

Commander  
National Cadet and Junior Canadian  
Rangers Support Group



Commandant  
Groupe de soutien national aux cadets  
et aux Rangers juniors canadiens

National Defence  
Headquarters  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0K2

Quartier général de  
la Défense nationale  
Ottawa (Ontario)  
K1A 0K2

1350-0 (Sr PAO Natl CJCR Sp Gp)

15 April 2020

To the National Presidents of the Navy, Army and Air Cadet Leagues of Canada,

The safety and security of all who participate in our programs is always one of my top priorities. Combined with our commitment to developing in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership, it was clear to me that Canada's Cadet and Junior Canadian Rangers programs could not in good faith carry on with our planned summer activities while the rest of the Canadian Armed Forces is gearing up to assist Canadians in the face of COVID-19, and any other challenges they may face.

Therefore, that is why, I have made the decision to cancel all in-person Cadet and JCR training activities until 31 August 2020 and have directed that every Cadet and JCR have their training qualifications for this current training year marked as completed. This cancellation decision will affect local training, corps and squadron trips, cadet summer training and activities, in-person training for Cadet Instructors Cadre officers, and, in coordination with the Canadian Army, the JCR enhanced training sessions. This decision ensures the safety and security of everyone who participates in our programs and will ensure that the Cadet program, like the Canadian Armed Forces, does not become a vector to spread COVID-19.

This was not an easy decision, nor was it made in isolation. I have consulted far and wide to ensure that I am taking a measured response to the challenges that lie before us. In order to rise to that challenge, I will require Cadets, COATS members, our volunteers, and key stakeholders including League representatives, to come together - not only to bounce back, but to help improve and enhance the Cadet and JCR programs for the next generation of young Canadians when training is forecasted to resume in September 2020.

Even in difficult times we are coming together in new ways. An excellent example was the Battle of Vimy Ridge virtual memorial through social media, which saw hundreds of cadets and JCRs honouring this important battle that shaped our nation. Putting a national-level effort together in this short a timeframe is just one small example of the work being done by local Commanding Officers and their staff, members of the formation and regional headquarters, and you our League Partners, to ensure that we remain focused on the Cadet and Junior Canadian Ranger experience. Thank you all for your support and contributions during these difficult times.



National Défense  
Defence nationale

Canada

We are continuing to encourage Cadets, JCRs and their supervisors to find new and innovative ways to stay engaged with our programs throughout this pandemic, while respecting physical distancing, and will continue to require your assistance and support in this endeavour. These are challenging times and you have clearly stepped up to the plate to demonstrate the strength of our mutual partnership.

I have directed my staff to begin planning to explore innovative ways so we can take advantage of this pause in training to implement new and exciting solutions for today's youth. However, I am cognizant of the unique challenges the Navy, Army Cadet and Air Cadet Leagues are experiencing as well. Rest assured that we will attempt to provide whatever support we can with an aim to ensure that young Canadians will continue to benefit from our shared vision of an active and vibrant Cadet program.

I understand there will be disappointment with today's news. However, I am certain that you can all understand that the safety and security not only of those involved in our programs, but of all Canadians must be our top concern. The Cadet and Junior Canadian Ranger Programs must not be a vector for the continued spread of the COVID-19 virus. I am confident in the strength and resilience of the men and women who not only support and lead this program, but also participate in it. I am extremely proud of all Cadets, Junior Canadian Rangers and adult staff and stakeholders of how they have been adapting to this unprecedented situation and adhering to the Government's social distancing protocols. Our role now is to demonstrate leadership and citizenship in the face of adversity, and I know you will stand by me as we lead the Royal Canadian Sea, Army and Air Cadet programs through these extremely challenging times.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.B. Cochrane', with a stylized, cursive script.

D.B Cochrane  
Brigadier-General  
Commander