



Breakout Advisory Board

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The Canadian National Leadership Program (CNLP)

Films

Filming on the third part of our trilogy on officer training programs at universities has been completed. Post production has begun on "Bridging the Gap" a television documentary that looks at the ROTC program in the U.S. The return of the Navy ROTC (NROTC) to Columbia and other elite universities this past spring provided us with an opportunity to explore the issue of civil military relations, the civil military gap (the Army is at war – America is at the mall) and the role universities and officer training programs can play in resolving this disconnection. The implications for Canada are clear. We expect to release this documentary in the early spring of 2012.

Governor-General

In February we were invited to brief the Governor-General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnson, on the CNLP. Prior to agreeing to meet with us we were asked to prepare a Cost/Benefits Analysis of the program. Paul Chapin who was already writing a CNLP policy paper, based on the format of a Cabinet Memo, was able to adapt our materials to this request. Headed by Senator Pamela Wallin, our delegation consisting of Dr. Neville Poy, Paul Chapin, U of Alberta's Vice Provost Dr. Ernie Ingles and myself. While unable to publically commit to the program until it becomes government policy the GG privately endorsed the initiative and offered to make connections with his former university colleagues on our behalf. Paul Davidson the President and CEO of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada offered to assist the GG on this matter.

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CDS and CF

Prior to meeting with us, the GG cleared the discussion with the Chief of the Defence Staff, General Walter Natynczyk. We were able to follow up on this in June when our colleague John Richmond was given a one hour private meeting with General Natynczyk. The CNLP and its alignment with the CDS' priority of Connecting to Canadians was discussed. This led to a briefing with newly appointed Rear Admiral Jennifer Bennett, Chief of Reserves and Cadets by Paul Chapin and myself. A frank and wide ranging discussion was held and hopefully several misconceptions were cleared up. Admiral Bennett expressed interest in the opportunity CNLP provided for members of the cadet programs headed for university. This is a matter we had already been developing and I was subsequently able to inform her that the Presidents of the Navy League (Sea Cadets) and the Army Cadet League of Canada have both endorsed the CNLP initiative.

Senate of Canada

Our next connection with Admiral Bennett was on October 17 at the Standing Senate Committee on National Security and Defence hearing on the future role of Canada's Reserves. Chaired by Senator Pamela Wallin the Committee asked John Richmond and myself to represent Breakout and make a short introduction about the CNLP before answering Senators' questions. The full video testimony is available at:

<http://senparlvu.parl.gc.ca/Guide.aspx?viewmode=4&categoryid=-1&eventid=7739&Language=E#.com>

Last Thursday December 15 the Senate Committee released its report including support for the CNLP among its eleven recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 5. The Reserves' longstanding role as the Canadian Forces' link with Canadian communities should be formally and more clearly defined. As part of this, DND/CF should consider re-establishing a military presence on the campuses of educational institutions, as used to be the case with the Canadian Officer Training Corps. The Canadian National Leadership Program provides a private-public partnership model for the training of Canada's future leaders.

I have attached the portion of the report that dealt with our testimony before the Senate Committee. The full report *Answering the Call: The Future Role of Canada's Primary Reserves* is available at www.senate-senat.ca/secd.asp follow link to Reports – Substantive – Fourth Report.

UNTD Visit to the UK

70 members and spouses of the University Naval Training Division (UNTD) toured the UK this past Fall on a fact finding mission with the University Royal Naval Unit (UNRU). There are 14 UNRU universities and the Honourary Midshipmen of each unit form the Ship's Company of the Archer Class P2000 Coastal Defence Vessels assigned to each school. The UNRU exists to: *'Educate a wide spectrum of high caliber undergraduates who show potential as society's future leaders and opinion formers in order to better inform them of the need for and role of the Royal Navy, and to develop an awareness of the career opportunities with the service.'*

As this statement certainly resonates with the purpose of the CNLP we hope that the UNTD Association's Report on the trip will be published soon and be widely circulated.

Universities

Over the past year we have bolstered our support from the University of Alberta by holding briefings with other senior academic and administration figure from the university community. Last spring we obtained the support and endorsement of Dr. Jack Lightstone, President of Brock University. More recently we briefed Dr. Alastair Summerlee, the President of Guelph University and renewed our connection with Maureen Mancuso the Provost and Vice President Academic at Guelph. At the University of New Brunswick we briefed Dr. Anthony Secco, Vice President Academic who was highly complimentary of our Cabinet Memo as a clear and persuasive policy document. Our objective is raise sufficient support from Canada's major Universities so that a pilot project at the University of Alberta can be undertaken.

Government

Recognizing that funding is an easy issue raised by anyone seriously engaged with the issues of universities, government and the military, we have prepared a policy document modeled on a Cabinet Memo that addresses the issue of costs and benefits. This does not address the very real issue of where the money will come from but recognizing the very real constraints on the DND/CF we are proposing that the money for a cost-sharing pilot program with the University of Alberta come from existing federal government programs. In order to develop government support for this we have been approaching Cabinet Ministers whose responsibilities are related or relevant in order to brief them on the CNLP initiative. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. In the past year we have briefed and received support for the CNLP from the Hon. Rob Nicholson (Minister of Justice and the Attorney General) the Hon. Tony Clement (Treasury Board) and arrangements are being made to meet with the Hon. Diane Finlay (Human Resources and Skills Development). Added to our earlier Cabinet support from the Hon. Jason Kenney (Citizenship, Immigrations and Multiculturalism), the Hon. James Moore (Heritage) and the Hon. Peter MacKay (National Defence), all of the recent developments listed above put us in very good position to raise the matter with the Prime Minister in the New Year.

Garrison Community Council

Over the past year there has been considerable progress in building acceptance for our Garrison Community Council (GCC) venture across the country. An important initiative in its own right, (assisting with veterans transition, youth education and heritage) we have always considered the success of the GCC to be a precursor to the eventual success of the CNLP. The successful transplant of GCCs and the development of community support for the local military connection provide us with the opportunity to reach and develop a grass-roots public constituency for the renewal of officer training at local universities and colleges.

We are on target to establish ten GCCs in five regions of Canada. Basing ourselves on a model developed in London, Ontario, we successfully planted a GCC in the Niagara region in the spring of 2009. Since then, we have established GCCs in Regina, Montreal, where the local community has established *Les Amis des Forces*, and Pictou NS.

This past Fall the GCC concept struck a chord with a wide variety of civic and business leaders in Fredericton, NB and a local MLA Brian MacDonald who is the province's military liaison official believes that he can spread the idea to several other New Brunswick communities. A follow-up tour of interest expressed on the West Coast is being conducted in January 2012. We also have several other communities in the West and Ontario that are close to committing and the CDA has asked for a briefing presentation on the GCC to be made at its annual conference in February 2012, in Ottawa.

The success of the GCC concept and the interest communities are showing in connecting to their local garrisons and military establishments are very positive indicators of the growing appreciation Canadians have for their armed forces – the goal that Breakout and our legacy initiatives are dedicated to nurture and sustain.

LOOKING AHEAD 2012

To help measure our success in the overall objective of helping connect Canadians to their military we have set two goals, both of which we expect to achieve in this final year of the 7 Year Project.

- 1) The Government announces its support for the CNLP with a 4 year pilot project at the University of Alberta.
- 2) 10 GCC's established coast to coast with a presence in all 5 regions of the country and with representation in all 3 services - army, navy and air force.

Our role is to build both the institutional and public support for these goals by promoting and informing decision makers and the public through the promotional and educational tools that make the Breakout Educational Network unique – our film and media capabilities. This means our immediate priorities are to complete the film project we have currently undertaken - to prepare to undertake several new productions in 2012 – and of course to continue to seek the funding that these films and initiatives require.

We are appreciative of the support you have lent the 7 Year Project either as members of our Advisory Board or as a Director over the past years. I look forward to your continued contributions of advice and suggestions as we get closer to seeing the project through to successful completion in 2012.

Robert Roy
Head of the 7-Year Project