



105th 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 am delighted to write to you on the occasion of our Regiment's 105th Birthday. I cannot believe that it has been five years since we celebrated our 100th Anniversary and had our wonderful trip to Europe to rededicate the monument at Frezenberg and to celebrate together.

We should be very proud that in the 105 years since Hamilton Gault founded our Regiment, Patricias have served in every conflict in which Canada has been engaged. As our nation has developed its military and political capacities, we have been in the forefront of peacekeeping and domestic operations. The five years since we celebrated our centenary has been impressive: we have a continued presence overseas and we respond to emergencies like floods and fires within Canada.

The engagement at home and abroad comes with a cost. We honour 1,870 fallen Patricias who have taken our unofficial motto "First in the Field" to heart. Their loss will always be remembered. On our Anniversary, it is important for us to remember the notable accomplishments and supreme sacrifices of our Regiment.

As we celebrate our 105th Anniversary, I am deeply impressed with the fact that our battalions have been busy, once again on the 'Road to High Readiness.' At the moment, 1 PPCLI has taken the lead on the Edmonton Commemoration, which will include a Gala Dinner and French Grey Ball on August 9th. I am looking forward to getting together with everyone for the 'Better 'Ole' from 8-10 August.

Meanwhile, our comrades are busy abroad. Our Second Battalion has a contingent deployed to Latvia and they have planned a Family Day and their own 'Better 'Ole' in Shilo on 9 August. Also, 3 PPCLI has their soldiers deployed to the Middle East. They will host a Golf Tournament on 9 August.

I am very happy that I will be with members of the Regiment who can come to Edmonton for the PPCLI Association's Annual General Meeting on 7 and 8 August in St. Albert. The Association has been doing tremendous work in developing their Mental Health Network and supporting our other Regimental Objectives. The Regimental Health Network, to which Paul Hale has contributed so much, is doing vital work not only for the Armed Forces, but for Canadians as a whole, in the matter of suicide prevention. The Association will participate in the 105th events in Edmonton. Their contribution will be a parade at Patricia Park where the names of 10 fallen Patricias from the First and Second World Wars, who were previously missed from our Roll of Honour, will be unveiled.

I look forward to being with those of you who can be in Edmonton this week. I am pleased that there are so many opportunities for me to connect with Patricias, serving and retired. I do hope that every Patricia can attend an anniversary event in Edmonton or Shilo this year. It makes us all feel that we are, indeed, part of a family whose identity is served by meeting and supporting each other. I am always delighted to meet with all Patricias serving or retired. I know that when we look at each other that we are reflecting always on our tremendous heritage and the rightful pride that comes with service to our Regiment.



It is my pleasure and a great honour to serve you as your Colonel-in-Chief. I wish all Patricias and your families a Happy Regimental Birthday!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrienne Clarkson'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Adrienne Clarkson