**Backgrounder**

**The Royal Military College of Canada**

October 27, 2016 – Ottawa – National Defence / Canadian Armed Forces

The Royal Military College of Canada (RMCC) is the military college of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), a degree-granting university that trains military officers. Since 1876, RMCC graduates have earned a reputation for service and achievement far beyond the boundaries of the campus located in Kingston, Ontario. From the North West Campaign of 1885 to recent peacekeeping operations, RMCC alumni have distinguished themselves in all aspects of Canadian military service. Billy Bishop was a leading ace of the First World War, won the Victoria Cross, and helped to create the Canadian Flying Corps. Former cadets have similarly excelled in the civilian world, becoming writers, parliamentarians, and astronauts.

RMCC is part of the refocused Canadian Defence Academy (CDA), which exists now as an ‘education group’ composed of RMCC, RMC Saint-Jean, and the Canadian Forces College. As per its 2003 Charter, CDA exists to champion lifelong learning, and to promote the professional development of members of the CAF.

**History**

RMCC is now more than 140 years old. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1874 “for the purpose of providing a complete education in all branches of military tactics, fortification, engineering, and general scientific knowledge in subjects connected with and necessary to thorough knowledge of the military profession.” On June 1, 1876, the Military College of Canada opened its doors to the first class of 18 cadets. The names of the “Old Eighteen” are known to all cadets today. Two years later, Her Majesty Queen Victoria granted the College the right to use the prefix “Royal.”

**Mission**

The mission of RMCC is to produce officers with the mental, physical and linguistic capabilities and the ethical foundation required to lead with distinction in the CAF. The College’s priorities are as follows: to build high-quality, world-class programs in areas of importance to the CAF and to Canada; to promote national and international collaborations and partnerships; and to promote interdisciplinary cooperation.

**Programs**

“The Royal Military College of Canada Degrees Act, 1959,” passed by the 25th Ontario Legislature and given Royal Assent on March 26, 1959, empowers the College to confer degrees in Arts, Science, and Engineering. RMCC now offers a wide variety of programs in these three areas, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, through traditional studies and by distance learning. The core curriculum, required of all students, consists of economics, English, civics, psychology, mathematics, calculus, chemistry, physics, Canadian history, and the military history of Canada. Instruction is in both Official Languages. Students, who are known as officer cadets, must also take physical education classes and play intramural sports every year, with the aim of developing their physical cababilities, confidence, and leadership skills.

As a national institution, RMCC endeavours to share its knowledge with civilians interested in defence issues. The College encourages research appropriate to a modern university and seeks out research opportunities that support the profession of arms. More than 90% of the research conducted at RMCC is on defence issues.

**Governance**

The **Board of Governors** provides advice and recommendations to the Minister of National Defence concerning all matters related to RMCC. It works at improving communication with both College alumni and the community in order to resource the operation of RMCC programs, and ensures that military education remains at the forefront of policy. Board members are prominent Canadians, the majority of them non-military. They appointed by the Minister in his capacity as Chancellor of the College.

The **Commandant**, assisted by the Chief Warrant Officer, ensures that the College fulfils its mission and maintains its priorities. While the Commandant reports to the Commander of Military Personnel Generation, he is also a member of the Board of Governors. These responsibilities encourage communication with agencies outside the College having an interest in its future.

The **Principal** is responsible for the quality of the academic program, oversight of the curriculum, and advice on academic policies. The Principal assists the Commandant on a variety of issues and initiatives, and may represent the Commandant during his or her absence from campus.

The **Registrar** is the administrator responsible for registration, the maintenance of student records including grades, and class enrolment.

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**Associated Links**

[The Royal Military College of Canada](https://www.rmcc-cmrc.ca/en)

**Contacts**

Media Relations

Department of National Defence

Phone: 613-996-2353

Toll-Free: 1-866-377-0811

Email: [mlo-blm@forces.gc.ca](mailto:mlo-blm@forces.gc.ca)