



HONORARY COLONEL AND LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

References: A. [Queen's Regulations and Orders \(QR&O\) Volume 1 Chapter 3 – Rank, Seniority, Command, and Precedence](#)

B. [CFAO 3-4 Honorary Appointments and Honorary Ranks](#)

C. [CA Order 11-09 – CA Honorary Appointments Canadian Army](#)

D. Reference Guide for Commanding Officers/Commandants and Honorary Appointments (Director Special Appointments)

BACKGROUND

1. The tradition of having an Honorary Colonel drawn from the local gentry is the basis of the current system of honorary appointments found within the Canadian Army Reserve. Indeed, the Princess of Wales' Own Regiment (PWOR) has had an honorary appointment as either a Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel since 1898, during the South African 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 honorary appointments for corps, branches, formations, regiments, and units continues to this day with the express purpose of expanding the pool of talent available to advise and assist commanders and commanding officers. Honoraries are appointed from distinguished Canadians who have served Canada in any of a variety of fields, including business, politics, the arts, sport, education, entertainment, or through previous military service. In the PWOR, they are expected to take a passionate interest in the well-being of the Regiment and its soldiers. They lead the Regimental Senate, and both publicly and privately pursue the interests of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), the Canadian Army (CA), and their Regiment.

PRIVILEGES

3. Honorary rank is both “honorary and advisory”, and does not confer responsibility, or legal authority. However, every reasonable measure of assistance must be extended to the honoraries as they act on behalf of the Regiment, often directly at the request of the Commanding Officer.

4. Honoraries will be afforded every courtesy - an honorary is formally addressed as “Honorary Colonel”, “Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel” in formal settings, and may be addressed as “Colonel” or “Sir” / “Ma’am” in less formal settings. Regardless of former service, their current honorary rank must be used as this is the appointment and function they fill as appointed by the Minister of National Defence. Honoraries are entitled to all customs associated with their appointment, including the paying of compliments (i.e. salutes). When the Honorary Colonel is present at a formal parade, it will generally be the practice to offer them a General Salute, both at commencement and close of the parade.



5. 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

6. The typical duties of an honorary include:
- a. Promoting *esprit de corps* in the regiment;
 - b. Advising unit Commanding Officers on matters pertaining to the community, regimental traditions, and institutional stewardship;
 - c. Acting as an advocate of the regiment in the community;
 - d. Acting as custodians of regimental heritage;
 - e. Advising the Infantry Corps Colonel-Commandant on matters of significance to the regiment;
 - f. Encouraging cohesion between various parts of the regiment, including the Cadet Corps, Foundation, Association, and Senate;
 - g. Attending regimental parades and other functions; honoraries may be called upon to assist with honours and awards or to speak to regimental issues;
 - h. Leading the Regimental Senate; and,
 - i. Performing other duties as befits their talents, and station.

HONORARY COLONEL

7. The Honorary Colonel is the senior officer of the regiment, chairs the Regimental Senate, and carries considerable moral authority as the symbolic and ceremonial head of the Regiment.

HONORARY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL

8. The Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel understudies the Honorary Colonel, filling roles which complement and supplement that of the Honorary Colonel. An appointment as Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel comes with the commitment that the appointee will, in future, be willing to accept an appointment as Honorary Colonel.

HONORARY COLONEL EMERITUS

9. 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 those whose continued generosity, service and care for the Regiment exemplifies the Prince of Wales' own motto *Ich Dien*, or "We Serve". While the title Honorary Colonel Emeritus is not an appointment by the Minister of National Defence, it is the highest mark of esteem and respect that the Regiment can offer those for which their love and service of the Regiment appear limitless.



10. In keeping with the separation of appointments drawn from the military and civilian world, the Regiment will rarely have more than two types of appointments as Honorary Colonel Emeritus, one to a former serving Honorary Colonel of military background, and one to a former serving Honorary Colonel of with a predominantly civilian background. The appointment of Honorary Colonel Emeritus will be made by the current Regimental Senate and is lifelong. There should only be one such appointment at any time.

SELECTION

11. 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 of the Canadian Army, as well as the Honorary Colonel of the Canadian Army. This privilege of access is rarely exercised, and if done must be done with great thought and caution, and only in extreme circumstances. When a Colonel-in-Chief (CinC) is appointed, they are expected to communicate with the CinC's private secretary and, in appropriate circumstances, the CinC themselves.

12. They may also correspond with the division, brigade group, and local base commander, again only in exceptional circumstances and typically "behind the scenes." This must be carefully de-conflicted with the Commanding Officer so as not to endanger existing relationships. Honoraries must not become engaged in unit administrative, or operational issues. Their role, in the provision of advice to the Commanding Officer and others in the unit, should always be seen as supporting, rather than in conflict, with the chain of command.

13. Having consulted with the former honoraries, as appropriate, the Honorary Colonel and Honorary Lieutenant-Colonel shall advise the Commanding Officer on a recommended succession plan at least 18 months before the end of their tenure; however, it the prerogative of the Commanding Officer to recommend future honoraries through the chain of command to the Chief of Defence Staff and MND.

14. Selection of honoraries will be from a list of distinguished citizens, whether civilian or military, who have proven their ability and energy to further the interests of the Regiment through political, financial, military, community or regimental influence. Reference D indicates the current departmental policy that honoraries should be drawn from diverse backgrounds to both reflect and amplify the diversity of the Canadian Army.

TENURE

15. 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 ministerial approval.



DRESS AND IDENTIFICATION

16. Honoraries are entitled to a scale of issue from CF stores, including service dress and combat clothing. They shall wear the rank of the normal rank of their appointment, be it Colonel or Lieutenant-Colonel. Notwithstanding the custom for non-honorary appointments, Colonels shall wear Regimental accoutrements (not the Governor-General's crowned lion crest or gorget patches of the Army General Staff). Honoraries are entitled to CAF identification cards. In both cases, the unit will assist with the arrangement for clothing and identity services on their behalf.