

From: **CMCEN** Cmcen@wildapricot.org
Subject: The Despatch - February 2018
Date: February 17, 2018 at 9:11 PM
To: Kevin O'Keefe kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca



Dear C&E Association Member,

Happy 2018 to all our members. I have been delinquent in not getting a news brief out in the last few months. I will try and do better though if there is anyone out there who would like to take on this very interesting task on behalf of the Association please contact me at kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca. You will also notice that I have changed the name of our newsbrief to a more Signal/C&E traditional one - The Despatch. Once again I would ask for any feedback on this communication; that if you know of anyone who has not yet registered with our Association to please request that they do so and if you have any relevant items you would like to see included in these communications to please pass them along. On another note...I would like to get any feedback from individuals about the Association...its relevance, its benefits and any suggestions for improvements. I am doing this brief from down south so I do not have access to some of my reference material so I do not have a 'This Month in History' item plus there may be more mistakes than normal (if that is even possible).

-Kevin O'Keefe.VVV



Communications and Electronics Association

The Despatch February 2018

Recent News

The Trudeau cabinet has issued a special order to prolong Ottawa's scrutiny of a \$1.5-billion takeover of Canadian infrastructure giant Aecon Group Inc. by a Chinese state-owned firm, invoking a section of law used when the federal government believes an investment "could be injurious to national security."

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/ottawa-orders-national-security-review-of-aecon-sale-to-china-owned-construction-firm/article37937182/>

Source: The Globe and Mail

France on Wednesday announced plans to boost defence spending by more than 40 percent, bringing it into line with NATO targets after complaints from US President Donald Trump that Europe is not pulling its weight.

<http://www.france24.com/en/20180208-france-hike-defence-military-spending-over-40-percent-nato>

Source: France24

Federal officials have yet to figure out how to make good on the Trudeau government's 18-month-old promise to provide up to 150 police officers to peacekeeping missions, despite a shortage of such personnel on many UN operations.

<http://nationalpost.com/pmnl/news-pmnl/canada-news-pmnl/canada-missing-in-action-on-police-in-peacekeeping-despite-liberal-promises>

Source: National Post

DND/CAF News

The Liberal government is spending more than \$622 million to bail out the Canadian military's long-term disability insurance plan, newly tabled federal budget documents reveal.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/military-disability-insurance-1.4535867>

Source: CBC News

A former military officer and lawyer who often represents victims of sexual assault says the armed forces' efforts to curb improper sexual behaviour are jeopardizing the careers of people who have done nothing more than make offhand, and in some cases banal, comments to colleagues.

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/canadian-military-criticized-over-sexual-harassment-policies/article37895684/>

Source: The Globe and Mail

Le Collège militaire royal du Canada (CMRC) a inauguré officiellement son tout nouveau Centre de succès du Collège, ce jeudi 8 février, voulant ainsi poursuivre le travail accompli depuis de nombreux mois dans le changement de culture nécessaire au sein des Forces armées canadiennes

<http://www.45enord.ca/2018/02/college-militaire-royal-canada-kingston-ouvre-centre-succes-general-sebastien-bouchard/>

Source: 45enord

Canadian Global Affairs Institute Policy Update - Following the Funding in Strong, Secure, Engaged

On June 7, 2017, Minister of National Defence Harjit Sajjan unveiled Canada's new defence policy, *Strong, Secure, Engaged*. On the day of the policy's release, and since, the Trudeau government has espoused the policy's unprecedented degree of underlying financial rigour and the 20-year funding model that underpins it. The claim of a long-term, well-costed defence policy, though, is not original. Canada's last defence policy prior to this Liberal government, the 2008 *Canada First Defence Strategy*, had stated that "with this funding framework, National Defence will be able for the first time to plan for the future on the basis of stable and predictable funding."¹ As it happened, that policy's funding proved neither predictable nor stable. *Strong, Secure, Engaged* uses both of those descriptors for its budget plan, while adding that the funding is furthermore "realistic",² as it is "transparent, rigorously costed and fully funded."³ As with any defence policy, the budget supporting this one is fundamental to determining whether the Department of National Defence (DND)/Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) will actually be able to do what the policy says it should, or not. With *Strong, Secure, Engaged*, the Trudeau government has gone a step further by explicitly staking the policy's credibility on the assertion that this policy, unlike many that have preceded it, has gotten the funding right.

It remains to be seen if this is so and if the funding endures over time. As Parliament resumes after the 2017 Christmas break, it is already evident that spending the money made available will be the real short-term financial problem associated with the policy. While *Strong, Secure, Engaged* was predicated on relatively small annual increases in overall spending in its first few years, it called for a dramatic and immediate increase in capital spending. In the first fiscal year of the policy, DND is on track to deliver barely better than half of the intended spending on new equipment and infrastructure.

http://www.cgai.ca/following_the_funding_in_strong_secure_engaged?utm_campaign=dnd_fund_perry&utm_medium=email&utm_source=cdfai

Source: Canadian Global Affairs Institute

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Did you know that your mortgage may be portable? This means that you can take the remaining terms of your mortgage to a new property and location*, while continuing to enjoy your great low mortgage rate. Street Capital also makes transferring your mortgage easy and seamless! Before you sign a renewal with your current lender, call or visit us online to find out how transferring to Street Capital can help you save and become mortgage free sooner. 1.855.793.0427 | streetcapital.ca/cmccen/comms

*Qualifications must be met in order to transfer or port your mortgage. Contact us for specific terms and conditions.

Veteran News

Veteran Transition Services

The Liberal government has quietly awarded a contract worth nearly \$10.3 million to an Ontario company intended to help soldiers make a smoother transition into civilian work after leaving the military.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/veterans-transition-services-1.4532117>

Source: CBC News

VAC - ACC My VAC Account/Mon Dossier ACC

The information below was received from VAC as part of our participation in the VAC Stakeholder and Outreach group. The poster for the event is in a link below.

(Le français suit)

In the spirit of networking and sharing information, Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach has been asked to share the following message among our stakeholders who may have members in the National Capital Region.

Staff from Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) will be at the **VAC Area Office in Ottawa on February 22, 8:30am – 4:30pm**, to provide assistance to anyone who would like help signing up for **My VAC Account** and using the online service. If you are interested, drop in anytime throughout the session—no appointment is necessary. Please share this email with anyone you know who may be interested. Please find the poster attached.

Ottawa Area Office Address:

Billings Bridge Plaza
2323 Riverside Drive
2nd Floor, Suite 1

My VAC Account is a simple and secure way to do business online with VAC. You may wish to register for **My VAC Account** if you are currently doing business with VAC: if you are applying for benefits or services or if you have any questions related to

...), if you are applying for benefits or services, or if you have any questions related to programs or services offered by VAC. Family members who are receiving VAC benefits can also register for their own **My VAC Account**.

With **My VAC Account** you can:

- learn about VAC benefits and services
- apply online for benefits and services
- upload documents to support your applications
- track the status of your applications
- view a summary of your benefits
- sign up for direct deposit or change your banking information
- update your personal information
- communicate directly with VAC staff through secure messaging

Visit for more information on **My VAC Account**. http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/e_services

Bonjour,

En l'esprit de mise en réseau et de partager l'information, l'Engagement des intervenants et Sensibilisation vous partagez le message suivant au sein de notre réseau.

Des employés d'Anciens Combattants Canada (ACC) seront au **bureau de secteur d'ACC à Ottawa, le 22 février de 8 h 30 à 16 h 30**, pour aider quiconque aimerait s'inscrire à **Mon dossier ACC** et apprendre à utiliser ce service en ligne. Si cette possibilité vous intéresse, vous pouvez vous rendre à la séance à n'importe quel moment pendant les heures prévues – il n'est pas nécessaire de prendre un rendez-vous. Veuillez partager ce courriel avec toutes vos connaissances qui pourraient s'y intéresser. Veuillez voir l'affiche ci-jointe.

Direction du bureau de secteur d'Ottawa:

Centre commercial Billings Bridge
2323, rue Riverside
2e étage, salle 1

Mon dossier ACC est une façon simple et sûre de faire affaire avec ACC en ligne.

Vous voudrez peut-être vous inscrire à **Mon dossier ACC** si vous faites actuellement affaire avec ACC, si vous faites une demande de prestations ou de services, ou si vous avez des questions concernant les programmes ou les services offerts par ACC. Les membres de la famille de vétérans ou des militaires qui reçoivent des prestations d'ACC peuvent aussi s'inscrire.

Grâce à **Mon dossier ACC**, vous pouvez :

- vous renseigner sur les avantages et services d'ACC
- présenter une demande d'avantages et de services
- télécharger les documents à l'appui de votre demande
- faire le suivi de vos demandes
- consulter un sommaire de vos avantages
- vous inscrire au dépôt direct ou modifier vos renseignements bancaires

- vous inscrire au dépôt direct ou modifier vos renseignements bancaires
- mettre à jour vos renseignements personnels
- communiquer directement avec le personnel d'ACC au moyen de la messagerie sécurisée

Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements au sujet de **Mon dossier ACC**, veuillez visiter le site <http://www.veterans.gc.ca/fra/indirect>

Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach Team/L'équipe de sensibilisation des intervenants

Veterans Affairs Canada/ Anciens Combattants Canada

VAC.Engagement.ACC@vac-acc.gc.ca

[Ottawa My VAC Account poster FR.pdf](#)

[Ottawa My VAC Account poster EN.pdf](#)

Source: Veterans Affairs Canada

Royal Canadian Legion Response to PM's Veteran Comments

Below is link provided by the Royal Canadian Legion. The link is the Legion's response to the Prime Minister's comments at a recent town hall in Edmonton.

<http://www.legion.ca/news/articles/2018/02/06/legion-responds-to-prime-minister-s-comments-at-edmonton-town-hall>

Source: The Royal Canadian Legion

National Council Veterans Association

Enclosed at the minutes of the recent NCVA AGM held in Toronto and attended by members of our Association.

[2018 NCVA meeting minutes-appendices.pdf](#)

Source: NCVA

C&E News

Reunion 2018

2018 C&E Reunion – Advance Warning

The C&E Association, C&E Branch and Signallers Club of Canada, in cooperation with CFB Kingston and the C&E Home Station Units, are in the planning stage of organizing a 2018 C&E Reunion.

This event is intended to involve all C&E Branch members, serving and retired with special tribute to the C&E Branch veterans of the Afghan Mission; and to celebrate the founding of the Communications and Electronics Branch (50 years) , Royal Canadian Corps of Signals, Royal Canadian Air Force Telecommunications Branch, and Royal Canadian Navy Communications Research Branch.

Reunion 2018 will be held at the C&E Home Station from 31 August to 2 September 2018.

The proposed outline program is as follows:

Friday, 31 August 2018:

- Afternoon registration.
- Evening meet and greet.

Saturday 1 September 2018:

- Mini reunions; Afghanistan, Signals Apprentice, Airborne, RCAF Tech Te, UN Ops (UNEF, Rwanda, etc).
- Afghanistan veterans ball hockey tournament.
- Evening dinner event.

Sunday, 2 September 2018:

- Wreath Laying ceremony at the Vimy Gate Memorial;
- Veterans Parade on the Vimy Parade Square and
- Association farewell gatherings.

Detailed information on this event will be disseminated as it becomes available.

C&E Association Update

Attached is an Association summary that was provided as our update to the CDA AGM.

[C&E Association Update.docx](#)

If you are a C&E Association member using the "@forces.gc.ca" email address, you will have noticed that our News Brief sent to your "@forces.gc.ca" addresses will not function properly. The DND DWAN firewall strips all hyperlinks that come in for obvious security reasons. In order for you to receive the News Brief without this problem arising, we ask you to forward to our President –Kevin O’Keefe a personal email address. Kevin will arrange for the News Brief to be sent to your personal address once he receives the information. He can be reached at kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca.

Comme membre de l'association de la C&E utilisant l'adresse courriel "@Forces.gc.ca", vous avez remarqué que nos nouvelles en bref(News Brief) envoyés à vos adresses "@Forces.gc.ca" ne fonctionnent pas correctement. Pour des raisons de sécurité, le coupe-feu du réseau intranet de la Défense nationale bloque tous les hyperliens qui sont attachés à ces nouvelles. Afin pour vous de recevoir ces nouvelles en bref sans problème, nous vous demandons de fournir une adresse de courriel personnel à notre présidente, Kevin O’Keefe. Une fois votre adresse reçue, Kevin fera les changements afin que vous puissiez recevoir les nouvelles en bref à votre adresse de courriel personnel. Kevin peut être rejoint à kevin.okeefe@cmcen.ca.

[Unsubscribe](#)