



106th REGIMENTAL BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, PC, CC, CMM, COM, CD, LLD
Colonel-in-Chief,
Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry

My Dear Patricias:

I particularly welcome the occasion of our Regiment's 106th birthday to wish you all well. We are all living through a once-in-a-century pandemic. We never thought that this would happen to us! As a result, we have seen a major impact on our Regimental life and on our personal lives. I am so pleased to note that we have adapted our collective and individual training to the necessities of this extraordinary time.

Our soldiers did not have the opportunity to participate in the changes of command for 3 PPCLI and 1 CMBG. But thanks to the internet and technology, we have adapted! Through these platforms, I was able to attend a few important Regimental events. It can never replace being there in person! However, we must expect this situation to continue for the foreseeable future. Personally, I do not believe that we will be back to "normal" for another year. We have to remember that the last pandemic of 1918-19 lasted throughout the world for nearly two whole years. Even if a vaccine is found and ready to be used, this does not mean that the disease goes away! We must be prepared to understand and live within the limits of reality.

Despite the impacts of COVID-19, we as Patricia's look to the future as we have always done. We continue to set an example at home and abroad. With only a few Patricia's still in Europe and Iraq the majority of us are home, adjusting to 'a new normal,' at least for the time being. What we must never forget, whether we are deployed or at home is that we are a solid and unified group of people who overcome adversity together.

Perhaps this is a time to remind you that we have two of our general officers in essential positions of authority in the Canadian Armed Forces: LGen Wayne Eyre, Commander of the Canadian Army oversaw the Army's response to COVID-19 and is in the process of rebuilding Army readiness after a pause in training due to the impact of COVID. Additionally, Gen Eyre, is directing efforts to modernize the Army to ensure we are ready for an uncertain security environment.

MGen Peter Dawe has also been exceptionally busy in recent months having completed a second year as Commander of the Special Forces Command. While much of what his subordinates did cannot be written about, he oversaw numerous international deployments as well as the Command's continued growth and evolution. Much of this vision was captured in the document that can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/corporate/reports-publications/cansofcom-beyond-horizon.html>. In his spare time, he is staying connected to the Regiment in his capacity as President of the Guard.

I am delighted to stay in constant contact with both of these outstanding general officers. They are always forthcoming with their experienced points-of-view and I always learn a great deal from both of them. I am glad that our Army recognizes that these two men are exceptional.

I was extremely impressed with the PPCLI Association's rapid adaptation to COVID 19 and it's conduct of a Virtual Annual General Meeting which approved free three-year National Memberships for families of the fallen and updated the Association's objects and purposes. It was terrific to be in contact with everybody virtually and we got a lot accomplished. We must continue to try and attract members to the Association because our strength will be in numbers.



With the impact of the COVID-19 virus affecting us all, it has equally had a significant impact on charities such as our Foundation. It is not clear, as of yet, what the longer term impacts are but the Foundation will go through a review process on what this means to its short and long term objectives. The need remains unchanged, and if anything has been increased so any adjustment will be in the "how" with our objectives to support the wider Regimental Family remaining unchanged.

We are fortunate that our most senior leaders, both serving and retired, are indicative of all the soldiers who serve in the regiment. Tough, committed, loyal, intelligent people who strive to make the Canadian Armed Forces and our country a better place for everyone. It is in this spirit that we are always '*First in the Field.*'

I wish all Patricias and your families a Happy Regimental Birthday!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Clarkson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Adrienne Clarkson