



# President's Report to the Annual General Meeting of the UNTDA Zoom Meeting

November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 1900 EST

On behalf of the board, I am delighted to welcome you to the first Annual General Meeting of the UNTDA since our incorporation in 2021.

There have been many memorable events in the history of the UNTD from 1943 to 1968. Those events and the camaraderie arising out of UNTD training schemes resulted in the organic growth and development of the UNTDA to where it is today. The UNTDA as it evolved resulted in the building of valuable relationships and traditions and not inconsiderable assets such as the Nominal list and a formidable website all of which contributed to our many activities following the creation of the UNTDA more than 30 years ago.

The most important decision faced by the Board and membership, underlined by the very successful reunion in St John's, became how do we address the future of the UNTDA given the reality that the original UNTDs were now faced with the choice of passing the "torch" or allow the organization a decent burial. The consensus was that we should pursue the option of passing the torch.

I hope in this Report to take you through the steps that have taken the UNTDA to where it is today.

The President's Report has two primary roles, the first is to provide you with an accounting of events since the last annual meeting and to introduce you to the main issues that will arise in the Annual General Meeting.

Prior to the incorporation Annual meetings were held irregularly and often not annually but usually in connection with special UNTD events such as the Newfoundland Labrador Reunion and/or in conjunction with other naval events such as the NAC meetings and the Queen Mary crossing. In the future following our first meeting since incorporation we will have and must have membership

meetings annually, our next being in May 2023 to take advantage of our gathering at the UNTDA Convention in Victoria, BC.

Firstly, as noted above, the pre-incorporated UNTDA did not have an annual meeting after our meeting in NL. This will be the first Annual General meeting since our Incorporation on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021. So, I will address the actions taken by your board both before and after incorporation.

The immediate challenge was to consider the course of action to expand the UNTDA to include post-UNTDA reserve officers and the steps we should take to accomplish the goal.

We identified the necessity of expanding the board to bring in post UNTDAs so that they could provide their knowledge and expertise to identify actions to broaden our base. This was facilitated by the opening of positions on the board by the retirement from the board of several directors. The following directors became in accordance with our service provisions Directors Emeritus:

Chaplain - Bill Thomas  
Ed File  
Bob Williamson  
Bob Jenkins  
Bob Duncombe

And the following decided to retire after several years of service:

Michael Mace  
Wayne Maxwell  
Greg McKenzie  
Dave Frayer

On behalf of the Board, I want to extend my appreciation to them as all made a great contribution to the UNTDA. They constituted exemplary examples of volunteerism and what it takes to drive a voluntary organization. Sadly, since retiring Dave Frayer has passed away.

On the financial front the board approved a \$3000.00 contribution to the North Vancouver Ship Building monument and gave the go ahead to the Treasurer to invest our funds in GICs.

Roger Elmes started the process to broaden the reach of the UNTDA but was sidelined by personal health issues and stepped down from the presidency while remaining engaged in UNTDA activities. I became Chair in January 2020 with the challenge to build on the momentum created by Roger.

One of the immediate needs was to fill the vacancies with directors that had post UNTD experience as only three members of the board had post UNTD experience. A Committee was set up Chaired by Glenn Davidson who was an ROUDP in the class of '71. As a result of his committee's recommendations the following were elected to the board:

Jennifer Bennett  
Robert Blakely  
Daniel Hache  
Kim Kubeck  
Marta Mulkins

The Board which has governed the UNTDA since late 2020 consists of:

Bill Thomas, a Past President and honorary Chaplin (Ontario)  
Roger Elmes, Immediate Past President and Chair of UNTDA 2023 Committee (Naval Reserve Centennial Committee) (BC)  
Graham Scott, President (Ontario)  
Jennifer Bennett, First Vice President and Acting Chair of the Communications Committee since late 2021. (Ontario)  
Daniel Haché, Second Vice President and Chair of the Ad Hoc committee on Donations and Awards. (Quebec)  
Ross Connell, Treasurer and Initial, Interim chair of Communications until 2021 (Ontario)  
Ken McCaw, Corporate Secretary (Saskatchewan)  
Russ Cape, Chair Membership Committee (BC)  
Bill Clearihue, Archivist and Chair of Archives Committee (Ontario)

Kim Kubeck, Chair and director of the CSVC initiative (Ontario)  
Marta Mulkins Chair of the Ad hoc 2025 Committee (Future of the Association) and latterly Chair of the Ad Hoc Membership Structure Review Committee. (Ontario)  
Bob Blakely, Legal advisor (Alberta)  
Glenn Davidson (Nova Scotia)  
Nick Slonosky (Manitoba)  
Glenn Carroll (Ontario)  
Ian Munro (Ontario)  
Hugues Letourneau (Resigned 2021) (Quebec)

It should be noted that many the Board members undertook additional work loads that have contributed greatly to our progress.

Among the major initiatives undertaken by the new board:

- The establishment of the new Naval Reserve Centennial Committee chaired by Roger Elmes to develop a plan for a conference and convention to jointly mark the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Naval Reserve in Canada and the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNTD.
- The decision to explore and subsequently proceed with the Incorporation of the UNTDA.
- The Establishment of a Communications Committee and the approval of the Strategic Communications Plan.
- The enthusiastic endorsement of the Citizen Sailors Virtual Cenotaph (CSVC) project led by Kim Kubeck.
- The establishment of an Archives Committee.
- Gunroom Shots newsletter launched.
- Establishment of a Facebook Group.
- The establishment of the 2025 Committee to look at future options for the UNTDA.
- The necessary upgrades and alterations to the UNTDA website including:
  - ✓ Development of the Catch phrases – “Count yourself in” and “Its all about connections”.
  - ✓ Substantial undertaking to make the website more effectively bilingual

- ✓ Introduction of additional materials on the UNTDA expansion and provision of effective links with other naval oriented organizations
- ✓ Provision of information regarding NRDs centennial plans.
- Establishment of an Executive Committee to oversee matters between board meetings.
- The establishment of a strong relationship with Naval Reserve Command Team and the process of building long term relationships with the Naval Reserve Divisions.
- Contact with the Minister of National Defence and senior CAF leadership relative to the Naval Reserve Centennial 2023.

These activities have involved considerable commitment of time as each committee has involved directors already tasked with work and we have been recruiting members to enhance the depth of knowledge and experience of our committees. I am very grateful to those who have volunteered to support our committees. Without you we would have made very little progress.

I would now like to focus on the second role which is background for the issues we will put before you at the Annual Meeting:

### **Approval of the Articles of Incorporation**

The first resolution is to approve the Articles of Incorporation. These establish the basis for our corporation and once approved they cannot be altered without a 2/3rds vote of the membership at a membership meeting. Please review the document which is part of your package.

It should be noted that later in the meeting you will be provided with board recommended amendments.

### **Approval of Corporate By-law #1**

The second resolution is approval of By-Law #1 which provides the more detailed operational processes to guide our work, the By-law and any subsequent

amendments to the by-Law require membership approval. Please note Section 2.03 c. which outlines when a 2/3rds vote is required.

### **Waiving Formal Audit Requirement**

As we have a very small, uncomplicated financial picture we do not see the value, at this point, of appointing Auditors and believe a non-audited financial statement provided to the membership should suffice. We are currently seeking volunteers to undertake the Audit function going forward. Membership approval to waive a formal audit is required.

### **Amendments to the Articles of Association**

There are two amendments. The first is very basic as it involves the Expansion of the membership of the Association to all ranks. As this is a major change it is important members understand the rationale that led us to this recommendation. The fundamental consideration is that the Naval Reserve has changed considerably since the elimination of the UNTD program almost 55 years ago.

I believe a substantial amount of new knowledge became apparent as we travelled the chosen road of passing the torch and how it might be done. I have attached the Report of the 2025 Committee and the Membership Structure Review Committee which logically followed from our consideration of the former.

The following observations may be helpful.

- The Naval Reserve, while an important part of the Royal Canadian Navy, has and will always have very unique differences from colleagues in the Regular Force. These differences often encouraged the kind of camaraderie that marked the UNTDA. Some different manifestations over the years, for sure, but similar roots.
- The UNTD had great camaraderie developed in different training circumstances over the 25 years, but so have many others in the reserve

marked by reunions of the ROUTH, the WRCNS, the reservists who trained in the “pig boat navy”, the groups who trained in and operated the Kingston Class ships when they were substantially crewed by naval reservists and Naval Reserve Division alumni groups.

- The importance of greater integration of women within the Navy in the 1970s and the resulting change in leadership dynamics and increased career opportunities for women.
- The greater integration and operationalization of the Naval Reserve in the Royal Canadian Navy and subsequent changes to the training and employment of Naval Reservists.
- The Naval Reserve continued the tradition of sea going service through training in, manning, and operating a new and modernized fleet of ships including the Maritime Coastal Defence Vessels starting in the 1990’s, bringing new operational capacity to the RCN well beyond the initial plan and range of the ships, sailors, and officers.
- The incredible changes in technology and enhanced levels of expertise and post-secondary education for today’s Naval Reserve officers and non-commissioned members combined with new roles, missions and ships have resulted in greater devolution of leadership to non-commissioned members and a much closer partnership with officers in more integrated Ships Companies.
- Tradition and innovation have always been central themes of reserve service and despite the daunting challenges, service has always brought special personal rewards that include camaraderie, fellowship, and naval identity as well as a unique opportunity to defend and represent Canada and Canadians. Not only do Naval Reserve Divisions connect Canadians to their Navy in 24 communities from coast to coast, but Naval Reservists also reflect the cultural diversity of Canada with notable achievements and firsts for women, visible minorities and LGBTQ members who have opened doors and created opportunities.

- In discussions and informal engagement with serving and recently retired senior and junior officers in the Naval Reserve. they are close to unanimous that a new reserve association is highly desirable as long as it recognizes the substantial realities of the Naval Reserve and its members that exist today that were not on the radar of those that were active before 1968.

Expanding the membership to all ranks is not just a big step from the 1968 UNTD world but a recognition of the reality of current world that should enhances the potential collegiality and camaraderie that marked the original development of the UNTDA.

For those who worry that the history and romance of the UNTD will get lost in UNTDA reorganization I can say with confidence that the history and values will be continued. I am impressed with post UNTD Board members and so many other much more recent retirees from the Naval Reserve of their interest in and desire to maintain the history and values that marked the UNTD. This is not only evident in the wording of the resolutions you will consider today but is also reflected in the enthusiasm of the Naval Reserve command team and senior leaders in welcoming the concept of an organization devoted to the Naval Reserve and the enthusiasm of re-utilizing the long forgotten UNTD Trophy as an annual award to the Best Junior officer in training.

While it is often difficult to embrace change, the Board recognizes the importance of this change as part of building a Naval Reserve association and maximizing the contribution of the UNTD to building an ongoing strong reserve.

### **Approval of Amendment #1 of the Articles of Association**

This resolution would allow the UNTDA to permit all Naval Reservists (past and currently serving) that support the goals of the Association to become members.

### **Approval of Amendment #2 of the Articles of Association**

The Current Articles set the number of directors at a minimum of 1 to a maximum of 16. The amendment would alter the minimum to 3 and the maximum to 20. The object here is provide more flexibility in building the board for the future. It would provide more room for post UNTD appointments while preserving space for ongoing UNTD representation.



### **Amendment #1 to the By-Laws**

The purpose of this amendment is to reflect in the By-Law the change in membership in the Association and follows from the Amendment to the Articles.

### **Resolution to Approve the Work of the Board**

This is a standard corporate resolution approving of the legitimate work of the Directors.

### **Resolution to approve the Election of Directors**

As we expect to have a substantial turnover in the board at the May 2023 Annual meeting and as the UNTDA is at a turning point, the Directors standing for election understand that it is for this limited time period only.

This resolution approves the election of the following as continuing as directors until the Annual General meeting set for Friday May 12, 2023 in Victoria:

Bill Thomas  
Roger Elmes  
Graham Scott  
Jennifer Bennett  
Daniel Haché  
Ross Connell  
Ken McCaw  
Russ Cape  
Bill Clearihue  
Kim Kubeck  
Marta Mulkins  
Bob Blakely  
Nick Slonosky  
Glenn Carroll  
Ian Munro

Glenn Davidson is retiring from the Board effective at the annual meeting.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our thanks to Glenn Davidson for his contribution during his three years on the board. He has undertaken some demanding assignments and played a major role in helping us design our plans for the future of the UNTDA.

**Important Note: The membership may nominate one or more directors assuming they do not support the slate as proposed by the board. Should a member wish they may run from the floor, at large, or against any individual nominated by the Nomination Committee, it is therefore incumbent for nominees from the floor to indicate whether they are running as a Board member at large or against any individual nominee. Nominations should be provided to the Secretary no later than one-week (Seven (7) days prior to the Annual meeting and Include a Nominator and seconder as well as written confirmation of acceptance of the Nomination by the Nominee. The process will be contained in the Annual Meeting package.**

The new post-UNTD directors of the board and to the post- UNTDs who have joined the UNTDA committees, my thanks on behalf of the UNTDA for the wisdom and enlightenment you have brought to UNTDA thinking about the future.

I hope it is apparent in the many new initiatives undertaken that there is vitality and purpose for the future of the Association.

I regret that my report is so long, but it is important that all members understand what has been undertaken by the Board and has a full understanding of the issues before the Meeting and the UNTDA.