



For immediate release

The Air Cadet League of Canada Announces 2023 Music Awards for Excellence

OTTAWA, ON (November 18, 2023) – The Air Cadet League of Canada is proud to announce the two recipients of the 2023 Music Awards for Excellence.

To promote music in the Air Cadet program, the Air Cadet League of Canada has established annual Music Awards for outstanding air cadet musicians. This year, two awards are presented to outstanding Air Cadet Military Band musicians. Each recipient will be presented with a \$350 cash prize, sponsored by Long & McQuade Musical Instruments and a watch offered by the RCAF Association and the Air Cadet League of Canada.

The Air Cadet Military Band Musician Award goes to **Warrant Officer First Class Lucas Upward of 511 Humber Squadron** in Newfoundland and Labrador. He has taken an immense leadership role within the squadron's music program. While WO1 Upward instructs on his primary instrument, the clarinet, he is also extremely proficient in instructing all other concert band instruments. Last summer, he was appointed Director of Music for the band program at Vernon CTC. Outside of the cadet program, WO1 Upward is heavily involved in his school's music program and has also been an active competitor in the local Rotary Music Festival.

The Air Cadet Pipe Band Musician Award goes to **Flight Sergeant Travis Taylor-Shields of 94 Newmarket Squadron** in Ontario. He enrolled in 94 Squadron on September 14, 2020, and immediately joined the Pipes and Drums Band. According to his Squadron's Commanding Officer, Travis is an exceptional snare drummer and leader within the band. FSgt Taylor-Shields also plays with the Uxbridge Legion Pipe Band and participates in many community events.

Congratulations to WO1 Upward and FSgt Taylor-Shields!

The Air Cadet League of Canada is a civilian volunteer non-profit organization with mission to promote and encourage the nation's youth to develop and maintain an interest in aviation, leadership, and citizenship, in partnership with the Canadian Armed Forces and other organizations.

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