



Director
Land Command Information
Carling Campus
60 Moodie Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2



Directeur
Commandement et information terrestre
Campus Carling
60, promenade Moodie
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0K2



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**ROYAL CANADIAN CORPS OF SIGNALS COMMUNIQUE
DIRECTOR RCCS PARTING WORDS TO THE CORPS**

Members of the Royal Canadian Corps of Signals,

1. This Communique is my last as the Director of the Corps. As you might have read in CANFORGEN 027/21, I will be posted outside of the country this summer; my replacement Col Pascal Ouellet will officially become the new Dir RCCS, on April 7th (allowing me to complete a Defence Attaché training course, between Apr and June). Being the Director of the Corps for the last 2 years, has certainly been the culmination of my professional life as a signaller. Like all previous Directors I tried to use my time in the position to wisely choose and select a few key initiatives and to continue to build on the work of my predecessors. I have no doubt that Colonel Ouellet will continue in the same direction with enthusiasm and celerity.

2. I acknowledge that for lots of you, the pace of change is still too slow; it has also been my biggest frustration in the position. It has been easy to identify necessary changes that must take place; it has been more difficult to navigate the intricate CAF bureaucracy to make it happen. I learned that while having the “big ideas” is easy, having the “bureaucratic ninja skills” to translate those into action, is a whole different challenge. Nonetheless, I think the team has made significant advances over the last 2 years. In particular I would like to highlight the following:

- a. RCCS trade transformation has been completed;
- b. Pay issues have been reduced to a few individuals and we are tracking those closely;
- c. The field force has limited the complexity and scale of collective training events, reducing the burden on already overstretched field squadrons;
- d. A Corps initiative is underway to temporarily offer non-technical roles to other trades in our field squadrons, in order to get reinforcements (note: this is temporary and will not see any positions permanently transferred to other trades); and
- e. Through TF Hermes and Force 2025, the RCCS is positioning itself for the creation of an Army Signal Unit tasked with ISR integration, provision HQ domain networks and cyber security, and will serve as the center of gravity for SSE 42 fielding projects;

3. Finally, on the matter of the RCCS collar dogs, I have some news to share. Through the hard work of the RCCS Corps Chief, CWO Roberts, we have secured the Army’s approval for the return to the original RCCS collar dogs design (crossed flags). I have therefore made the decision to formally begin the transition from the Jimmy collar dogs to the crossed flags.

4. This is the right decision; while wearing the C&E cap badge highlights our link with our CELE Air brothers and sisters, as well as with our Commonwealth partners, we also need to be proud and celebrate the fact that Canada was the first Commonwealth nation to stand up a Signal Corps, in 1903. Pop culture informs us that every superhero has an origin story; our historical roots will now be permanently celebrated by physically displaying and wearing our original emblem. It will ensure that this does not merely become a footnote of our history, but remains our foundational origin story. Therefore, I am proud to announce that as my last official act as Dir RCCS, I am authorising members of the Corps to wear it, effective today.

5. How will this work? Considering that the collardogs are only available for purchase at the C&E museum Kit shop, I am not making this a mandatory order yet. As of today, both designs (the Jimmy and the crossed flags) are approved to wear on Army DEUs and Mess kits. Once DND delivers collardogs free of charge to all members, the new design will be made mandatory and we will retire with grace and dignity our Jimmy collar dogs. The RCCS CWO will provide additional guidance to units, as necessary.

6. I will re-iterate that it has been a pleasure and a humbling experience to work with a fantastic group of professionals. LCol Walter Gamblin the Deputy RCCS Director, CWO Roberts, the Corps Chief, and the whole DLCI team, deserve the credit for all the work done and progress. Even if technically the DLCI team is not involved in specific Corps issues, they certainly went above and beyond their duty by taking on challenges that significantly increased their workload; this small team has a mighty bite! In closing, be assured that both the RCCS and DLCI team always have your best interests at heart. I hope to be able to continue to interact with all of you in the next few years, as one of your peer and member of the RCCS.

Yours in Signals,



N.Y. Lemieux
Colonel