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Commissionaires celebrate 70 years of service

By ColMurray Lee

2007 commemorates the 70th year of operation of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Nova Scotia Division, or in our parlance, CNS (Commissionaires Nova Scotia). Since the formation of the Nova Scotia Division in 1937, CNS has grown from just 20 employees to an organization that's more than 1,500 strong. CNS is the largest security organization in Atlantic Canada, with worksites in every corner of the province. That, in itself, makes it easier for the Corps to meet its mandate. Just what is that mandate?

Everyone perceives our Commissionaires as the men and women who guard the gates and lobbies of government and major corporate complexes. What many do not know is The Commissionaires is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is *to employ former members of the Canadian Forces and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police*. In carrying out our mandate, we strive to provide our veterans every opportunity to succeed in a second career once they leave the CF or RCMP.

Our strength is rooted in our security guarding services, where we emphasize prevention and defusing conflict. We also provide a complete range of related professional services and solutions. Governments and police trust The Commissionaires to carry out by-law enforcement. Commissionaires' identification services feature digital fingerprinting for fast turnaround from the RCMP, and our training group works to the highest industry standards. Our technology partners in Edmonton and Quebec City allow us to deliver leading edge integrated security solutions.

Let us take a step back in history and look at the growth of CNS. In July 1937, 20 ex-servicemen were hired to take on security duties. These men were veterans of the First World War. By 1947 following World War II, the strength of the division had grown to 416; in 1977 doubled to 803; in 1997 to 1112, and now in our anniversary year, we have grown to a strength of 1554 personnel, and are continuing to expand. These numbers alone show that the dedication of our members and the trust clients have in our people continue to sustain our reputation as reliable, providing valued service and a company with integrity.

With employees at 221 sites province-wide, CNS is probably most visible in HRM, with Commissionaires working at sites such as the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridges, Hospitals, Department of National Defence establishments, Province House, Halifax Citadel, Imperial Oil Refinery, Halifax Stanfield International Airport, but to name a few. But this is not all we do – let us take a look at the gamut of work the Commissionaires do everyday, everywhere in the province of Nova Scotia:

Services Solutions - Providing professional, reliable, highly qualified professional guards for our clients' locations across the province.

Enforcement Services - Providing professional services such as by-law, parking and jail custodial services to *municipalities, police detachments and provincial governments*.

Identification Services - Delivering full identification services, including police clearances, digital fingerprinting and background screening

Training - Meeting client needs with superior security training programs to Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB) guidelines.

We also carry out work at Ports, for the RCMP and Coast Guard, most government agencies, educational institutions, hospitals, airports, commercial enterprises, and residential complexes. Our organizational experience and reach enables us to plan, design, implement and manage solutions that meet local and regional needs, and expand them nationwide as needed. We remain firmly committed to leading the security industry in delivering new services and solutions. The discipline, proven skills and proactive approach of Commissionaires give our clients confidence that we are there for them: Trusted, Everyday, Everywhere.

In July of this year, our anniversary month, we are launching our national “new brand and new look” for The Commissionaires. You will see our new logo appear on vehicles, uniforms, and all our publications and correspondence. This fresh approach to business shows that we are modern, can adapt to change in the marketplace and most importantly, satisfy the needs of our customers. Have a look at our new brands, value proposition, tag line and logo. We are on the web at www.commissionaires.ca and www.commissionaires.ns.ca.

Colonel Murray Lee

Chief Executive Officer

Commissionaires Nova Scotia