



This report is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our team, and I am proud to say that we have accomplished many great things over the past year.

We faced a number of challenges and uncertainties, but we remained focussed in our commitment to our vision and mission. Our efforts have resulted in significant achievements that have positively impacted our stakeholders and communities.

### **Strategic Planning**

Since the September session, we have continued to build the framework to help guide the process. In February, I met with Ken Hoffman who provide the initial presentation to the National Board of Directors to learn about the development of the mission, vision and value statements. In terms of next steps, we will need to finalize the strategic planning team in order to coordinate and collaborate on the next steps. As a result of national priorities and demands, the strategic planning process has been slowed down but it remains an important aspect of the future success. The 2023 budget has set aside funding to support this initiative.

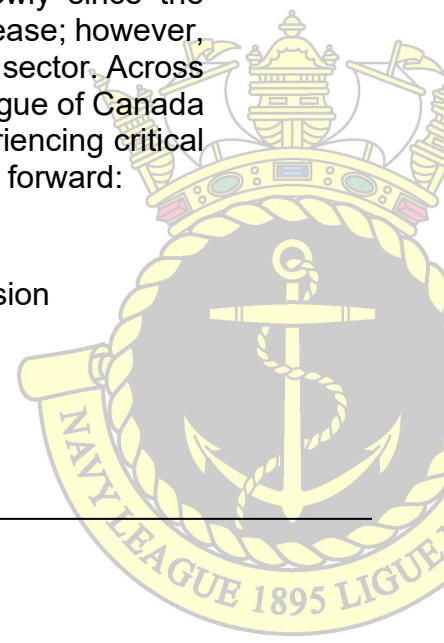
### **Maritime Affairs**

On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Navy League of Canada – Maritime Affairs successfully conducted its first Navy and Coast Guard Appreciation Day since 2018. The day included meetings with over 50 Parliamentarians, with a number of Industry Partners coming together a single day of advocacy and promotion of the Royal Canadian Navy , Canadian Coast Guard, Shipbuilding, Education Opportunities and the Cadet Program. Regrettably, the planned events were slightly disrupted as a result of the announcement of the Federal Budget. The lunch-time reception and the end-of-day reception needed to find a new venue on short notice. The events were hosted at the Metropolitan Restaurant and the Rideau Club, respectively. The reception included over 230 people, with the Minister of National Defence, the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, the Deputy Commander, Royal Canadian Navy, and the Commissioner of the Canadian Coast all in attendance.

### **Cadet and Volunteer Population**

The Cadet and Volunteer population has begun to rebound slowly since the pandemic. It is encouraging to see the overall cadet population increase; however, one area that has not seen similar growth is regarding the volunteer sector. Across all sectors, we have seen a decrease in volunteerism the Navy League of Canada is not immune – the reality is some Branch and Divisions are experiencing critical shortages. Some elements that we may wish to consider in moving forward:

- Providing support and training to volunteers
- Recognize volunteers through honours and awards
- Working to develop a strategy on equity, diversity, and inclusion





### **National Office Staffing**

In November 2022, Ms. Catherine March announced that she was leaving the Navy League of Canada for a front-line support position at the Men's Mission, a local not-for-profit organization supporting homelessness. As a result, we started a search for a new Maritime Affairs and Administrative Coordinator – on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Ms. Kara Arthurs joined the National Office. Kara brings a number of years of administrative and event planning and in no small part, was critical in executing the Maritime Affairs events and AGM. We continue to benefit from Mr. Omoniyi Babalola's social media expertise. Over the past year, the Navy League launched its Instagram account, and reactivated the Twitter account. Finally, Ms. Maude Lepage continued with the National Office after her summer student employment and is the National Screening Coordinator and provides support to Quebec Division. As per the approved 2023 Budget, we will shortly begin the employment search for a new Administrative Assistant.

### **National Office Move**

I am pleased to announce that we have recently moved into our new home at the Rideau High School Community Hub, located at 815 St. Laurent Blvd. The school was deemed surplus in 2017, and the Community Hub was born. The hub supports a number of front-line medical support services, with a City of Ottawa Clinic, the ODAWA Friendship Centre, a Community Foodbank and a number of other services. Much of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor is dedicated to the not-for-profit sector with nearly 100% of the space leased. There are a number of shared spaces that are available; gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and music rooms. We also transferred items previously in storage to an in-house storage facility ensuring that we can easily access our archival material.

The Navy League has had a busy and successful year in supporting Cadets and Volunteers at the community. We recognize the challenges and are committed to addressing them to continue providing valuable resources and supports. We are grateful for the support of our volunteers, partners, and members, and look forward to another year of growth and impact at the community level.

