence-
Help Wanted: A For-Real Architect*



and \$30 Billion. That's just about double what will be spent on National Defence this same year...which is about half of what we should

be investing in our Armed Forces (CAF). I leafed back through my Musings Columns, rediscovering that I've beat-the-drum on inadequate funding on Defence five times in 15 months. Like some of the Blue Jays, I'm zero for five times up-to-bat. Arguing for just adequate spending on National Defence is a classic example of trying to roll a big bolder up a steep hill.

At \$15.5 Billion, we are only achieving 1 % of GDP spending on National Defence, half of the goal set for us by NATO. That's roughly fourth or 5th from the bottom in NATO. Even more embarrassing is our per capita spending (PCS) on defence. At \$477, our PCS pales compared to the Dutch at \$760; the Danes & Luxembourgers at \$800; the French at \$1000; the Brits at about \$1100; Greece & Norway at about \$1200 each; and, the Americans at \$1900, all PCS. No wonder Trump is so quick to be PO'd with his perception of us as freeloaders. Even neutral Sweden and Finland do better than we do, while Australia's PCS is almost twice ours.

Let me be fair in my criticism; Liberal inertia today merely perpetuates that of the Conservative, Liberal and Progressive-Conservative Governments that preceded Trudeau the Second. Egged on by the Greens and the Social Democrats, Canadians live in a dream world of absolute denial when it comes to National Defence. They simply do not realize or simply will not accept that *Peace in Our Time* has again slipped away from us. The United Nations has turned out to be as hollow, feeble and as ineffective as was its League Nations predecessor. If anything, the UN is even more bloated.

The vast majority of Canadians are preoccupied with getting their share of our pampered publicly

funded way-of-life...free or subsidized health care; a car for everybody in the family who can drive; more and more asphalt to accommodate those cars; low or no-cost schooling right through to university; publicly-funded day care; increasing public funding for the marginalized; and, the seemingly mindless entitlement that encourages the vulgar chowing-down at the public trough that goes on and on today. The conditions of self-reliance & self-sufficiency that marked the way most of us were raised have been washed away in waves of entitled expectations. Few Canadians today grasp the simple reality that from here on... it's downhill for the Western Way of Life, an eclipse of the largess on which we have come to rely since the end of the Second World War.

In my year-long Confluence Series, I tried to sketch that gloomy picture for you. But, most Canadians simply neither see, nor hear, nor want to be bothered about anything that seems likely to upset their day. Even the few who even think seriously about National Defence, haven't hoisted in the fact that the next big war will be won or lost in the first thirty to 60 days. There will be no time for recruiting and mobilization, or, for laying the hulls of ships we don't have now, or, building the 4th and 5th Generation aircraft our most likely enemies are already flying. Oh, the wars will drag on into months & years, but, will do so simply because we and our allies were not ready or smart enough to discourage and prevent those coming wars in the first place. The other reality is no one, but no one, wins the Big War, once it gets going. In the absence of meaningful deterrence, we all lose.

Canada needs to seriously launch itself into a readiness mode. It will take a commitment to **progressively double our defence budget beyond inflation**. That won't be accomplished overnight. DND, CAF and our personnel & resource production systems just couldn't absorb & spend that kind of money. But, it simply has to happen with a **degree of real urgency**. Time for kitting-out CAF has run out. Members of our Institute have seen the similar recommendations on the part of the Senate of Canada. Their Report was an excellent one. Pity, though! Most Canadians won't read

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those recommendations and this Government just won't act on them. Maybe the first challenge is: do we have a for-real architect at the top who's up to steering the defence renewal task? I think not!

**For the want of a nail the shoe was lost,
for want of a shoe the horse was lost,
for want of a horse the rider was lost,
for want of a rider the battle was lost,
for want of a battle the kingdom was lost,
.....all for the want of a horseshoe-nail....
and, in part, for lack of a real farrier.**



This commentary is that of our own resident WATCHDOG, Colonel (Ret'd) W.J. (Bill) McCullough, MSC, CD, Chair of our Military & Security Committee. As always, his views, pessimism & surliness are entirely his own. Grrr!

... President's Message cont'd from page 1 ...

Please join me in celebrating that achievement this month by flying a Canadian flag on our homes and vehicles. Show other Canadians and indeed the world that we recognize the hard work of our fore fathers and the good fortune we enjoy today.

As you are all aware, the USINNI will celebrate this significant anniversary by holding the 2017 Gala Dining In on June 17th at the Nanaimo Golf Club. The Commander, Maritime Forces Pacific, Rear Admiral Art MacDonald and his wife will be our guests of honour. The major of Nanaimo, His Worship Bill McKay and Captain (Retired) Trevor Greene, a veteran of the Afghanistan Campaign are examples of the prominent guests that will be in attendance as well. The musical ensemble, 'Forbes and Friends' will provide us with all the formal musical requirements that an elegant dress military diner should have.

This is your opportunity to show your pride in that great nation that has stood out in the world. Be part of the celebration.

Hope to see you all June 17th.

Edwin

F-35 jets waiting in wings as Liberals' 'interim' Super Hornet purchase in limbo

Marie-Danielle Smith | May 19, 2017 7:00 PM ET

OTTAWA — The federal government's suggestion it may trash plans to buy "interim" fighter jets from aerospace giant Boeing Co. may open up a window for F-35 producer Lockheed Martin Corp. to swoop into.

Boeing convinced the U.S. Commerce Department and International Trade Commission this week to launch an investigation into much-subsidized Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. for "dumping" commercial airplanes into the U.S. market — a dispute overshadowed by an impending renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland's subsequent chastening and promise Thursday to review military procurement involving Boeing leaves in limbo Canada's purchase of 18 Super Hornet jets, a deal expected to cost \$5 billion to \$7 billion.

A spokeswoman for Lockheed Martin — which, meanwhile, is partnering with Bombardier on a U.S. Air Force procurement — reacted Friday, saying the company "would openly welcome discussions about interim fighter solutions."

Still, said Cindy Tessier, "it would be inappropriate for Lockheed Martin to comment directly on a matter between the Government of Canada and another company."





UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE OF NANAIMO (NORTH ISLAND)

WITH SPECIAL PARTICIPATION EXTENDED TO MEMBERS OF



808 'Thunderbird' Wing
Royal Canadian Air Force Association

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 10

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 256



IS PLEASED TO PRESENT

2017 GALA DINING IN

IN CELEBRATION OF CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

June 17, 2017
Nanaimo Golf Club

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Due to the 2017 Gala Dining In, we will not be holding a monthly Luncheon Meeting this month at the Nanaimo Golf Club.