

December 16, 2021.

Dear COPS family,

As our lives and the delivery of the Canadian Cadet Program continue to be impacted by the pandemic, we find ourselves with yet another challenge, the Omicron variant. With risk assessments ongoing at all command levels within the CAF, our unit posture will be to remain vigilant, with the health and safety of all participants being our focus.

On Monday, December 13, 2021, all in person activities have again put on pause. Direction from our Regional Cadet Support Unit is for us to continue with virtual delivery until a review of conditions at the Command level. With the information I have been given, that review and further direction will not be until January 10, 2022.

COPS senior leadership and key appointments held a Commanders Update Briefing on December 15, 2021. The aim was to set the conditions for the resumption of in person activities at the unit level. I assure you that the Officers and Senior NCO's have the capacity and flexibility to deliver the program in person, and will make the transition when authorized to do so. Until then, we will have to continue the virtual delivery on the MS Teams platform. **The Unit will resume virtual training on January 10, 2022 at which time I hope to be able to provide you with an update.**

I have been updated through the Unit Advisory Committee and the Chain of Command that there is a feeling of "virtual burn-out" over the last 18 months. As your Commanding Officer, I feel your frustration. The Cadet Program I know, and the one I was a part of, was never meant to be delivered in this way. However, we are in a pandemic, which has brought challenges, which will drive change and ultimately an improved cadet experience. Part of those changes are to the summer training cycle. The following is an indication of what is being worked on.

Beginning summer 2022, first-year cadets will be offered an opportunity to participate in a 5-day decentralized Cadet Activity Program (CAP) day camp. This will be expanded for second year cadets who will be offered a 12-day CAP that includes 3 overnights focused on practical leadership development. We anticipate that in 2022 a significant number of community-based CAPs will take place across Central Region, resulting in experiences being offered to all first- and second-year cadets. In addition to the CAPs, we intend to offer third year or higher cadets an opportunity to participate in activities ranging from 2-7 weeks located at one of RCSU-Central's three Cadet Training Centres (CTCs). Cadets 16 and older may also apply for positions as staff cadets at either CAPs or CTCs. This optimization of CTCs and the CAP will effectively offer more options and opportunities to participate in summer experiences than in the past. The intent is to run Blackdown, Trenton, and Connaught CTCs in Central Region. The CAF is in the initial planning stages for summer 2022, this list may change due to unforeseen circumstances such as staffing, facility availability, and the ongoing pandemic. The CAF intend to conduct some specialty activities, such as flying, sailing and expeditions, at multiple training sites strategically located throughout the country, details of which are still being finalized.

In closing, I wish you all the best for the Holiday season. Enjoy your time with friends and family. Stay safe and healthy.



Andrew Price CD

Captain

Commanding Officer-2824 (COPS) RCACC

