



## ABOUT CAVUNP

*"Honour the Peacekeeper, for he is your Soul, the Spirit of the Nation"*

### Our Association

The *Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping* (CAVUNP) is the largest peacekeeping veterans association in Canada. With chapters established in every region of the country, we are proud of our accomplishments. We are a veterans-only, non-profit organization.

Following two years of effort, our association was founded in 1989 based on three basic principles:

- **Assistance and activism** for our peacekeepers who are on active service or in retirement as well as for their families in need;
- **Commemoration** of fallen peacekeepers and praise for the acts of bravery of our own in the service of peace; and
- **Education of the public** about peacekeeping and about Canadian peacekeepers who have served with international and multinational organizations since 1947.

### Our identity

In 1988, the association had obtained permission to use the words '*United Nations*' and '*Canadian*' in its name and also the authorization to use the United Nations (UN) insignia on its accoutrements to identify itself. This identity has since 1992 been federally registered in Canada. CAVUNP displays the United Nations Flag as a symbol for all peacekeepers and has adopted "*Mon Ami*" as its official musical march. The association also has its own distinctive flag composed of the CAVUNP insignia centered on a light blue field. The insignia bears the UN motif, the UN and National flags.

### Our partnerships

CAVUNP has forged links with different national and international veteran's organizations, which have aims, objects and a vision similar to ours. We maintain close relations with the *Department of Veterans Affairs Canada*. In this way, we lend support to questions of importance and in order to provide the best possible service to our members and our military, police and other peace officers, as well as civil servants deployed in peace support operations and for their families remaining behind in this country, we fully participate with *Veterans Affairs Canada* on:

- The *Advisory Committee* on the New Veterans Charter;
- The *Veterans Week Advisory Committee*; and
- The *Joint Veterans Affairs and National Defence Centre for the Care of Injured and Retired Members of the Canadian Forces*.

### The Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal (CPSM)

Motivated by the award of the *Nobel Peace Prize* to United Nations Peacekeepers in 1988, in concert with other veteran's organizations, CAVUNP was one of the principal driving forces in keeping up the momentum for this award during five long years of motions in the Parliament of Canada. The Order in Council of September 1999 awards the Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal to each member of the Canadian Forces upon return from their first peacekeeping operation. The Governor-General of Canada, the Honourable *Adrienne Clarkson*, distributed the first medals in Ottawa in 2000. Today, the CPSM is also awarded to police and other peace officers, and civilian public servants as well as the military. This includes peacekeeping service with the United Nations Organization as well as all international and multinational missions recognized by the Government of Canada.



### Our peacekeeping monuments

CAVUNP has been in the forefront for the creation of cenotaphs and other commemorative monuments and plaques dedicated to peacekeeping and peacekeepers in Canada:

- In Ottawa, the *National Reconciliation Monument* is the only one of its kind in the world which is dedicated to peacekeepers and peacekeeping;
- In Toronto, over a hundred city *cenotaphs* have affixed to them, commemorative plaques dedicated to Canadian peacekeepers;
- In Calgary, the association has contributed to the creation of a large park and commemorative statues including the *Wall of Remembrance* on the grounds of the former Canadian Forces Base Calgary;
- In Winnipeg, CAVUNP has created a remarkable monument, a distinctive three-part *Peacekeeper's Cairn*, on the main street leading to the provincial legislature buildings;
- The provincial highway leading from Toronto to Canadian Forces Base Borden has been renamed *Peacekeepers Way* in honour of our peacekeepers;
- In Angus, Ontario, CAVUNP has erected a small but striking stone monument in the shape of a Maple Leaf to honour our fallen peacekeepers of United Nations and NATO; and
- In Montreal East, Quebec, the *United Nations Flag* flies in perpetuity on its own flagpole.

CAVUNP chapters across Canada work in concert with the governments of Canada, the provinces, municipalities and local organizations in order to add peacekeeping commemorative plaques or inscriptions on cenotaphs and other commemorative monuments.

### Our Fields of Honour

On the island of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, CAVUNP convinced the federal government to allocate funds for the repair maintenance of the Peacekeeping Cemetery. The Canadian cemetery at Rafah in the Gaza Strip, Palestine, is well-kept but has sustained damage.

Over **125,000 Canadians** have seen peacekeeping service worldwide, often more than once on a particular mission. Of this number, 170 of our own have made the ultimate sacrifice and many more were wounded and disabled. On the association website, there is maintained an honour roll which lists in chronological order, the date which each Canadian Peacekeeper gave his life **in the service of peace** since 1948.

### Honours and awards

We maintain a file on the honours and awards received for bravery by our peacekeepers. Each file includes the citation for the award. All United Nations Peacekeepers who served from 1956 to 1988 were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988; these are our *Nobel Laureates*.

### National Peacekeepers, Day

The association has been able to obtain, from nine provinces and from several cities and municipalities, the adoption in perpetuity, of our National Peacekeepers Day, the 9<sup>th</sup> of August. The Federal Bill C-287 officially recognizing **August 9<sup>th</sup>** as a Canadian Commemorative Day received Royal Assent in July 2008. Each year, on or about the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, we remember those who have fallen and have been physically and psychically wounded in the service of peace, give thanks to those families and friends who supported our peacekeepers during missions and operations in far away lands, and honour those who have been decorated for bravery and sacrifice during these dangerous observer missions and peacekeeping operations since 1947. *We shall remember them.*



### Commemoration and celebration

By parades and public gatherings, we observe and celebrate national and international commemorative dates for all those who serve and have served, and for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of the country, for freedom, and for peace in the world:

- *International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers* - observed on 29 May;
- *Canadian Forces Appreciation Day / Decoration Day* - held on the first Sunday in June ;
- *National Peacekeeper's Day* - observed on 9 August;
- *United Nations International Day of Peace* - observed on 21 September;
- *Police and Peace Officer's National Memorial Day* - observed on 27 September;
- *NATO Day* - observed on 15 October;
- *United Nations Day* - celebrated on 24 October;
- *Remembrance Day* - observed on 11 November; and
- The award of the *1988 Nobel Peace Prize* - celebrated on 10 December.

### Our support of humanitarian organizations

The members of CAVUNP chapters provide volunteer moral and financial support to several humanitarian and charity organizations at home and abroad. Among other organizations, we support UNICEF, ICROSS Canada and the Land Mine Foundation of Canada. CAVUNP is the principal player for the initiative which sends "*Izzy Dolls*" to children of countries in conflict.

### The public awareness initiative

Through a variety of means; such as community projects, the distribution of publications, conferences and speeches, we endeavour to inform the public on the role of peacekeeping, the experience of our peacekeepers, and the promotion of Canadian values to the peoples of countries where we render service so they may learn about Canadian society.

- Several of our members have written informative published works on peacekeeping and on the experiences of our peacekeepers. Our chapters have made donations of these published works to schools and libraries in the country.
- Our members are often invited by organizations, such as schools, military social clubs, cadet corps, scouts troops, Veterans Affairs "*The Memory Project*", etc., to speak about the values and purpose of peacekeeping.
- CAVUNP is regularly invited, and accepts to advocate on behalf of all our veterans on the parliamentary committees of the Government of Canada and of the provincial governments.

### Our membership criteria

CAVUNP has three categories of membership: ordinary, associate and honorary. There are no life members. All members must be veterans. Peacekeeping veterans make up the ordinary membership. To become an ordinary member, a veteran must have been awarded or be eligible for the **Canadian Peacekeeping Service Medal** or the equivalent, such as the Special Service Medal with "Peace" or "Humanitas" bar. Associate and honorary categories are open to all veterans of all nations.

### Our definition of a Veteran

A Veteran is a person who has served in time of war or in time of peace, such service being officially recognized by the award of a national or international service decoration. A **Peacekeeping Veteran** is a veteran who has served on an international or multinational peacekeeping mission.



### Our Dress Code

CAVUNP members wear a distinctive veterans' uniform which is easily recognized among other veteran or association dress. Notwithstanding, CAVUNP is fairly flexible with dress rules. There are two orders of dress, summer and winter. The official CAVUNP dress consists of:

- **The United Nations blue beret.** Some members wear the NATO or EU royal blue beret, the light green AU beret or the orange MFO beret and others may wear their former unit or branch headdress. Serving members of the CF must obtain permission to wear former headdress.
- **The CAVUNP cap insignia** is worn with all types and colour of headdress. Former UN, NATO, EU, MFO and AU Peacekeepers may also wear their cap insignia with appropriate headdress. Unit insignia is not worn with the light blue, light green, orange or royal blue berets. Unit insignia may be worn only with unit headdress. Insignia may be metal or cloth.
- **The light blue CAVUNP blazer** is worn by UN peacekeeping veterans. Other members may also wear the light blue or standard dark blue blazer.
- **The CAVUNP cloth insignia** is worn with the light blue or dark blue blazer over the left breast pocket. Members may wear unit badges instead on the dark blue blazer only.
- **Dark blue trousers.** Veterans may wear dark grey trousers. Ladies may wear a dark blue or grey skirt. The Kilt may also be worn by both sexes.
- **The black belt and brass belt buckles** with the CAVUNP insignia. Members may wear the UN, NATO, or unit insignia on the belt buckle. The belt may be black or blue.
- **Dark blue tie.** Members may also wear a unit or branch tie.
- **White military style shirt.** These may be long or short sleeved, depending on the season and the occasion. A blue military style plastic nametag may be worn with the shirt.
- **CAVUNP slip-ons** are worn on the shirt epaulettes. The slip-ons bear the letters "CAVUNP" or "VETERAN". No cloth insignia may be sown on the shirt or blazer.
- **The CAVUNP lapel pin** is worn centered on the tie or on the right pocket of the shirt. Other lapel pins may be worn on the blazer with discretion and according to the occasion. The poppy is worn on the right lapel of the blazer or the shirt pocket on commemorative occasions.
- **Orders, decorations medals and insignia** are worn over the left breast above the pocket of the blazer "Navy style". Only undress ribbons are worn with the shirt. Miniatures may be worn for gala evenings with the blazer. No other private or foreign orders, decorations, medals and insignia may be worn on the right side other than the *Nobel Peace Prize Medal* or lapel pin.
- **Black socks and footwear** are worn with the uniform. Ladies may wear nylon stockings with the skirt.

### Our newsletter

We publish a quarterly newsletter called "[The Thin Blue Line](#)". This publication is well received by governments, the military and other veteran's organizations with which we entertain links. The newsletter is available on the association's website.

### The CAVUNP Website

The Association maintains its website at [www.cavunp.org](http://www.cavunp.org) where varied information is published on Canadian peacekeepers and peacekeeping, an information source for the public and an academic resource for students around the world. Several of our chapters also maintain Internet websites.

### Our motto:

*Proud to serve, proud to have served, IN THE SERVICE OF PEACE*