



CANADA 150 SERVICEWOMEN'S SALUTE DECEMBER 13 2017

HEAD TABLE INVITED DIGNITARIES

BIOGRAPHIES

Chief of the Defence Staff, General Jonathan H. Vance, CMM, MSC, CD, was born in Kingston, Ontario and grew up in a military family. He started uniformed life at the age of 13 as an army cadet in Lahr, Germany. General Vance joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 1982 and was commissioned as an infantry officer into The Royal Canadian Regiment in 1986 following his graduation from Royal Roads Military College (RRMC). General Vance has served in Canada, Germany and on UN Peacekeeping operations with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Battalions, The Royal Canadian Regiment, and has commanded at all levels within the field force from platoon commander to brigade commander and in combat operations as a Joint Task Force Commander.

His early command and staff experiences included commanding Combat Support Company and The Duke's Company in 1RCR, and serving on the VCDS strategic planning staff as a major and lieutenant-colonel. From 2001 until 2003 General Vance commanded Second Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment in Gaagetown, New Brunswick. He commanded 1 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group in Edmonton from 2006 to 2008 and subsequently deployed as Commander Joint Task Force Afghanistan and Task Force Kandahar in 2009 and again in 2010.

Following his tours in Afghanistan, General Vance served in Army headquarters as Chief of Staff Land Strategy and as Director of the Strategic Joint Staff in National Defence Headquarters. He completed a tour as Deputy Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples in July 2014 before assuming the position as Commander Canadian Joint Operations Command in September of the same year.

General Vance was promoted to his current rank and formally appointed as the Canadian Armed Forces Chief of the Defence Staff in July 2015.

General Vance is a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, the UK Combined Arms Tactics Course, the Canadian Army Staff College, the Canadian Forces Command and Staff Course, the Advanced Military Studies Course and the Coalition Forces Land Component Command Course. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Military and Strategic Studies from Royal Roads Military College, and a Master of Arts Degree in War Studies from RMC. His decorations include the Order of Military Merit in the rank of



Commander, the Meritorious Service Cross with bar and a Mentioned-in-Dispatches. In 2011, he was awarded the Vimy Award for his contributions to Canadian defence and security.

Department of National Defence Deputy Minister Jody Thomas, was appointed Deputy Minister of the Department of National Defence on October 23, 2017. She has broad and varied experience working at senior levels in the Public Service. Prior to serving as Deputy Minister, she was the Senior Associate Deputy Minister for the Department of National Defence.

Ms. Thomas began her career in the Public Service in 1988 when she was appointed Chief of Business Planning and Administration with Public Works and Government Services Canada's Atlantic Region. Ms. Thomas then moved to the West Coast as the Business Manager of the Esquimalt Graving Dock in Victoria, British Columbia.

From 1995-2010, she joined Passport Canada where she served as Manager of the Victoria Passport Office. This led to a number of senior roles within the Passport Office, culminating in Chief Operating Officer, where she managed service delivery at 35 locations involving 3,000 employees across Canada.

In 2010, Ms. Thomas joined the Canadian Coast Guard where she held the position of Deputy Commissioner of Operations for four years, during which she provided leadership and functional direction in the development of the Coast Guard's strategic and operational policy frameworks, monitored their implementation and ensured the strategic direction for the cost-effective delivery of Coast Guard programs.

In September 2014, Ms. Thomas was appointed as Special Advisor to the Deputy Secretary to the Cabinet (Operations) at the Privy Council Office until her appointment as Commissioner of the Coast Guard on January 1, 2015. On March 13, 2017, she joined the Department of National Defence where she served as Senior Associate Deputy Minister.

The Honourable Pamela Wallin, OC, SOM, was appointed to the Senate of Canada on December 22, 2008. She sits as an Independent Senator from Saskatchewan. Pamela is an Officer of the Order of Canada, this country's highest civilian honour (2007) and a member of the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (1999). She has fourteen Honourary Doctorates and was named to the Canadian Broadcasting Hall of Fame. She is also a former Chancellor of the University of Guelph.



Pamela served as Canada's Consul General in New York from 2002-2006, in the wake of the tragic and tumultuous events of 9/11. She was then named to the Special Independent Panel on Canada's Future Role in Afghanistan who successfully recommended support and airlift for our service men and women. She is committed to building and enhancing the military/civilian understanding and continues to work with veterans.

She is an active volunteer, and has been recognized by Queen Elizabeth II for her public service and numerous achievements. She is the author of three best-selling books.

The wide-ranging career of the journalist, diplomat, entrepreneur and Senator has spanned more than nearly 40 years, several continents, and always with a focus on politics and foreign policy.

The Right Honourable David Lloyd Johnston, CC, CMM, COM, CDFRSC(hon), FRCPSC(hon), is a Canadian academic, author, and statesman who served as Governor General of Canada from 2010 to 2017. He was born and raised in Ontario, studying there before enrolling at Harvard University and later Cambridge and Queen's universities. He went on to work as a professor at various post-secondary institutions in Canada, eventually serving administrative roles as dean of law at the University of Western Ontario, principal of McGill University, and president of the University of Waterloo. At the same time, he involved himself with politics and public service, moderating political debates and chairing commissions in both the federal and provincial spheres, his most renowned position in that field being the chairmanship of the inquiry into the Airbus affair. He was in 2010 appointed as governor general by Queen Elizabeth II, on the recommendation of then Prime Minister of Canada Stephen Harper, to replace Michaëlle Jean as Viceroy and he occupied the post until succeeded by Julie Payette in 2017.

Honorary Captain (Navy) Sharon Johnston, CC DStJ, holds a BSc degree from University of Western Ontario, an MSc degree from McGill, and a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree from McGill. As the Viceregal consort of Canada while her husband Right Honourable David Johnston served as the Governor General, she was appointed Companion of the Order of Canada, and Dame of Justice of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem.

Rear-Admiral Jennifer J. Bennett, CMM, CD Director General - Canadian Armed Forces Strategic Response Team- Sexual Misconduct (CSRT-SM) and National Champion for Women in Defence, has been able to successfully pursue two concurrent careers, one with the Canadian Armed Forces as a member of Canada's Reserve Force and the other



as a teacher and school administrator. She has risen through the ranks of the military to become Canada's first female Rear-Admiral and senior ranking Reserve officer.

Rear-Admiral Jennifer Bennett, a native of Hamilton, Ontario, enrolled in the Naval Reserve in 1975 in HMCS STAR as a Naval Communicator. In 1977, Rear-Admiral Bennett transferred to the Naval Reserve Officer Cadet program for training as a Logistics Officer and was commissioned as a Sub-Lieutenant in August 1979.

Since that time, she has served in a variety of training, staff, leadership and command positions across Canada while also working as a teacher and administrator at elementary and secondary schools in Ontario and British Columbia.

Rear-Admiral Bennett holds a Bachelor of Physical Education from McMaster University, a Bachelor of Education from Queen's University, a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training from Royal Roads University and an Honourary Doctorate from University of Alberta. She is also a graduate of the Canadian Forces Staff School, Canadian Forces Staff College, NATO School and NATO Defence College.

Rear-Admiral Bennett commanded HMCS MALAHAT, Victoria, British Columbia from 1995 to 1998 and the Naval Reserve Basic Recruit Training Detachment, Borden, Ontario in the summer of 1999.

Promoted to Captain (Navy) in January 2000, RearAdmiral Bennett was appointed Director Reserves within the Chief Reserves and Cadets Division in National Defence Headquarters. Other national appointments include Director Professional Development and Director of the Ottawa Detachment of the Canadian Defence Academy, Director of Training and Education Policy and Project Director (Military) for the Defence Learning Network.

Rear-Admiral Bennett was promoted to the rank of Commodore on December 1st, 2007, upon appointment as the Commander of Canada's Naval Reserve. Promoted to her current rank in April 2011, Rear-Admiral Bennett was appointed as Canada's Chief Reserves and Cadets in National Defence Headquarters. In January, 2013 she was also appointed as the National Champion for Women in Defence. In September, 2015, Rear-Admiral Bennett was appointed Director General - Canadian Armed Forces Strategic Response Team on Sexual Misconduct in support of Operation HONOUR, in Ottawa, Ont. Rear-Admiral Bennett has been recognized for her leadership and exemplary service in the military and civilian communities. In 2011, she was named as one of Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women as a Public Sector Leader and in 2013 she was promoted from Officer in the Order of Military Merit (OMM) to Commander (CMM).

Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer Kevin C. West MMM MSM CD, enrolled in the Naval Reserve in the summer of 1983 as a Naval Signalman. He later transferred as such, in 1985, to the Regular Force where from 1985 until 1990, he sailed in a number of ships on the East Coast, and participated in numerous Naval deployments.



In 1990, he applied and was accepted for an occupational transfer to the Airborne Electronic Sensor Operator (AES Op) Trade. As Corporal West, in 1991, he completed his training, was awarded his Wings, and was posted to 415 MP Sqn in Greenwood, where he served as a crewmember, crew lead, AES Op Training Non-Commissioned Member (NCM) and Squadron Operations NCM. Promoted to Sergeant during this tour, he was also deployed on several operations, including Operation Sharp Guard in support of the United Nations sanctions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He was then posted to the Maritime Proving and Evaluation Unit (MPEU), as a Project Officer. Promoted to Warrant Officer, he was then posted to 405 MP Sqn as the AES Op Standards Officer.

In February of 2000, he was posted to 423 Maritime Helicopter Squadron in Shearwater where he served in the Helicopter Air Detachments of HMC Ships IROQUOIS and PRESERVER. In 2001, he was posted to 406 (M) Operational Training Squadron as the AES Op Training Officer.

In June of 2004, he was promoted to Master Warrant Officer and posted to 1 Canadian Air Division HQ, in Winnipeg, as the A3 Maritime AES Op. Later, in June 2006, CWO West was promoted to his current rank and posted to the Canadian Forces Air Navigation School (CFANS) as the school's CWO.

In June 2007, CWO West was appointed as the first Non-Commissioned Member (NCM) Commandant of the NCM Professional Development Centre in Saint-Jean, Quebec.

In July 2009, CWO West was posted to Trenton as the 8 Wing Chief Warrant Officer after which time, in 2011, he was deployed as the Joint Task Force-Afghanistan Air Wing CWO for Roto 11. Upon return from Afghanistan he was posted to the RCAF Staff as the Senior Advisor to the RCAF Command CWO. From July to September 2012, CWO West held the position of Canadian Forces Support Unit (Ottawa) CWO; in November he was appointed as the RCAF Command CWO.

CWO West was appointed to his current position as the Canadian Forces Chief Warrant Officer on July 5, 2013.