

A Canadian Leaders at Sea (CLaS) Initiative Briefing Note

PURPOSE:

The Ship to Shore (S2S) pilot project connects the Royal Canadian Navy (RCN) to school-aged students to build understanding, awareness and learning opportunities on the role, value and professionalism of the Navy in its service to Canada.

S2S enables elementary school students the opportunity to learn about the world, through the lens of sailors aboard HMCS *Calgary* and HMCS *Tecumseh*. S2S provides students integrated learning opportunities through curriculum topics such as geography, community, culture, science (buoyancy, SONAR etc.), and charts/maps while HMCS *Calgary* is in Esquimalt (alongside) or at sea.

This pilot examines the ability of the RCN to resonate with students – particularly, students in cities with ties to namesake ships. Ideally, the project will demonstrate to both the RCN and the next generation, the fundamental value of employing interactive, inquiry-based, learning experiences to engage and educate youth, all while fostering new friendships and generating future Navy ambassadors.

PARTNERS:

The design and execution of the S2S project has involved the following four (4) participating organizations:

1. HMCS *Calgary*: Represented by the Commanding Officer (CO) - initially Cdr Jonathan Kouwenberg and continued by his successor, Cdr Alex Barlow;
2. HMCS *Tecumseh*: Represented by Cdr Joe Banke, Commanding Officer of HMCS *Tecumseh* – Naval Reserve Division in the City of Calgary;
3. Calgary Board of Education: Represented by teachers from three selected schools:
 - Buffalo Rubbing Stone School (Grade 4): Represented by Christopher Blais;
 - Douglasdale School, and (Grade 1): Represented by Sarah Kesler; and
 - McKenzie Lake School (Grade 2): Represented by Shannon Lloyd
4. Valour Canada (a national non-profit, educational organization whose mandate is to connect Canadians to their military heritage and history): Represented by President Peter Boyle, and Educator, Aaron Curtis.

The Honourable Lois Mitchell, Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, has expressed her support for the Ship to Shore Pilot Project, and as such, Her Honour has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the Ship to Shore Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The S2S pilot project is an initiative of the RCN's Strategic Outreach network of 'Canadian Leaders at Sea' (CLaS) Alumni. In May 2019, during the CLaS Alumni Conference held concurrently in Esquimalt and Halifax, VAdm Ron Lloyd, Commander of the RCN and RAdm Art McDonald, Deputy Commander of the RCN [now VAdm Art McDonald, Commander of the RCN], discussed the importance of CLaS Alumni as ambassadors to the RCN and explored opportunities to tell the RCN story. One such example was to familiarize the next generation with the RCN.

At the Conference, CLaS alumni Teri McKinnon and Bob Booth approached Cdr Jonathan Kouwenberg (then incoming CO of HMCS *Calgary*) with the concept of introducing a virtual relationship between grade-school classrooms and the RCN in an inquiry-based, interactive learning platform. It was proposed as a pilot project that would connect students from elementary classrooms in three Calgary schools with sailors serving aboard HMCS *Calgary* and aboard HMCS *Tecumseh*.

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Building on an already strong 'Friends of the CALGARY' relationship, between the city and the ship, the first step was to introduce the sailors to the students. Two sailors from HMCS *Calgary* along with one sailor from HMCS *Tecumseh* were assigned to each school. This pilot aspires to personalize the leadership, effectiveness, and values of our RCN with our next generation.

ACTIVITIES:

Since September 2019 S2S has accomplished many of its objectives, including:

- Established framing inquiry question to measure learning metrics ("What is our Navy?")
- Established Google Drive site for shared lesson plans, resources, videos, communications and photos
- Filmed introductory videos sent to schools from HMCS *Calgary* and HMCS *Tecumseh*
- Established Instagram pages for the pilot project (shiptoshorecalgary) and each participating school for continual posting of S2S activity, assignments, videos and photos:
 - McKenzie Lake School: grade2mls
 - Douglasdale School: dds346shiptoshore
 - Buffalo Rubbing Stone School: blaisgillshiptoshore
- Numerous personal visits to schools by sailors to present on Navy traditions and Navy artifacts
- Synchronous 'live' communication from Ship (HMCS *Calgary*) to Shore (McKenzie Lake School) 8 OCT 19
- Social Studies* learning centered on:
 - reflecting on 'Community' - individually, in the school and on ship
 - studying Navy 'Culture' – sharing of 'Snowman Soup' with HMCS *Tecumseh*
- Literacy* learning centered on:
 - writing poems capturing the Navy's humanitarian efforts in countries such as Haiti, leadership as global ambassadors of Canada, and defensive capabilities
 - writing Christmas cards to crew on both *Calgary* and *Tecumseh*
 - reading the book "Mom is in the Navy" [an initiative of Dr. Ann Griffiths', CLaS Alumni – with the Naval Association of Canada]
- Science* learning centered on:
 - Boats and Buoyancy – examining different kinds of boats the RCN uses and how they work
 - construction of a 'life-sized' ship in a classroom
 - Marine SONAR Technology connected to Hearing and Sound
- Ongoing communication with schools on coordination of student led inquiry and learning journey

** Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum is designed to help students achieve their individual potential and create a positive future. The provincial Programs of Study identify what students are expected to learn and do in all subjects and grades. S2S activities listed above were selected in order to comply with curricular requirements.*

COVID-19:

Absolutely no one could have predicted the landscape we are facing now with COVID-19 – and it is a testament to the value of S2S as it continues to serve our students, and our country, in this very unique, surreal 'virtual' environment. Ever optimistic, S2S contributes with even greater relevance to participating teachers and students, and we believe that S2S is a poignant good news story in turbulent times.

Educators recognized S2S serves an important role in providing continuity for children whose worlds are otherwise being turned upside down. Because S2S was largely based and operating as a virtual platform which the students and teachers had gotten used to, we now find it serving a very important role as an 'anchor' to their learning and as a familiar learning methodology for the students moving forward.

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CAPSTONE:

A 'capstone' video (5 – 10 minute) is being produced to be presented to all four partners of the pilot. The capstone video will follow the learning journey experienced by students' inquiry on "What is our Navy?" – showcasing and highlighting the S2S pilot as captured through video, interviews, stories, artifacts, photos and activities.

As Honorary Chair of the Ship to Shore Advisory Committee, The Lieutenant Governor of Alberta, The Honourable Lois Mitchell, will record a video greeting to students, to be included in capstone project.

The S2S pilot project has raised only a portion of the funds needed to complete the capstone video, and requires an additional \$10,000.00. The information below provides the opportunity to get involved and support the success of this pilot program, through financial support via our contributing partner, Valour Canada. Valour Canada is a national not-for-profit organization that supports the S2S project, and will issue Canada Revenue Agency tax receipts for any donations received. Financial support can be received in the following ways:

- Online donations through CanadaHelps: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/valour-canada/> (Tax receipts are issued directly from CanadaHelps);
- By Cheque to the Valour Canada office: Valour Canada, 1820 24th St. SW, Calgary, AB, T2T 0G6

Please ensure that donations are identified as supporting the "Ship to Shore" project.

CONCLUSION:

On completion of the Ship to Shore pilot project, all partners will evaluate the successes and challenges of the pilot. The project has already demonstrated that with the commitment of HMCS *Calgary* and HMCS *Tecumseh*, in combination with dedication and enthusiasm from teachers, the pilot offers great learning value to both students and sailors. It serves as a valuable and complimentary tool for experiencing and appreciating a one-of-a-kind connection to our Royal Canadian Navy. The opportunity for the RCN to engage with the next generation in a virtual learning platform is invaluable.

Ideally, the goal would be to have other namesake cities engage with other HMC ships (and Naval Reserve Divisions) across the fleets, in both Maritime Forces Pacific (Esquimalt) and Maritime Forces Atlantic (Halifax), with national involvement from various school boards and supporters/program managers [CLaS Alumni].

CONTACT:

Ship to Shore Program Director: Teri McKinnon, CLaS Alumni MON 375th, 3 MAY 2017

Specific questions regarding the program or donations can be directed to Teri McKinnon at shiptoshorecalgary@gmail.com

LINKS:

Day Sail on HMCS *Calgary*: <https://youtu.be/U7KRspdGywQ>

General Introduction: <https://vimeo.com/359227519>

Cdr Jonathan Kouwenberg: <https://vimeo.com/359331733>

CPO1 Todd Jones: <https://vimeo.com/356053218>

Lt(N) Samantha Bayne: <https://vimeo.com/361157188>

LS Isaac Hossie: <https://vimeo.com/361158084>