

THE HISTORY PROJECT

ACL/BCPC “IN THE NEWS”

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The inception of the Air Cadet League of Canada took place at the start of the Second World War when Minister of National Defence for Air, Charles G. Power, identified a need to develop a volunteer-based organization with the goal to train youth in aviation skills. The need to have young men trained and ready to support the military efforts during the Second World War was the foundation of the Air Cadet League during this formative time period. By 1940, Order-in-Council PC6647 authorized the creation of the Air Cadet Movement in Canada where the Junior (boys aged 12–14) and the Senior (boys aged 15–18) Cadet Corps began. During the early developmental stages of the League, a partnership with the Royal Canadian Air Force helped boost the success of the Air Cadet Movement in Canada as a result of the availability to flying scholarships and training centres.

By April 9, 1941 the Secretary of State of Canada, by way of Letters Patent, granted an official Charter which established the Air Cadet League of Canada to operate as a non-profit corporation under Part II of the Companies Act 1937.

The Air Cadet Movement saw successful enrollment into the program during 1941 – 1944, reported growth four times the original enrollment numbers from 79 squadrons to 374. At the peak of the growth there were approximately 29,000 cadets enrolled.

Although the initial beginnings of the Air Cadet League of Canada during the 1940s were driven by military influences and the natural progression of the cadets during that time was to support the war, present-day functionalities of the League and cadet skillsets are sought after in various types of careers in the aviation and aerospace sector.

During the post-war period, the Air Cadet Movement saw a reduction of enrollment to 15,000 cadets nationwide, which was embraced during a much-warranted time of peace in the country. Despite the decrease in enrollment numbers, the Air Cadet League of Canada continued to see the value of developing leadership and good citizen responsibilities amongst Canadian youth. The organization evolved to become a space where students could learn flight training, effective speaking, teamwork, survival, navigation, marksmanship, music, aerospace and operations skillsets.

The National Office is governed by the Board of Governors, the provincial level is governed by Provincial Committees and the local level by Sponsoring Committees. The Air Cadet League of Canada operates in collaboration with the Canadian Armed Forces, among other partners, to spearhead non-profit driven initiatives all while keeping today's Canadian boys and girls (between the ages of 12–18) interested in their personal and career development in aviation. The National Office is in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Source: [Air Cadet League of Canada - Wikipedia](#)