

Fall Newsletter



FALL 2026



Our Role Goes Beyond Support

When we talk about the Air Cadet League of Canada, our Provincial and Territorial Committees and our Squadron Sponsoring Committees, it is easy to describe our contribution by what we provide—facilities, fundraising, equipment, scholarships, awards and other resources that help sustain the Air Cadet Program.

Those contributions are important. But our role and our impact go far beyond logistical support.

Across Canada, League members and local volunteers are the community connection of the Air Cadet Program. We connect squadrons with families, municipalities, businesses, service clubs, aviation partners, donors, alumni and community organizations. These relationships ensure the Air Cadet Program is not simply delivered in communities—it is part of those communities.

Every volunteer who attends a meeting, organizes a fundraiser, recruits another volunteer, develops a partnership, helps secure a facility, recognizes a cadet's achievement or speaks

about the value of the program contributes to something much larger.

Collectively, we are a national network supporting young Canadians from coast to coast to coast. Our volunteers bring local knowledge, relationships, experience and commitment that cannot easily be replicated. You know your communities, you understand the challenges facing your squadrons and, very often, you know the people and organizations that can help find solutions.

That is one of our greatest strengths.

A Genuine Partnership

The Canadian Armed Forces has responsibility for the command, control, supervision and training of cadets. The League brings something different and complementary to the partnership: community capacity.

We bring volunteers, relationships, partnerships, advocacy, resources and assets. We connect the program with municipalities, provincial and territorial governments, industry, aviation, donors, alumni and community organizations.

Neither partner needs to duplicate the role of the other. Our strength

comes from understanding our respective responsibilities and recognizing what becomes possible when our capabilities work together.

This is particularly important as the Cadet Program continues to evolve. The League can help address some of the program's most significant challenges by building community facility networks, recruiting and supporting volunteers, developing municipal and private-sector partnerships, leveraging non-public resources, advocating for the program and strengthening relationships with Canada's aviation community.

In doing so, we help DND and the Canadian Armed Forces achieve their mandate while protecting and strengthening what is uniquely League.

That includes our volunteer networks, community infrastructure, League-owned assets, scholarships and awards, industry and aviation-sector relationships, private donations, alumni networks and the countless local partnerships developed over many years.

Every Contribution Matters

Sometimes it can be difficult to see how an individual contribution at the local level connects to the national picture.

But it does.

A successful fundraiser matters. A relationship with a municipality matters. Recruiting a new volunteer matters. A conversation with a local business matters. Securing a suitable facility matters. Recognizing a cadet's accomplishments matters. Welcoming a new family into the Air Cadet community matters.

Each action strengthens a squadron. Strong squadrons supported by strong local organizations create a stronger national Air Cadet movement. Our role is also about accessibility and opportunity. When facilities are difficult to find, we help find solutions. When additional resources are required, volunteers raise funds and develop partnerships. Scholarships and awards recognize achievement and create opportunities. Our members become ambassadors who introduce the program to new families and communities.

The result is much more than financial or logistical support. It is opportunity for young Cadets to participate, learn, lead and succeed.

Demonstrating Our Impact

As I mentioned in my last message, the environment in which the Air Cadet Program operates continues to change and our League must evolve with it.



Part of that evolution must be becoming better at demonstrating our impact.

Our value cannot be measured only by the dollars we raise or the equipment we purchase. We need to tell the broader story: volunteer hours contributed, partnerships created, facilities sustained, resources leveraged, communities engaged and opportunities created for cadets.

In the future, measures such as volunteer retention, facilities sustained, communities supported, external resources leveraged, scholarship investment, industry contributions, community partnerships and cadet accessibility will help us demonstrate the true value of our national network.

Every Provincial and Territorial Committee and every Squadron Sponsoring Committee has a role in capturing and telling that story.

Building for the Future

Our future does not lie in assuming responsibilities that belong to the Canadian Armed Forces. It lies in becoming even stronger in those areas where an independent, community-based charitable organization can make the greatest contribution.

We should aspire to be Canada's strongest network connecting the Air Cadet Program with communities, volunteers, aviation and industry, governments, donors, alumni and partners.

We must continue to remove barriers to participation, strengthen our volunteer network, build community and industry partnerships, support local sustainability and give our volunteers the tools they need to succeed.

Most importantly, please never underestimate the importance of what you do. You are not simply supporting activities behind the scenes.

You are building the community foundation that helps make the Air Cadet Program possible. Together with our Canadian Armed Forces partners, we have a genuine partnership—and together, we can ensure the Air Cadet Program remains strong, accessible and sustainable for the next generation of young Canadians.

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6 Years Later: A Letter from the RCL Top Air Cadet of the Year



When I first joined Air Cadets, I wasn't sure what to expect. I joined hoping to become a better leader, improve my public speaking, and maybe step a little outside of my comfort zone. Six years later I have been able to come as far as becoming Air cadet of the year, and when people ask me what I have done to have received this prestigious award, I struggle to think of a response, because it has never been myself alone. Whether at my Local squadron 249 of Beausejour or all the way in the Yukon for summer training, behind every achievement is someone who believed in me, encouraged me, challenged me, or simply took the time to teach me how to be better. Throughout my six years, I have been incredibly fortunate to meet so many of those people.

One of the greatest parts of my cadet experience has been summer training. For the past four years, I have had the privilege of attending courses across Canada. I have attended the Fitness & Sports Instructor Course at Vernon, B.C (2023), Survival Instructor Course at Cold Lake, AB (2024), and served as the Survival Instructor Course Squadron Warrant Officer at Whitehorse, YT (2025), and this past summer I got the privilege to revisit the beautiful territory of the Yukon, becoming the Squadron Warrant Officer of Operations. During my time at Whitehorse, I got to visit the world's smallest desert and see the beautiful scenery of the Yukon, I also had the privilege of visiting and getting a private tour of the RCMP M division detachment and got to learn about what different career paths there is in the RCMP and what their normal day at work looks like.

But when I look back on summer training, the places aren't what I miss most. I miss the late nights, the inside jokes, the difficult days that somehow became funny later and the friendships that formed from a group of strangers. I even miss my bunkmate that would snore so loudly you would wake up thinking there was an earthquake. It's strange how you can meet a stranger that lives on the other side of the country, and a few short weeks later they're your best friend.

Saying goodbye will always be the hardest part of the camp. It's the weirdest feeling going from being with your best friends all day every day, to being by yourself.

It's a bittersweet feeling as I come to the end of my time in cadets, knowing that I have completed my final summer training, and soon I will put my uniform on for the last time, and will have to say goodbye to the program that has defined me for the last six years.

6 Years Later: A Letter from the RCL Top Air Cadet of the Year



But these memories and experiences will never fade. Joining cadets has been the best choice of my life, and I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.

Being named 2026 Royal Canadian Legion Air Cadet of the Year is an honor I will always be proud of, but when I look at that award, I don't just see my name. I see the people who helped me get there.

To Train the Few to Teach the Rest Cadets lead the Way!

WO1 Bryce Wallach

249 Beauséjour, Manitoba



The first photo shows myself and a Member of the RCMP in Whitehorse, from when I got to visit their detachment at camp this summer (Aug 19th, 2026).

(Photo: Major Lydon)



The second photograph shows myself, family, Mr. Berry Rempel, as well as BGen D.N. Brais.

It came from the 2026 Hubbell awards ceremony, where I received the HCol Barry Rempel Award (June 15th, 2026).



The third photograph shows myself and my friend WO1 Adam Hager, at Gradparade this past summer at Whitehorse CTC (Aug 21st, 2026). (Photo: Mrs. Bryn Wallach)

Air Cadet Reconnects with His Thai Heritage



While many Air Cadets spend their summer attending training courses and cadet activities, others take part in unique experiences that help them grow as individuals and broaden their understanding of the world. This summer, Seargent Jacob MacDonald of 510 Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, had the opportunity to do just that during a special trip to Thailand.

Jacob travelled to Thailand with a cadet from New Zealand to participate in the Nativeland Visit Program, an initiative organized by the Thai government that brings adopted Thai children and their families back to Thailand to reconnect with their heritage, culture, and roots. The program has been helping adopted Thai youth strengthen their connection to their homeland for more than three decades. This year's theme, "Connecting to Our Roots, Creating a Stronger Future", reflected the program's focus on helping participants better understand their heritage while building meaningful connections for the future.

For Jacob, the trip was much more than a visit to another country. It was an opportunity to learn more about his cultural background, experience Thai traditions firsthand, and build a deeper connection to the country where he was born.



Sgt Jacob MacDonald, from 510 Lions Air Cadet Squadron, (on the right) arrives at the beginning of Thailand's Nativeland Visit Program.



Sgt MacDonald participates in the welcome ceremony for Thailand's Nativeland Visit Program.

Air Cadet Reconnects with His Thai Heritage



A memorable highlight of the trip was meeting Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, sister of the King of Thailand. Being granted a royal audience was a rare honour and an experience Jacob will undoubtedly remember for years to come.

Jacob proudly represented the Royal Canadian Air Cadets throughout the visit. With the approval from Captain Spencer Wright, Commanding Officer of 510 Squadron, he was permitted to wear his Air Cadet uniform during official program events.

At the time of Jacob's visit, Thailand was observing a period of mourning, and attendees were asked to wear black armbands as a sign of respect for the Royal Family. By wearing the armband alongside his cadet uniform, Jacob was able to respectfully participate in the observances.

Jacob's participation and the opportunity to wear his uniform reflected the pride and sense of service the program encourages in our youth. Experiences like this will help cadets such as Jacob develop confidence, cultural awareness, citizenship, and personal responsibility—qualities that will continue to support their growth both within 510 and into the future. Through this journey, Jacob not only reconnected with his Thai heritage but also served as an outstanding ambassador for 510 Squadron, the St. John's Lions Club (the sponsor of 510 Squadron), and the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.



The participants pose for a picture with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn during their visit.

The Air Cadet League of Canada Hosts the Annual Conference of the International Air Cadet Exchange Association



The Air Cadet League of Canada (ACLC) was honoured to host the 2026 Annual Meeting of the International Air Cadet Exchange Association (IACEA) from September 13-18, in Ottawa, Ontario.

The IACEA brings together organizations from around the world that support youth involved in aviation and aeronautical programs. Each year, the international exchange provides many young people with the opportunity to experience new cultures, broaden their horizons, and build lifelong friendships.

The 2026 meeting welcomed representatives from:

Australia • Belgium • Canada • China • France • Germany • Hong Kong • Netherlands • New Zealand • Sweden • United Kingdom • United States of America

The annual meeting provided an opportunity to share ideas, strengthen international partnerships, and support the continued success of the IACEA exchange program.

The roots of the international air cadet exchange program can be traced to April 11, 1946, when representatives of the United Kingdom Air Training Corps visited Montreal to meet with the Air Cadet League of Canada. A proposal to establish an international air cadet exchange that formed the groundwork for the first exchange between Canada and the United Kingdom.

The first exchange happened in 1947 with 46 Cadets and 2 Escort. That first exchange became the foundation for a program that has grown into a truly international tradition of aviation, cultural exchange, youth development, and friendship.

Celebrating its 80th year, the IACEA continues to connect young people from around the world through their shared passion for aviation and international exchange.

The ACLC was proud to welcome IACEA representatives to Ottawa and to contribute to the continued growth of this remarkable international program.

- *Terri Hinton, National Governor
and Chair of ACL IACE Committee*



IACEA representatives at the 2026 Annual General Meeting in Ottawa, ON.

Gift Subscription Offer for RCAF Air Cadets



Did you know that every Royal Canadian Air Cadet is eligible for a free gift membership with the Canadian Aviation Historical Society (CAHS)?

As a member, you'll receive a complimentary subscription to the CAHS Journal throughout your time in the Air Cadet Program. It's the Society's way of recognizing your interest in Canada's aviation history and your role in preserving our aviation heritage.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to learn more about Canada's rich aviation past!

Interested in subscribing? Visit:
<https://www.cahs.com/membership.html>



Explore the Air Cadet League of Canada Kit Shop



Looking for a way to show your Cadet spirit or find meaningful items connected to the program? **The Air Cadet League of Canada Kit Shop** offers a carefully selected range of products designed for cadets, supporters, and alumni.

From **pins and medals** to **commemorative items, ties, and apparel**, each piece reflects the pride and tradition of the Air Cadet program. Our collection may be modest, but every item is chosen with care to represent the values, history, and achievements of our community.

Why Shop With Us?

- **Unique & Official** – Every item in the Kit Shop is designed specifically for the Air Cadet League of Canada.
- **Great for Gifts & Recognition** – Perfect for ceremonies, squadron awards, or personal keepsakes.*NEW* **The “Morning at Mountain View” Franklin Print is now offered in presentation format.**

Featured Items: Limited Time Savings!

- For the next few months, enjoy special reduced rates on our current featured items:
 - **Participation Ribbons**
 - Air Cadet League of Canada **Passport Wallets** (Very few left in stock!)
- These savings are only available for a limited time, so don't miss out!
- Interested? Email Krystel at kitshop@aircadetleague.com

Take a Look Today!

Visit the Kit Shop online at aircadetleague.com/shop and explore what's available.

Squadron Anniversaries

1 Aug to 31 Sept

Happy anniversary to the following squadrons as they celebrate these incredible milestones!

30 years

911 Memphrémagog

75 years

534 Raider

35 years

550 Chevaliers de Colomb
Conseil 2814 Donnacona

85 years

1 West Montreal
6 Jim Whitecross

40 years

363 Campbell River

7 Penhold

9 Neepawa

10 Timmins Kiwanis

11 Lethbridge

12 Edmonton

14 Shawinigan

18 Dartmouth Lions

17 Yorkton

15 Medicine Hat

20 Freedom Fighter

55 years

502 Vallée du Richelieu
806 Optimiste Ste-Thérèse
807 Mount Pearl Kinsmen
809 Newark

70 years

626 Châteauguay



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Merci à nos commanditaires et partenaires !

