



HONORARY COLONEL AND LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

References: CF policy on Honoraries

BACKGROUND

1. The tradition of having an Honorary 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 well-being 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 are always acting on behalf of the Regiment in their duties, often directly at the request of the Commanding Officer. As Honoraries are held in the highest regard, any member of the Regiment who fails to provide appropriate support can assure themselves of being on the receiving end of a one way discussion from the RSM, Adjutant, or Commanding Officer.

4. An Honourary 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 Colonel in formal situations, as that is the appointment they fill as authorized by the Minister of National Defence.

5. Honouraries 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:
- Promoting Esprit de Corps in the unit;
 - Advising unit Commanding Officers;
 - Acting as an advocate of the unit in the community;
 - Custodians of unit heritage;
 - Advising the Corps Colonel-Commandant on matters of significance to the unit;
 - Maintaining and establishing liaison with unit charities and associations;
 - Assisting the unit in hosting parades and other unit functions;
 - Leadership of the Regimental Senate; and,
 - 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 their regiments, and develop, promote and sustain community support.

HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

10. The Honorary 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.

HONORARY COLONEL EMERITUS

11. 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 Honourary Colonels whose continued generosity, service and care for the Regiment exemplifies what our motto of Ich Dien, '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.

12. 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.

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 Commander Canadian Army and 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 requires additional support.

19. The Regimental Senate may, and should, advise the Commanding Officer on a succession plan for Honoraries; however, it is the prerogative of the Commanding Officer to recommend future Honoraries to the Chief of Defence Staff and MND. He usually seeks 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 wear the crest of the Canadian Coat of Arms as a cap badge and crossed sabers on shoulder boards, the Honorary Colonel will continue to wear Regimental accoutrements.



The Princess of Wales' Own Regiment