



“Grow the Program”

Cadets de la Ligue navale



Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this vital role as the National Vice President Navy League Cadets for a second year. It has been an incredible experience again working with all the Division Commanders and Division Presidents along with the National Executive Committee. The opportunity to observe the extraordinary Navy League Cadet work being accomplished by the individual Divisions and Corps was remarkable.

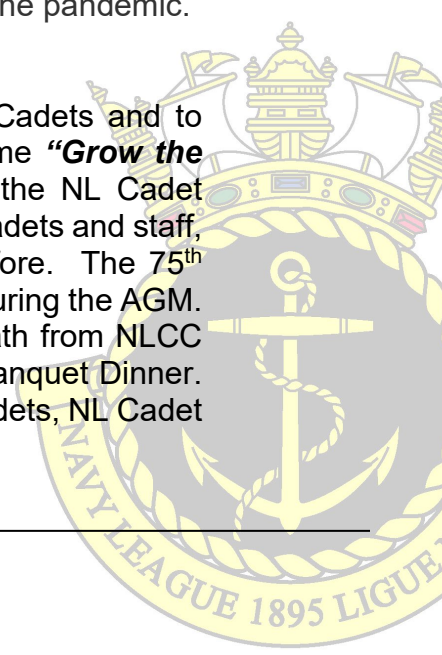
Since assuming the position as Vice President of the Navy League Cadet portfolio two years ago the NL team has managed to move the yards sticks in number of various ways. The Navy League Cadet program is on solid ground coming out of the pandemic with many good things happening thanks to a dedicated and committed group of individuals. The NL Cadet program is truly fortunate to have a formidable team of Division Commanders that are very engaged and are working hard on many fronts to ensure the continued success of the program.

At this time, I would like to personally thank Cdr (NL) Mark Doram National Division Commander Representative, and Dominic Richard, Vice NL Cadets, who have contributed to an amazingly successful year. I would be remis if I did not mention the superb support from all the outstanding staff, especially Jamie Clute, Executive Director, in the National Office in providing sage advice and exceptional support throughout the year. It made my position as Vice President NL Cadets seem easier.

Based on the most current surveys conducted by the National Office, I am pleased to report that, notwithstanding the challenges and limited cadet and staff recruitment over the past 2+ years, the NL Cadet Program is still healthy with approximately 75% Corps conducting an active program with approximately 60% registered cadet population base on pre pandemic numbers. We have seen an approximately 25% reduction in staffing at the Corps, but it is expected that the staffing will increase once the Corps recruit more cadets. I am confident that the program will rebound with even more cadets and staff than before the pandemic.

Navy League Cadets 75th Anniversary

As we know, 2023 is the 75th Anniversary of the Navy League Cadets and to celebrate this special occasion the program has adopted the theme “**Grow the Program**”. The reason this theme was adopted was because the NL Cadet Program is coming out of the pandemic with a reduced number of cadets and staff, and we want to “Grow the Program” even bigger than it was before. The 75th Anniversary of the Navy League Cadets will be officially launched during the AGM. The 75th Anniversary pin designed by PO1 Martin Schults-Reichrath from NLCC Vice Admiral Kingsmill will be revealed during the AGM Awards Banquet Dinner. He will receive a \$250.00 prize for the design. All Navy League Cadets, NL Cadet





Officers, and staff will be authorized to wear the pin on their uniform for one year ending on 15 April 2024.

The Division, Branches, and Corps are encouraged to enthusiastically embrace the 75th Anniversary and develop different and exciting ways to celebrate within their communities, such as provincial and civic proclamations, T shirts, hats, tree planting, public affair presentations, etc. The Navy League of Canada will be actively promoting and advertising the theme of the 75th Anniversary “Grow the Program” throughout the upcoming year.

Officer Training Program

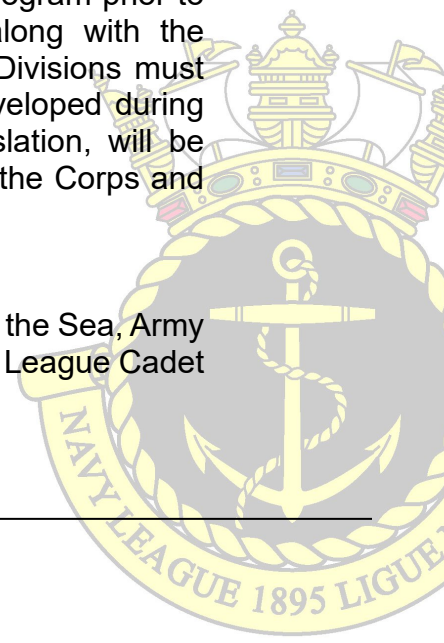
As mentioned in previous reports, an in-depth overhaul of the Officer Training program was conducted over the past number of years resulting in a plan which addressed various areas such as, updating current information, new and innovative ways of instructions, develop a standardized national Officer Rank Training validation system, amplify tasks and responsibilities for specific roles, and most of all meet the challenge that an exciting and modern program is uniformly administered across all Divisions and Corps by our thousands of volunteers. The Officer Training Update was addressed in three parts:

- Part 1 – Officer Rank Training (500 series)
- Part 2 – Corps Officer Positional Training (600 series)
- Part 3 – Division Officers Positional Training (700 series)

Officer Rank Training - Part 1 (Series 500) is completed with a review conducted to ensure all the information has been captured, and that the six levels merge seamlessly with the other levels. An in-person Working Group comprised of Division Commanders, convened 4-8 May 22 in Ottawa and completed the process. The Working Group also completed the online Officer Rank Training validation program (Class Marker) for each of the levels of training. The Officer Rank Training, alongwith the Class Marker, are now online in both official languages and activated. The Divisions are required to use this program prior to promoting any officer. The Officer Rank Training Package, along with the validation program Class Marker is a ‘*National Program*’ that all Divisions must follow. Parts 2 and 3 of the Officer Training Packages will be developed during Division Commanders Conference in April 2023 and upon translation, will be posted on the website, and available in both official languages to the Corps and Divisions.

Fundraising

The CAF have provided direction regarding fundraising activities for the Sea, Army and Air Cadets which appear to be somewhat restrictive. The Navy League Cadet





Program does not fall under those directives. The fundraising direction for the Navy League Cadets, and associated Branches, remains the same as before,

keeping in mind that all fundraising activities must be properly supervised IAW with our policies.

Senior Cadets supporting NL Cadet Corps

After some encouraging discussions with the CAF, it was agreed that the Senior Sea, Army, Air Cadets (phase 4) are allowed to provide assistance to the Navy League Cadet Corps as instructors. The CAF has provided clear instructions on how a senior cadet may assist with a Navy League Cadet Corps. This instruction can be found on the NL website. One especially critical point is when the cadets are providing instruction to the NL cadets, they are not to be used to augment or replace adult supervisors in the Corps.

In-person and Hybrid Training

Google Classroom has been a remarkable success in that many of the Corps used the program during the lockdown periods. It is intended to continue to maintain Google Classroom as part of the Navy League Cadet Program going forward so the Corps will have an alternative option for training for Cadets who cannot attend in person and for inclement weather occasions.

Dress Regulations

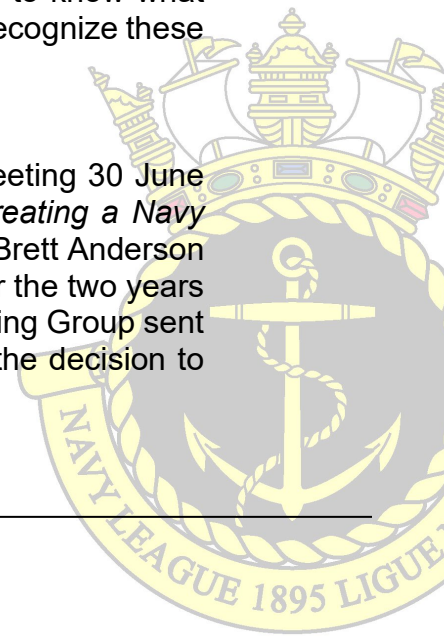
Over the past couple of months, the CAF has announced some significant changes in their dress regulations which has had some effects on the Sea Cadet Program. The dress regulations for the Navy League Cadet program will be reviewed during the Division Commanders Conference in April 2023 and any changes for cadets and officers will be promulgated accordingly.

Honours and Awards

There are many NL Cadets, NL Officers, and Staff who are most deserving of being recognized for their commitment and dedication to the NL Cadet Program. There are a number of ways to recognize these individuals. Honours and Awards criteria can be found on the website. It is the responsibility of supervisors to know what Honours and Awards are available and encourage submissions to recognize these individuals.

Project Fusion

During the Navy League of Canada National Board of Director meeting 30 June 2021, a motion was approved “*to investigate the possibility of creating a Navy League Cadet Database*”. A Working Group was established with Brett Anderson as the Project Manager. The Working Group has met regularly over the two years keeping the NL Board up to date as to the progress. The Working Group sent out a Request of Proposal and over the two years has narrowed the decision to MiCharity.





The final details are currently being working out and it is expected a contract will be signed very shortly. Once the contract is signed, the expectation is to conduct the required training during the summer and have the Navy League Cadet Database available to the National, Division, and Corps in September 2023. It is expected that phase one will be fully functional no later than end of 2023. The Board has approved the funding in the 2023 budget for the NL Cadet Database so no further approvals from the Board are required to move forward with this project.

Conclusion

I have been privileged enough to be involved with the cadet movement, in one capacity or another, for an exceedingly long time and it continues to be a learning experience in trying to build relationships and soliciting the help needed to support the organization. I have a talented team and it has been an extremely rewarding and fun experience as National Vice President of the Navy League of Canada and I look forward to continuing to participate as a National Board member with the best youth program in Canada.

