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Jobs for new veterans

Nova Scotians turned out in record numbers at this year's Remembrance Day ceremonies across the province to remember and honour those who have made the supreme sacrifice and to recognize all veterans for their service to Canada.

What was noticeable among participants in the ceremonies is the changing age of the veterans. While we continue to honour our veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War, an increasing number of younger men and women are also veterans with tours of duty in Afghanistan and other areas of conflict where Canadian Forces are deployed. It is this group of younger and vibrant veterans who deserve our support when they leave the CF.

Among the findings of a recent national poll for commissionaires was that almost 90 per cent of Canadians feel we have an obligation to ensure today's veterans find meaningful employment after they have finished their service in the CF. Also, reservists called up to serve should have their civilian jobs protected while they are on active duty. At the same time, most respondents think of a "war veteran" as someone over 40.

In keeping with the commissionaires' mandate, we provide meaningful employment for men and women who have previously served in the CF or RCMP. We feel the "new veterans," when they leave the CF, deserve a place in the workforce. We trust all Nova Scotians share our view.

Col. Murray Lee, CEO,

Commissionaires Nova Scotia