



THE BLACK WATCH OF CANADA FOUNDATION

A NOTE FROM COL R.J. LESPERANCE



Col R.J. Lesperance.



Col R.J. Lesperance as a young cadet.

I joined the Black Watch Cadet Corps in 1969 when I was 12 years old and was eventually promoted to Cadet Corps Commander in 1974. I later joined the Grenadier Guards Public Duties Detachment on Parliament Hill and Governor General's House. In my civilian life, after graduating from law school at McGill, I started practicing law in British Columbia. I help found a successful law firm. Two years ago I was appointed a Judicial Justice, of the Provincial Court of British Columbia.

In 1986, I enrolled as a Captain in the Canadian Forces, Primary Reserve as a legal officer with the Office of the Judge Advocate General. In 2009, I was promoted to the rank of Colonel and served as the Deputy Judge Advocate General, Reserves, the most senior ranking reserve legal officer in Canada. In addition, I was privileged to earn my Masters in Defence Studies from RMC and wear my RMC tie with pride.

My view is that not only did my experience in the Black Watch Cadet Corps provide me with the necessary tools to develop my civilian and military professional career, but taught me invaluable life skills, such as self-discipline and self-reliance, leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship and community service. Cadets, provided an outlet for activities and sports as well. We were always encouraged to practice marksmanship; take part in cross country skiing and we even had an intra-cadet league basketball team. I will always remember with fondness the summer I spent at the National Army Cadet Camp in Banff, where I developed a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors and wilderness adventures. I also recall with pride the drill team that I was part of, where the 12 of us went on to win the Best Overall Drill team at the competition. Whether on my deployment to Kandahar, Afghanistan, practicing law or sitting in court as a judge, the skills I learned as a Black Watch Cadet have always served me and our community well.

Robert J. Lesperance, BA, LLB, BCL, MA, CD Colonel, former Deputy Judge Advocate General, Reserves