



HONORARY COLONEL AND LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

References:

- a. CFAO 3-4 Honorary Appointments and Honorary Ranks.

BACKGROUND

1. The tradition of having a Colonel drawn from the local gentry is the basis of the current Honorary Colonel system found within the Canadian Militia. Indeed, the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment has had an Honorary appointment as either a Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel as early as 1898 and the Boer War years. Early in the 20th century the Prime Minister of Canada, Sir Robert Borden described the practice of appointing Honoraries as: *“of greatest advantage to the Militia to be able to enlist the interest and sympathy of gentlemen of position and wealth by connecting them to Regiments.”*
2. The policy of appointing Honoraries continues to this day with the express purpose of affording assistance to and supporting the Regiment. The fine Canadians who serve as our Honoraries take a passionate interest in the wellbeing of the Regiment and its soldiers. They sit on the Regimental Senate, and both publicly and privately lobby for their Regiment and the military.

PRIVILEGES

3. Honorary rank is 'honorary and advisory' and honorary rank does not confer authority or command function. However, every measure of assistance should be extended to the Honoraries as they always are acting on behalf of the Regiment in their duties, often directly at the request of the Commanding Officer. Anyone found being anything less than completely helpful to the Honoraries can assure themselves of being on the receiving end of a one way discussion from the RSM, Adjutant or Commanding Officer.
4. An Honorary is formally addressed as 'Honorary Colonel' or sir/ma'am as appropriate. The convention of addressing an Honorary by the rank only, should be discouraged in formal settings, even if they have military service at that substantive rank level. I.e., Lieutenant-Colonel (retired) should still be referred to as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel in formal situations, as that is the appointment they fill as authorized by the Minister of National Defence.
5. Honoraries are entitled to all customs and privileges associated to their appointment, including the paying of compliments.
6. Regardless of having completed military training and service with the Regiment, an Honorary is a lifelong member of the Regimental family and will continue to be a member of the Regiment, long after their tenure has expired.



DUTIES

7. Typical duties of an Honorary include:
- a. Promoting Esprit de Corps in the unit,
 - b. Advising unit Commanding Officers,
 - c. Acting as an advocate of the unit in the community,
 - d. Custodians of unit heritage,
 - e. Advising the Commandant of the Infantry Corps on matters of significance to the unit,
 - f. Maintaining and establishing liaison with unit charities and associations,
 - g. Assisting the unit in hosting parades and other unit functions,
 - h. Leadership of the Regimental Senate, and
 - i. Other duties as befitting their station.

HONORARY COLONEL

8. Units of the Canadian Forces have Honorary Colonels who are appointed to serve their units by undertaking several vital functions. These appointees are distinguished Canadians who have contributed to the country through business, politics, the arts, sports, education, entertainment, or through previous military service.

9. Honorary Colonels serve in an honorary and advisory capacity to their respective regiments – a role that is very important to morale and esprit-de-corps within the ceremonial life of the unit. They also serve as patrons to develop, promote and sustain community support for their regiments.

10. The current serving Honorary Colonel is Dr. John Scott Cowan B.Sc., M.Sc., PhD., Principal Emeritus of the Royal Military College of Canada. Honorary Colonel Cowan's contributions to Canada and the Canadian military are too numerous to list. Recipient of both the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee and Diamond Jubilee Medals, Dr. Cowan is renowned for his contributions while Principal of RMC to the development of the Canadian Officer Corps, as citizens, soldiers and scholars. Honorary Colonel Cowan has previously served the Regiment as our Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel.

HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

11. The Honourary Lieutenant-Colonel of the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment fills many of the same duties of the Honorary Colonel in supporting the welfare of the Regiment. An appointment as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel comes with the inference that the appointee will in future be willing to accept the duties of Honorary Colonel.

12. The current serving Honorary Lieutenant Colonel is LCol (Ret'd) Arthur Jordan C.D. HLCol Jordan's service to Canada as a member of the RCAF was exemplary. A Knight in the Order of St John, HLCol Jordan is also the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Golden and Diamond Jubilee



Medals. He has a very personal connection to the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment including the service of his family members in the 21st Bn CEF during WWI.

HONORARY COLONEL EMERITUS

13. While all former Honorary Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels retain permanent membership in the Regimental Family, and many continue to work vigorously in support of the Regiment, the Regiment takes special note of the former civilian and military Honorary Colonels whose continued generosity, service and care for the Regiment exemplifies our motto of Ich Dien, or 'we serve'. While the title Honorary Colonel Emeritus is not an official appointment of the Minister of National Defence, it is the highest mark of esteem and respect that the Regiment can offer gentlemen whose love and service of the Regiment appears limitless.

14. In keeping with the separation of appointments drawn from the military and civilian world, the Regiment will rarely have more than two appointments as Honorary Colonel Emeritus, one to a former serving Honorary Colonel of military background, and one to a former serving Honorary Colonel who is a non-military 'captain of industry'. The appointment of Honorary Colonel Emeritus is lifelong.

15. Honorary Colonel Emeritus Cyril Woods KtStJ, Baron of Slane, is the first member of the Regimental Family to be invested with the title Honorary Colonel Emeritus. A 'Captain of Industry', HCol Woods is renowned for his kindness and philanthropy. His leadership has been felt in every Regimental institution, in particular his support for our Cadet Corps has earned him the respect and gratitude of scores of young Canadians. His continued service, support, and carrying for the Regimental Family precipitated the creation of the appointment of Honorary Colonel Emeritus.

16. A result of his kindness over the past 60 years, Honorary Colonel Brit Smith, MC, CD, QC, LLD, is the defacto military Honorary Colonel Emeritus. Too humble to accept such an appointment, it will be kept vacant in respect of this officer's decades of devotion. Serving six years as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel and as Honorary Colonel on two separate occasions for a further fourteen years, Honorary Colonel Smith has filled an honorary appointment for the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment for 20 years. Even while not actively serving as the Minister of National Defence's appointed Honorary Colonel, he never ceased in his devotion, support, and concern for the welfare of the Regiment.

SELECTION

17. Honorary Colonels and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonels are appointed by the Minister of National Defence, on the recommendation of the Chief of Defence Staff. They have direct access to the Minister, the Chief of Defence Staff and the Chief of Land Staff. This privilege of access is rarely exercised, and if done must be done with great thought and caution, and only in extreme circumstances.



18. Less formally, they may correspond with the Division, Brigade and Base Commander, again only in exceptional circumstances and typically “behind the scenes.” They should not become engaged in operational issues, but may offer “sage,” but unofficial advice to the chain of command if the Commanding Officer is facing a particularly onerous situation and needs additional support.

19. The Regimental Senate may, and should, advise the Commanding Officer on a succession plan for Honoraries, however it the prerogative of the Commanding Officer to recommend future Honoraries to the Chief of Defence Staff and MND. The Commanding Officer usually seeks the counsel of the Regimental Senate and particularly the advice of incumbent Honoraries.

20. While Honoraries can be former military officers or distinguished citizens, when putting forward the nomination for Honoraries, it is ideal that one of the two should have served in the Regiment, and in that way the traditional and historical continuity of the Regiment may be assured. They should be individuals who can further the interests of the Regiment through political, financial, military, community or regimental influence.

21. At ref A. current CF policy suggests that Regiments should seek to have a balance in background among their Honoraries, that being one Honorary having a military background and one civilian.

TENURE

22. The appointment of Honorary Colonel or Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel is normally for three years. This can be extended for one, two or three years with NDHQ approval.

DRESS

23. Honoraries are entitled to a scale of issue from CF stores, including DEU and Cadpat. They shall wear the rank of the normal rank of their appointment, be it Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel.

24. Notwithstanding the custom of the Canadian Army that an officer of the rank of Colonel shall wear generic accoutrements, the Honorary Colonel will continue to wear Regimental accoutrements. Additionally, an Honorary Colonel shall not wear the gorget patches associated to a serving Colonel.

The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment