



MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

Remember tradition does not mean that you never do anything new, but that you will never fall below the standard of courage and conduct handed down to you. Then tradition, far from being handcuffs to cramp your action, will be a handrail to guide and steady you in rough places. - Field Marshal Sir William Slim

While it is easy to see a regiment as nothing more than a collection of symbolic accoutrements, this view only hints at why the regiment is central to the Canadian Army. Regiments are the embodiment of culture, spirit, history, and expectations, stretching through cadets, soldiers, and veterans. It is this identity that is at the root of our cohesion, and, in turn, our collective fighting spirit.

Regimental Standing Orders serve an essential role in the preservation of traditions and customs. They inform our soldiers, ensuring that the strand of history remains unbroken from our earliest iterations as a unit, through the service of our forbearers, until today. Regimental Orders for the PWOR were first published in 1869. Then, as now, they served to establish the Regimental ethos and mores to be reflected in daily activities, within and outside the unit, by all of our Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Privates. New members must read them; experienced members must live by them; and senior members of the Regiment must teach and preserve them.

A shared regimental identity is more than insignia – it is a commitment, together, to preserve and honour the past, to prepare for operations with diligence, to strive for excellence, to celebrate victories, and to support each other in times of challenge. Some believe that there is an erosion of tradition and custom today – I do not believe this to be true. Instead, I believe that we remain responsible to honour and respect our history and customs, and to understand from whence we have come, but that we must also continue to evolve. This does not mean compromising standards of decorum, operational preparedness, or the duty of care we have for subordinates, but I expect, particularly from leaders, a high degree of judgement and discernment, including openness to change.

While it is, ultimately, the responsibility of the Regimental Senate to ensure that Regimental Standing Orders are written, promulgated, and kept up to date, I will continue to take a close interest in them as our shared expression of Regimental identity.

Nunquam Cede,

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14 January 2021