



For immediate release
The Air Cadet League of Canada Proudly
Announces the Appointment of our
Honorary National President



OTTAWA, ON (2 September 2026) - The Air Cadet League of Canada is honoured to announce that **Colonel Jeremy Hansen, Canadian astronaut and Royal Canadian Air Force officer**, has accepted the role of **Honorary President** of the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Colonel Hansen's appointment marks an exciting milestone for the League as it continues its mission of inspiring and supporting young Canadians through the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program. A highly respected leader, pilot, astronaut, and role model, Colonel Hansen embodies the values of leadership, service, excellence, perseverance, and lifelong learning that are at the heart of the Air Cadet experience.

As Honorary President, Colonel Hansen will serve as an ambassador for the Air Cadet League, helping to promote awareness of the program and inspire the next generation of Canadian leaders, aviators, innovators, and explorers.

"Jeremy Hansen represents the very best of what Canadian youth can aspire to become," said **Jacque Pepper-Journal, President of the Air Cadet League of Canada**. "His remarkable achievements, dedication to service, and passion for inspiring young people make him an exceptional Honorary President. We are deeply honoured to welcome him to the Air Cadet League family and look forward to working together to encourage youth across Canada to dream big, lead with integrity, and reach for the stars."

Colonel Hansen has enjoyed an outstanding career in the Royal Canadian Air Force as a fighter pilot before being selected as one of Canada's astronauts in 2009. He has played a key role in advancing Canada's space program and is internationally recognized for his leadership, technical expertise, and commitment to science, education, and public outreach. As a member of the Artemis II mission, he became the first Canadian to travel to the Moon, inspiring millions of Canadians through exploration and discovery.

His connection with youth and education has been a defining aspect of his career. Through countless school visits, public engagements, and educational initiatives, Colonel Hansen has encouraged young Canadians to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, aviation, and leadership—values that closely align with the objectives of the Air Cadet Program.

The Air Cadet League of Canada has supported the Royal Canadian Air Cadet Program for more than eight decades, working alongside the Department of National Defence and thousands of dedicated volunteers to provide life-changing opportunities for youth aged 12 to 18. The program develops leadership, citizenship, physical fitness, self-confidence, and an interest in aviation and aerospace while helping young people become engaged and responsible members of their communities.

As Honorary President, Colonel Hansen will help champion the League's commitment to ensuring that every young Canadian has the opportunity to benefit from the Air Cadet Program, regardless of their background or circumstances.

"We are excited about the inspiration Colonel Hansen will bring to cadets, volunteers, sponsors, and communities across Canada," added Pepper-Journal. "His journey demonstrates that with determination, curiosity, and hard work, there are no limits to what our youth can achieve."

The Air Cadet League of Canada looks forward to welcoming Colonel Hansen at future national events and celebrating this exciting new chapter in the League's proud history.