

CHAPTER 1
"IN THE BEGINNING"

AFAC History/RCAFA

Let the records show that in researching the files presently held at the National office, this is an attempt to set out in chronological order, available historical information relating to the birth and life of the Air Force Association of Canada, formerly known as the Royal Canadian Air Force Association.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS - 1948-1958

This letter which follows is most revealing. It was written by Mr. Jack Gray, General Manager of the RCAF Association and dated 19 February, 1958 to Mr. G. Greig Harrison, Member 306 Wing. Quote:

File No: 3-1-20
February 19, 1958

Mr. G. Greig Harrison
4516 Old Orchard Avenue
Montreal, PQ

Dear Greig:

Thank you for your letter of February and enclosed is your cheque in the amount of \$18.00 covering your expense for attending the 50th Anniversary of Flight meeting on February 8th.

I have been working trying to determine the date of origination of the Association. The history, which was prepared by Lloyd Jenkins, saying an Order in Council had been passed in 1948, was not exactly correct. What did happen was this - the Minister of National Defence asked the Cabinet to approve the formation of the R.C.A.F. Association and to provide an annual grant of \$15,000.00. The decision of the Cabinet was in the form of a document called "A Cabinet Conclusion" dated May 12th, 1948 in which the Cabinet approved in principle the provision of \$15,000.00 for the expenses in establishing an R.C.A.F. Association. The amount of \$15,000.00 of course became an annual grant and subsequently was increased to \$20,000.00. The only Order in Council was issued in 1952 which gave authority for the Incorporation of the Association under the Companies Act. The first Organizational meeting was held in the Fall of '48 and it does appear that for all intents and purposes the Association had its start in 1948. I expect to have a meeting with the AVM and George Ault shortly and come up with the answer.

Now regarding the collection forms of the Legion, we have something similar and I appreciated your suggestions in this line. Enclosed are the copies of what we send out and which the Wings can have made up.

Ours differ a little from the Legion, Greig, in that they do not have control of their membership at National. This they regret very much and while a Wing like 306 collects their dues, you have no idea of the letter writing and work we have to do here in order to coach the Wings in getting dues in. Actually we prepare the nominal roll, we prepare their original notice, we address the envelope for them - this Notice No. 1. Ten at the end of 3 months, after notifying the Wing of our intention, we send a notice to each Wing member who has not yet paid then we ask the Wings to follow this up with 3 more notices on which we use collection stickers - some enclosed. I think perhaps I will, on your suggestion, prepare a sort of collection kit for the Wings for this year.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely,

J. C. Gray,
Secretary,
R.C.A.F. Association.

FOOTNOTE: Most interesting information regarding the birth of the R.C.A.F. Association and the procedure followed then in the collection of Wing dues.

EXTRACT from Privy Council Minutes:

D/S P.C. 59/2311

Certified to be a true copy of a Minute of a Meeting of the Treasury Board, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council, on the 21st May, 1948.

NATIONAL DEFENCE

The Board recommend that authority be granted for payment of a grant in the amount of \$15,000.00 to the Royal Canadian Air Force Association, such payment having been approved, in principle, by the Cabinet on May 12, 1948, chargeable to 1948-49 Appropriation for the Royal Canadian Air Force.

(SGD.) A.M. Hill
Asst. Clerk of the Privy Council

The Honourable, The Minister of National Defence

SOME REFLECTIONS

This is a letter written 10th March, 1949, to S/L Common (presumably a member of the RCAF Association) by A/C R.C. Ripley, for Chief of the Air Staff. Quote:

Dear Squadron Leader Common:

As suggested by you, Air Chief Marshal Breadner, Provincial President of the R.C.A.F. Association has forwarded your letter of 14th February, 1949 to Air Marshal Curtis the Chief of the Air Staff. The CAS has studied your letter with great interest and has asked me to outline to you his personal feelings and the policy we are following.

Generally speaking, your views are identical with those of Air Marshal Curtis. The implementation of projects which are designed to inform the public is often quite complicated, and from the Regular Force stand-point, must be channelled along the lines laid down by the Government of Canada. That is as it should be, of course, as the Chiefs of Staff of the Armed Services are responsible to the Government to approve the implementation of the whole part of those recommendations in accordance with the overall mandate the Government has received as representative of the people of Canada.

The military chiefs of most democracies are usually in the same position, although in the case of our neighbours to the south, the requirements as stated by the services are usually discussed in open meetings of the Congressional or Senate Committees. Such a practice is not followed in Canada and, therefore, as you have pointed out, the public are only informed of the requirement

as stated by the Government but not of the requirement as stated by the Services. Regardless of the feelings of Regular Force personnel, it is hardly within their prerogative to campaign openly against the decisions of the elected representatives of the people. I have purposely stated campaign "against", as I am sure you realize that we do not consider that the R.C.A.F. is large enough at the present time to form the basis of a force that would have to be mobilized quickly in an emergency.

As you have so ably stated in your letter, the above is the problem in the "narrow sense". Air Chief Marshal Breadner realized this danger during the war as did those who followed him. As a result, and I might add with full approval of the Cabinet, the R.C.A.F. was authorized to sponsor the R.C.A.F. Association. You are familiar with its aims, and it is our hope that it will become actively engaged in the problems of informing its own membership of Air Defence requirements for Canada, and the members in turn the general public at large. Should the resources be placed at our disposal in the future to activate Reserve Units across Canada, as have for example the Army, a still closer touch will be possible with the public.

I might outline to you in some detail the general program now in effect to keep the public informed. We maintain a small Public Relations branch. As it is of necessity very small, it must depend on the willingness of Press services and individual publications and radio stations to carry our releases. Most of the material issued is of course based on current events and personalities of interest. Releases covering details of service plans or requirements must be within the limits of those authorized by Parliament. This branch also produces background material for speeches which is widely distributed across the service.

Last year we established the policy of holding an annual Air Force Day, on which R.C.A.F. establishments would be open to the public. The first Annual celebration was a remarkable success, and we hope that this year it will be better.

Commanding Officers of all our Units have been instructed to tactfully arrange speaking engagements wherever possible at such organizations as service clubs, luncheon clubs, etc. Air Force personnel are being encouraged to join civilian organizations in their community, and take part in community affairs so that they become known to the people, and are not considered as outsiders. Unfortunately, we have not the resources to have establishments in every community but we feel that the R.C.A.F. Association will have members everywhere.

By all the above means we hope to educate the general public that the R.C.A.F. is a complex organization, that its members must be highly qualified and that its worth in an emergency will depend directly on the public support it is given before the emergency occurs.

To get back to specific suggestions that you have given in your letter on subjects that should probably be more clearly discussed. The possibilities of an attack on Canada was a matter of fact, aired to a certain extent during the last session of the Canadian Parliament. The submarine problem and the radar defence problem have both caused a considerable amount of

speculation in the press. I will admit, however, that although the press statements have been as thorough and accurate as we would give ourselves, they may not have had the same effect on the general public as would an official statement.

In consideration of the above, the CAS has instructed that your opinions should be thoroughly investigated with a view to definite statements being issued on the official views of the R.C.A.F. on the Air Defence of Canada. You will appreciate, however, that such statements can only be given within the restrictions of security, and in accordance with approved government policy.

Copies of your letter will be forwarded to both Air Commodore Wray, {Commandant of the R.C.A.F. Staff College in Toronto) and G/C Annis (Director of Air Operations Ottawa). Although North Atlantic Plots have been publicized in the past, I am investigating further to see if additional stories can be produced which might be acceptable to either newspapers or magazines. For your information, the R.C.A.F. celebrates its 25th anniversary on the 1st April, 1949. Our Public Relations branch have been very active in organizing a program of Air Force publicity in the newspapers and on the air for that event.

I would like to thank you on behalf of Air Marshal Curtis, for your thoughtful and constructive suggestions. Support such as yours to the R.C.A.F. Association will eventually result in a strong and worthwhile Air Defence for Canada.

Yours sincerely,

(R.C. Ripley)
Air Commodore
for Chief of the Air Staff.

Squadron Leader E.C. Common
21 Springfield Ave.
Montreal 6, Quebec.

cc - The Secretary
R.C.A.F. Association
424 Metcalfe St.
Ottawa, Ontario.

cc - Air Commodore L.E. Wray, OBE, AFC

THE OFFICIAL NOTICE ANNOUNCING THE CONVENING OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION

(ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING) FOLLOWS:

R.C.A.F. Association

General Bulletin No. 6

1. First National Convention - May, 1950

Your provisional Dominion Executive Council met in Ottawa on December 1st. And you may have read in your local press that they decided to call the First National Convention on Friday and Saturday, May 12th and 13th. Subject to sufficient hotel accommodation for the delegates being available on these dates, it will be held in Ottawa, with Montreal named as an alternative location. Ottawa was considered the most advantageous locale for the First convention, in view of it being the seat of Government and the location of the Department of National Defence. Consequently we hope to be favoured with the presence of the Minister of National Defence and the Chief of the Air Staff to address the delegates and answer any resolutions which may be put forward. We are hopeful too, that the R.C.A.F. will be able to assist in the transportation of delegates, and transcontinental scheduled flights of Air Transport Command coverage in Ottawa or Montreal.

2. Purpose of Convention

The purposes of the Convention will primarily be to:

- (a) Hold elections for the officers of the Dominion Executive Council.
(Those now holding office accepted appointments only on a Provisional basis.
- (b) Put forward resolutions national in scope.
- (c) Perhaps define a National Policy for the Association for the Ensuing year.
- (d) Amend or ratify the By-Laws of the Association

3. Costs of National Convention

Your Dominion Executive has given authority that for the first National Convention all costs, including an expense for the Wing delegates, will be borne by the National Headquarters. Every out-of-town delegate accredited by a Wing of the Association will be provided transportation to the Convention and return, and will be allowed to claim \$10.00 per day expenses.

4. Group Conventions

Before the National Convention, Group Conventions will be held for the purpose of:

- (A) Election of Group Executive Councils and the Group representatives on the Dominion Executive Council.
- (B) Formulation of Group Policy, and
- (C) Preparation of Group Resolutions for the National Convention.

The Dominion Executive Council has ruled that Group Conventions be held between February 15th and March 15th, with reports and recommendations to reach Dominion Headquarters by 25th March, to be followed by financial statements as at 31st March.

5. Costs of Group Conventions

The Group Conventions will probably all be one day meetings and with little travelling time involved as compared to the National Convention, out-of-town delegates will not be faced with the same expenses. The Dominion Executive has ruled that the expenses of Wing delegates to Group Conventions should be borne by Wings. Other convention costs will be paid by Groups from Association funds.

6. Representation at National and Group Conventions

Despite the importance of the Group Conventions and the bearing they will have on every decision of the National Convention to follow, they will not be very large affairs.

Our present by-laws provide that:

Each Wing within a Group shall be entitled to send to a Regular or Special Group Meeting, as representing its members, one delegate and an additional delegate for every fifty Regular Members or major fraction thereof in excess of the first fifty Regular Members.

Any delegate accredited by his Wing and attending a Regular or Special Group Meeting may carry in addition to his/her own credentials not more than four proxy credentials from his/her or any other Wing or Wings within his/her own Group which has or have selected him/her as a representative. Such proxies must be registered at the opening of the Regular or Special Group Meeting.

Members who have not joined a Wing of the Association may attend any Regular or Special Group Meeting if residing within the area of the Group. When so in attendance,

such members may elect one voting representative for every twenty five such members-at-large or fraction thereof in attendance at the Regular or Special Group Meeting.

Based on present strengths, Wing delegates at the Group Conventions, in addition to the provisional executives of Groups, would be:

British Columbia	7
Alberta.....	7
Saskatchewan	5
Manitoba	8
Ontario (approximately)....	32
Quebec	5
New Brunswick	5)
Nova Scotia	49

Plus any representatives for members-at-large.

These figures, of course, will be increased through the formation of additional Wings during the next few months.

For the National Convention, our by-laws provide that:

Each Wing of the Association shall be entitled to send to a Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association, as representing its members, one delegate, and an additional delegate for every one hundred Regular Members or major fraction thereof in excess of the first one hundred Regular Members.

Based on present strengths, delegates from Wings would be:

British Columbia	4
Alberta.....	4
Saskatchewan	4
Manitoba	5
Ontario	21
Quebec	4
New Brunswick	3
Nova Scotia	3
.....	48

Plus 9 Dominion members of the Executive and 9 Group representatives.

Total 66

This figure might be increased to say - 100 - with the formation of new Wings.

7. Election of Officers

This will be a most important item of business at both the National and Group Conventions, and one to which all Groups and Wings should give serious thought. As you know, all appointments made to both Dominion Executive Council and Group Executives were provisional. Whilst of course anyone having a provisional appointment at the present time is eligible for nomination, those first elections will represent the choice of our membership. It is particularly important, therefore, that delegates come prepared to nominate individuals whom they know are in a position to accept nomination and devote some time to the affairs of the Association.

The appointments to be made at the Dominion Convention are:

Grand President	Chairman
President	Vice-Chairman
First Vice-President	Honorary Treasurer
Second Vice-President	Women's Division Representative
Third Vice-President	Legal Advisor

The appointments to be made at the Group Convention are:

Group President
Group Vice-President
Group Honorary Treasurer
Such other officers as the Group Convention may determine
And

The Dominion Executive Council member or members
(Two for Ontario and Quebec.)

The Dominion Executive Council suggests that the Group Representatives on the Dominion Executive Council should normally be the President of the Group, which would mean a dual appointment at the Group Convention.

8. Resolutions

Resolutions of the National Convention will fall into two categories, those of national import under the aims and objects of the Association, and those dealing with the By-Laws of the Association.

Group Captain Graham Morrow, O.B.E., our Legal Advisor, has been appointed chairman of the Resolutions Committee for the first National Convention. This Committee will receive and

consolidate resolutions to be placed before the National Convention. Resolutions prepared by Wings should be tabled at the Group Conventions and come to the Resolutions Committee as consolidated Group resolutions, subject of course that additional resolutions may be forwarded through Group Presidents following the Group Convention.

Wings are urged, therefore, to draft Resolutions to be tabled at your Group Conventions, and to submit these to the Provisional Group Presidents as early as possible. The Dominion Headquarters would appreciate receiving copies of such resolutions and will circulate those of national significance to all Wings for their information and consideration.

9. Convention Arrangements

Wings will be advised of the arrangements being made for the national convention and instructions in respect to transportation and the submission of expense claims. In the meantime, Dominion Headquarters would be pleased to receive any suggestions of a general nature in respect to the convention.

10. Action by Wings

- (I) Draft and submit to Group and Dominion Command, resolutions for the conventions, including any suggested amendments to the By-Laws.
- (ii) Consider members eligible for nomination at the Group and National Conventions for posts on the Group Executive Council and Dominion Executive Council as detailed in para. 6 above.
- (iii) Appoint members who are in a position to travel to Group and National Conventions as your Wing delegates, or arrange proxy Representation, under paras. 9-D (i) and (ii) and 10 -D (i) and (ii) of the By-Laws.

11. Address of Provisional Group Presidents

British Columbia	A/C A.D. Bell-Irving, OBE, MC, ED.,	Vancouver
Alberta	A/V/M G.R. Howsam, CB, MC,	Edmonton
Saskatchewan	G/C J.C. Malone, KC	Regina
Manitoba	G/C W.F. Hanna, CB	Winnipeg
Ontario	A/V/M G.E. Brooks, CB, OBE	Toronto
Quebec	W/C C.H. Link, MBE (Honorary Secretary)	Montreal
Maritime	W/C H.W. Aslin	Halifax, NS

THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION IN REVIEW

The first National Convention of the RCAF Association was held in Ottawa May 12 and 13, 1950. The Minutes of the Meeting reflect the following Executive Members in attendance:-
(Except where otherwise indicated, the following were in attendance.)

Grand Patron - Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief, His Excellency
Field Marshal The Viscount Alexander of Tunis, K.G., G.C.B.,
G.C.M.G., C.S.I., D.S.O., M.C., LL.D.
(Unable to attend)

Dominion Executive (Provisional)

President	A/C/M L.S. Breadner, CB, DSC,	Kirks Ferry	PQ
1st Vice-President	A/V/M A. Raymond, CBE.	Montreal	PQ
2nd Vice-President	A/V/M A.L. Morfee, CB, CBE	Granville Ferry	NS
3rd Vice-President	A/V/M G.V. Walsh, CB, CBE	Magog	PQ
4th Vice-Pres.(Finance)	A/V/M K.G. Nairn, CB	Vancouver	BC
Chairman	A/V/M J.A. Sully, CB, AFC	Goderich	ON
Vice-Chairman	W/C P.B. Pitcher	Montreal	PQ
Legal Advisor	G/C C.G. Morrow, OBE	Toronto	ON
W.D. Representative	Wg/O K.O. Walker, MBE	Ottawa	ON
(Unable to attend)			
Represented by	Fl/O F.T. Walsh	Ottawa	ON
B.C. Representative	A/C A.D. Bell-Irving, OBE. MC	Vancouver	BC
Alberta Rep.	A/V/M G.R. Howsam, CB, MC	Edmonton	AB
(Unable to attend)			
Represented by	S/L R.D. White, KC, Secretary Alb.Grp.		AB
Saskatchewan Rep.	G/C J.C. Malone, KC	Regina	SK
(Unable to attend)			
Represented by	F/L F.M. Spelliscy, Secretary Saskatchewan Grp.		
Manitoba Representative	G/C W.F. Hanna, CBE	Winnipeg	MB
(Unable to attend)			
Ontario Representatives	A/V/M G.E. Brookes, CB, OBE	Toronto	ON
	F/L K.K. Gildner, DFC	Sudbury	ON
Quebec Representatives	W/C R.E. Morrow, DFC	Montreal	PQ
	W/C C.H. Link, MBE	Montreal	PQ
Maritime Group	W/C H.W. Aslin	Halifax	NS
Honorary Chaplains			
Roman Catholic	A/C Rt. Rev. J.E.A. Charest, CBE	St. Anne de Bvu.	PQ
Protestant	W/C Rt. Rev. R.J. Renison Bishop of Moosonee		

(For Wing Delegates in attendance, please see Chart No. 6 (Page 66))

**AIR CHIEF MARSHAL L.S.BREADNER, CB, DSC, PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT,
ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION ADDRESSES THE FIRST
NATIONAL CONVENTION.**

INTRODUCTION

As this is our first national convention, I would first of all like to welcome you and thank you for coming. Undoubtedly your attendance, in many cases, has been arranged at considerable personal inconvenience, and is a wonderful demonstration of your enthusiasm. In referring to the "First National Convention", I do not think that term is truly appropriate. I feel a more fitting way of describing it would be "A Coming Out Convention."

A little less than two years ago, none of you had ever heard of an "R.C.A.F. Association." As for myself, while the idea had been in my mind for some time, I never visualized it becoming a reality. Furthermore, I must admit that I was retired and truly enjoying myself up the Gatineau, and had no aspirations to get into harness again.

Anyway, due to incessant urging by R.C.A.F. veterans, the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal W.A. Curtis, prevailed upon the Minister of National Defence, The Honourable Brooke Claxton, who obtained Cabinet approval to authorize the formation of an R.C.A.F. Association. This was done by Order in Council on May 12th, 1948.

At the request of the Minister of National Defence and The Chief of the Air Staff, I took on the job of trying to get the Association started. How was I to do it? I did not have the foggiest idea. Someone said we had to have a Charter. What I didn't know about obtaining a Charter would fill a book. Anyway, we had to make a start somewhere, and after studying the constitution and by-laws of several organizations, we thought we would attempt to pattern ours after the Canadian Legion. After all, we felt they had been in the business for some twenty years and should by that time had all the snags and pitfalls covered. Our choice was a bad one for two reasons:

- (i) It gave a wrong impression that we were in competition with the Legion, which was decidedly untrue. We are on the best of terms organization. We are, as the name implies, an Association comparable to the many Army and Navy Associations already in existence, whose main job is to aid and support their parent service.
- (ii) When we took our constitution and by-laws to The Secretary of State Department, they threw up their hands and said, "Why did You pick the Legion constitution as a pattern? It is probably the worst possible example." As a result, the constitution and by-laws have had to be re-written and amended at least a half dozen times, but I am now happy to announce that they are acceptable to the Secretary of State Department.

After the drafting of the original constitution and by-laws, we discovered that we had to get some people to fill the positions which had been created. To do this, I wrote to a large number of ex-Air Force personnel across the country who, I considered, could and would do a job of work. On September 17th, 1948, a meeting was held in Ottawa with these people, who, incidentally came at their own expense, and a provisional executive was approved.

MEMBERSHIP

Our next task was to get some members. This we did by arranging with the Chief of the Air Staff, to have a message included with his monthly news letter to Retired, Reserve and Former Air Force personnel, inviting them to join the Association. Needless to say, the response was excellent and we had at the end of April, 58 Wings organized embracing 5068 members plus 3391 members at large. Broken down by Groups, the membership is as per Annex B. We fully appreciate that the strongest link in the organization is the Wing and I want to thank you and the men and women you represent for your magnificent support.

ORGANIZATION

You are all familiar with the organization, and I do not propose to spend a great deal of time on it, other than to bring you up to date on amendments that have taken place.

There is the Dominion Headquarters in Ottawa with geographical sub-divisions in the files known as Groups. Under these are the Wings.

At Dominion Headquarters, our staff consists of:

Mr. R.S. McCartney - Assistant General Secretary
S/L J.H. Giguere - Executive Assistant, who is on loan from the R.C.A.F.

In the general office, we have,

2 stenographers - 1 civilian, and 1 airman on loan from the R.C.A.F.
1 office girl and machine operator
1 bookkeeper

I might mention while I am on this subject, that it was recently necessary to convert to machine records, as our staff is much too small to cope with the problem in any other way. We feel that within a year the initial outlay will be amortized.

The following changes to the original provisional executive have taken place.

- (i) Air Commodore Russell had to resign from the Ontario Group because of ill health and he was replaced by Air Vice Marshal G.E. Brookes.

- (ii) Air Vice Marshal K.G. Nairn resigned from the position of 2nd Vice President, to take on the position of Honorary Treasurer, which had become vacant due to the resignation of F/L C.E. Winter.
- (iii) Air Vice Marshal A.L. Morfee accepted the post of 2nd Vice President.

Insofar as amendments to the organization structure is concerned, the only change that has taken place is in the Maritimes. Originally, it was intended that every province would be known as a Group, and Mr. Aslin took on the job for Nova Scotia. Mr. Wendell Rogers was asked to do a similar job for New Brunswick, but owing to ill health, he was unable to do so. However, Mr. Swanton stepped into the picture in an ex-officio capacity and did excellent work. In the light of experience, we felt that it was much better to have the maritime provinces under one Group, and at our Executive Council meeting held December 1st, 1949, this was ratified. Consequently, the provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland are now known as the Maritime Group under the Presidency of Mr. Aslin.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE R.C.A.F. AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

It would not be fitting, if at this time, recognition were not given where it is due.

First of all, I want to thank Air Marshal Curtis and the R.C.A.F for its splendid support. It has provided us with accommodation and a certain amount of staff; it has made its film libraries available to our Wings; it has provided all our members with individual copies of its magazine "Roundel"; it has supplied us with speakers and many other amenities. All in all, a wonderful contribution.

In respect to other organizations such as the Canadian Legion, the Royal Canadian Flying Clubs Association, the Army, Navy and Air Force Veterans Association, we have received top co-operation from all of them, and in many instances, they supply our Wings with accommodation. So also have reserve Navy and Army units. To all of these we extend our thanks.

WHAT THE ASSOCIATION HAS DONE

During the past year, we have concentrated almost entirely in building up our membership and in getting Wings organized. This is a very important phase, and we cannot afford to relax. In the comparatively short time that Wings have been in existence, they have:

- (I) Worked in collaboration with the R.C.A.F. Benevolent Fund in bringing to attention deserving cases;
- (ii) Sponsored or taken over the sponsorship of Air Cadet Squadrons;
- (iii) Formed and maintained hospital visiting committees;
- (iv) Put themselves on a sound financial basis by organizing raffles, holding dances,

carnival nights, sponsoring band concerts, obtaining concession rights on Air Force Stations for Air Force Day and so forth;

- (v) Entertained visiting Air Cadets;
- (vi) Have had prominent speakers on civil and military aviation Subjects;
- (vii) Participated in Battle of Britain Sunday, Air Force Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies;
- (viii) Put forward resolutions to the Department of National Defence On the inadequacy of R.C.A.F. Reserve Training and the need for Proper training facilities;
- (ix) Formed model aircraft clubs amongst the youth of the community.

This is an excellent record of achievement and much credit is due to the Wing Executives and their members.

OUR AIM FOR THE FUTURE

I have briefly outlined what has been done in the past and I would like to touch on what you and the New Dominion Executive should set as your target for the forthcoming year.

FIRST, I would like to see the number of our Wing and our membership doubled. If we can do that, we will truly be a force to be reckoned with. You may say, "How can we do it?" We have found that the best advertisement of the Association is our Wings. A live Wing attracts interest and before long neighbouring communities become interested and want an organization of their own. This has been definitely proven during the past year.

SECOND, every individual member is a salesman and without too much effort on his/her part, he/she should be able to recruit one new member. There is our 16,000.

THIRD, we want the Association to get behind and support everything dealing with Air. Do not forget that in wartime, many a flying club becomes a training school, many an Air Cadet becomes aircrew or ground crew. In addition, by selling the necessity of Air Power to the public, you are selling it to the voter. The voter in turn sells his idea to his representative in parliament, thereby assuring that Air is kept in proper perspective in relation to the defence needs of our country, and that the Defence Dollar is properly allotted.

CLOSING REMARKS

As your retiring Provisional President, I would again like you to know how deeply I have appreciated the support you have given me. I am sure, that whoever you may choose to replace me, will receive the same support, and that we can all look forward to a future where membership in our Association will indeed be a perpetuation of the glorious traditions of that wonderful service, The Royal Canadian Air Force.

L.S. Breadner
(Original signed by)
Dominion President (Provisional)
30th April, 1950

THE BY-LAWS OF THE R.C.A.F. ASSOCIATION

The Dominion President, in his address at the First National Convention, stated that the Constitution and By-laws of the Association had to be rewritten and amended at least a half dozen times to meet the satisfaction of the Department of the Secretary of State. It is therefore fitting that these Constitution and By-laws be recorded for posterity and are as follows:

BY-LAWS

Royal Canadian Air Force Association

- | | | | |
|--|------|-------|---|
| Name and Organization of the Association | 1.A. | (i) | In these by-laws the expression "the Association" shall mean the Royal Canadian Air Force Association |
| | | (ii) | The Association shall be composed of members as hereinafter set out. |
| | | (iii) | The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Dominion Executive Council, constituted as hereinafter set out. |
| Groups | B. | (i) | The members of the Association resident in any Province or group of provinces may be constituted as a Group (hereinafter called "a Group") To be known as Royal Canadian Air Force Association, (name of Province or Area) Group. |
| | | (ii) | The affairs of the Group shall be managed by a Group Executive Council as hereinafter set out. |
| Wings | C. | (i) | Members resident in any locality within a Group may petition to be constituted as a local Wing to be known as (designation and/or Locality) Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association. Upon the recommendation of the Group Executive Council, a certificate may thereupon be issued to such local Wing by the Dominion Executive Council. |

Groups and Wings in the United of America	D.	(i)	The Dominion Executive Council may establish Wings of the Association in the United States of America, and the issue certificates thereto.
		(ii)	Wings in the United States of America shall be organized into Groups by the Dominion Executive Council as required.
		(iii)	Members of the Association who are citizens of or resident in the United States of America shall maintain and uphold the aims, objects and principles of the Association insofar as the same are consistent with the allegiance which they owe to that country.
		(iv)	All Groups and Wings organized in the United States of America shall be governed by these By-laws and the rules and regulations of the Association.
Head Office	E.		The head office of the Association shall be in the city of Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario and at the place therein where the offices of the Association may from time to time be situated.
Fiscal Year	F.		The fiscal year of the Association shall end on 31st March of each year.
Qualification for Holding Association	G.		Only Regular and Regular Life Members as defined in By-Law No. 3 shall be entitled to hold office in the Association. No Office person shall be nominated for any office in the Association unless he or she be present or she be present or has signified in writing his or her willingness to accept such office.
Badges and Seals	2.	(i)	Official badges and other insignia of the Association shall be fixed by the Dominion Executive Council. There shall be a Distinctive badge to be worn only by Members of the Association. Members of the Auxiliaries, past Presidents, Honorary Officers and other members who have rendered meritorious service to the Association may wear badges of such a Design as may be decided upon by the Dominion Executive Council.
		(ii)	The corporate seal of the Association shall be in the custody of the General Secretary thereof, who, under such seal, shall have full and complete authority to certify as to the authenticity of any and all documents in his possession by virtue of his appointment to such office.
Memberships	3.		Memberships shall be open to the following classes:
Regular	A.	(i)	Any person of good character who voluntarily enlisted or was

Members		enrolled for service anywhere in any of His Majesty's Air Forces may become a Regular Member of the Association upon payment of the dues hereinafter set out, provided that he or she is not a serving member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (Regular).
	(ii)	Whenever a Regular Member of the Association shall enlist in the Royal Canadian Air Force (Regular), he or she shall be Transferred to the Serving membership list of the Association.
Serving Member	B.	(i) Any serving member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (Regular) may become a Serving member of the Association upon payment of the dues hereinafter set out. (ii) Whenever a Serving member of the Association is honourably released from the Royal Canadian Air Force (Regular), he or she shall be transferred to the Regular membership list of the Association.
Honorary Members	C.	(i) Any person who supports the principles, aims and objects of the Association and who has contributed substantially to the welfare of the Association or the advancement of its Aims and objects, may be enrolled as an Honorary Member of the Association, provided that no person eligible for Regular or Serving Membership shall be so enrolled. (ii) Nominations for Honorary membership shall be in writing and submitted for approval of the Dominion Executive Council.
Life Members	D.	(i) Any person eligible for Regular membership or Serving membership in the Association may become a Regular Life or Serving Life Member of the Association upon payment of the dues hereinafter set out for Life membership. (ii) Any person eligible for enrolment as an Honorary member may be recommended for enrolment as an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Life membership dues as hereinafter set out will be paid by the Wing or Group which originates a recommendation for Honorary Life membership.
Disqualification for Membership	E.	(i) No avowed Anarchist, Communist, Fascist, or other person who advocates the destruction of organized government by force, shall be permitted to become or remain a member of the Association.
Applications	F.	Applications for original membership or reinstatement shall be made in writing upon the form supplied for that purpose, and shall be signed by the applicant. The application shall be sent to the General

			Secretary of the Association or to the Secretary of the Wing which the applicant desires to join, Accompanied be the enrolment fee and first Annual Association dues, or, in the case of the application for Regular or Serving Life membership, accompanied by the Life Membership fee.
Reports on Applicants	G.		After due investigation, the General Secretary or the Secretary of such Wing to which application has been made, shall inform the applicant of his acceptance or otherwise as a member of the Association.
Expulsion and Suspension of Members for Cause	H.		Any member may be expelled or suspended from the Association for breach of his obligation, or of these by-laws, or for disloyal utterances or acts, or for profane or disorderly conduct in a meeting of any body of the Association, or for maliciously making a false charge against a member, or for conduct unworthy of a member, or which in any way brings the Association into discredit, or for non-payment of dues.
Withdrawal	I.		Any member of the Association may withdraw there from by submitting to his Wing, or if he has not joined a Wing, to the General Secretary of the Association, his resignation in writing.
Dominion Executive Council	4.A.		The affairs of the Association shall be governed by a Dominion Executive Council.
Composition of the Dominion Executive Council	B.	(i)	The Dominion Executive Council shall consist of: Grand President, President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Fourth Vice-President (Financial), Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Women's Division Representative, Legal Advisor, Immediate Past President, all of whom, with the exception of the Immediate Past President, shall be elected by ballot at the Regular General Meeting of the Association, by a majority vote, and proxies may be voted.
		(ii)	One other member from each Group and in the case of the Ontario Group, one additional member, and in the case of the Quebec Group, one additional member, and in the case of the Maritime Group, one additional member, all of whom shall be elected at their respective group meetings as hereinafter set forth and who shall take office immediately after their election.
Disquali-	C.	(I)	All members of the Dominion Executive Council shall continue

fication for
Dominion
Executive
Council

to hold office until new appointees are elected, office on
provided that the office of a member of the Dominion Executive
Council shall be vacated:

- (a) upon his death or bankruptcy;
- (b) if he is found to be a lunatic or become of unsound mind;
- (c) upon his resignation; and
- (d) if his removal is requested by resolution of two-thirds of the
members at a Regular or Special General Meeting of the
Association, or a Regular Special Meeting of a Group in the
case of the respective Group representative(s).

- (ii) No salaried official or employee of the Association shall be eligible
for election or appointment as a member of the Dominion
Executive Council.

Vacancies
on Dominion
Executive
Council

- D. (i) Any vacancy occurring amongst other than Group
representatives on the Dominion Executive Council may be
be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members.
- (ii) Any vacancy occurring amongst the Group representatives on the
Dominion Executive Council may be filled by a representative
appointed by the Group Executive Council of the Group which
such retiring member had represented.
- (iii) A Group representative elected under the provisions of sub-
paragraph 4.b.(ii) of these By-Laws may be represented in his or
her absence at meetings of the Dominion Executive Council or
General Meetings of the Association as hereinafter set forth by an
Alternative Group representative appointed by the Group Executive
Council of the Group. An Alternative Group representative when
acting for an elected Group representative shall be accorded all the
powers and Privileges of such Group representative.

Re-Election

- E. All members of the Dominion Executive Council shall be eligible
for re-election.

Powers of
the Dominion
Executive
Council

- 5. The Dominion Executive Council may exercise such powers
as are not by the Companies Act or by these by-laws required
to be exercised in general meeting and, without limiting the
generalities of the foregoing, shall have power to:
 - (a) supervise generally the affairs of the Association.
 - (b) formulate the policy of the Association.

Administrative Sub-Committee	(c)	Appoint a sub-committee, to be known as Administrative Sub-Committee, from among its members to transact business and carry out all necessary administrative duties. Such Sub-Committee shall consist of not less than three nor more than five members, one of whom shall be appointed Chairman, and the majority of members shall compose a quorum. Such Sub-Committee shall meet at the discretion of the chairman and notification of meetings be by ordinary mail or telephone.
Nominating Committee	(d)	Prior to a Regular General Meeting, appoint a committee to be known as the Nominating Committee which shall consist of three members and which shall nominate or receive nominations of members eligible for election at the Regular General Meeting as Officers of the Dominion Executive Council, except with respect to the Group representatives thereof. In addition to nominations made by the Nominating Committee, any additional member eligible to be elected to office may be nominated at a Regular General Meeting.
New By-Laws and Amendments	(e)	Adopt new by-laws or make amendments to existing by-laws by majority vote subject to confirmation at the next Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association and subject to the approval of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada.
Rules and Regulations	(f)	Make and issue such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with these by-laws, as may be deemed necessary for the carrying out of the purposes and administration of the Association at large and its Groups and Wings; and
Appointment of Salaried Officials and Employees	(g)	appoint and determine the duties and remuneration of such head office officials and employees of the Association as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of the Association.
Meeting of the Dominion Executive Council	6.A.	The Dominion Executive Council shall hold an annual meeting at the head office of the Association or elsewhere within Canada and on such day in each year as the Dominion Executive Council may from time to time determine. At the Annual Meeting the Dominion Executive Council will deal with: (a) the reports of the Groups and Wings of the Association.

- (b) the appointment of a Nominating Committee for members for members of the Council other than Group representatives;
- (c) the appointment and control of salaried officials and employees of the Association;
- (d) the appointment of a sub-committee in accordance with By-law No. 5 (c);
- (e) the transaction of such other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

Voting	B.	At the meetings of the Dominion Executive Council, all questions shall, unless otherwise required by law, be decided by a majority of votes of those present. In the case of equality of votes, the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
Quorum	C.	Three members of the Dominion Executive Council shall form a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting.
Notice	D.	The notice of any meeting shall state the purpose or purposes of the proposed meeting. Such notice shall be given to each member of the Dominion Executive Council and will be sufficient if posted by registered mail at least ten days before such meeting.
Special Meetings	E.	The Dominion Executive Council, or the President, or any three members of the Dominion Executive Council shall have power to call a special meeting of the Dominion Executive Council at any time, and at such place within Canada as may be fixed by the Dominion Executive Council or by the President.
Organization	7.A.	The Association may establish in each Province or Group of Provinces a Group of the Association to be known as the Royal Canadian Air Force Association (Name of Province or Area) Group, for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Association.
Group Executive Councils	B.	(i) The affairs of a Group shall be governed by a Group Executive Council. (ii) A Group Executive Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer, the Dominion Executive Council member or members for the Group, and such other officers and members as may be determined at a Regular or Special Group Meeting. Such Group Executive Council shall be elected at the

			Regular Group Meeting by a majority vote, and proxies may be voted.
	(iii)		No salaried official or employee of the Association shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of a Group Executive Council.
Group Rules and Regulations	C.		A Group Executive Council may make such rules and regulations governing its procedure and that of the Wings within its jurisdiction as are not inconsistent with these by-laws and/or any rules and regulations made by the Dominion Executive Council, provided that such Group rules and regulations shall not be in force or acted upon until approved by the Dominion Executive Council.
Meetings - Group Executive Councils	D.		Meetings of a Group Executive Council shall be held at such time and place within the Group as the Group Executive Council may from time to time determine.
Wings Organization	8.A.		The Association may establish in any locality a local Wing of the Association to be known as (designation and/or locality) Wing, Royal Canadian Air Force Association.
Wing Executive Councils	B.	(i)	The affairs of a Wing shall be governed by a Wing Executive Council.
		(ii)	A Wing Executive Council shall consist of not less than four members of the Wing and not more than fifteen members of the Wing, and shall be constituted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Dominion Executive Council or the Group Executive Council, or, in the absence thereof, by the members of such Wing. Such Wing Executive Council shall be elected at a meeting of the Wing by a majority vote.
		(iii)	No salaried official or employee of the Association shall be eligible for election or appointment as a member of a Wing Executive Council.
Wing Rules and Regulations	C.		A Wing Executive Council may make such rules and regulations governing the Wings as are not inconsistent with these by-laws and/or any rules and regulations made by the Dominion Executive Council, provided that such Wing rules and regulations shall not be in force until approved by the Dominion Executive Council.

Meetings - Wing Executive Councils	D.	Meetings of a Wing Executive Council shall be held at such time and place as the Wing Executive Council may from time to time determine.
General Meetings	9.A.	The Regular General Meetings of the Association shall be held at such time and place within Canada as the Dominion Executive Council may from time to time determine. The following items of business shall be dealt with at the Regular General Meetings of the Association: (a) The report of the Dominion Executive Council. (b) The ratification of by-laws (and such other matters as are by these by-laws) required to be ratified or confirmed. (c) The report of the auditors. (d) The election of the Dominion Executive Council, exclusive of the Group representatives on the Dominion Executive Council. (e) Such other business as may properly be dealt with.
Regular General Meetings of the Association		
Special General Meetings of the Association	B.	Special General Meetings of the Association may be called by the Dominion Executive Council and must be called on request therefor by two-thirds in number of the Wings.
Notice	C.	Not less than twenty-one days notice of any Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association shall be given to Groups and Wings, which notice shall be communicated by registered mail. There shall be no obligation to give notice to individual members who have not joined a Wing but reasonable steps in accordance with the circumstances prevailing should be taken to bring the meeting to the attention of such members.
Delegates	D.	(i) Each Wing of the Association shall be entitled to send to a Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association, as representing its members, one delegate, and an additional delegate for every one hundred Regular Members or major fraction thereof in excess of the first one hundred Regular Members.
Proxies	(ii)	Any delegate accredited by his Wing and attending a Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association may carry in addition to his/her own credentials not more than four proxy credentials from his/her or any other Wing or Wings within his/her own Group which has or have selected him/her as a representative. Such proxies must be

		registered at the opening of the Regular or Special General Meeting.
Members-at-Large	(iii)	Members who have not joined a Wing of the Association may attend any Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association. When so in attendance such members may elect one voting representative for every twenty-five such members-at-large or fraction thereof in attendance at the Regular or Special General Meeting.
Quorum	E.	A quorum for any Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association shall be the presence thereof of duly accredited delegates from at least five percent of the Wings of the Associations at the time of such meeting in good standing. Provided, however, that one or more duly accredited delegates shall have authority to adjourn any such meeting from time to time for the purpose of obtaining a quorum.
Group Meetings	10.A.	The Regular Group Meetings shall be held at such time and place within the Group as the Group Executive Council may from time to time determine. The following items of business shall be dealt with at the Regular Group Meetings of the Group: (a) The report of the Group Executive Council. (b) The report of the auditors. (c) The election of a Group Executive Council. (d) The election of a representative, or representatives, as herein provided, to the Dominion Executive Council. (e) Such other business as may be properly dealt with.
Special Meetings of Groups	B.	Special Meetings of a Group may be called by the Group Executive Council, and must be called upon request therefor by two-thirds in number of the Wings within the Group.
Notice	C.	Not less than sixty days notice of any Regular Meeting and not less than fifteen days notice of any Special Group Meeting shall be given to the Wings of the Group, which notice shall be communicated to the Wings by registered mail.
Delegates	D. (i)	Each Wing within a Group shall be entitled to send to a Regular or Special Group Meeting, as representing its members, one delegate,

		and an additional delegate for every fifty regular members or major fraction thereof in excess of the first fifty regular members.
Proxies	(ii)	Any delegate accredited by his Wing and attending a Regular or Special Group Meeting may carry in addition to his/her own credentials not more than four proxy credentials from his/her or any other Wing or Wings within his/her own Group which has or have selected him/her as a representative. Such proxies must be registered at the opening of the Regular or Special Group Meeting.
Members-at-Large	(iii)	Members who have not joined a Wing of the Association may attend any Regular or Special Group Meeting if residing within the area of the Group. When so in attendance, such members may elect one voting representative for every twenty-five such members-at-large or fraction thereof in attendance at the Regular or Special Group Meeting.
Quorum	E.	A quorum at any Regular or Special Group Meeting shall be the presence thereof of duly accredited delegates from at least ten percent of the Wings of the Group at the time of such meeting in good standing, or such greater representation as provided by Group rules and regulations, provided that one or more duly accredited delegates shall have authority to adjourn any such meeting from time to time for the purpose of obtaining a quorum.
Wing Meetings	11.A	Wing meetings shall be held at such time and place as the Wing Executive Council may from time to time determine and must be called upon request therefor by one half in number of the members in good standing of the Wing.
Notice	B.	Not less than twenty-four hours notice of any Wing meeting shall be given to members in good standing of the Wing, which notice shall be communicated to the members by ordinary mail or appropriate newspaper advertisement.
	C.	All members in good standing of a Wing shall be entitled to attend at meetings of the Wing, and not less than ten percent of such members or not less than three of such members, whichever is greater, shall constitute a quorum. Such Wing meetings shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be issued by the Dominion Executive Council or the Group Executive Council or in the absence thereof by the Wing Executive Council.

Voting 12.	(i)	Only Regular and Regular Life Members as defined in By-Law 3 shall be entitled to vote at a General, Group or Wing Meeting.
	(ii)	On a “yea” or “nay” vote, each delegate to a general meeting of the Association or to a Group meeting shall have one vote, except on a ballot vote, when proxies may be voted. Except as herein provided for the election of officers, a ballot vote shall only be granted on demand supported by at least twenty percent of the delegates.
	(iii)	Individual members of the Association as such shall have no right to vote or to take part in any general meeting of the Association or in any Group meeting, all votes thereat being cast only by delegates duly accredited by the authorized Wings of the Association. Subject, however, that irrespective of whether they have been elected as delegates, the Dominion Executive Council members shall be fully qualified to vote at any general meeting of the Association and the respective Group Executive Council members shall be fully qualified to vote at any Group meetings.
Membership Fee	13.A	(i) An enrollment fee of one dollar shall be payable by every Regular or Serving member on joining the Association.
		(ii) In the case of applicants who simultaneously join a Wing of the Association, the enrollment fee paid will be retained by the Wing.
		(iii) In the case of a member-at-large of the Association who, within two years from the date of his or her joining the Association, joins a Wing of the Association, the enrolment fee paid will be remitted to the Wing from the Dominion Headquarters of the Association.
Annual Fee	B.	An annual fee of two dollars shall be payable by every Regular and Serving member of the Association, or by a Wing or Group recommending a person for honorary membership.
Life Membership	C.	A Life Membership fee of twenty-five dollars shall be payable by the applicant on applying for Regular Life Membership or Serving Life Membership, or by a Wing or Group upon recommending a person for Honorary Life Membership.
Additional Dues	D.	No Group shall require any of its members to pay additional dues or levy any assessment against its members. A Wing may require, as a condition of joining the Wing, the payment of such dues as the Wing may set by vote at a meeting of the Wing.

Amendments

to By-Laws 16.

- These by-laws may be amended, repealed, or re-enacted:
- (i) by the Dominion Executive Council, provided that any such amendment, repeal, or re-enactment is confirmed at a Regular or Special General Meeting of the Association, called for that purpose, by a majority of votes of the delegates,
 - or,
 - (ii) at any Regular or Special General meeting of the Association by a majority of votes of the delegates, provided that one month's notice has been given to the Dominion Executive Council of any proposed amendment or repeal, unless such notice is waived by a two-thirds vote of the delegates. Any such amendment, repeal, or re-enactment shall not be in force or acted upon until approved by the Secretary of State for Canada.
- The foregoing shall be the by-laws of the Corporation, in witness whereof we have hereto set our hands and affixed our seals at the places and on the dates set forth.

The By-Laws of the Royal Canadian Air Force Association were duly submitted in Application to the Secretary of State of Canada by the undersigned in their desire to obtain Letters Patent under provisions of Part II of the Companies Act, 1934. The following are the names in full and the address and calling of each applicant dated at Ottawa the 14th day of July, 1950:-

NAME	ADDRESS	CALLING
Lloyd Samuel Breadner	Ottawa, Ontario	Retired
Adelard Raymond	Montreal, P.Q.	Industrialist
Kenneth Gordon Nairn	Vancouver, B.C.	Accountant
George Victor Walsh	Ottawa, Ontario	Retired
Arthur Lawrence Morfee	Granville Ferry, N.S.	Retired
John Alfred Sully	Goderich, Ont.	Manufacturer
Paul Brooks Pitcher	Montreal, P.Q.	Lawyer
George Graham Morrow	Toronto, Ont.	Lawyer
Kathleen Oonah Walker	Ottawa, Ont.	Housewife
George Robert Howsam	Edmonton, Alta.	Retired
Alan Duncan Bell-Irving	Vancouver, B.C.	Executive
Justin Cyril Malone	Regina, Sask.	Lawyer
William Fielding Hanna	Fort Garry, Man.	Research
Scientist		
George Eric Brookes	Toronto, Ont.	Retired
Hartland De Montarville Molson	Montreal	Executive
Herbert William Aslin	Halifax, N.S.	Hotel Manager

The application further read, quote:-

Your applicants have signed a memorandum of agreement in duplicate setting out the proposed by-laws of the corporation and an undertaking that the corporation shall be carried on without pecuniary gain to its members and that any profits or other accretions to the corporation shall be used in promoting its objects. The said memorandum of agreement, in duplicate, is transmitted herewith.

The undersigned therefore request that a charter may be granted constituting them and such other persons as hereafter become members of the corporation, a body corporate and politic without share capital for the purposes above set forth. Unquote.

ENDORSEMENT TO THE FORMATION OF THE R.C.A.F. ASSOCIATION

It is very evident that Air Chief Marshal Breadner's determination to initiate the action to form the Association kindled a great deal of enthusiasm across the country. By harnessing the assistance of many of the retired senior officers of the RCAF, these gentlemen were successful within the first five years, to ensure the formation of a total of 83 Wings with an enrolment count of approximately 6900 Wing Members and 1900 Members-at-Large.

The records indicate that up to March 1952, the membership count was based on the total number of members enrolled in the Association. However, there was a significant fall-off in membership in 1953 when the decision was made to differentiate between the enrolment figure and those members who had actually paid the annual fee of \$2.00 to the National Treasury.

AIR MARSHAL W.A. CURTIS, CB, CBE, DSC, ED, LL.D., CHIEF OF THE AIR STAFF, SPEAKS.

The Royal Canadian Air Force, under the command of Air Marshal Curtis, gave overwhelming support to the activities of the Association throughout its start-up period. The Air Marshal, in his address to the membership at the first National Convention, May 1950, stated, quote:

At the outset I wish to repeat officially the very sincere welcome of the RCAF to you at your Convention, and also to extend a word of greeting to the honoured guests here today.

The R.C.A.F. Association means a great deal to us and we have been vitally interested in the work that you have done to date. The progress you have made has been outstanding; it is phenomenal; and the bulk of credit for that should go to Air Chief Marshal Breadner, who is to become your Grand President.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the various provincial organizations and to the provincial executive council for their fine work. The whole organization has gone ahead at a tremendous rate, which, I think, speaks well for the Association, for the Air Force, the Air Cadet League and other flying organizations.

I have had the privilege of visiting some six or eight Wings and taking part in their Charter Nights. The type of lad you have, the enthusiasm with which you are working, and the speed with which those Wings had been formed, all impressed me very much and made me feel that anything we could do at the meeting was well worthwhile and would pay us one hundred fold. The fact that there has been so much interest shown, made me feel on each occasion that I should try to tell something of what the Air Force has done since the end of the war, what we are about to do in the future, and to give you an idea of our plans. Unquote.

The Air Marshal then proceeded to give an excellent briefing on the state of the Royal Canadian Air Force at that time. During this briefing he made another observation which is, to quote:

I feel that the formation of this R.C.A.F. Association is very timely and very important to us. The average citizen does not know why we should have an Air Force immediately - even a good many former servicemen of all three services do not recognize this need.

By passing out information to the Association I hope that we can keep you informed of the requirements today. Unquote.

THE HONOURABLE BROOKS CLAXTON, MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
SPEAKS.

In his address to the members and delegates at the First National Convention, The Minister stated; quote:

It is a happy occasion for me to speak to the Executive and delegates to the First National Convention of the R.C.A.F. Association tonight, as it must always be a happy occasion for a former artilleryman to catch the Air Force sitting down. I shall not subject you to a lengthy barrage this evening, but I would like to outline the general direction in which the R.C.A.F. is developing and some of the particular ways in which that development is being carried out.

But first I would like to say something about the R.C.A.F. itself. Since coming into this office one of the finest things I have found has been the way in which retired officers of the R.C.A.F., yes, of all three services, have repeatedly expressed to me their loyal desire to be of service in any way they can. There is one person of whom you would naturally expect such a sentiment, and that is Air Chief Marshal Breadner. You will agree with me that he is not the least. There is Air Marshal Leckie, who has done such magnificent work in connection with the Royal

Canadian Air Cadets, and the same attitude has been shown by every other senior officer of the R.C.A.F. retired during my time. To them I am more than grateful.

Tonight, however, our thanks are due to "Bred" who, as the greatest alumnus of you all, has continued his wartime service in the job of leading his flying comrades into closer association together, and with their feet on the ground. To him and to all others who have worked with him in forming and organizing the Association, we should express warmest appreciation..

The Association itself can be of great use in many different ways. Some of these which occur to me are:

1. To maintain wartime associations as an inspiration towards continued peacetime service.
2. To keep former Air Force personnel up to date in their knowledge of the Air Force and the defence forces of our country as a basis for understanding interest and support.
3. To assist the R.C.A.F. by encouraging new men to join, First - the Active Force;- Second - The Reserve Force; Third - the Canadian Service Colleges at R.M.C. and Royal Roads; and Fourth - the other armed services because we are all a team - one thing we have to remember, is that we, are all members of one team.
4. To help in arranging for displays, demonstrations and exhibits of all kinds. We have all kinds of material, including fine films of the "Trenton Gates Ceremony", Exercise "Sweetbriar". "Stand By to Jump" and numerous others.
5. To promote, lead and sponsor the Air Cadet League as a splendid exercise in citizenship and the finest source of recruits for Active and Reserve Forces we can find in the country.
6. Then, there is a role which is rather more difficult to work out but which you can see developing, and that is through your officers once or twice a year in Ottawa to meet us at Defence Headquarters to exchange views, often on a confidential basis, which will enable you to see the picture better, and enable us to see how better to meet the needs of the active, reserve and cadets throughout the country.

This two-way exchange has been one of the most useful parts of cooperation which has long existed between the Conference of Defence Associations of the various Corps of the Army and the Department Headquarters staff. I am glad that this co-operation has been extended

very considerably during the last three years, so that at each one of these meetings the Chief of the General Staff and other Senior Officers joined me in meeting representatives of the Reserve Associations in a frank exchange of views. As we are gaining confidence in each other, I may tell you that the number of committees and the number of resolutions both materially decreased, and our co-operation has come to have both materially decreased, and our co-operation has come to be on a constructive and creative basis.

No doubt you have in mind other ways in which your Association will develop. I can assure you that in everything which helps us to do a better job in the defence of our country and is assisting the defence of freedom itself, you will have our wholehearted co-operation and support. Unquote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AT THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION, MAY, 1950

The following were declared elected to the offices shown:

Grand President	A/C/M L.S. Breadner, CB, DSC	Kirks Ferry, PQ.
President	A/V/M A.L. Morfee, CB, CBE	Granville Ferry,
NS		
First Vice-President	A/V/M A. Raymond, CBE	Montreal, PQ
Second Vice-President	F/L R.S. Godfrey	Brandon,
Man.		
Third Vice-President	G/C C.C. Wyatt, MBE	Kingston, Ont.
Fourth Vice-President	A/V/M K.G. Nairn, CB	Vancouver, BC
(Financial)		
Chairman	A/V/M J.A. Sully, CB, AFC	Goderich,
Ont.		
Vice-Chairman	W/C E.O.W. Hall, AFC	Winnipeg,
Man.		
Women's Division		
Representative	Miss Ruth Volger,	Halifax,
N.S.		
Legal Advisor	G/C G.G. Morrow, OBE, ED	Toronto, Ont.
Maritime Group	W/C H.W. Aslin	Halifax,
N.S.		

(One additional member to be appointed)

Quebec Group PQ	W/C R.E. Morrow, DFC	Montreal,
	W/C C.H. Link, MBE	
Montreal, PQ		
Ontario Group Ont.	A/V/M G.E. Brookes, CB, OBE	Toronto,
	F/L K.K. Gildner, DFC	
Sudbury, Ont.		
Manitoba-North		
Western Ontario Group Man	G/C W.F. Hanna, CBE	Winnipeg,
Saskatchewan Group Sask.	G/C J.C. Malone, KC	Regina,
Alberta Group Alta	A/V/M G.R. Howsam, CB, MC	Edmonton,
British Columbia Group Vancouver, BC	A/C A.D. Bell-Irving, OBE, MC, ED	