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To all Canadian Military Engineers,

I have been privileged to be your Colonel Commandant for over three years and have visited you across this country and overseas, in garrison and in the field. I remain your biggest fan and stand proud every time I witness the great work you do on a daily basis. Everyone talks about a lack of resources including time and people however Engineers everywhere just keep getting the job done and done well.

Never in my almost 50 years in association with this Branch, have I seen all the elements working together to the level maintained today. Army, Air Force, Navy, Regular, Reserve and Civilian components working seamlessly together as one driving force. Currently serving members combine efforts with the enormous power of those retired to foster, support and maintain our wider Engineer family ties. This is the strength of our Branch. We are indeed UBIQUE.

One current example is the restoration effort currently underway in Chilliwack. The local retired Sappers have joined with the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society, 192 Construction Engineering Flight from Aldergrove and 54 Engineer Squadron of 39 CER in conjunction with the University of Fraser Valley (which now owns the land) to restore and upgrade the old saluting base into a memorial to those who served at Chilliwack. Everyone who attended any level course in Chilliwack has memories of that saluting base and the parade square area. The vast majority of course photographs were taken on that saluting base. The Engineer hat badge that was once removed has been recovered and after a touch up will be remounted. The metal lettering 'UBIQUE' was stored at the museum and is now en route to Chilliwack. The completed memorial will be dedicated on Thanksgiving weekend this Fall. Additional news on this project can be found at the CFB Chilliwack Historical Society web site at <http://cfbchs.com/>.

The Canadian Military Engineer Association (CMEA) has experienced a resurgence like never before. Membership has grown from a few hundred to close to fifteen hundred (1500) with new chapters established and active in many locations. Another example of serving and retired Engineers joining together to keep our family strong. CMEA makes available funding for the annual education bursaries for our soldiers or dependants which has doubled to six bursaries of \$1000 each for a grand total of \$6000. Substantial funding has been spent on assistance to Sappers in their time of need. I honestly believe that every Sapper, every Engineer at all levels, has the absolute duty to become a member thus allowing these great deeds to continue and indeed, to provide our association even more funding to support our men and women and their families. The CMEA web site <http://cmea-agmc.ca/> now has details of membership and if you have not yet done so, I strongly encourage your participation.

The Engineer museum under the outstanding leadership of our curator Sandra Johnson-Penney, continues to expand and improve upon its collection and display of artefacts on your behalf. Hundreds of people visit our museum every year and leave with a better understanding of the importance Engineers have played not only in war but also in peacetime with the development of Canada and many other countries. You absolutely must visit it the next time you are in Gagetown.

As an aside, you, and only you, can ensure our museum has the stories, photographs, relics, uniforms and accoutrements of recent history for use in the future. I urge you to dig through those old boxes, clean out the closets, remit the photos and stories of your tenure so the story can be told. At the unit level, war diaries and annual historical reports should be digitized and forwarded so we do not lose them in the annals of time. Special unit artefacts without a proper place at the unit, could well be protected under the watchful eye and expertise of our museum. The museum web site <http://www.cmemuseum.ca/> can get you started.

At this time of the year, many Engineer organizations and units prepare for upcoming changes of command, the usual flurry of postings and hopefully a segment of time for that well deserved period of annual leave. I wish you well in all your endeavors and look forward to meeting with as many of you as possible in the near future. Take care of yourselves and our wonderful Engineer family.

CHIMO

BGen Des
CME Colonel Commandant