

CLASS OF '76 CENTENNIAL FUND
To
SUPPORT CHARITABLE INITIATIVES OF THE CADETS

One of the reasons the Class of 76 has had difficulty identifying a class project is that while there is a strong desire to provide a meaningful contribution to the College and future cadets there is nothing new that is really required by the cadets - the basic requirements of the cadets, and the college, have already been met (we and all cadets are a fortunate group). The Foundation understands this.

It is the role of the Government to fund the core curriculum and training programs necessary to achieve the mission of the Royal Military Colleges. The goal of the Foundation is to support these future leaders achieve even more. The Foundation seeks to fund *Opportunities to Enhance Excellence* that are outside of the College curriculum and training programs and hence may not be funded through Government budgets.(1)

In recognition of this goal, and to instill a culture of helping the less fortunate, it is proposed that the Class of 76 Centennial Fund be used to encourage and support cadets in endeavours to assist those who are less fortunate. This would not be a case of just making a cash donation; rather the cadets would identify a need, develop an initiative in response to it, and draft a proposal for review by a selection committee. The cadets would then execute their selected project, which may or may not include travel by the cadets themselves. In this way the cadets would build on their organizational, planning, and leadership skills, while implementing projects within Canada and abroad. While many classes have funded projects that look back at the colleges, their history, and the accomplishments of ex-cadets, it is extremely appropriate that the Centennial Class Fund look forward and challenge cadets to make a positive contribution to the world, while at the same time gaining experience in some of the poorer areas of Canada/the world or leading projects in the local area to work with disadvantaged people. This is directly related to the foundation's goal of enhancing leadership excellence. It is experience the cadets will not gain elsewhere, and will likely prove invaluable to them throughout their careers.

The establishment of an endowment for the Class of '76 Centennial Fund will allow for the continued selection of initiatives for years into the future. The minimum necessary for an endowment is \$25K but it is expected that much more will be donated over time.

Rod, looking through Foundation reports I can see that in the recent past, amongst many other things, the foundation has supported such things as the Nijmegen March, sending cadets to visit a military college in Senegal in order to take part in training exercises, sending cadets to Washington for the veterans run, participating in model NATO committees, on the job training, and a number of expeditions. I hesitate to give any one example where the Class of 76 Centennial Fund could be used to support Cadets because there are so many diverse and wonderful ways the Cadets could use the funds; but as an example, I would think a project to build homes for those in need, either abroad or in

Canada, would easily meet the requirement. Currently the Foundation supports expeditions to hike mountains in India, Chile and numerous other locations. How wonderful it would be if the cadets were to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of the homeless in India or Chile, or for that matter in Canada. The Class of 76 Fund would require the cadets to develop their leadership skills, researching a need, understanding the requirements of the community and their culture, coordinating with local authorities and perhaps an NGO, developing their plans, travel and execute them. This would clearly meet the test of enhancing leadership excellence.

I have just looked on-line to find other examples of philanthropy among young leaders who are making a difference but perhaps the closest example is at the college itself. As I am sure you know, OCdt Kris Chung recently donated part of his liver to save a young child. What is most interesting about the story, however, is the work he is doing for Twins for Hope a non-profit group that has been established to help children in Vietnam access medical and educational support. The group is raising money to buy bicycles so children can get to and from school as well as supporting an elderly Japanese man who runs a centre in Saigon that teaches disabled people to make Lucky Fish ornaments for sale in Japan (2). It is an amazing story and one the Class of 76 wants to encourage of all cadets. The funds provided by the Class will be 'seed' money for any number of projects, local, national and international,

More specifically, the purpose of our proposed Class Project is to instill a sense of compassion and humanitarianism in the Cadet Wing, a sense of giving of oneself, much the same as those bodies of men and women who have gone before have done through the ultimate sacrifice of self. This is the epitome of service excellence. The Project would nurture a better appreciation of what it means to truly serve others. Cadets would acquire a better understanding of the existing social structure, class inequities, and the health and status of those less advantaged than themselves. They would learn and experience what it takes to further progress the development of social justice and peace. The Cadets would have to do their research, identify areas of need, define the requirements, develop a plan and submit a proposal, and the Class would provide the resources to assist them in doing so. This requires our young cadets to be true to those in need, responsible in their performance of a duty, and valorous to achieve its end within varying cultural, societal, and environmental circumstances and limitations. TDV

This is a living, continuous, dynamic and thought provoking means of "Enhancing Excellence".

NOT Bricks and Mortar.

1. From the RMC Foundation website, Enhancing Excellence, 25 Oct 2016
2. http://www.thewhig.com/2016/08/18/anonymous-no-more?utm_source=addThis&utm_medium=addthis_button_email&utm_campaign=Anonymous+no+more+%7C+The+Kingston+Whig-Standard#.V7b7mwuksE4.email