

15th FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT  
MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES  
BESSBOROUGH ARMOURY  
2025 WEST 11th AVENUE  
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6J 2C7  
CANADA

**BY-LAWS**  
AND  
**CONSTITUTION**  
OF  
**Sergeants' Mess**



**Bessborough Armouries**  
Vancouver, British Columbia

By-Laws and Constitution  
of  
Sergeants' Mess  
Bessborough Armouries

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

1. The name of the Mess shall be the  
"ROYAL REGIMENT OF CANADIAN  
ARTILLERY SERGEANTS' MESS."

2. "Officer Commanding" where used  
herein shall mean the Officer Command-  
ing Bessborough Armouries as appointed  
by the Commander, B.C. Area.

**ARTICLE II**

**Objects**

1. To stimulate mutual interest in the  
efficiency and welfare of the Regiment.

2. To bring the members together at  
regular intervals for business and social  
activities; and to promote good fellowship  
and mutual esteem.

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"SGT'S MESS"  
15<sup>TH</sup> ARTY REGT

15<sup>TH</sup> FLD.

### ARTICLE III

#### Membership

The Mess shall be composed of the following three (3) classes of members, of which active members only shall have a vote:

##### 1. Active Members

4/sgts  
All Warrant Officers, Staff-Sergeants and Sergeants, of the Artillery Unit or Units currently in occupation of Bessborough Armouries, in the City of Vancouver, B.C., duly promoted or attached thereto and while the same are on the strength hereof, shall be members of the Mess known as "Active Members."

##### 2. Honorary Members

Ex-members of Bessborough Sergeant's Mess with three years service, and in good standing, who ordinarily reside in the Province of British Columbia and who are duly elected as honorary members as hereinafter provided shall be members of the Mess known as Honorary Members.

##### 3. Associated Members

All members or ex-members of a Sergeant's Mess of any of Her Majesty's Sea, Land or Air Forces, and all British Sub-

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jects who are duly elected as Associated Members as hereinafter provided shall be members of the Mess known as Associated Members and such Associated Membership shall not exceed thirty (30) in number.

### ARTICLE IV

#### Election of

#### Associate and Honorary Members

1. Each candidate for admission to Associate or Honorary Membership shall be proposed by an Active and seconded by one other Active Member on the regular application form provided, stating the candidate's name, usual place of residence, rank (if any) and profession or occupation; said application to be signed by proposer, seconder and candidate. After the approval of the Membership Committee as hereinafter provided has been obtained, the said application shall be posted by the Mess Secretary in the ante-room of the Mess, and shall remain posted for at least two (2) weeks previous to the meeting of the Mess at which it is to be proposed. At the said meeting the proposal that the candidate shall be elected as an Associate or Honorary Member as the case may be shall be put to the

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meeting and decided by vote, and if there are not more than two (2) dissenting votes, the candidate shall be declared elected.

2. In case of election, the candidate's name shall be entered immediately on the roll of members and the Secretary shall forthwith notify him in writing thereof, and advise him where a copy of the Constitution and Standing Rules of the Mess can be seen, and in addition, if elected as an Associate Member, shall request the member to remit the Mess Dues paid up to the end of the current year, and until the same is paid he shall not be entitled to the Privileges of the Mess.

## ARTICLE V

### Dues and Assessments

1. Each Active Member on first being promoted, and Associate Member on application, shall be assessed the sum of Two Dollars (\$2.00) initiation fee, payable forthwith.

2. Each Active, Associate or Honorary Member shall be assessed Eight Dollars (\$8.00) Mess Dues. Mess Dues shall

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be paid annually in advance, payments to fall due on the First day of January, such payment to be computed at the rate of Sixty-five cents (65c) for each unexpired month of the current year.

3. In the event of any Dues, Assessments or Charges incurred by Associate or Honorary Members remaining unpaid for One (1) calendar month after the same have become due, the name of the delinquent Member or Members shall be stricken from the Membership Roll.

4. In the event of any Dues, Assessments or Charges incurred by Active Members remaining unpaid for One (1) calendar month after the same have become due, the name of the delinquent Member or Members together with the amount due, shall be reported to the Officer Commanding at the discretion of the Regimental Sergeant Major of his Unit.

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## ARTICLE VI

### Resignation or Removal of Associate and Honorary Members

1. Any Associate or Honorary Member may resign by giving notice in writing to the Mess Secretary of his wish to do so.
2. Any Associate or Honorary Member may be struck from the Membership of the Mess by the Officer Commanding or by the Member of the Mess upon the recommendation of the Mess Committee (by the Membership Committee), for any good and valid reason.

## ARTICLE VII

### Membership Committee

1. The Mess Membership Committee shall consist of the Regimental Sergeant-Major or acting Regimental Sergeant-Major and elected executive committee of the unit or units occupying the Armoury. On all matters pertaining to Membership their decisions will be final.

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## ARTICLE VIII

1. The Annual meeting of the Mess shall be held during the month of April effective as of April 1961.
2. A minimum of eight General Mess Meetings will be held per calendar year. At the discretion of the Committee.
3. A Quorum shall consist of One Third ( $1/3$ ) of the Active Members of the Mess.
4. Agenda of Annual and General Mess Meetings shall be:
  - (a) Roll Call
  - (b) Introduction of new members "
  - (c) Minutes of last meeting
  - (d) Correspondence
  - (e) Reports  
Treasurer's  
Executive Committee  
Entertainment and other Committees
  - (f) Election of Officers
  - (g) Unfinished Business
  - (h) New Business
  - (i) Good and Welfare

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## ARTICLE IX

### Mess Committee

1. All affairs of the Mess shall be managed by a Mess Committee to consist of Seven (7) members. Six (6) of the said Members shall be Active Members of the Mess, termed and to be known as: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, entertainment and good and welfare, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Mess. Terms of office shall be for one (1) year, commencing on the First day of May. The Seventh (7) Member of the Committee shall be elected by the Associate Members present at the Annual Meeting. In the event of the Associate Members failing to so elect a Member to the Mess Committee, the members of the Mess Committee elected at the Annual Meeting of the Mess shall appoint one Associate Member to the Mess Committee, His other duties shall be to represent the Associate Members and assist in the operation of the Mess.

2. Subject to the approval of the Officer Commanding, the Mess Committee shall have full power to make such

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regulations for the conduct and management of the affairs and business of the Mess as are consistent with the Constitution and with instructions given by the Mess at any meeting of the Mess, and such regulations shall be posted in the Mess ante-room.

3. It shall be the duty of the Mess Committee to take cognizance of any infraction of the Regulations and to report the same to the R.S.M. for action.

4. The Mess Committee may engage and discharge at its discretion, such help in the Mess as it may deem necessary.

5. The Mess President, or in his absence, the Vice-President may call meetings of the Mess Committee at such times as he may deem necessary for the transaction of business.

6. The Mess President will be responsible for the safeguarding of Mess Funds and Mess Property. Should he consider such safeguards are inadequate he will so advise the O.C. Armoury and the R.S.M. of the units occupying the Armoury.

7. If any vacancy occurs in the Mess Committee due to the death or resignation

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of any of its Members, or if any Member of the Mess Committee is Absent Without Leave from Three (3) consecutive meetings of the Mess Committee, the remaining or other Members of the Mess Committee may, if the Member to be replaced is an Active Member, appoint an Active Member, and, if the Member to be replaced is an Associate Member, appoint an Associate Member of the Mess to act in his other place until the next meeting of the Mess or until a successor is duly elected.

#### **ARTICLE X**

##### **President and Vice-President**

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Mess and generally supervise the affairs of the Mess.
2. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties and officiate in his absence.

##### **Mess Secretary**

3. The Mess Secretary shall cause minutes to be made of all Meetings of the

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Mess and of the Mess Committee, and shall cause to be done all the necessary secretarial work in connection with the affairs of the Mess and shall perform such other duties as are from time to time assigned to him by the Mess Committee.

##### **Mess Treasurer**

4. The Mess Treasurer shall collect and receive all Dues and Assessments and all other sums to which the Mess is entitled and shall pay from the funds of the Mess all expenses duly incurred by the Mess and such other expenses as may be directed by the Mess Committee; PROVIDED THAT no expenditure of a capital nature and amounting to more than Fifty (\$50.00 dollars shall be made from the funds of the Mess without the Members at a General Meeting of the approval of a majority of the Active Mess.

5. The Mess Treasurer shall cause all funds belonging to the Mess to be deposited in some Chartered Bank approved by the Mess Committee in the name of the Mess and all payment of Mess Funds shall be made by cheque drawn on such Bank and signed by any

Thirteen

two of the following: President, Vice-President, Treasurer.

6. The Mess Treasurer shall obtain and preserve all necessary vouchers and proper receipts for all payments made or sums expended by the Mess and shall keep proper books of account.

7. A sum of not more than Fifty Dollars (50.00) may be kept in the bar till for purposes of change at any time. Any further amounts in excess of fifty dollars shall be deposited to the Mess Account on the first banking day after such sum has accrued to the Mess.

#### **Mess Steward**

8. The Mess Steward shall be responsible to the Mess Committee for the operation and affairs of the Mess Kitchen and bar, and shall in each month provide the Mess Treasurer with an inventory of kitchen and bar supplies on hand; a statement of supplies purchased and consumed since the date of the last statement so provided and also a statement of accounts payable and accounts receivable by the Mess in connection with the operation of the Mess kitchen and bar, together with

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all receipts, vouchers, and chits necessary to verify same.

9. The senior Active Member present in the Mess will be responsible for discipline while he is in the Mess. In the absence of any Active Member, the Mess Steward will act as the Senior Mess Member.

### **ARTICLE XI**

#### **Amendments**

The Constitution or any of its provisions may be repealed, amended, added to or suspended, with the agreement of the R.S.M. and concurrence of the Commanding Officer, by a resolution approved by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Active Members of the Mess present at any meeting of the Mess of which at least one month's notice specifying the intention to propose the said resolution has been given.

### **ARTICLE XII**

#### **Fiscal Year**

The Fiscal Year will be from May 1st to April 30th inclusive.

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### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages**

No alcoholic beverages will be consumed in the Mess other than those from Mess stocks. The sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption outside the Mess is prohibited.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **Hours of Opening**

1. The Mess will be open only to Active Members on the Parade nights of the respective Units. The Mess Committee may further restrict if they see fit. No visitors to the Mess, unless in Uniform, will cross the Parade Square on the Parade Night of any Unit in the Armoury. The rear entrance will be used instead for access to the Mess. During Parade Hours, no Member of the Regiment on Parade will be in the Mess except on Regimental Duty.

2. The hours of opening and closing of the Mess will be laid down by the Mess Committee on the advice of the General Mess Membership with the approval of the Officer Commanding. In no case will the Mess remain open later than 0100

Sixteen

hours of the day following any evening that the Mess is open. Such hours of opening and closing as are laid down by the Mess Committee shall be posted in the Notice Case provided in the Mess ante-room.

### **ARTICLE XV**

#### **Regulations**

1. Members shall notify the Secretary in writing of any change of address or phone number.

2. A notice board shall be kept in the Mess Room for the display of any notices, and shall be in charge of the Board of Management.

3. No article of any description, the property of the Mess, is on any account to be taken out of the Mess Room without the permission of the Executive Mess Committee.

4. Members may speak once on any question but not more often without the permission of the Chairman.

5. Any member intending to speak on any question, or address the meeting, shall rise in his place and respectfully address the Chair before proceeding, and confine

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himself to the subject. Should more than one member rise at the same time to speak, the Chairman is to determine which is entitled to the floor.

6. Any member addressing or referring to another must give his rank or appointment.

7. When a motion has been finally put to the meeting, all discussion thereon shall be closed.

8. Profane or indecent language shall not be allowed in the Mess Room.

9. Members damaging or breaking property of the Mess, or of any of its members, shall replace same at their own expense.

10. Meeting shall close at 9:45 p.m. unless, in the opinion of two-thirds of the members present, it be thought advisable to continue the meeting.

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## ARTICLE XVI

### Honorary Life Members

B.S.M. CHAPMAN, Bert

R.S.M. MacVICAR, Tony

B.S.M. RAMSDEN, Eric

B.S.M. REID, Cecil

B.S.M. STEWART, Max

R.S.M. TRAPPITT, Peter

B.S.M. WALKER, Archie

S/Sgt. WALKER, Jim

B.S.M. VERGE, Ed

### Honorary Colonels

GEN. SIR CHARLES LOWEN (S/Sgt.)

LT. COL. BROWN, F. B. (Sgt.)

COL. INGLEDOW, T (S/Sgt.)

BRIG. DuMOULIN, R. T. (S/Sgt.)

LT. COL. JACKSON, W. S. (L/Sgt.)

LT. COL. BLYTHE, G. F. (L/Sgt.)

BRIG. BELL-IRVING, Æ. McB. (S/Sgt.)

LT. COL. GRAHAM, R. F. (Sgt.)

Nineteen

168 WOODSTOCK

TERRACE

NEW MARKET

ONT.